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A COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW OF SPACE AFFAIRS FROM EU, JAPAN AND USA: ALLIES OR
COMPETITORS?

Abstract

The new emerging space faring nations give opportunities to countries with comprehensive space capabilities for space capacity building, technology transfer and industrial provisions. Space know-how has a long cycle to be acquired, thus state-to-state alliances and strategic business partnerships between parties of these two groups are fundamental steps on this path. European Member-states, belonging to the European Space Agency (ESA) and/or to European Union (EU), in a whole propose their value proposition in supporting the initiation to space of the developing countries mainly in the Africa region. Japan is having a similar leading role in the area of Asia Pacific and the USA is currently less active towards developing countries, interested in Space, but it has a long history in capacity building for challenging initiatives, e. g. International Space Station, Landsat constellation, GPS services, and so on. The role of international relations in the field of space is crucial for making space business performances sustainable through the flow of exports. At the same time exports could be problematic if the space-based technologies fulfill also military requirements. In this case, state-to-state alliances facilitate the dialogues, thus geopolitical issues and the orientations of the national space policies become relevant for the establishment of the space programs and even their commercial exploitations. The paper will present the current space policies of the Europe, Japan and USA in a comparative way. From this, their international expansions are reported. The work concludes with an assessment of the potentials for cooperation and/or competition. Cooperation is willing to be implemented for challenging RD advancements and competition is mainly coming from the voice of industrial community to assure its economic sustainability.