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Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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SANSA: A REGIONAL CONTRIBUTOR IN SPACE

Abstract

The South African National Space Agency (SANSA) continues to foster cooperation in space science and technology within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. SANSA recognises and appreciates all efforts made by SADC member states to develop a common approach to space development in the region.

This paper analyses the current space science and technology landscape in the SADC region and the level of maturity thereof. It takes into account the availability or unavailability of enabling structures; the accessibility or inaccessibility of infrastructure; the supporting policies and associated legal frameworks if any. The paper further notes the existing space science and technology projects in the region and the plans to develop these further. It also notes the need for the region to strive for global relevance through participation and active contribution at international forums and networks. The paper highlights the importance of international collaboration as a mechanism to develop regional capabilities and expertise. It attempts to juxtapose the funding models of developed countries and developing countries and further derives suggestive models appropriate for the development of the region.