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Insuring Quality and Safety in a Cost Constrained Environment: Which Trade-Off? (1)

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LICENSING SYSTEM OF SPACE ACTIVITIES IN CHINA: STATUS QUO, PROBLEMS AND
PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Abstract

The outer space activities are creative, strategic and high-risk, and these activities need control and supervision objectively. This leads to the creation of the licensing system of space activities. The licensing system of space activities is subject to both international law and national law. Most space power in the world have promulgated their domestic space law and provided corresponding licensing regulations. In recent years, the development of China's space industry is very rapid. The diversification of the subjects in outer space activities and the commercialization of space activities urged China to establish the licensing system of space activities. Accordingly, China promulgated the Interim Measures for Licensing the Civil Space Launch Project in 2002. So far, this is the only legislation concerning licensing system of space activities in China. However, with the development of space activities over the past 10 years, this legislation shows many problems in applicable scope, legislative levels and specific provisions. The Legislation lagged far behind the development of the practice of space activities. In order to keep up with the development of space activities, China need to focus on improving the legislation relating to the licensing system of space activities. To specify, China should expand the scope of its legislations, improve the levels of its legislations, enhance the operability of its legislations and enhance the procedural guarantees of its licensing system of outer space.