

Regulatory Briefing – June 2020

Europe

United Kingdom

The UK and the US governments sign a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA)

On 16 June 2020, the UK and the US governments signed the TSA, allowing US companies to launch and operate from UK spaceports and export space launch technology and data, while protecting sensitive US technology in the conduct of satellite and rocket launches.

EU

The European Council (Council) adopts a set of conclusions on “Space for a sustainable Europe”

On 4 June 2020, the Council adopted [a set of conclusions](#) on its policy “Space for a sustainable Europe” underlining the importance of Earth science and European space data, services, and technologies to enable Europe to become a global leader in the transition into a sustainable world.

In its conclusions, the Council invites the European Commission to develop an in-depth analysis of the current landscape and future perspectives and contribution of the “European New Space” to the European economy. The Council also underlines the importance of supporting the Member States of the European Union with emerging space capabilities and their industry and academia for the development of skills, technologies and services.

United States

The FCC proposes rules on new and innovative commercial uses of the 70/80/90 GHz bands

On 10 June 2020, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) and Order in the matter of [“Modernizing and Expanding Access to the 70/80/90 GHz Bands”](#).

In the NPRM, the FCC explores new and innovative commercial uses of the 71-76 GHz, 81-86 GHz, 92-94 GHz and 94.1-95 GHz bands (the 70/80/90 GHz bands) which are currently used primarily for fixed point-to-point and satellite services via non-exclusive registered links.

The FCC seeks comment on the expanded use of the 70/80/90 GHz bands for the provision of wireless backhaul for 5G and the deployment of broadband services on board aircraft and ships while protecting incumbent operations in the 70/80/90 GHz bands.

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.

The WTB establishes a comment process for C-Band Transition Plans

On 1 June 2020, the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunication Bureau (WTB) released a [Public Notice](#) announcing that SES, Intelsat, Eutelsat, Star One and Telesat have all committed to clear the 3.7-4.0 GHz band on the accelerated timeline.

This follows the FCC’s adoption of [new rules](#) on 29 February 2020 to auction 280 MHz of the 3.7-4.2 GHz band (C-band). The rules provided the five eligible space station operators (listed above), serving the contiguous US, with the opportunity to elect accelerated clearing in exchange for accelerated relocation payments.

The rules also required each eligible space station operator to submit a Transition Plan by 12 June 2020 describing the necessary steps and estimated costs of transitioning all existing services out of the 3.7-4.0 GHz band.

Subsequently, the WTB released a [Public Notice](#) on 18 June 2020, detailing the established process for incumbent Earth station operators, programmers and other C-band stakeholders to file comments on each space station operator’s Transition Plan. The deadline for filing comments is 13 July 2020.

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Middle East

UAE

The UAE Space Agency (UAE-SA) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Activities (UNOOSA) sign an agreement to collaborate on space sustainability

On 10 June 2020, the UNOOSA and the UAE-SA signed an agreement to collaborate on the long-term sustainability of space activities and the use of space for sustainable development.

The agreement anticipates the establishment of a UNOOSA project office in the UAE to act as a new global hub to foster international progress on space sustainability and space for development issues.

South America

Brazil

Brazil passes a Decree Order establishing a licensing framework for Brazilian launch activities

On 28 May 2020, Brazil passed the [Decree Order No. 182](#) which establishes a licensing framework for commercial operators to perform space launch activities from Brazilian territory.

The Decree Order addresses aspects such as the documentation required to apply for a licence, the licensing procedure, the mechanism to transfer a licence and administrative sanctions.

Africa

Nigeria

Nigeria to revise its national space policy and strategy

The National Space Research and Development Agency of Nigeria is to review its National Space Policy and Strategy and 25-year strategic roadmap for space research and development which were adopted in 2001 and 2005 respectively.

International

The ESA, NASA and JAXA team up on Earth observation (EO) dashboard for monitoring the impact of COVID-19

The European Space Agency, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency have jointly established the “COVID-19 Earth Observation Dashboard” to collect and provide satellite-based EO data for monitoring the impact of COVID-19.

The dashboard combines data collected by EO satellites operated by each of the agencies and provides policymakers and health authorities with environmental and economic indicators which can be used to study the impact of the ongoing COVID-crisis.



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