

## IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)

Space Traffic Management: From Space Situational Awareness and Space Surveillance and Tracking to developing Rules of the Road (4)

Author: Mr. Quentin Verspieren  
University of Tokyo, Japan, verspieren@space.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp

MILITARY INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL REGIME-MAKING FOR SPACE TRAFFIC  
MANAGEMENT

**Abstract**

The rise of commercial space activities combined with an acute awareness of the orbital debris issue increases the need for international Space Traffic Management (STM) rules. However, the development of an international STM regime poses the problem of limiting the freedom of activities in outer space.

In particular, the militaries of the world's most advanced space powers would be the first institutions to be heavily affected by an international regime for STM. It therefore raises interrogations on the expectations from and attitude towards STM in the militaries of advanced space powers. In short, (1) what can these militaries expect or fear from an international STM regime? and (2) are they adopting or going to adopt a passive or active attitude towards STM rule-making?

These two simple questions relate to ancient and wide debates on civil-military relations and military influence over international rule/regime-making, in this paper intersecting with the complex issue of regulating traffic in outer space. After providing an historical overview of military influence over outer space regime-making, this paper investigates the current expectations of the militaries of the current most advanced space powers – with a strong focus on the United States – as well as the possibilities offered to these militaries to have a significant input in future international negotiations on traffic rules in outer space. Finally, existing efforts carried out by militaries are presented.