Thoughts on Euro-China Cooperation

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The opportunity exists

• There is an opportunity for Europe to strengthen its relationship with China on space cooperation
  – Broad recognition of need for international cooperation on a range of space activities

• US is currently hampered by a number of factors
  – ITAR
  – Restrictions on NASA
  – Lack of stable mil-mil cooperation
  – Predominance of US military in space activities (such as SSA)

• But cooperating with China is not easy, and Europe would need to overcome bad experience with Galileo for both sides
SWF’s work with China

• We recognized that a lot of important conversations regarding space security and sustainability were happening without meaningful Chinese participation
  – Challenges from microsatellites
  – Space debris removal
  – Space sustainability as a concept
  – Code of Conduct / LTSSA

• Formed relationship Beihang University to sponsor research and hold conferences
  – Bring specific conversations to China to get their perspectives & familiarize them with concepts
  – Build Chinese technical and policy expertise
Lessons from SWF’s work with China

• China has a different perspective on use of space than Europe, US, Russia, or Japan

• Not inherent to China, but rather a function of their stage of development as a space actor
  – China is currently building its space capabilities, particularly for national security and prestige
  – US/Europe/Russia/Japan focused more on maintaining space capabilities

• These differing perspectives (and goals) make it difficult to find common ground on which to build consensus
  – Would the US of the 1970’s/1980’s have bought into space sustainability?
More lessons

• Chinese government lacks a strong interagency process or perspective on space issues
  – Certain sectors are dominated by specific agencies (military or scientists or diplomatic corps) but rarely is there effective coordination between agencies
  – Opacity of the Chinese policy process is a challenge for them as well as outsiders

• Difficult to find Chinese experts with cross-discipline experience and knowledge
  – Current system is strongly stove-piped into law, political, engineering, science, etc
Even more lessons

• China is looking to be a partner in space activities, not to be “helped”
  — Do not want gifts, extremely sensitive to condescension
  — Want to be treated as equals, not as a second-tier space power

• Extremely proud of their accomplishments and will take the long, slow road of developing indigenous capabilities if they need to

• China does not recover from slights easily, and often reacts in a calculated manner
  — Overlap of BeiDou and Galileo security signals doesn’t cause interference but does intertwine both services
Goals

• Ultimate question: what is Europe’s goal for cooperation with China in space?
  – Soft power?
  – Hard power?
  – Offset economic costs?
  – Improve relationships?

• If there isn’t a well-defined goal (or set of goals) going in, it is extremely hard to have a good outcome
Thank you

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