

Interactive Presentations (IP)  
Topic 12 - Interactive Presentations (12)

Author: Mr. Hugo Lopez

Institut du Droit de l'Espace et des Telecommunications (IDEST), France, hugo.lopez@idest-paris.org

## THE FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN OUTER SPACE

**Abstract**

The conquest of outer space started for pure scientific purposes. The very first human-made satellite, Sputnik 1 was launched in 1957, during the International Geophysical Year (IGY), the most important scientific cooperation ever organised. Since then, the scientific interest has remained one, if not, the more symbolic, use of outer space.

Today, the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (the Outer Space Treaty or [OST]) as well as the 1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Moon Agreement) provide the freedom of scientific research. In addition, some rules are provided to give to the States parties all the keys for their scientific researches carried out in outer space: the possibility to take sample of resources normally non-appropriable, the possibility to establish basis or to use military personnel for scientific purposes, etc.

However, there is still not any definition of what means “scientific research” within outer space law nor public international law. Does the freedom of scientific research is an unlimited freedom?

This article will provide some legal consideration on the freedom of scientific research in outer space: How this freedom is protected by space law and public international law and what are the rules that States have to respect in the conduct of their scientific activities?