

## Regulatory Briefing – July 2020

### Europe

#### **United Kingdom**

##### ***UKSA, DCMS and ESA launches a call for proposals on 5G and Space***

On 9 July, the UK Space Agency (UKSA), the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the European Space Agency (ESA) launched a call for proposals on how the UKSA, DCMS and ESA can use space technology to support the logistics sector in a 5G environment to increase the connectivity and close the digital divide for businesses in the sector.

More information is available [here](#).

##### ***UK Government announces that Huawei is to be removed from UK 5G networks***

On 14 July 2020, the UK Government announced the complete removal of Huawei from the UK's 5G network, following advice from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

The decision was taken at the National Security Council (NSC) meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in response to the US' updated sanctions against Huawei which were imposed on 16 May 2020.

Buying new Huawei 5G equipment will be banned from 31 December 2020, and all Huawei equipment is to be removed from 5G networks by the end of 2027.

The UK Government intends to introduce the Telecoms Security Bill to Parliament in the Autumn to put in place the necessary powers to implement the new telecommunications security framework, impose new controls on high risk vendors and create extensive security duties on

network operators to drive up security standards.

The copy of the UK Government's announcement is available [here](#).

##### ***UKSA launches the National Space Technology Programme Pathfinder 2020 Call***

On 2 July 2020, the UKSA published a call for proposals to provide grants of up to £75,000 to fund space technology research and development projects under the National Space Technology Programme (NSTP) across five themes:

- access to space;
- position navigation and timing;
- robotics and exploration;
- sensing; and
- telecommunications.

Acceptable activities are:

- fundamental research;
- feasibility studies;
- experimental development; and
- industrial research.

The deadline for the submission of a project proposal is midday on 10 August 2020.

More information on the application process is available [here](#).

##### ***UKSA launches the National Space Innovation Programme***

On 22 July 2020, the UKSA established the National Space Innovation Programme (NSIP) to support the development of innovative products, services and technologies that have application in the space sector.

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The amount of funding available per project is between £200,000 and £2,000,000 in the 2020/21 financial year.

The two core themes selected for grant funding during the 2020/21 financial year are:

- ‘Earth Observation to Tackle Climate Change’; and
- ‘Ubiquitous Communications for Enterprise, Consumers and Government’.

The number of programme themes is to be expanded in future years.

Full details on the requirements for project proposals are available [here](#).

## **Estonia**

### ***Estonia creates a new Estonian Space Policy and Program for 2020-2027***

The Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication has created the Estonian Space Policy and Program for 2020-2027 (Estonian Space Policy).

The Estonian Space Policy focuses on three main themes:

1. cybersecurity (including flight software, independent software verification and validation, blockchain and the development of an e-government application for governance in space);
2. artificial intelligence (with the focus on remote sensing applications and the development of autonomous robots or vehicles); and
3. innovation (with the focus on hardware development, including materials science and optical equipment).

The Estonian Space Policy also contains plans to further develop its national satellite data centre

ESTHub and to set up a national satellite communication services distributing centre, SatComHub, to establish data links between the Estonian government agencies and “data embassies” which act as “sovereign embassies in foreign data centres” where the Estonian government is able to store and back up copies of the most critical and confidential data.

## **Asia**

### **India**

#### ***Indian government announces the creation of a new Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre***

On 24 June 2020, the Indian government approved the creation of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) to encourage private participation in space activities.

IN-SPACE is expected to be functional within six months and will act as an interface between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and private parties as a facilitator and a regulator.

### **Japan**

#### ***Japanese government publishes its revised space policy***

On 30 June 2020, the National Space Policy Secretariat of the Japanese Cabinet Office published an [Outline of the Basic Plan on Space Policy](#) for 2020-2030.

The revised space policy identifies the following goals.

1. Ensuring space security and sustainable use of outer space.
2. Contributing to disaster management, national resilience and resolving global challenges.

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3. Strengthening space science and exploration.
4. Realising economic growth and innovation driven by the use of space systems.

These goals include plans to create a regulatory environment for suborbital flights, space resource exploitation and on-orbit servicing and to identify necessary measures for the development of launch sites and spaceports in Japan.

## Thailand

### ***Thailand’s National Space Policy Committee expedites the drafting of space policies and related laws***

Thailand’s National Space Policy Committee (NSPC) approved a draft Space Affairs Act to unify Thailand’s policy on space affairs management. A representative from the Royal Thai Air Force is to be included in the sub-committee for space law development.

The NSPC will also prepare a submission to request the establishment of the National Space Affairs Office for consideration by the Office of the Public Sector Development Commission.

## Africa

### South Africa

### ***The Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill awaits Presidential assent***

The South African Science and Technology Laws Amendment Bill (Bill) gained support from the National Council of Provinces in July 2020 and is now awaiting Presidential assent.

The Bill was introduced by the South African Ministry of Science and Technology in November 2018 to unify the operations of the relevant agencies under the South African Ministry of Science and Technology (including the South African National Space Agency, SANSA).

The Bill will allow the SANSA to perform its functions outside the territory of South Africa, subject to legislation and formal agreements regarding international cooperation.



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