

Panoramica tecnica sul Progetto ASTRA

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We report on relevant technical advances for system and data-flow control for the forthcoming ASTRA (All-Sky TRacking Array) network of wide-field cameras for LEO traffic survey and tracking. The ASTRA network will consist of five twin stations, suitably located across the Italian territory. Each station will be steerable and equipped with an ultra wide-angle (80°x60° FOV) f/1.4 Voigtlander NOKTON optic mounted on a Sony mirrorless camera, eventually accompanied by several ancillary devices for focusing, weather control, azimuth steering, temperature control etc. All these devices are controlled by Raspberry Pi that is remotely linked with the INAF SSA Control Center in Loiano (Bologna). The ASTRA sensors aim of surveying the entire orbital traffic of metric-size objects (including satellite mega-constellations and potentially dangerous massive debris in pre-reentry trajectories) flying over the Italian sky within an altitude of ~1000 km.

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