

Law Issues and Public Awareness Related to Space Exploration (11)

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THE LEGALITY OF UNILATERAL EXPLOITATION OF SPACE RESOURCES

Abstract

Recent efforts of private entities to pursue resources in outer space, coupled by national legislations aimed at conferring property rights over such resources to be obtained, ignited debates on the legality of unilateral exploitation of space resources under current international space law. With unilateral exploitation of space resources not regulated expressis verbis under Outer Space Treaty, its consistency with principles enshrine therein depends on the manner in which exploitation is conducted and the domestic laws are implemented. The establishment of an international regulatory regime should be advocated for the purposes of international coordination, benefits sharing, and environmental protection.