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ADAPTING PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES IN THE EUROPEAN SPACE SECTOR: A RESPONSE
TO CHANGING GEOPOLITICS AND THE RUSSO-UKRAINE WAR

Abstract

This paper explores the evolving landscape of procurement processes within the European space sector, driven by the imperative to respond to a shifting geopolitical environment, notably influenced by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainties, the European space community is re-evaluating its procurement practices to ensure resilience, adaptability, and alignment with strategic objectives.

The European space sector is witnessing a significant paradigm shift, with an increased focus on autonomy and preparedness. This paper delves into the strategies being adopted to navigate these changes, considering both, the immediate impacts of the conflict in Ukraine, and the broader geopolitical dynamics. The European space industry is recalibrating its approach to procurement to enhance its ability to withstand disruptions and contribute to European security.

The paper highlights key initiatives, including the streamlining of procurement procedures, the establishment of collaborative frameworks, and a renewed emphasis on domestic capabilities. The European space community is aiming to fortify its supply chain and reduce dependencies by fostering indigenous technological advancements.

Furthermore, the paper addresses the integration of defence and space procurement efforts, emphasising the interconnectedness of security considerations and space activities. The European space sector is exploring innovative procurement models to ensure efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and adaptability to emerging threats.

As the conflict in Ukraine continues to shape global geopolitical dynamics, this paper contributes to understanding how the European space sector is proactively adapting its procurement strategies to align with the evolving security landscape. It sheds light on the sector's commitment to fostering autonomy, innovation, and collaboration in the face of geopolitical challenges.