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THE IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY GOVERNANCE IN ESTABLISHING SUSTAINABLE
LUNAR SETTLEMENTS

Abstract

As humanity prepares for sustained exploration and eventual colonization of the Moon, the availability of a reliable and sustainable energy source is essential. While solar power may suffice for short-term missions, it is limited by the lunar night and may not provide sufficient energy for long-term settlements. Nuclear energy has emerged as a promising alternative, capable of providing consistent power for extended periods of time. However, nuclear energy also poses significant safety and security risks, and its use in space activities is subject to international governance and regulatory frameworks.

This presentation will discuss the importance of effective nuclear energy governance in the context of establishing sustainable lunar settlements. It will explore the regulatory framework for the use of nuclear energy in space, including the treaties and agreements that govern its use, as well as the roles of international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). It will also highlight the challenges and opportunities of implementing nuclear energy in the context of lunar settlements, including the technical requirements for nuclear reactors, the safety and security risks associated with their use, and the potential benefits for sustainable development.

The presentation will draw on current research and case studies to provide insights into the governance of nuclear energy in the context of space activities, and to identify opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration in this field. It will also highlight the need for a holistic approach to sustainable lunar settlements, in which the use of nuclear energy is integrated into a wider framework of environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic sustainability.

Overall, this presentation will demonstrate the importance of nuclear energy governance in enabling sustainable lunar settlements, and the need for international cooperation and collaboration to ensure the safe and responsible use of this technology in space activities.