



THE 2026 MANFRED LACHS SPACE LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Inkaton v. Accadia Case Concerning Liability and Responsibility for Space Activities of Non-Governmental Corporate Actors Summary of the Agreed Statement of Facts

Sargon and Quipu are non-governmental corporate space actors with Sargon being a national of Accadia and Quipu being a national of Inkaton. Both companies engage in the extraction of abiotic space resources. Sargon operates its extraction activities in Earth orbit from an orbital platform it owns and operates named Earth Orbital Station – 1 (EOS -1), while Quipu extracts Helium-3 from an installation it maintains on the Moon known as Quilla. Sargon's extraction license was issued by Sabaku and defined an abiotic space resource as including a deleterious space object and/or any space object in situ in space, which includes the Moon and other celestial bodies, that is not subject to navigation and control and is not classified as a heritage or historical artifact by the United Nations. Sargon uses two spacecraft named, Dragnet and Dragon, for its extraction activities, and to transport people and/or cargo to any point in Cislunar space.

Quipu perfected stealth technology for space objects and placed a stealth satellite in Low Earth Orbit, but subsequently lost navigation and control over the satellite. Sargon became aware of this circumstance and determined the satellite posed a danger and hazard to other actors using LEO. After being denied authorization by Quipu, Sargon unilaterally removed the satellite without prior notice to anyone and transported it to EOS-1. Sargon notified Quipu of the removal and requested payment for the cost and expense associated with the extraction. Quipu disputed Sargon's right to remove the satellite from orbit and any entitlement to payment. Sargon obtained title to the satellite by an in rem proceeding in Sabaku.

After acquiring title, Sargon used EOS-1's facilities to refurbish the space object which it renamed Transat and placed on Dragnet for placement in Low Lunar Orbit. Upon reaching lunar orbit but prior to deploying the space object, a freak solar proton storm passed the Moon damaging Dragnet, which had a forced landing outside of Quilla's safety zone. Prior to the impact, Dragnet ejected its payload which crashed into Quilla's installation destroying a separate regolith structure, extraction equipment, and 2 kilograms of extracted Helium-3. Quilla personnel rescued and provided medical attention to the Dragnet crew, all of whom survived. After transporting the Dragon crew to Quilla for medical attention, Quilla personnel returned to the Dragnet crash site and salvaged and/or extracted proprietary technology and equipment from Dragnet.

Sargon and Quipu sought compensation from each other but could not settle their dispute and requested the country of their respective nationality to seek diplomatic consultation. Accadia, on behalf of Sargon, made a diplomatic request for consultation with Inkaton three hundred forty (340) Earth solar days after Sargon learned of Quipu's removal of technology and equipment from Dragnet. Inkaton, on behalf of Quipu, made a diplomatic request for consultation with Accadia three hundred sixty-four (364) Earth solar days after the Transat crash. The diplomatic consultations failed to resolve any claims, and the dispute was submitted to the International Court of Justice by agreement of the parties.