IISL COLLOQUIUM ON THE LAW OF OUTER SPACE (E7)
Launching into Outer Space (4)

Author: Mr. Nicolas PILLET
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France

Mr. Bernard Chemoul
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France
Mr. Florent Lacomba
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France
Dr. Olfa Eljed
CNES, France
Mr. Yann Guelou
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France
Mr. Jean-Yves Denoyers
Arianespace, France
Mrs. Clémence Lambrecht
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France
Mr. Hugo Lopez
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France

FRENCH SPACE OPERATION ACT EVOLUTIONS AND CHALLENGES IN FRONT OF THE EXCITING NEWSPACE INITIATIVES

Abstract

France adopted its national space Law, the French Space Operations Act (FSOA), in 2008. The three main objectives of this law are to 1/ ensure the implementation by France of its international commitments according to the UN Treaties on space law, 2/ ensure safety for persons, goods and environment during space operations and 3/ ensure the long term sustainability of activities in outer space. To that end, the FSOA has created an authorization regime for launch operations and operations consisting in controlling an orbital system in outer space.

Since 2019, an intensive work for updating the FSOA is conducted by CNES and the minister in charge of Space, in close relationship with the French space ecosystem (launchers and satellites field) and also other national space regulators. The FSOA has been updated in august 2023 and the associated decrees and orders will enter into force in 2024. This paper will present the main evolutions of the FSOA and the associated technical and legal measures to provide a stable and clear frame to the exciting projects of the newspace. This update addresses in particular launchers with re-triable stages, regulation of future autonomous flight safety system, motorized dispensers of satellites, dedicated disposal measures for orbital objects - from non-manoeuvring Cubsat up to NGSO large constellations - and in orbit servicing