Supervision Shapes Order Brings Development

China (International) Aerospace Forum 2024
Glad to introduce the China (International) Aerospace Forum again on COPUOS and share our thoughts.

Since the Forum was launched in 2015, our global guests have discussed diversified subjects.
Opinions were gathered and consensuses were reached.

Commercial launch systems R&D
MicroSats innovation
Space information application
Space economy and ecosystem
“States Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the present Treaty. The activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party to the Treaty. When activities are carried on in outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with this Treaty shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States Parties to the Treaty participating in such organization.”
The actors participated in the commercial space activities are space companies, which could be considered to be the “non-governmental entities”.

When a space company is conducting space activities, it should be authorized by a state party and subject to continuous supervision. In the past forums, guests put weight on the Outer Space Treaty in different manners including this supervision principle.
From the past forum activities, we have observed some academic differentiations on supervision, for instance how to determine the principal place of business and the registered office, how to identify the nationality of a space vehicle, who has the burden of proof. The guests did agree on one point, which was commercial space activities should be supervised by the government. We also observed that many governments have already adopted licensing and procedure management to supervise the commercial space activities.
Some hold the point that supervision could kill the development. We cannot agree on this.

On 2019 at the 5th Forum, the guest introduced the Notice on the Promotion of a Systematic and Orderly Development of Commercial Carrier Rockets, which regulated and supported the R&D, tests, launch and manufacture of commercial launch vehicles.

At the 7th Forum, the guests explicitly emphasized that the Chinese government highly valued the commercial space, and rolled out a serious of regulations on launching, satellites manufacture, frequency application and data sharing.
All of these require good orders. And government supervision helps to shape the order to be good.
Based on what we brought above, we would like to share the following ideas.

**First**, space companies should embrace government supervision in an active way, especially on participation the international issues.

**Second**, in the spirit of good order, the government supervision in accordance with the law should be the basic feature of supervision.

**Third**, since countries bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, the supervision on commercial space should be considered in the spirit of international cooperation and conduct in accordance with the international laws.

**Forth**, in the development of commercial space, legal protections are needed, and the importance of comprehensive use of judicial, arbitration and mediation should be attached.

**Fifth**, the discussion on the international private law issues in international civil and commercial space disputes should be encouraged, like determining the court with jurisdictions.
As the organizer of the China (International) Aerospace Forum, we have observed for many years that good orders were indeed positive to the development of commercial space. We believe, supervision in accordance with the law will bring the good order, and the environment shaped by this good order, will further booster the commercial space to steady and prosperity.
In this fall, the 10th China (International) Aerospace Forum will be held.

We will continue to arrange the discussion on how the government should supervise the commercial space, how the commercial space should adapt to the supervision, and the international and legal issues involved in. We anticipates with passion, that all the guests could exchange their views freely and deeply in this fora, to seek common ground and development while reserving differences, to make a brighter future for the commercial space business.
Thank you