

66th International Astronautical Congress 2015

28th SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

Author: Dr. Lini ZHOU
National University of Defense Technology, China, zhoulini@nudt.edu.cn

Prof. Qichao ZHU
China, qczechu@nudt.edu.cn
Ms. Shu WANG
National University of Defense Technology, China, ousyunokim@gmail.com

HOW AND WHAT COOPERATION COULD PREVENT CONFLICT IN SPACE

Abstract

Space is of sufficient importance to national security. As space becomes increasingly competitive, so will the propensity for conflict in space. In recent years, space cooperation is proposed to reduce the risk of space conflict. But how and what kind of space cooperation could prevent the conflict is still to be researched. Firstly, how space cooperation plays a role in preventing or worsening the conflict in space is revealed from a historical perspective. From the late 1970s to late 1990s the space conflict between USSR and US is terminated with building joint commercial launches and the International Space Station (ISS) program. At the beginning, the ISS program might increase the risk of conflict because it originates as a US political program to beat USSR. But ISS program is transformed into an international platform to degrade the space conflicts with the bankruptcy of the USSR and the join of Russia. Secondly, how the scope, content, and purpose of space cooperation affect the space conflicts is analyzed. For example, in the allied countries or organizations the risk of space conflict to be reduced by the space cooperation. But the space cooperation in one ally may threaten the space interests of countries out of the ally, even to the space conflicts. Finally, the concept of global space cooperation for the purpose of “Sharing Space” is proposed to prevent the space conflict.