

GENERAL CHALLENGE

REAL-TIME VIDEO SURVEILLANCE FROM LOW EARTH ORBIT



How can real-time video capabilities from space be leveraged for military operations (while balancing innovation, geopolitical issues, financial and regulatory considerations, etc.)?

Real-time video surveillance from low Earth orbit (LEO) raises specific legal, regulatory, and partnership issues. Legally, this activity is governed by the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits national appropriation of celestial bodies but does not explicitly regulate video surveillance. The Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law may apply in the event of military use of these technologies.

Regulatory-wise, states must comply with launch licenses and space safety standards (such as those of UNOOSA or the European Commission), in particular to avoid interference or collision risks. Public-private partnerships are essential, such as those between space agencies (ESA, NASA) and private companies (SpaceX, OneWeb), to develop and deploy these surveillance systems. Issues of data sovereignty and cybersecurity are crucial, with risks of conflicts of interest between states and private actors.

Finally, transparency and international cooperation are necessary to avoid misunderstandings and ensure space stability, particularly by sharing video surveillance data to prevent incidents.



You have 24 hours to provide coherent and realistic insights with a view to effectively exploiting this new type of data in order to give the Armed Forces a strategic and tactical advantage.

TO DO THIS, YOU CAN :

Present existing space initiatives in France, Europe, or more broadly abroad, which could serve as a useful starting point for political and strategic actions promoting the sharing of orbital resources to obtain video surveillance data.

Raise the issue of the balance of power between national and international regulations



Discuss resilience mechanisms in response to risks and threats we may encounter in the near future (cyber, SSA¹, etc.).

Addressing legal issues and exchange protocols, whether with private or public partners.



Addressing the financial aspects of an as-a-service solution.



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¹ Space Situational Awareness



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