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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF REGULATORY REGIMES GOVERNING PRIVATE SECTOR
LAUNCH FROM CELESTIAL BODIES

Abstract

Private space actors, including for-profit space companies and non-governmental organizations, will be conducting space launch operations on the Moon and other celestial bodies.

This paper analyzes the domestic regulatory regimes of leading space-faring nations to assess the sufficiency of these regimes to regulate private sector launch from celestial bodies. This analysis includes the identification of public international legal rights and obligations that domestic regulators must take into account when licensing such activities and key public international legal concepts within the context of such activities. Deficiencies in existing regulatory regimes are identified and solutions are proposed to enhance domestic and international regulation of such activities.