



INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE
OF SPACE LAW



ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY

2026 • CELEBRATING 160 YEARS

DRAFT PROGRAMME
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW (IISL)
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY (RAeS)

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL WEEK

CUTTING EDGE ISSUES IN SPACE GOVERNANCE

ABSTRACT

Space technologies and in-orbit activities face **increasing challenges** throughout their life cycle, from development to end-of-life disposal. **Ensuring that outer space remains accessible, secure and economically viable** has become more sensitive than ever, as both anticipated and unforeseen consequences of technological progress accumulate. The **need for a coherent and robust regulatory framework**—supported by effective risk-mitigation and responsible stewardship of the orbital environment—has long been recognised, yet the question of how best to achieve such a framework continues to occupy national, regional and international debate.

Against this backdrop, the International Institute of Space Law (IISL), now in its sixty-sixth year and serving as a permanent observer at the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, **convenes this one-day symposium to examine how national space law is responding to these pressures**. Central questions include how national authorities should define **technical requirements** for space-system life cycles to support long-term sustainability; how **insurance and liability requirements for in-space operations and services (ISOS)**

can be structured to enable commercial activity while meeting states' international obligations; and how **standards for sustainability** can be aligned across national, European and international levels, including the potential for alternative mechanisms and incentives.

As the sector accelerates toward a **cislunar economy**, with increasingly congested orbits, saturated radio-spectrum use and the emergence of commercial ISOS activities such as life-extension and debris-removal services, calls for greater regulatory coordination continue to intensify. **Securing the long-term viability of outer space for economic, societal and scientific use remains a shared regulatory and technological imperative**. This symposium, hosted by IISL in cooperation with the Royal Aeronautical Society, **reviews the progress made to date** in strengthening the regulatory environment and **identifies the work still required** to ensure the resilience of orbital infrastructure in support of Earth-based societies and economies.

We invite all participants to contribute to this ongoing dialogue, reflecting current UK, European and international priorities.



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**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPACE LAW (IISL) IN COOPERATION WITH ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY (RAeS), LONDON**

SPACE LAW DAY

Thursday, 1st October 2026

08:30-09:10	Welcome and coffee
09:15-09:30	Welcome and Opening statements RAeS President, Malcolm McDonald John Grady, MP (Glasgow East) Rosanna Deim-Hofmann, Head, Space Law and Policy, UNOOSA, Vienna
09.30-09.35	<i>Quo vadis- aligning regulation – the key to national and international symbiosis</i> Prof. Lesley Jane Smith, President, IISL
09:35-10:30	PANEL 1 Technical Standardisation & Certification for Global Space Operations: <i>Coordinating national, European and transatlantic standards, authorities and certification approaches</i>
Moderator Panelists	Nicholas Puschman, CMS Mark Roberts, CBE, SpacePort1 Fionagh Thomson, TreeFinch/ Durham University Cécile Gaubert, de Gaulle, Fleurance, <i>avocats</i> Henny Sands, Head of Telecoms, UKSA
10:35-11:30	PANEL 2 Licensing, Liability & Insurance for Launch and ISOS: <i>international state responsibility under Article VI OST</i>
Moderator Panelists	Mamatha Maheshwarappa, UKSA Clive Strickland, Howden Insurance Group, CAA (invited tbc) Mark Sundahl, Global Space law Centre, University Cleveland Andrew Dunn, Space Forge
11:30-11:45	Coffee break



11:50-12:45

PANEL 3

**In-Orbit Services: *institutional and commercial supply chain.*
*Constructing innovative approaches to ISOS service contracts***

Moderator
Panelists

Kamlesh Brocard, Swiss Min. Transp.
Janna Lewis, GC, Astroscale
Lauren Payne, Senior Legal Counsel, Commercial Regulatory * Deorbit
Rachel O'Grady, Mayer Brown
Adam Brocklehurst, Patent attorney, K2 IP Ltd

12:45-13:50

Lunch

14:00-14:55

PANEL 4 (working title)

***Managing the Regulatory Review of UK Space regulations: from Earth
Observations to Beyond Earth Orbit.***

Moderator
Panelists

Mark Roberts, SpacePort1
Naomi Pryde, Partner, DLA Piper (video)
Sa'id Mosteshar, London Institute for Space Policy & Law, UCL
Ian Bishop, UKSA/DSIT
Leah-Nani Alconcel, Metallurgy Birmingham University

15:00-15:40

PANEL 5

Use and (over-use) of Spectrum: *how much space is left in space?*

Moderator
Panelists

Robin Frank, OSI
Audrey Alison, Aerospace
Mike Mineiro, Greenberg Traurig, USA
Federico di Vruno, SKAO
Olga Batura, TNO Netherlands
Elizabeth Quintana, Ofcom

15:45-16:00

Tea break

16:05-16:55

PANEL 6

Current status of 'space sustainability'

Moderator
Panelists

Fionagh Thomson, TreeFinch/Durham University
Philippe Clerc, Chief Officer, Compliance/Ethics CNES (video)
TBC
Enrico Tormena, ESTEC
Berna Akcali Gür, Queen Mary
Sqn Ldr Charles Gregory, RAF

17:00-17:30

Close-out; conclusions, policy summary

Lesley Jane Smith; Rosanna Deim-Hoffmann

Afterwards: Drinks tbd dependent on RAeS evening events and sponsorship