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WHICH LAWS WILL GOVERN PRIVATE SPACE TRAVEL, COMMERCIAL SPACE MINING AND
COMMERCIAL SPACE SETTLEMENTS?

Abstract

A new space race is underway as humans take outer space from imagination to reality. The new space race involves many nations and many private companies. As with colonization patterns in the past, conflict is likely to emerge over competing interests. Increasingly, plans for private spaceship development, commercial space hotels and commercial spaceports are being proposed and initiated. This paper examines whether and to what extent public space law extends to these private space activities? It also highlights possible shortcoming of space law in governing the next phases of outer space development and areas for potential international conflict as humans venture out to "develop" the final frontier.