

36th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
Cost and Procurement impacts on Space Programmes linked to high inflation and world-wide scarcity of
components and materials (6)

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TEMPORARY MEASURES WITH PERMANENT EFFECTS: SANCTIONS AND EXPORT
CONTROLS IN THE SPACE INDUSTRY

Abstract

The space sector is inherently international. States have been relying on their collective capabilities to design and operate space missions for decades. Even though restrictions on the circulation of space technology have always been in place, during the past couple of years, they have expanded both in terms of material and of geographical scope. Most changes occurred following the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, when many countries issued sanctions as an immediate, and potentially temporary, measure to limit the proliferation of technology that can be used for malevolent purposes. Most of these sanctions are still in place, whereas more items and destinations are added to restricted lists.

This paper will assess the impact of recent sanctions and export restrictions on the global supply chains in space technology. In particular, it will analyse the measures that were introduced in various jurisdictions between 2022 and 2023 and assess their current and long-term impact. It will also examine whether, in the meantime, alternative avenues for State cooperation have been created and what obstacles are placed for future large-scale space projects.