



**Call for Papers**  
**Astronomics Society inaugural workshop:**  
**The Economics and Law of Space-Based Commerce**  
**University of Bern, 17-19 January 2024**

This workshop will focus on the economics and governance of commercialization in outer-space. It will look at the applicability of economic concepts, the concepts of international economic law, and the concepts of economic governance to space-based commerce.

We are interested in a broad range of topics, including (but not limited to):

- Regulation of private commerce (taxation of extra-terrestrial activity; trade between Earth and space facilities; trade between extra-terrestrial facilities);
- Natural resource extraction and its implications (mining of celestial bodies; salvage in space; rules governing such activities);
- Management of pollution (space trash, damage to celestial bodies)
- Contract issues and private dispute settlement (property rights and contract enforcement without governing bodies; liability and insurance challenges for commercial launch service providers; arbitration and jurisdiction for non-terrestrial disputes);
- Sovereignty concerns (competition among governments in space; anti-piracy enforcement; extra-terrestrial sovereignty; national security);
- Competition policy issues (rules; effective enforcement; lack of governing authority; market access to space; allocating orbits);
- Technology and innovation (spillovers between aerospace and other industries; scale economies and market power in commercial launch services and communication services; the development and application of machine learning);
- Multilateral agreements (design of agreements; dispute settlement and arbitration);
- Comparative analysis of legal framework developments at the national level.

The goal of the workshop is twofold. The first goal is identifying promising areas for future research along the lines outlined above, specifically a cross-disciplinary mix of economics, law, political science, and applied natural science. The second goal is to enlist interested researchers in setting up a research and workshop agenda and loose organizational/coordinating structure (a researcher network) based on the areas identified. The workshop will be hosted jointly by the International Space Science Institute and the World Trade Institute. **Date: 17-19 January 2024**

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit paper proposals on original and unpublished research related to this call for papers. Abstract submissions must be between 300-500 words in length and should be accompanied by a short CV. To submit your proposals, for further details, or to express interest, please contact Sophia Thompson, [sophia.thompson@wti.org](mailto:sophia.thompson@wti.org).

Deadline for abstracts: **15 September 2023**. Accepted authors will be notified by 15 October 2023.

Organizers:

Ron Davies, University College Dublin  
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Joseph Francois, WTI University of Bern and CEPR  
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