

Regulatory Briefing – February 2020

Europe

United Kingdom

Consultation on sub-ordinate legislation under the Space Industry Act 2018 to be published this Spring

The UK Space Agency, the Department for Transport and the Health and Safety Executive will publish a consultation on the sub-ordinate legislation to the Space Industry Act 2018 this Spring.

Norway

Norway publishes a draft bill for a new Act on Activities in Space

On 6 February 2020, the Space Law Committee appointed by the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries published [its report and the draft bill](#) for the new Norwegian Act on Activities in Space. The draft bill is intended to replace the current Norwegian Act on Launching Objects from Norwegian Territory in Outer Space 1969.

On 20 February 2020, the Norwegian Ministry sent a consultation to several organisations (including governmental entities) which may be affected by the new legislation for submission of their responses by 20 May 2020.

Other stakeholders in the Norwegian space industry are to be invited by the [Norwegian Industrial Forum for Space Activities \(NIFRO\)](#) to provide their input to the new legislation.

Germany and France

Germany and France join the Combined Space Operations initiative

Germany and France formally became members of the Combined Space Operations (CSpO) initiative in December 2019 and February 2020 respectively.

The CSpO initiative was established in 2014 to coordinate space situational awareness and security capabilities, bringing together the armed forces of Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. New Zealand became a signatory to the CSpO initiative in 2015.

EUSPA

EU Agency for the Space Programme to replace GSA in 2021

A new European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) is being formed to succeed and expand the current European GNSS Agency (GSA). The GSA has managed the EU's Galileo satellite systems for 15 years. EUSPA's staffing will increase to 700 from 100, and continue to be based in Prague, Czech Republic.

In addition to developing Galileo operations, EUSPA will manage use of the Copernicus Earth observation satellite system, prepare the Governmental Satellite Communications (Govsatcom) programme, and concentrate EU capacities to monitor the Earth's near surroundings.

United States

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s Chairman Ajit Pai announces his proposed plan for opening up the C-band

On 6 February 2020, Chairman Pai announced the sharing of the draft rules within the FCC that would repurpose 280 MHz of the C-band by means of a public auction for 5G. The FCC also plans to reserve 20MHz above 280 MHz as a guard band and repack existing satellite operations into the upper 200MHz of the band.

According to Chairman Pai, the draft rules would require the winning bidders in the C-band auction to:

- reimburse the incumbent satellite operators for their "reasonable relocation

costs” which FCC expects to range between \$3-5 billion; and

- pay the incumbent satellite operators “accelerated relocation payments” of \$9.7 billion if they meet the FCC’s deadlines for clearing the C-band spectrum.

The FCC’s accelerated clearing milestones in the draft rules are:

- the clearing of the lower 100 MHz of the C-band in 46 of the top 50 Partial Economic Areas by September 2021; and
- the clearing of the remaining 180 MHz of the C-band by September 2023.

The FCC is scheduled to vote on Chairman Pai’s proposed plan on 28 February 2020.

[Australia](#)

Australian Space Agency officially opens

On 19 February 2020, the headquarters of the Australian Space Agency (ASA) in Adelaide was officially opened.

The ASA commenced its operations in July 2018 and has the goals of tripling the size of the Australian space industry to AUS\$12 billion and creating up to 20,000 extra jobs by 2030.

The site will also house the Australian Space Discovery Centre and Mission Control which will open in 2021.

Queensland government to invest AUS\$8 million to accelerate Queensland’s space industry

The Queensland Government has published [its Space Industry Strategy for 2020-2025 \(Strategy\)](#) and its plan for AUS\$8 million investment to accelerate Queensland’s space industry into a “new growth phase”, creating up to 6,000 jobs and contributing between AUS\$3.5 to 6 billion to Queensland’s economy by 2036.

The newly published Strategy also complements the [Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan](#) that was published in June 2018.

[Middle East](#)

United Arab Emirates

New UAE Space Law to enable sector growth and provide a clearer regulatory framework

The UAE Space Agency (UAE-SA) announced the details of the new national space legislation during an introductory workshop for the UAE Space Law on 24 February 2020.

The new legislation contains nine chapters and fifty four articles regulating space activities across the UAE as well as the role of the UAE-SA.

There will also be five regulations on:

1. registering space objects;
2. investigating accidents and incidents;
3. space activities permits;
4. activities of manned space trips; and
5. audits.

[Egypt](#)

Egypt to establish a Satellite City Industrialisation and Assembly Centre in 2020

On the Egyptian Space Day (16 February 2020), the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced the establishment of the Satellite City Industrialisation and Assembly Centre in 2020, in cooperation with China.

The Minister also announced the plan to enter into space-related cooperation agreements with countries such as China, France, Italy, Kazakhstan and the US.

[Kazakhstan](#)

Kazakhstan establishes national facilities for satellite design and manufacturing

Kazakhstan intends to set up its own satellite manufacturing capabilities after the recent completion of the establishment of its national space and satellite design bureau and a satellite

manufacturing, assembly, integration, and testing facility.

Africa

Delays in the plans for establishing a space agency for the African Union

In the First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 (**Report**), published on 8 February 2020, the African Union identified “delays in consideration of the structural and financial implications of the African Space Agency” as the challenge for the African Outer Space Programme.

This follows the adoption of the Statute of the African Space Agency (**AfSA**) by the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union on 29 January 2018 and the announcement of Egypt to host the AfSA’s headquarters in February 2019.

The Report recommends:

- accelerated consideration of structural and financial implications of the AfSA;
- mobilisation of resources for launching and implementing the AfSA; and
- provision of support to operationalise the AfSA.

Asia

Thailand

Royal Thai Air Force to strengthen control over the country’s space operations

The Royal Thai Air Force, which set up a space operations centre in August 2019, is planning to propose draft legislation to regulate and supervise space operations carried out by the air force and other government agencies.

A subcommittee has been set up by the national committee on space policy to draft a policy and operations plan for space surveillance and tracking (SST).



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