

# Defending the Planet



## PROTECTING EARTH FROM ASTEROIDS AND COMETS

An AIAA Position Paper

Approved by:  
AIAA Space Systems Technical Committee  
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October 2004

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"No one wants to look back and regret actions not taken" - Dr David Suzuki, *The Nature of Things*.

"Many might say "But we know of no one that has ever died from an asteroid impact." That's true [in recent times], but then who has ever died from a thermonuclear explosion? Surely no one would claim that they are not dangerous?" - Arthur C Clarke, Foreword to *Rogue Asteroids and Doomsday Comets* by Duncan Steel.

"No one has ever been killed by a meteorite in the presence of a meteoritist and a medical doctor!" - John Lewis