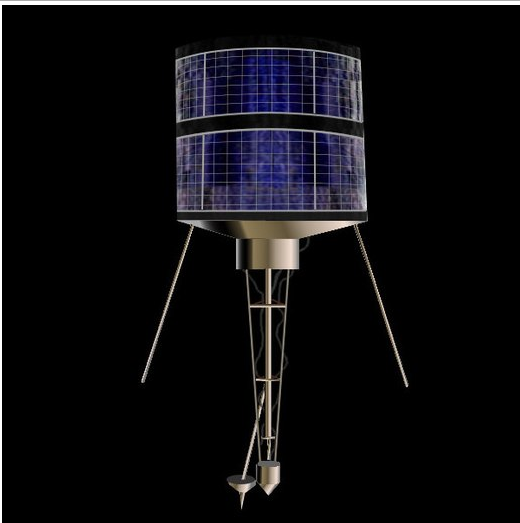


# Kosmos 2251

## Kosmos 2251



A Strela-2M communication satellite, similar to Kosmos 2251.

<b>Mission type</b>	<span>Military communication</span>
<b>Operator</b>	<span>VKS</span>
<b>COSPAR ID</b>	<span>1993-036A (<a href="https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1993-036A">https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/nmc/spacecraft/display.action?id=1993-036A</a>)</span>
<b>SATCAT no.</b>	<span>22675</span>
<b>Mission duration</b>	<span>5 years (nominal mission)</span>
<b>Spacecraft properties</b>	
<b>Spacecraft type</b>	<span>Strela-2M</span>
<b>Bus</b>	<span>KAUR-1<sup>[1]</sup></span>
<b>Manufacturer</b>	<span>Reshetnev</span>
<b>Launch mass</b>	<span>900 kg</span>
<b>Start of mission</b>	
<b>Launch date</b>	<span>16 June 1993, 04:17 UTC</span>
<b>Rocket</b>	<span>Kosmos-3M</span>
<b>Launch site</b>	<span>Plesetsk, <span>Site 132/1</span></span>
<b>End of mission</b>	
<b>Last contact</b>	<span>1995</span>
<b>Decay date</b>	<span>10 February 2009 (destroyed in space)</span>
<b>Orbital parameters</b>	

<b>Reference system</b>	<u>Geocentric</u> <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Regime</b>	<u>Low Earth</u>
<b>Perigee altitude</b>	783 km
<b>Apogee altitude</b>	821 km
<b>Inclination</b>	74.0°
<b>Period</b>	101.0 minutes

**Kosmos-2251** (Russian: Космос-2251 meaning *Cosmos 2251*), was a Russian Strela-2M military communications satellite. It was launched into Low Earth orbit from Site 132/1 at the Plesetsk Cosmodrome at 04:17 UTC on 16 June 1993, by a Kosmos-3M carrier rocket.<sup>[3].</sup><sup>[4]</sup> The Strela satellites had a lifespan of 5 years, and the Russian government reported that Kosmos-2251 ceased functioning in 1995.<sup>[5]</sup> Russia was later criticised by *The Space Review* for leaving a defunct satellite in a congested orbit, rather than deorbiting it. In response, Russia noted that they were (and are)<sup>[6]</sup> not required to do so under international law.<sup>[7]</sup><sup>[8]</sup> In any case, the KAUR-1 satellites had no propulsion system, which is usually required for deorbiting.<sup>[9]</sup><sup>[10]</sup>

## Destruction

At 16:56 UTC on 10 February 2009,<sup>[11]</sup> it collided with Iridium 33 (1997-051C), an Iridium satellite,<sup>[12]</sup> in the first major collision of two satellites in Earth orbit. The Iridium satellite, which was operational at the time of the collision, was destroyed, as was Kosmos-2251.<sup>[13]</sup> NASA reported that a large amount of debris was produced by the collision.<sup>[14]</sup><sup>[15]</sup>

## See also

- Kessler Syndrome

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