Paper ID: 27076
oral

57th IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Recent Developments in Space Law (5)

Author: Dr. Cynthia Jimenez-Monroy
OnAir, Switzerland, jm.cynthia@gmail.com

LEGAL ASPECTS OF EARTH STATIONS ON MOBILE PLATFORMS (ESOMPS) FOR INFLIGHT CONNECTIVITY

Abstract

At present, in-flight connectivity enables passengers to use their own Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) to access Wi-Fi internet services during the flight. As Wi-Fi internet become more popular within airlines and passengers, more radio frequencies are necessary to enable connectivity on-board aircrafts, in particular to increase broadband speed and capacity.

For many years aircrafts have used Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) as they have mobile terminals. However, the evolving technology has faced the demand to access broadband internet on-board aircraft with different solutions, for instance, ESOMPs, which use frequencies allocated for Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) in GSO and Non-GSO.

Therefore, this paper seeks to present the international and national regulatory framework of ESOMPs for inflight connectivity. The international framework refers to ITU instruments and documents, as well as the documentation adopted in regional telecommunication organizations. The second part will present different national approaches for ESOMPs regulation to grant approvals.

The paper concludes by indicating the current regulatory status of ESOMPs, in order to identify best practices and suggest next steps.