

Regulatory Briefing – March 2022

International

UNOOSA and EUSPA sign memorandum of understanding

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (**UNOOSA**) signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) with the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (**EUSPA**) on 9 March to support United Nations Member States' access and awareness of space benefits.

The organisations share the common objectives of promoting international cooperation and sustainable development in space.

In the MoU, the organisations pledge to produce a report by the end of 2022 on how Earth observation technologies and satellite navigation systems, such as Galileo, can support economic growth and address climate change.

Europe

European Union proposes new traffic management capabilities plans

On 15 February, the European Commission (**EC**) released a joint communication to the European Council and European Parliament proposing new ambitions in space traffic management.

The joint communication states that the European Union (**EU**) is too dependent on data produced by the United States (**US**); the EU Space Surveillance and Tracking (**SST**) programme, which provides conjunction notices to European satellite providers, relies on the US' catalogue of space objects.

The EC proposes a mid-2023 goal to "elaborate an architecture analysis" for the upgrades to the SST programme and identifies 2025 as an opportunity to deploy new tracking assets.

Although the joint communication does not specify the amount of funding required, it suggests that 75% of the budget will go exclusively to European companies.

United Kingdom

First anniversary of the UK-Australian Space Bridge

23 February marked the first anniversary of the UK-Australian Space Bridge. Over the last year, the Space Bridge has improved access to trade, increased the exchange of academic research opportunities and led to the creation of business workshops between the two nations. The Space Bridge has enhanced cooperation in many areas, including in relation to Earth observation data and artificial intelligence.

Ofcom announces consultation to update space spectrum strategy

The Office of Communications (**Ofcom**) has announced a consultation to update its 2017 space spectrum strategy. The previous strategy was focused on enabling growth in satellite broadband and Earth observation. Since 2017, the sector has undergone significant changes and growth.

Ofcom reports that the complexity involved in managing the growing number of non-geostationary satellites has put pressure on the use of spectrum and demonstrates the limits of the previous strategy.

The consultation closes on 24 May 2022, and Ofcom aims to publish the new strategy in Q2 2022/23. Interested parties are asked to fill out the user form provided on the website to respond and email spacespectrumstrategy2022@ofcom.org.uk.

Ofcom announces consultation for spectrum sharing in the upper 6 GHz band

Ofcom proposes adding the upper 6 GHz band to the Shared Access licence framework for low-power, indoor use to make it for individuals and businesses to access spectrum for local wireless connectivity applications.

Licences would cover the entire band for an area within a 50-mile radius with a maximum power limit of 250mW EIRP. Users would be encouraged to apply for multiple licences to cover a larger area, and such applications would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"Pre-eminent in the space and satellite sector". Chambers & Partners 2022

Interested parties are asked to fill out the user form provided on the website to respond and email SharedAccess6GHz@ofcom.org.uk.

Ofcom announces consultation for increasing available spectrum in the FM band

Ofcom has identified small gaps in spectrum use between existing broadcast radio services in the FM band. The size of the gaps is such that only "limited coverage" can be achieved, making it unsuitable for local or national broadcasting.

Ofcom intends to make this spectrum available to "restricted service" broadcasts to increase the overall spectrum available. Restricted service broadcasts can include commentary at specific events, such as outdoor shows and performances.

Interested parties are asked to fill out the user form provided on the website to respond and email rsls@ofcom.org.uk.

Romania

Romania becomes the 16th nation to sign the Artemis Accords

On 2 March, Romania became the 16th country and the fifth member of the European Space Agency to sign the Artemis Accords; the American-led international agreement promotes the return of human space flight and the safe and sustainable development of space.

North America

United States

FCC and NTIA to collaborate on spectrum management

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced a new Spectrum Coordination Initiative on 15 February to improve the coordination on spectrum management; the FCC and NTIA have jointly managed the US' access to spectrum for decades.

The Spectrum Coordination Initiative recommends five changes to the shared management process. Among these changes will be updating the 20-year-old MoU between the two agencies.

The FCC and NTIA have also agreed to collaborate to inform the development of national spectrum policy and increase transparency around spectrum use.

Canada

Space Canada industry group formed to promote the establishment of a national space strategy

Nine Canadian companies have formed an industry group to promote the establishment of a national space council similar to that which exists in the US and UK.

The members of Space Canada hope that a space council will provide critical policy direction and strategy as the sector experiences exponential growth.

Middle East

Bahrain

Bahrain becomes the 17th nation to sign the Artemis Accords

Closely following Romania's announcement on 2 March, Bahrain became the 17th country and the second Arab nation to sign the Artemis Accords. The United Arab Emirates signed the treaty in October 2020.

Oceania

Australia

Australian Space Agency charged with developing new space strategy

On 3 March, Minister for Science and Technology Melissa Price announced that the Australian Space Agency (ASA) will develop a unified national space strategy to shape the sector for the next two decades.

The ASA will work with industry and Government over the next 18 months to deliver a Space Strategic Update (SSU). The SSU will help deliver the Australian Civil Space Strategy objectives of tripling the size of the sector and creating 20,000 new jobs by 2030.

Price also shared that Australia would be halting plans to introduce space launch application fees.

If you would like more information on any topics in this Regulatory Briefing, please contact orrery@wearealden.com.