53rd COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7) Recent Developments in Space Law (5)

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FROM NATIONAL SECTORIAL SPACE STRATEGY TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO RACE INTO OUTER SPACE

Abstract

A new era in human endeavor into outer space is commencing. The signs are quite visible that the move into outer space beyond earth orbit space stations and lunar bases is in dire need for real international cooperation and involvement. The immense amount of required knowledge and human and financial resources needed and the ever increasing challenges of travelling into space and landing on outer planets is beyond any single state.

Budget and plans announced for NASA in 1984 was a sign of continued desire to carry a space programs as mere national activity. Plans by china and India for lunar activities all showed a new stage for a new space race. However, new NASA budget announced recently showed both a push for more private sector involvement in launching business, and an eye toward international cooperation.

Here, with the believe that international involvement and cooperation is a must for future space activities, after a short review of the history of international cooperation in outer space utilization, some concepts for general and legal frameworks and existing impediments for setting the stage for a long waited leap in space cooperation are examined.