



**Space Robotics
Society**

Space Law League

Registration: 26 September 2025 Onwards

Submission: 30 November 2025

Space Law League — Challenge 1: Extraterrestrial Resource Exploitation

1. Problem Description

In this challenge, participants are invited to propose a comprehensive legal framework regulating the extraction and commercial utilisation of extraterrestrial resources. These may include lunar regolith, water ice from permanently shadowed craters, rare metals from near-Earth asteroids, or subsurface minerals on Mars.

As humanity moves closer to establishing a sustained presence on the Moon and Mars, the legal and ethical challenges of exploiting resources beyond Earth have become both pressing and complex. Current international space law, particularly the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, provides only broad principles and leaves significant gaps in practical regulation.

Participants are asked to design a future-proof framework that defines rights, responsibilities, and governance mechanisms for space resource exploitation. The proposed system should promote peaceful use, long-term sustainability, and equitable benefit-sharing, whilst also fostering technological innovation and commercial enterprise.

2. Assumptions

Participants should adopt a near-future scenario (for example, the 2040s), in which commercial and state-backed missions are actively engaged in extracting resources from the Moon or asteroids.

Submissions should:

- Reference and expand upon existing international legal instruments.
- Define who may extract resources, under what conditions, and how resulting benefits should be allocated.
- Include governance measures such as arbitration panels, licensing authorities, or international registries.
- Address environmental duties and the long-term stewardship of celestial bodies.
- Explore innovative concepts such as a new treaty, multinational resource-sharing alliances, or legal recognition of space-based common goods.

3. Format

Each submission must take the form of a written report, with a maximum limit of 10 A4 pages. This limit includes all text, images, diagrams, and tables. No annexes or supplementary attachments are permitted. All visuals should be embedded within the report and properly labelled.

4. Eligibility

- Open to all undergraduate students aged 18 or over.
- Both individual and team participation is permitted, with teams limited to a maximum of 10 members.
- No restrictions on nationality or professional background. Submissions are welcomed from students, researchers, professionals, and enthusiasts from all disciplines.

5. Requirements

Submissions must include:

- **A defined use case or scenario** (e.g. water ice extraction on the Moon by a multinational consortium).
- **A legal model**, outlining rights, duties, jurisdictional authority, and enforcement processes.
- **Ethical and environmental principles**, including sustainability and planetary protection measures.
- **Citations** from international treaties, national legislation, and relevant academic or policy sources.
- Innovative or speculative proposals, provided they are internally consistent and well justified.

6. Evaluation Criteria

- **Innovation and Creativity (30%)** — Novelty and forward-looking vision of the legal framework. Does it propose credible solutions to existing gaps in space law?
- **Legal and Political Feasibility (25%)** — Practicality of implementation given foreseeable geopolitical and legal realities.
- **Justice and International Responsibility (15%)** — Promotion of equitable access to space resources, environmental stewardship, and the interests of all states.
- **Relevance and Depth of Scenario (20%)** — Alignment with meaningful utilisation of extraterrestrial resources and prevention of conflict.
- **Clarity and Presentation (10%)** — Structure, readability, and visual quality of the report.

7. Timeline

- Challenge registration opens on 26 September 2025.
- Challenge duration: 1 October to 30 November 2025.
- All submissions must be finalised and submitted by 30 November 2025.

8. Submission and Contact

A submission form link will be activated on the website ahead of the submission deadline. For queries or clarifications, participants may contact the organising team via the official competition email address listed on the website: www.SprosTech.com

9. Awards

All participants will receive certificates of participation. Winners will receive certificates of achievement for each individual challenge, as well as for the overall league performance. Points earned in each challenge will contribute to a participant's or team's cumulative league score, with final awards and certificates presented to the top-ranking individuals and teams at the end of the season.

10. Rules

All participants must adhere to the general competition rules and ethical standards of the Astrobiology League, and are expected to read the problem statement thoroughly.

11. FAQ

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section will be provided on the official competition website. This will address common concerns related to eligibility, submission formats, technical requirements, and judging criteria.