

Regulatory Briefing – November 2021

International

COP26 takes place in Glasgow

The United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP26) was hosted in Glasgow from Sunday 31 October to Friday 12 November 2021.

With over 100 world leaders attending, notable decisions reached included:

- countries pledging \$12 billion to halt and reverse deforestation across the globe;
- the UK pledging £3 billion to support developing countries in combatting climate change;
- the Global Methane Pledge to reduce emissions by 30% was signed by over 100 countries;
- the Glasgow Breakthrough Agenda, signed by over 40 countries, to maintain the 1.5-degree goal and ensure that global emissions are halved by 2030;
- India announcing a target of net-zero by 2070.

The outcomes and decisions made at COP26 reflect an increasing emphasis on mitigating climate change, ensuring sustainability and enforcing ESG goals worldwide.

United Nations First Committee approves draft resolutions on the peaceful use and non-weaponisation of space

On 1 November, the United Nations First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) approved five draft resolutions addressing the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Among the five, the Committee approved the resolution "Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours", with 163 States voting in favour, eight

against (China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syria, Venezuela), and nine abstaining (Armenia, Belarus, Comoros, Djibouti, India, Israel, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe).

The resolution affirmed that all States must conduct themselves in outer space in compliance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

Although there was some disagreement about the resolution's necessity and suitability, its success can be regarded as a valid effort towards preventing the weaponisation of outer space.

Europe

European Union

European Union announces a new satellite constellation to track human-made greenhouse gas emissions

During COP26, a new European Union (EU) Copernicus programme was announced by the EU to track human-made emissions of greenhouse gases.

A dedicated constellation of satellites, currently in the development stage, will execute the mission. Responsibility for the constellation will sit with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT).

The launch of the constellation is slated for 2026. Once in orbit, the constellation will track individual sources of carbon dioxide and methane emissions to a high-level of accuracy.

The EU intends that this new Copernicus constellation will play a role in the 2028 review of the Paris Agreement, the international treaty negotiated at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21).

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European Space Agency

ESA establishes new commercialisation unit to grow the European presence in the international space sector

ESA established the Directorate of Commercialisation, Industry and Procurement in October 2021 to encourage the success of European companies in the commercial space sector.

In addition to its commercial aims, ESA hopes that the Directorate will support Europe's aspiration to become more digital and sustainable.

Géraldine Naja, with three decades of experience in managerial and strategy development positions at ESA, joins the Directorate as its inaugural director.

United Kingdom

Scotland releases its National Space Strategy

Following the launch of the UK National Space Strategy, the Scottish Government released its National Space Strategy at Expo 2020 Dubai (Expo 2020).

Outlining the importance of the space sector in Scotland, the Government detailed ambitious plans to create 20,000 new jobs and secure a £4 billion share of the global space market by 2030.

As it stands, the number of space businesses in Scotland has increased by over 65% since 2016, and the sector proportionately employs twice as many people in Scotland than in the rest of the UK.

The Strategy proposes a collaboration between the Scottish Government, Space Scotland (the trade association) and the Scottish Space Academic Forum.

The main aims of the strategy include:

- positioning Scotland as a global leader for commercial space developments;
- establishing a range of managed launch and orbital services, supporting the largest launch capability in Europe;
- developing a world-leading environmental strategy for Scotland's space industry, from reducing emissions to supporting the use of satellite data for environmental monitoring; and
- building Scotland's international economic opportunities through increased exports and targeted inward investment to plug critical gaps in capability.

Speaking at Expo 2020, Business Minister Ivan McKee stated, “The potential is enormous. Our targets are similarly far-reaching, and I am confident we can achieve them.”

The UK works with global partners to clear up space debris

At the 72nd International Astronautical Congress (IAC), the UK Space Agency (UKSA) announced a range of projects designed to promote sustainable space operations and target orbital congestion and space debris.

The UKSA's funding of these projects is a continuation of their January 2021 agreement with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs to support space sustainability and encourage the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities 2019.

Two UK-based firms, Astroscale and ClearSpace, have been awarded the funding to execute these projects.

The UKSA has also agreed to partner with US-based company Numerica Corporation, which provides space surveillance and tracking data.

This partnership with Numerica supports the Ministry of Defence's efforts to utilise satellite data for civil, military and commercial space users.

DCMS releases a call for evidence for the Wireless Infrastructure Strategy

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a call for evidence regarding the future of wireless connectivity in the UK.

DCMS hopes to gain a better understanding of the following issues:

- the future wireless connectivity needs of the UK;
- the extent to which the UK market is likely to be able to meet those needs by 2030;
- how the regulatory and policy framework can best continue to support investment, competition, innovation and the adoption of wireless infrastructure; and
- how the Government can support the development and deployment of future wireless networks, including 6G.

DCMS will use the responses received to develop a new national Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. The Strategy will set out a strategic framework for developing, deploying, and adopting 5G and future networks in the UK over the next decade.

DCMS seeks responses from operators and service providers, industry and trade associations, academics, and consumers. Submissions of evidence should be emailed to wirelessinfrastructurestrategy@dcms.gov.uk by 25 November 2021.

France

UK and France reach a new agreement on a climate change mission

At COP26, the UKSA and the French space agency, CNES, signed an implementation arrangement for a joint MicroCarb mission.

The UK Government has agreed to provide a further £3.9 million to the mission, due to launch in early 2023.

MicroCarb will be the first European satellite launched dedicated to tracking carbon dioxide emissions. The satellite will feature unique city-scanning observation abilities that will help identify the distribution of carbon dioxide emissions by individual cities globally.

Of the arrangement, UK Science Minister George Freeman stated, "MicroCarb puts our space sector at the heart of an important European space mission which will benefit global efforts to achieve Net Zero and build a more sustainable future".

Monaco

Office of Space Affairs established in Monaco

Prince Albert II signed Sovereign Ordinance No. 8.809 to establish Monaco's first Office for Outer Space Affairs. The Office convened for the first time in October with members of the aerospace community in attendance.

The Office was established to support the growth of Monegasques businesses manufacturing EO satellites and planetary rovers in Monaco. The Office will streamline administrative procedures and make it easier for companies to initiate business in the country.

The Office of Space Affairs will represent Monaco alongside the Department of External Relations and Cooperation in space-based and aeronautical international organisations.

Poland

Poland signs the Artemis Accords

During the 72nd IAC, Polish Space Agency President Grzegorz Wrochna signed the Artemis Accords on behalf of Poland with the NASA Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy.

The Artemis Accords is a US-led international agreement establishing principles, guidelines and best practices for those who wish to

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participate in the Artemis lunar exploration programme.

Poland is the thirteenth country to sign the Accords. Eight countries signed the Accords at the IAC in 2020, followed by Ukraine, South Korea, New Zealand and Brazil on subsequent and separate occasions.

Wrochna said that he saw signing the Accords as an opportunity to support Polish space companies. He stated, "[Polish companies] want to reach for new markets, especially the US market," and "we would like to open the door for them".

North America

Canada

UK and Canada to share space activities and data

During the IAC in Dubai, the UKSA and the Canadian Space Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on joint activities and information sharing on space. The agreement calls for the exchange of data, technology and personnel between the nations.

The MoU can be understood as an example of the UK Government's recently launched National Space Strategy in action. One of the central tenets of the Strategy is to increase international cooperation to support the country's position in the sector.

United States

US and France agree to intensify cooperation on space issues

On 29 October 2021, the US and France signed a Joint Statement, which included plans to increase cooperation on space issues. The Joint Statement recognises the importance of Indo-Pacific collaboration and will be further discussed during the US Vice President Kamala Harris' upcoming Paris visit.

Africa

South Africa

UKSA and SANSA sign a Memorandum of Association

At the IAC, the UKSA and South African Space Agency signed an MoU to strengthen their collaboration on areas including:

- sharing satellites and data for EO;
- collaborating on the use of space to mitigate climate change;
- building research partnerships for space science and technology, with an emphasis on space weather; and
- building connections for local space businesses.

The MoU will formalise the previous cooperation between the UK and South Africa in the space sector, emphasising using space as "an effective tool in the fight against climate change".



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