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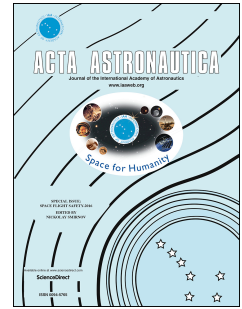
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The Politics of Space Mining – An account of a simulation game**Deganit Paikowsky and Roey Tzezana****e-mail: deganit.paik@gmail.com; 972-52-2222359****Abstract**

Celestial bodies like the Moon and asteroids contain materials and precious metals, which are valuable for human activity on Earth and beyond. Space mining has been mainly relegated to the realm of science fiction, and was not treated seriously by the international community. The private industry is starting to assemble towards space mining, and success on this front would have major impact on all nations. We present in this paper a review of current space mining ventures, and the international legislation, which could stand in their way - or aid them in their mission. Following that, we present the results of a role-playing simulation in which the role of several important nations was played by students of international relations. The results of the simulation are used as a basis for forecasting the potential initial responses of the nations of the world to a successful space mining operation in the future.

Key Words: Space Mining; Role-playing Game; Simulation; Space Exploration; Global Politics.

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