

Regulatory Briefing – July 2019

EU

Presidencies Conclusions following 9th EU-ESA Space Council

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Spanish Presidency of the ESA Council at ministerial level have issued conclusions following the 9th EU-ESA Space Council (Space Council) in May 2019.

The Presidencies Conclusions indicate a widespread recognition by ministers and Member States of the need to coordinate and consolidate European space policy, including the need to coordinate the actions of all European space stakeholders.

Member States agreed that regular Space Council meetings are an important tool for achieving these objectives. Ministers also agreed that future subjects for the Space Council could include climate change, space economic diplomacy, New Space, Sustainable Development Goals and space traffic management.

New Zealand

Launch and facility licences granted to Rocket Lab

The New Zealand Space Agency has granted its first licences under the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 (OSHAA), to launch services provider Rocket Lab.

Rocket Lab has been granted launch and facility licences in relation to operations at its private launch facility on New Zealand's Mahia Peninsula.

Rocket Lab was previously operating under a contract with the New Zealand Government and launch licences from the US Federal Aviation Administration, pending the passing of the OSHAA and the establishment of a formal licensing regime.

Philippines

Philippine space policy to be established

The Philippine Government has taken steps to develop a Philippine Space Agency and space launch legislation.

Both houses of the Philippines Congress have ratified a bicameral report on a bill proposing to create a Philippine space policy and establish a national Space Agency. The bill is a consolidated version of two separate bills introduced and approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively.

The recently ratified bill is now awaiting presidential approval and will become law once signed by the president, or if not vetoed within the prescribed timeframe.

Portugal

Space Authority appointed

Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (Anacom), Portugal's national regulatory authority for the communications sector, has been appointed by law to be the Space Authority in Portugal. It will be in charge of licensing and monitoring of space activities.

On 6 June 2019 Anacom approved a draft regulation covering licensing, technical standards for launching and operation of space objects, the registration of space objects, insurance and the transfer of satellites in orbit.

The public consultation on the draft regulation on the regime governing access to and the carrying out of space activities was published on 24 June and is open for 15 working days.

United Kingdom

National Space Council established

The UK National Space Council, to be established later in 2019, will provide strategic leadership on space across the government and will coordinate all aspects of the UK's space strategy, investment and use of space through a new National Space Framework.

The National Space Framework will consist of three priority areas: prosperity and knowledge, security and protection and global influence. The Council follows a similar structure to the UK National Space Council, which was re-established in June 2017 to provide a coordinated process for developing and monitoring the implementation of US space policy and strategy.

United States

FAA consultation period extended

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has extended the 14 June 2019 deadline for public comment on proposed changes to commercial launch regulations. Comments will now be open until 30 July 2019.

The FAA is proposing new streamlined launch and re-entry licensing requirements which apply a single set of licensing and safety regulations across several types of operations and vehicles and replace many prescriptive regulations with performance-based rules, to allow industry to adopt more flexible means of compliance.

The full notice of proposed rulemaking, including information about the consultation process, can be viewed here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/15/2019-05972/streamlined-launch-and-reentry-licensing-requirements>



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