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English only

**Committee on the Peaceful
Uses of Outer Space**
Legal Subcommittee
Fifty-seventh session
Vienna, 9-20 April 2018

**Application for membership of the Committee on the
Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: Finland**

Note by the Secretariat

The present document contains a copy of the application of Finland for membership with the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The Note Verbale of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations (Vienna) containing the application of Finland, was received by the Secretariat on 16 March 2018 and was circulated to States members of the Committee in a note verbale OOSA/2018/6 CU 2018/98/OOSA/CPLA of 22 March 2018.





PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
Vienna

WIE7M0104-34

VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland presents its compliments to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and has the honour to inform that the Government of Finland has decided to seek membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

The Permanent Mission would be obliged if the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs would be as kind as to circulate this note verbale among the member States of COPUOS with a view to informing them about Finland's application for membership.

The Permanent Mission of Finland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs the assurance of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 15 March 2018



Enclosure
a description of the Finnish space activities and space research

To the
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Space activities in Finland

National space policy and legislation

Finland's space policy lies within the responsibilities of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Operating under the Ministry, the Finnish Space Committee brings together the perspectives of relevant ministries and other main actors. The Committee was responsible for the formulation of the National Strategy for Finland's Space Activities 2013–2020 and is systematically monitoring its implementation.

The National Strategy for Finland's Space Activities 2013–2020 sets out the vision, objectives and development strategy for Finland's space activities. The key focus areas in 2016–2020 are:

- developing space-based applications to meet the growing demands of the Arctic region
- fostering services based on open data
- raising the level and societal impact of scientific research that is strongly based on ESA and EU programmes
- advancing space industry specialization in Finland and applications development.

The Act on Space Activities (63/2018) and the complementing Decree of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment on Space Activities entered into force on 23 January 2018. Finland has been a state party to three of the five UN space treaties since the 1970s: the Outer Space Treaty, the Liability Convention and the Rescue Agreement. In parallel with the new Act, Finland acceded to the UN Registration Convention in January 2018. The new Act also established a national space object registry in Finland. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment maintains the registry, which currently includes two satellites. The registration information has been provided to the UN Secretary-General under the Registration Convention.

National space activities and space research

The first Finnish nanosatellite, Aalto-1, built by Aalto University, was launched on 23 June 2017 and there are several plans for other nanosatellites, some on a commercial basis. The first commercial Finnish satellite, Iceye X-1 by Iceye Ltd, was launched on 12 January 2018, coincidentally the same day as the President of Finland signed the new act on Space Activities.

In space expertise, Finland is best known for its high-quality space and atmospheric research and its competence in electronics and software for space components. Finnish enterprises and research organisations have participated in the design and preparation of dozens of satellites. Universities, research institutes and companies collaborate actively in different sectors of the space industry, from instrument building to scientific exploitation of the data, and product and service development. In addition to traditional research organisations and suppliers of equipment and applications, the opportunities offered by the new space economy are attracting new players to the sector in Finland, too.

Finland joined the European Space Agency (ESA) in 1995 and has focused in particular on the following programmes: Earth Observation; Navigation; and Advanced Research in Telecom Systems (ARTES). The ESA Business Incubation Centre was established in Finland in November 2017. Finnish organisations have participated in, or are currently participating in, ESA missions such as the Rosetta, GAIA, LISA Pathfinder, BepiColombo, Solar Orbiter and Sentinel satellites.

Finnish organisations also participate actively in opportunities offered by the European Meteorological Satellite Organization (EUMETSAT) and the rapidly increasing European Union space activities.

The most important public funding organisation for space activities in Finland is Business Finland (formerly Tekes), which also coordinates the cooperation between Finland and the ESA. Business Finland recently established the New Space Economy programme, which offers funding, networks and export services for developing international space-related business. The research funding agency Academy of Finland is funding Centres of Excellence in the fields of long-term solar variability, laser scanning and sustainable use of space, as well as other basic research on outer space.

University-level education in space research and technology, including an international Erasmus Mundus Space Master programme, is offered by several Finnish universities. Doctoral programmes are provided at the universities of Helsinki, Oulu and Turku, and at Aalto University, as a network fostering student mobility. Joint summer schools and other educational activities are also organised.

The Arctic is one of Finland's key interests in space research. The northern location of Finland is optimal for operating ground-based instruments that monitor space phenomena related to the aurora. The Arctic Research Centre of the Finnish Meteorological Institute in Sodankylä is one of the foremost satellite calibration and validation sites in northern regions.

COPUOS membership

The activities of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) that are of particular interest to Finland include the long-term sustainability of outer space and the interpretation and development of UN space treaties and other international legal norms, taking into consideration technological development and the rise of new space actors.

Finland is well placed to provide COPUOS with expertise in sustainability, space weather, Arctic issues and the new space economy, in particular.