

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (12)

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)

Author: Dr. Du Li

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China, gainhiz@hotmail.com

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ISSUES RELATING TO SPACE COOPERATION IN THE
BACKDROP OF “ONE BELT ONE ROAD” STRATEGY –FROM A CHINESE POINT OF VIEW

Abstract

“One Belt One Road” (hereinafter referred to as OBOR) Strategy is an important regional initiative proposed by the Chinese in 2013, which includes the construction of an “information corridor in space”. The Chinese government has published an instruction on this issue in December 2016 setting out concrete tasks to be completed, which signifies that space cooperation has been considered an indispensable part for the realization of the overall OBOR policy. For the most part, international space cooperation comprehends exchange of technologies, products and personnel, which constitute key factors of a country’s space capacity, and are normally protected by intellectual property (hereinafter referred to as IP) law and related laws. Thus, for China, the IP issues have to be considered if China were to develop cooperative relationship in space sector with the OBOR related countries. This study is aimed to identify the different IP issues that China will possibly encounter with while it is developing space cooperation with OBOR countries and chalk out the approaches that should be taken. However, the OBOR countries are different in culture, politic, religion, law, and level of development, etc., thus, it is important to analyze their space capacity and needs and identify, for China, the possibility, specific areas and possible forms of cooperating with them, which constitute the first part of this study. In the second part, the IP problems relating to space cooperation are to be examined, among which some are common to all possible space cooperation in the OBOR region, and some are more specific to special cooperative relationships. Besides, the export control issues will also be raised in this part. In a final part, recommendations will be made at both internal and international levels, and the IP approaches that China should adopt will be discussed.