



**Did you know?** SPACE DEBRIS CAN TRAVEL AT MORE THAN 17,500 MILES PER HOUR.

# TAKING OUT THE (SPACE) TRASH

Think your room is messy? It's nothing compared to the **millions of pieces of man-made junk orbiting Earth**. This space debris is mostly small, less than an inch, but some pieces – abandoned satellites and spent rocket boosters – can be much bigger. **Even the tiniest piece can cause major damage to NASA equipment and the International Space Station.** Fortunately, some cool “cleaning tools” are being developed to make the skies tidier and safer.

NASA's 220-pound ElectroDynamic Debris Eliminator lassos debris with a lightweight net. Also, Swiss scientists are working on CleanSpace One, a massive satellite with a giant spidery hand that grabs space junk and hurtles it into Earth's atmosphere, where the debris will eventually burn up. – *Robert Lerose*



KEVIN HURLEY