



## THE 2025 MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

### **Admetus v Cronus Case Concerning the Legality of Space Activities in Conflicts**

#### **Summary of Agreed Statement of Facts**

Cronus, a space-faring State, issued a license to a private company, Geryon, to launch the Atlas Constellation in 2035. Geryon was awarded a 10-year contract by the Cronus Ministry of Defense to provide military telecommunications services based on the Atlas Constellation in 2042. The Republic of Baton has a security relationship with Cronus and signed a bilateral agreement in which Cronus agreed to provide unspecified telecommunications services to Baton. Admetus, a highly developed spacefaring nation, launched the Helios-1 satellite, which is owned and operated by a commercial company, Metis. Admetus has a long history of territorial disputes with Baton. An armed conflict broke out between the two countries in April 2050.

Two months later, Baton's company, Erato, signed a transponder lease with Geryon for the exclusive use of and access to several specified transponders on a number of satellites of the Atlas Constellation. Baton's telecommunications services on the battlefield were supported by Erato through this transponder access, which gave Baton a strategic advantage in the armed conflicts. Admetus demanded Cronus to take an immediate cessation of all Geryon's services to the armed forces of Baton. Cronus responded that such provision of telecommunications services is legitimate with a peaceful purpose.

On 31 May 2051, Admetus conducted a jamming operation against an Atlas satellite by Helios-1, when it was in close proximity to this Atlas satellite, which significantly degraded its telecommunications services provided to the Baton's military. On 15 June 2051, Helios-1 conducted a test which involved releasing an approach-and-capture payload to rendezvous with a defunct Admetus military satellite and deorbit it from LEO. However, the capture payload collided with the satellite, causing an explosion that created a debris field that partially intersected the orbit of the Atlas Constellation. Over the subsequent weeks, three Atlas satellites were destroyed when they passed through the debris field.

On 24 June 2051, Cronus conducted a rendezvous and capture maneuver of Helios-1 by a mechanical arm of one of its on-orbit servicing satellites. During the capture process, the solar panel of Helios-1 detached resulting in a total loss of function of Helios-1.