

54TH IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Recent Developments in Space Law (5)

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RECENT LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS OF GNSS IN EUROPE

Abstract

Europe has promoted and is bringing to fruition several initiatives in the field of satellite navigation: EGNOS as a regional augmentation system and Galileo as a long-term strategic solution. Given the technical, economical and political benefits such systems can provide to all users and to technologically advanced areas, European governments have recognized the interests to invest as public funding for the development and construction of the space infrastructure. As in any large government initiative, such a challenging view leads to complex financial, institutional and legal issues.

Several legal issues have been analysed, as these initiatives combine the institutional competencies, the technical skills and the financial and human resources of the EU, ESA, of European industry and operators. While development of the space infrastructure is assumed by public funding, an innovative formula will need to be explored for sustainable operations, to combine together both public and private sector resources, through the mechanisms taken from the experience of Public-Private Partnerships. Several legal and financial issues are currently addressed with so to favour a successful European satellite system. The paper will give an update on the status of progress of the European programmes on GNSS and outline the current legal issues and solutions being considered.