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LEGAL ISSUES IN CHINA'S POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION (ISS)

Abstract

In recent years, China has made great achievements in space activities. While emphasizing the principle of self-independence, China also acknowledges the importance of space cooperation. As early as of 2001, China has indicated its interest in joining the ISS. While technologically ready for possible participation, China should start seriously considering legal issues involved in the participation. This article takes up this challenging task in identifying possible legal issues in China's participation in the ISS and offering suggestions for future cooperative legal framework of the ISS.