

Law No. (17) of 2015
Establishing the
Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Law No. (2) of 2006 Establishing the Emirates Institution for Advanced Science and Technology,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (17) of 2015 Establishing the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre”.

Definitions
Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
MBRSC:	The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre.
EIAST:	The Emirates Institution for Advanced Science and Technology.
Chairman:	The chairman of the MBRSC.
Board of Directors:	The board of directors of the MBRSC.

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¹*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text will prevail.*

Director General:	The director general of the MBRSC.
Space Sector:	All activities, projects, and programmes related to outer space.

Establishment of the MBRSC

Article (3)

Pursuant to this Law, a public corporation named the “Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre” is established. The MBRSC will have legal personality and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives.

Head Office of the MBRSC

Article (4)

The head office of the MBRSC will be located in the Emirate. Other branches of the MBRSC may be established within and outside of the Emirate pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Objectives of the MBRSC

Article (5)

The MBRSC aims to:

1. support the UAE vision and general policy for the Space Sector through developing space research, projects, and studies;
2. contribute to enabling the UAE to innovate, use, and benefit from space technologies and applications;
3. compete with developed countries in the field of advanced sciences and in making scientific discoveries;
4. meet the UAE needs of national cadre of scientists who are qualified and knowledgeable in the field of space science through launching, in cooperation with entities specialised in the Space Sector, knowledge-based and scientific programmes;
5. support scientific development in the UAE through encouraging technological innovation and creativity within the Space Sector and related sciences, and promote sustainable development through knowledge-based economy;
6. support scientific and technological research and studies related to areas falling within the scope of work of the MBRSC;

7. contribute, in cooperation with concerned entities, to developing the Space Sector and enhancing its role with a view to diversifying the national economy and boosting comprehensive development in the space field;
8. contribute to enhancing the UAE standing as a leading international hub for space sciences and technologies; and
9. contribute to supporting development and other vital sectors in the UAE through adopting the best international practices and applications pertaining to satellites and space technology and other sciences and technologies relevant to the scope of work of the MBRSC.

Functions of the MBRSC

Article (6)

The MBRSC is the Government entity responsible for the Space Sector and advanced space science and technologies in the Emirate. For the purposes of achieving its objectives, the MBRSC will have the duties and powers to:

1. develop, and supervise the implementation of, the policy of the Emirate for the Space Sector;
2. develop a strategic plan to implement and supervise all phases of the process of sending Hope Probe to space;
3. establish companies, solely or with other persons; invest in, enter into partnerships with, hold shares in, merge with, or acquire shares or stocks in companies, agencies, and institutions conducting the same or similar activities as those of the MBRSC or other activities which help the MBRSC achieve its objectives within and outside of the UAE;
4. coordinate with the government, regional, and international entities in areas related to the work of the MBRSC;
5. conduct and fund, in coordination with the concerned entities, the studies and research required for the development of the Space Sector in the Emirate;
6. invest in projects relating to satellite science and applications and other specialised and technological projects relating to the Space Sector and other relevant sciences;
7. establish a suitable infrastructure for designing and manufacturing satellites in the UAE;
8. propose, in coordination with the concerned entities, legislation pertaining to the Space Sector;
9. raise awareness of the importance of the Space Sector, in coordination with the concerned entities;

10. hold and participate in conferences and symposia, cooperate with the concerned entities and the regional and international organisations whose work is relevant to the MBRSC, and establish a regional and international cooperation network in the field of space technologies and applications;
11. own and take lease of the movable and immovable property required for the achievement of its objectives; and
12. exercise any other duties or powers required for enabling the MBRSC to achieve its objectives under this Law.

Organisational Structure of the MBRSC **Article (7)**

The organisational structure of the MBRSC will be comprised of:

- a. the Chairman;
- b. the Board of Directors;
- c. the Director General; and
- d. the executive body.

Appointment and Functions of the Chairman **Article (8)**

- a. A Chairman will be appointed to the MBRSC pursuant to a decree of the Ruler;
- b. The Chairman will undertake the general supervision of the MBRSC. For this purpose, the Chairman will have the duties and power to:
 1. approve the general policy and strategic and development plans of the MBRSC;
 2. approve the services, works, projects, and activities that the MBRSC intends to perform;
 3. approve the organisational structure of the MBRSC;
 4. approve the draft annual budget and final accounts of the MBRSC;
 5. approve the general policy and the financing and borrowing plans and programmes required to perform the work of the MBRSC; and
 6. perform any other duties assigned to him by the Ruler.
- c. The Chairman may delegate any of his powers under paragraph (b) of this Article to the Board of Directors, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

Board of Directors
Article (9)

- a. The MBRSC will have a Board of Directors comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman, and a number of experienced and competent members appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Ruler. The term of membership of the Board of Directors will be three (3) years, renewable upon expiry.
- b. The Board of Directors will convene at the invitation of its chairman, or vice chairman where the chairman is absent, at least once every two (2) months, or where necessary. Meetings of the Board of Directors will be valid if attended by the majority of its members, provided that its chairman or vice chairman is in attendance.
- c. The Board of Directors will pass its resolutions by majority vote of attending members, and in the event of a tie, the chair of the meeting will have a casting vote. Resolutions of the Board of Directors will be recorded in minutes of meetings signed by the chair of the meeting and attending members.
- d. A rapporteur will be appointed to the Board of Directors by its chairman. The rapporteur will send invitations to the meetings of the Board of Directors, prepare its meeting agendas, record minutes of its meetings, follow up the implementation of its resolutions and recommendations, and perform any other duties assigned to him by the chairman of the Board of Directors.
- e. The Board of Directors may invite, as it deems appropriate, experts, consultants, and specialists to attend its meetings, but they will have no vote in its deliberations.

Functions of the Board of Directors
Article (10)

- a. The Board of Directors is the highest authority in charge of the affairs of the MBRSC and the achievement of the objectives and implementation of the policies of the MBRSC. The Board of Directors will exercise the powers and authorities required for the achievement of the objectives of the MBRSC. In particular, it will have the duties and powers to:
 - 1. approve the general policy and strategic, development, and operational plans of the MBRSC, submit them to the Chairman for final approval, and supervise the implementation of the same;
 - 2. approve, review, and annually evaluate the implementation of, the work plans and programmes of the MBRSC;
 - 3. determine the strategic objectives of the MBRSC and the procedures required for supervising their implementation. These objectives must be reviewed and compliance therewith evaluated annually;

4. take the necessary action to ensure compliance by the MBRSC with the legislation in force in the Emirate, with the resolutions and regulations issued in pursuance thereof, and with any other legislation related to the work and activities of the MBRSC;
 5. evaluate and follow up the performance of the executive body of the MBRSC, and ensure that the executive body achieves the objectives of the MBRSC and comply with its general policy;
 6. approve the organisational structure of the MBRSC, and submit the same to the Chairman for final approval;
 7. approve the annual budget and final accounts of the MBRSC, and submit the same to the Chairman for final approval;
 8. approve the fees and charges for services rendered by the MBRSC, and submit the same to the concerned entities for final approval;
 9. form permanent and temporary specialised sub-committees and work teams, and determine their duties, powers, and tenure;
 10. determine the duties of each member of the Board of Directors to ensure the integration of their roles with a view to achieving the objectives of the MBRSC;
 11. review, and make the necessary comments on, the performance reports submitted by the Director General; and
 12. exercise any other duties or powers relevant to the objectives of the MBRSC.
- b. The Board of Directors may delegate any of its powers under paragraph (a) of this Article to a committee comprising members of the Board of Directors or to the Director General, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.
 - c. In case of absence of the chairman of the Board of Directors or any other impediment affecting him, the vice chairman will act as the chairman and will perform all the duties assigned to him pursuant to this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof.

Director General
Article (11)

- a. A Director General will be appointed to the MBRSC pursuant to a resolution issued by the Chairman upon the recommendations of the Board of Directors.
- b. The Director General will be directly responsible to the Board of Directors for performing his duties under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and for performing any duties assigned to him by the chairman of the Board of Directors.

Functions of the Director General

Article (12)

The Director General will supervise the daily work of the MBRSC, manage and regulate its affairs, and represent it in its relations with third parties and before judicial authorities. In particular, the Director General will have the duties and powers to:

1. propose the policies; strategic, development, and operational plans; initiatives; and programmes required to achieve the objectives of the MBRSC, and submit the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
2. prepare work plans and programmes and the relevant projects, and present the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
3. prepare the organisational structure of the MBRSC, and present the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
4. propose the resolutions regulating the financial, administrative, and technical work of the MBRSC including the human resources regulations, and present the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
5. prepare the draft annual budget and final accounts of the MBRSC, and submit the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
6. propose the fees and charges for services rendered by the MBRSC, and submit the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
7. supervise the performance by the executive body of the MBRSC of the duties assigned to it pursuant to the bylaws and regulations issued by the Board of Directors, and appoint the technical and administrative staff required to perform the work of the MBRSC;
8. submit annual reports on the performance of the MBRSC to the Board of Directors to take the necessary action in this regard;
9. implement and follow up the resolutions passed, and the policies, plans, and programmes set by the Board of Directors;
10. approve financial transactions subject to the rules stipulated by the financial regulations and bylaws adopted by the MBRSC;
11. sign, in the name of the MBRSC and on its behalf, contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding in accordance with the relevant powers conferred on the Director General by the Board of Directors;
12. supervise the organisational units of the MBRSC, prepare periodic and annual reports on the progress of their work, and submit these reports to the Board of Directors;

13. engage experts and consultants, and determine and pay their remuneration, in accordance with the bylaws adopted by the MBRSC; and
14. exercise any other duties or powers assigned or delegated to him by the Board of Directors.

Executive Body of the MBRSC
Article (13)

- a. The executive body of the MBRSC will be comprised of the Director General and a number of administrative, finance, and technical employees.
- b. The rights and duties of the MBRSC employees and the rules governing their selection and appointment will be determined pursuant to the human resources regulations approved by the Board of Directors for this purpose.
- c. The human resources legislation applicable to the employees of the EIAST will apply to the employees of the MBRSC until the approval of the human resources regulations of the MBRSC referred to in paragraph (b) of this Article.

Establishments Affiliated to the MBRSC
Article (14)

- a. Pursuant to this Law, the EIAST will be affiliated to the MBRSC.
- b. Establishments conducting work in areas falling within the scope of work of the MBRSC may be established by a decree issued by the Ruler, and will be affiliated to the MBRSC.
- c. Each establishment will have a chief executive officer appointed by a resolution issued by the chairman of the Board of Directors upon the proposal of the Director General.

Financial Resources of the MBRSC
Article (15)

The financial resources of the MBRSC will consist of:

1. support allocated to the MBRSC in the general budget of the Government of Dubai;
2. fees and charges collected by the MBRSC in return for the services it renders;
3. grants and gifts received by the MBRSC and approved by the Board of Directors; and
4. any other resources approved by the Board of Directors.

Accounts and Financial Year of the MBRSC
Article (16)

- a. In regulating its accounts and records, the MBRSC will apply the rules and principles of government accounting.
- b. The financial year of the MBRSC will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year, except that the first financial year will commence on the effective date of this Law and will end on 31 December of the following year.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions
Article (17)

The chairman of the Board of Directors will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Repeals
Article (18)

Any provision in any other legislation will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

Commencement and Publication
Article (19)

This Law comes into force on the day on which it is issued, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 29 June 2015
Corresponding to 12 Ramadan 1436 A.H.