

Abstract

Due to the growing interest of states and private companies in space natural resources, the topic of the legal regime of mining in space is very actual. The purpose of this thesis is to formulate aspects of the legal framework of mining in outer space, which has not yet been created, but its foundations and key principles can be deduced from current international treaties and international customs. Currently, there is no consensus on whether commercial mining should even be permissible and whether the ownership of space natural resources is in accordance with international law. For this reason, this thesis presents some views of states, supranational bodies and experts in order to present the arguments of supporters and opponents of commercial mining in space.

The contours of the space mining legal regime are also outlined by international expert group initiatives as well as some soft law, while this thesis briefly presents the content of the most important of these – the Artemis Accords and Building Blocks. This thesis further attempts to formulate the current interpretation issues of the Outer Space Treaty and offers different point of view on the solution of these issues.

This thesis further analyzes the current national legislation on the acquisition and ownership of natural space resources, which has been adopted by four states so far, and further analyzes the attitudes of other states that are largely involved in space activities. This thesis also justifies why unilateral legal regulation of space mining is not ideal and justifies the need to reach an international consensus on this matter. One chapter of this thesis is also devoted to the comparison of the legal regime of mining on the seabed and the legal regime of mining in space, as both are international spaces and their legal regulation show a number of similarities. At the end of this thesis, based on current events and trends, several development options are outlined that the international community could take when creating a legal regime for mining in space.

Key words

space law, space natural resources, space mining, celestial body