

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Near Space: Legal Aspects of Aerospace Activities (2)

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NAVIGATING THE LEGAL SKY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH ALTITUDE
PLATFORM STATIONS (HAPS)

Abstract

This article explores the legal landscape surrounding High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) worldwide, shedding light on the challenges and opportunities faced by these innovative airborne platforms. HAPS, operating in the stratosphere, offer promising applications in telecommunications, surveillance, and environmental monitoring. However, their deployment is hampered by a complex web of legal barriers, including spectrum allocation, air traffic regulations, and international coordination.

The article examines the current state of HAPS regulations, highlighting the disparities among different countries and regions. It delves into the challenges posed by airspace management, addressing issues related to collision avoidance, coordination with existing satellite and aviation systems, and the establishment of standardized protocols.

Furthermore, the article addresses the spectrum allocation challenges for HAPS, as these platforms rely on specific frequency bands for communication. The scarcity of available spectrum and the need for international cooperation present legal hurdles that must be navigated for successful HAPS integration.

Despite these challenges, the article also identifies opportunities for regulatory frameworks to evolve. It discusses the potential for collaboration among nations to harmonize HAPS regulations, creating a conducive environment for research, development, and commercial deployment. Additionally, the article explores the role of international organizations and regulatory bodies in fostering a globally consistent approach to HAPS integration.

In conclusion, the article provides insights into the legal barriers that HAPS face globally and proposes strategies for overcoming these challenges. By addressing these legal complexities, the author envisions a future where HAPS can fulfill their potential as transformative platforms, contributing to advancements in connectivity, surveillance, and environmental monitoring on a global scale.