Small Satellites:
Chances and Challenges

Saturday, 29 March 2014
9.30 am to 5.30 pm
Faculty of Law, Top floor
Schottenbastei 10-16, 1010 Vienna
Conference on “Small Satellites: Chances and Challenges”

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General information:
Small satellites have become more and more popular in recent years. The development of technology has made it possible to build, launch and operate satellites at rather low costs. They are attractive for research and educational institutions, they provide opportunities for local and small business startups, and are a welcome way for developing or emerging countries of engaging in space activities. However, there is sometimes the misunderstanding that such low-cost satellite missions are not as relevant as large space programmes and as mere “amateur” activities not subject to the same strict conditions and other criteria. Yet, international space law does not distinguish between “small” and “large” space objects or activities. The States’ responsibility and liability may equally become engaged. It is therefore necessary to be aware of the need to include small satellite missions appropriately in the scope of application of national and international regulatory frameworks to ensure the safe and responsible use of outer space. The conference will focus on the specificities of small satellites missions from the practical, the legal, and the economic perspectives.

The conference will follow up the IISL/ECSL Symposium on the first day of the UNCOPUOS Legal Subcommittee’s session of 2014, under the title of “Regulatory needs for very small satellites” on Monday 24 March 2014. The presentations of both conferences as well as some additional contributions shall be published in an edited volume in 2015.
Programme

9.30 Introduction and opening remarks
Irmgard Marboe, University of Vienna

The practical perspective
Micro/Nano/Pico-satellite Activities - Challenges towards New Space Education and Utilization
Otto Koudelka, Technical University of Graz, Austria

Aims and achievements of UN initiatives supporting small satellite projects
Werner Balogh, UNOOSA

The industry perspective
Neta Palkovitz, ISIS

Small satellites as a chance for developing countries
Roberto Becerra, Bolivarian Space Agency, Venezuela

11.15 Coffee break

11.30 The legal perspective

Liability for damage caused by small satellites – a non-issue?
Frans von der Dunk, University of Nebraska, USA

Authorization of small satellites under national space legislation
Sa’id Mosteshar, Space Institute, London

Registration of small satellites
Tanja Masson-Zwaan, International Institute of Space Law

QB50 – the EU small satellite project and its legal implications
Jean-François Mayence, Federal Office for Science Policy, Belgium
13.15 Lunch break

14.15 ITU policy on small satellites  
Attila Matas, ITU

Frequency management of education cubesats  
Daniel Sagath, ESA

The impact of technology and export control on small satellite missions  
Anita Rinner, Muhri & Werschitz Attorneys (Graz), University of Graz

Launch contracts for small satellites – the essential elements  
Hiroyuki Kishindo, Japan

16.00 Coffee break

16.20 The economic perspective

Crowd financing for small satellites  
Peter Platzer, NanoSatisfi

Do small satellites need insurance?  
Cécile Gaubert, Marsh, France

17.20 Concluding remarks  
Kai-Uwe Schroggl, Incoming LSC Chair

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