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QUO VADIS SUBORBITAL ROCKETRY. THE DILEMMAS AND REGULATORY ALTERNATIVES
FOR THE EMERGING NATIONAL SUBORBITAL LAWS

Abstract

Outer space is not a place reserved exclusively for technological superpowers like the United States, China, Russia or for the wealthy investors, while the emerging players like such as smaller countries are also seeking for their place in the space services market. These countries are facing the challenge of choosing the best regulatory approach so as to identify true needs of flights safety and scenarios to address them. The authors aim is to find out the minimum and optimal level of regulation so it can be a tool of supporting and not suppressing of the high power and suborbital rocketry initiatives. The issue prove to be of great interest in the countries like Poland, where the sub-orbital activities have been recognised and considered important to such an extent that work on their regulation has been ring-fenced to a specially appointed expert panel. Having the above in mind, the authors (being among the panel members) reviewed the emerging regulations of that sector in different parts of the world (such as New Zealand, UEA, USA), as well as state of the respective current deliberations on international and supranational level. Among the issues of interest are in particular the selection of regulatory priorities, such as the proper place for the new regulation of suborbital vehicles, the choice of the most suitable regulatory and supervision authority, as well as the grade of regulatory intensity. The results of the analysis conducted by the authors may be of importance also for other emerging space jurisdictions.