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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN CHINA'S SPACE UNDERTAKINGS: MELTING DOWN
POLITICAL OBSTACLES THROUGH LEGAL MEANS

Abstract

With its growing space capabilities, China can offer a variety of options for international cooperation, such as launching by Changzheng rockets, service provided by Beidou Navigation Satellite system, manned flights on Tiangong space station, and lunar exploration through Chang'e program. The more assertive feature of foreign policy under President Xi Jinping will bring new motivation of striving for achievement in space cooperation. Some of the issues involved including the assignment of jurisdiction and control, intellectual property protection, the liability and compensation, and dispute resolution mechanism will be challenging. This article suggests that the XI government should melt down these obstacles through legal means, based on the UN space treaties, the WTO agreements, the Governmental Agreement on the International Space Station. China's version of solutions to them will demonstrate whether it is more proactive in establishing new institutions to reflect its normative power and how China will take more global leadership and responsibility by securing peaceful and sustainable space development.