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Strategic Risk Management for Successful Space & Defence Programmes (4)

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SPACE-OCEAN ATLANTIC INTERACTIONS FOR SPACE & DEFENCE ACTIVITIES

Abstract

The National Space Strategy “Portugal Space 2030” (2018) outlines the vision for Portugal – an Atlantic nation with an historic and global maritime tradition – to also act and be recognised in the forthcoming years as a worldwide key player in Space-Oceans interactions for the benefit of societies and the economy.

Portugal is the single-European country holding the largest Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Atlantic.

Facing today’s global challenges, a strategic management of Space and Defence multidisciplinary projects is currently being established in partnerships with a myriad of other governing bodies across and/or bordering the Atlantic, also to identify and mitigate potential risks/threats as well as to exploit research/business opportunities to support policy and decision makers - such as the ‘Blue Worlds’ initiative, for example, based on the idea that the 22 ESA member states control the world’s largest EEZ, establishing what is currently referred as the ‘Blue Economy’.

Many market segments already profit from space-based solutions, such as telecoms, banking, tourism, satnav/geo-positioning, weather forecasting, and others will follow-suit at a growing pace, such as agriculture, fisheries, management of natural resources, forest/wildfires monitoring, urban development, transportation, autonomous shipping, defence and security (et al). In this context, Portugal has been advocating for the conceptual ‘Democratisation of Space as a Common Good/Asset’, in order to better integrate space into our global and daily economies – to benefit society in a more sustainable way – calling for the development of a framework programme to enable a robust development of the Space sector (in Portugal, in particular) through national initiatives and international cooperation for the next decade.

NewSpace industries represent a new wave of international players and partners and business models in the global space market with the capacity to attract private financing. For 2020-30, Portugal has set the target of attracting investments with a 50/50 balance between public and private sectors, including national and European, public and private sources in space-related activities - increasing the overall level of Space investment in Portugal by a factor of 10 - and is currently assessing the cost-benefits associated with the development of a spaceport for small launchers to be located in its Atlantic Island of Santa Maria/Azores.

This presentation discusses in further details the extent to which ‘Space-Ocean Atlantic Interactions Agenda’ plays a pivotal role in the strategic planning of the aforementioned global topics – also due to the impact of emergent and disruptive technologies.