

IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Interactive Presentations - IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (IP)

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LEGAL PROTECTION OF DATA IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF CHINA'S SPACE
STATION - EXPERIENCES AND COMPARISONS FROM ISS

Abstract

The data generated from international cooperation in the Chinese Space Station (CSS) serves as an important bridge for collaborative exchange and a crucial element in the outer space competition among various countries. However, with the emerging data property rights system challenging traditional outer space treaties, protecting and utilizing data of international cooperation projects of CSS is posing new challenges to the existing legal protection system.

Issues arise in the legal protection of data in international cooperation projects of CSS: potential conflicts over data sovereignty, lack of appropriate legislative protection measures, and incomplete security mechanisms for safeguarding data in international cooperation projects.

The three-tier framework for the legal protection of data in international research cooperation projects of the ISS clearly defines the ownership and protection rules for handling data, providing valuable references for China. Given the challenges faced in the legal protection of data of the international projects of the CSS, this paper proposes four approaches to protect these projects with Chinese characteristics.

First and foremost, clarify six fundamental principles: data sovereignty, data security, international cooperation, open sharing, equal protection, and data quality. Besides, advocate for cooperation on jurisdiction of data in international research cooperation projects of the CSS. Establish a unified management mechanism for data after defining the jurisdiction of data among the parties involved. Thirdly, enhance the legislative contents for data protection, including adopting a dual-track system of data rights and intellectual property rights to safeguard the data generated in international projects, issuing the China Space Station Data Management Measures and its supporting policy planning, establishing a graded and categorized protection catalog for data of the CSS, formulating relevant domestic and international data protection standards, enacting specific data protection terms and guidelines for data with Chinese characteristics. Finally, institute an accountability system for data security, and formulate codes of conduct for data behavior in space station projects to ensure the secure operation of the data systems.