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Author: Prof. Xiaodan Wu
China Central University of Finance and Economics, China

CHINA'S COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITIES AND ITS FUTURE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Abstract

The most noticeable development of China's space activities is the signs of commercial ones. Previously, this was occasionally conducted merely in the international market: satellite exportation and launch service trade by the state-owned space enterprises. Several recently released policy documents have delivered open messages. Nongovernmental capital are allowed and encouraged into the government dominant domain, such as the construction of space infrastructure, and developing, launching and operation of satellites. There have emerged companies dedicated to providing remote sensing services in domestic market. More and various actors would require the evolution of China's national legislation to fulfill its international obligation of "authorization and continuing supervision" and guarantee the certainty, clarity, consistency and predictability of regulation. Aerospace law was incorporated into the legislation plan of China's National People's Congress in 2013 for the next ten years, in which the regulatory principles and rules for commercial space activities should be an indispensable part. The potential difficulties are how to upgrade the governance mechanisms and balance the needs of regulating and encouraging.