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DELIVERING MORE HUMAN INTO SPACE: UAE HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT REGULATIONS

Abstract

As we bask in the successful suborbital flight by SpaceShipTwo, marking a major milestone for Virgin Galactic, we realize that we are a notch closer to regular commercial launch operations to the space. And as we cherish the return of Space X crew Dragon successfully to earth, HSF regulations have to be paid due attention.

The UAE Space Agency has issued the Human Space Flight (HSF) Regulations aligned with the principles set in the Federal law on regulating space sector in the UAE. Those principles have been derived from the International Legal Framework specifically in which the UAE has an obligation in, and International best practices. The purpose of the regulations is to ensure safe practice of the HSF subject to the Authorization Regulations, develop requirements related to the crews and participants of the HSF, and regulate the liabilities towards third parties. The Regulation is applicable for both orbital and sub-orbital HSF and whether if it was controlled by a remote operator or a crew on board.

Since the ultimate aim of the regulation is safety, it focuses mainly on the participants or any member of the crew participating in the space activity. This is fulfilled by implementing a set of obligations on the operators towards the crew and the participants of the HSF. In addition, it sets the requirements and framework of liabilities and insurance. Moreover, the regulations is yet very flexible in order to attract industries from the commercial sector, specifically, space tourisms and non-space professional.

This paper describes the comparable analysis of the current global legal framework for the orbital and sub-orbital HSF, and how it inspires to develop the UAE HSF Regulations. In addition, it will explain the different elements and legal principles, including liability and insurance, which will govern the HSF activities by the UAE Space Sector.