

Regulatory Briefing – May 2020

Europe

United Kingdom

UK Space Agency (UKSA) commits funding to combat space debris

On 26 May 2020, the UKSA published a call for applications for public grant funding of up to £1 million to grow the UK's space surveillance and tracking (SST) capability.

Proposals should focus on one of the two core themes:

- low-cost low Earth orbit surveillance and tracking sensors; and
- artificial intelligence and machine learning to enhance SST data exploitation.

The [call for applications](#) will close on 10 July 2020.

UKSA publishes guidance on cyber security for space assets

On 19 May 2020, the UKSA published a '[Cyber Security Toolkit](#)' detailing the issues that parties involved in the supply chain, production and ownership of space assets should consider "to establish their dependencies and therefore vulnerabilities, assess risk and based on these results, adopt an appropriate cyber security strategy".

The Cyber Security Toolkit provides guidance on dependency/vulnerability mapping methodology, mitigation measures, reporting procedures and recovery planning.

United States

Department of Commerce releases new regulations on licensing of private remote sensing space systems

On 20 May 2020, the Department of Commerce (**Commerce**) released the final rule on the

'Licensing of Private Remote Sensing Space Systems'.

Under the final rule, Commerce will:

- categorise systems based on an analysis of whether the unenhanced data to be generated by the proposed system are already available in the US or in other nations;
- eliminate most of the permanent licence conditions existing in current licences, retaining only the bare minimum of permanent licence conditions; and
- if, in Commerce's analysis, an application proposes to collect unenhanced data that is entirely novel (i.e. where unenhanced data is not available from any source), include further temporary conditions, by working with the Department of Defense or the Department of State, which would remain in effect for one to three years from the time the licensee begins operations.

Commerce will be accepting comments on this final rule until 19 June 2020, which can be submitted by post or online through the [Federal eRulemaking portal](#).

The planned effective date of this final rule is 20 July 2020 (subject to the conclusion of the Congressional review).

The text of the final rule can be obtained [here](#).

FCC releases its second Report and Order on Earth stations in motion (ESIMs)

On 14 May 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) in the matter of:

- 'Amendment of Parts 2 and 25 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Use of Earth Stations in Motion Communicating with Geostationary Orbit Space Stations in Frequency Bands Allocated to the Fixed Satellite Service'; and

- 'Facilitating the Communications of Earth Stations in Motion with Non-Geostationary Orbit Space Stations'.

The NPRM expands the frequency bands available to ESIMs and adopts a regulatory framework for ESIMs communicating with non-geostationary fixed satellite service space stations which is akin to the current framework for ESIMs communicating with fixed satellite service systems in geostationary satellite orbit.

The deadlines for filing comments and reply comments to the NPRM are 30 days and 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register respectively.

NASA releases "Artemis Accords"

On 15 May 2020, NASA released [the Artemis Accords](#), which are the principles it plans to use to execute bilateral 'Artemis Accords' agreements with partner nations to foster cooperation in exploring the Moon.

The Artemis Accords include the following principles.

- **Peaceful Purposes:** all activities to be conducted for peaceful purposes.
- **Transparency:** to publicly describe policies and plans in a transparent manner.
- **Interoperability:** to utilise open international standards, develop new standards when necessary and strive to support interoperability to the greatest extent practical.
- **Emergency Assistance:** to commit to taking all reasonable steps possible to render assistance to astronauts in distress.
- **Registration of Space Objects:** for any partner nation which is not already a member of the Registration Convention to join as soon as possible.
- **Release of Scientific Data:** to release scientific data publicly to ensure open sharing of scientific data with the international community.

- **Protecting Heritage:** to commit to the protection of sites and artifacts with historic value.
- **Space Resources:** reinforcing that space resource extraction and utilization can and will be conducted in compliance with the Outer Space Treaty.
- **Deconfliction of Activities:** to provide public information regarding the location and general nature of operations which will inform the scale and scope of 'Safety Zones'.
- **Orbital Debris and Spacecraft Disposal:** to agree to act in a manner that is consistent with the principles reflected in the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and to plan for the mitigation of orbital debris, including the safe, timely, and efficient passivation and disposal of spacecraft at the end of their missions.

Australia

Australian Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019 to commence on 30 June 2020

The Australian Space Agency will start assessing applications for high power rocket activity under the Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019 from 30 June 2020.

Asia

India

India to set up a legal and policy framework to facilitate private space activities

The Indian Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, announced on 16 May 2020 that the "government will provide a predictable policy and regulatory environment and allow the private sector to use ISRO facilities" and to "ease geo-spatial data policy to make such remote-sensing

data more widely available to tech entrepreneurs, with safeguards put in place”.

This follows the [Draft Space Activities Bill of 2017](#) on which the ISRO ran a public consultation at the end of 2017.

Africa

Rwanda

Rwandan Cabinet approves draft law establishing Rwandan Space Agency (RSA)

On 18 May 2020, the Cabinet of the Republic of Rwanda approved its draft law establishing the RSA.

The Rwandan Ministry of ICT and Innovation has stated that they are working towards having the RSA operational beginning July 2020.

The newly established RSA is expected to be responsible for preparing Rwandan space policies and regulations.



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