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Recent Developments in Space Law (5)

Author: Prof. Lesley Jane Smith
Leuphana University of Lüneburg/Weber-Steinhaus & Smith, Germany, smith@leuphana.de

Dr. Mart Noorma
University of Tartu, Estonia, mart.noorma@ut.ee

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY: A REGULATORY ROADMAP FOR SPACE
START-UP JURISDICTIONS

Abstract

The development of small satellite technology has been rapid and an increasing number of small - in Europe, notably PECS - jurisdictions are building remarkable capabilities in this sector. Small satellite technology largely takes place at the level of research institutes or universities under the guidance of academic leaders, largely independent of the regulatory community. This has led to growing concerns that this community is “slipping through the net” of general registration procedures, at least at international level, and is counterproductive from a regulatory perspective.

This paper takes the form of a road map that focuses on delivering the regulatory and legal background to be complied with at national and international level in an accessible and easy to manage form. It covers the legal rules on satellite frequency filing, alongside UN notification and registration. Its approach is interdisciplinary and serves as a step-by-step guide, in particular for the engineering and business community, to what may seem a myriad of international treaties and the ITU regulations.

The contributors are from the community of space research scientists and the law. The roadmap is designed to enable future interdisciplinary teams to understand regulatory procedures for space, with a view to encouraging businesses start-ups to operate within the rules of national and international law.