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THE INTERNATIONAL LUNAR RESEARCH STATION AND ARTEMIS PROGRAM:  
COOPERATION AND COMPETITION?

**Abstract**

The new paradigms of great power competition Sino-U.S. relations since 2017 amid the expansion of national interests in outer space has been adding increasing intensity and complexity in their space relations. China's International Lunar Research Station and the U.S. Artemis program, two long-term multilateral-cooperative initiatives with different primary purposes and cooperative patterns, are clearing a path for a new mixture structure and the interplay of competition and cooperation among space powers. The Sino-American space relations are at the crossroad towards cooperation or discord, and consequently, space power relations are at the frontline of dividing into blocs. This article aims at exploring the strategic methods for International Lunar Research Station to achieve a multilateral platform to ensure the peaceful, orderly, and sustainable development of lunar activities; its potential role to ignite Sino-U.S. cooperation to overcome the imbalance of competition and cooperation interplay and improve China's soft power in international space development and security; and its impact on the development of legal regimes for celestial exploration and utilization.