



3rd RGNUL National Negotiation  
Competition,  
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# GENERAL INFORMATION SEMI- FINALS

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**EBC**



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## **NegComp'23 Problem - Cosmic Diplomacy**

### **General Information**

#### **Background of the Parties**

##### **Genovia**

Genovia is a sovereign nation that is poised at the intersection of remarkable scientific potential despite resource limitations. It has an unparalleled advantage in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (“STEM”) education and research, and is often referred to as a global hub for STEM excellence. However, despite its scientific prowess, the nation faces considerable challenges in translating this knowledge into commercial success due to resource constraints. Moreover, the nation's strained relationship with its neighbor, Panem, further complicates its socio-political landscape, having a spillover effect on Genovia’s trade relations, security, and regional stability. Moreover, Genovia has established a strong presence in the space sector by undertaking strategic partnerships with established space agencies and nations worldwide. Genovia's accomplishments in the realm of space exploration have garnered international recognition, including its joint mission with Arendelle, which was appreciated by countries across the world for its noble cause. As the country prepares for crucial elections in 2024, its government is seeking ways to retain power while also opening up new avenues for private participation in its space sector participation to stimulate economic growth and leverage its STEM expertise. This move aims to attract investment, foster innovation, and expand the nation's commercial space industry.

##### **Utopia**

Utopia stands tall as a true global powerhouse with immense financial capabilities. Renowned for its unparalleled wealth and meticulously developed infrastructure, this nation has crafted a reputation that resonates far beyond its borders. The nation's economy has flourished due to a combination of strategic investments, innovative financial instruments, and a business-friendly environment. This prominent position in the global arena allows the country to assume roles of leadership within various UN bodies, shape economic policies, and developmental initiatives. While it enjoys harmonious foreign relations with most nations, its relationship with Panem is strained due to its conduct and actions in the sea which has captured the world's attention. Utopia's unique approach to wealth management and project outsourcing, particularly with Wadiya, allows the country to leverage its financial resources while benefiting from the expertise of its partners. Utopia's remarkable blend of soft power influence and leadership in international organizations has made it a key player in shaping the course of global affairs.

## **Background of the Dispute**

While the two countries operate with each other on good terms, their last collaboration in the space sector did not end particularly well. In 2020, the countries of Genovia and Utopia entered into a joint space mission to establish certain satellite-based communication systems in outer space. The same was materialized by Utopia's substantial financial hand, which was held by Genovia's technological proficiency and manpower. It was expected to lead to a resounding success in the eyes of the global community.

However, their space mission unexpectedly failed due to Radio Frequency Interference (**RFI**) caused by the overlapping of certain frequencies, which disrupted the path of the satellite's signals from reaching the base. As per preliminary inquiry, these overlapping frequencies were the consequences of Wadiya's satellite, as its orbital inclination was unilaterally altered by the Wadiyan Space Research Organisation (**WSRO**). This satellite in question was initially placed in pursuance of a past space mission conducted by the Cosmic Unity Alliance (**CUA**) of which Utopia was a crucial part. An investigation is also being carried out on the action of Wadiya with regards to its unilateral act which was in violation of the code of conduct agreed by the CUA. While formal proceedings have commenced, substantive alterations in this regard will necessitate a considerable amount of time since Wadiya is unwilling to cooperate.

Subsequent to numerous rounds of inquiries, dialogues between Genovia and Utopia, initially frigid, are now gaining momentum as both parties exhibit growing enthusiasm for collaboration. However, this enthusiasm is tempered by a sense of caution. Genovia's credibility suffered a significant blow following the failed mission in 2020, particularly impacting one of its primary areas of expertise. Moreover, Genovia has recently opened its space sector for Foreign Direct Investment (**FDI**) as a result of which it has been open to collaborating with private players as well.

Conversely, Utopia remains steadfast in reclaiming its diminished influence and reasserting its prior supremacy, employing strategic soft power initiatives to secure its position as a global leader. Last month, Utopia officially reached out to Genovia with the proposal for another space mission in light of the fact that their chances of success continue to remain highest with Genovia. The mission primarily involves the installation of a surveillance satellite to monitor the Panemian borders in light of its misconduct in another sea dispute, and certain ancillary data collection activities.

Furthermore, Latveria, an ally of Genovia has been reported to be steadfastly working on a space mission on similar lines as those intended by Utopia. This has put the latter in a situation of urgency as Utopia wishes to play a substantive role in that dispute to exert indirect control in that region. Genovia, on the other hand, is motivated to succeed not only to reclaim its lost credibility but also due to the upcoming general elections of the country in the following year, and launching the satellite near the elections would serve exactly that purpose.

## The Dispute

Initially, discussions were characterized by a sense of reserve on Genovia's part as it contemplated various options regarding the mission. However, a turning point emerged when Genovia received proposals from select private entities willing to shoulder a significantly greater financial burden than what Utopia had initially agreed upon. In response, Utopia matched these offers, prompting Genovia to engage in mission discussions at the request of Utopia.

The discussion regarding the mission led to debate on several critical aspects that are yet to be finalized. First and foremost is the division of the financial burden. Utopia brings substantial funds and infrastructure to the collaborative effort, while Genovia focuses on the mission's knowledge-based dimension. The allocation of financial responsibility will be contingent upon the value of the knowledge contribution by Genovia, an aspect bolstered by Genovia's proven track record of successful missions. Utopia is open to revising the existing 60% - 40% financial division, provided Genovia licenses its unique methodology for space missions to Utopia for a defined period.

Further, both nations seek to strategically time the launch to maximize its potential benefits. A flexible time frame is being considered, keeping in mind that Utopia wants that the installation is successfully executed prior to the Latverian satellite launch tentatively scheduled for March 2024 according to Utopian Intelligence. On the other hand, Genovia desires for the launch to take place before their general elections scheduled for May 2025. Both nations also realize that the outcome of this issue in regard will be inevitably influenced by the financial burden division which might lead to an increase in Utopia's financial contribution and subsequently its bargaining power.

Another crucial element of dispute is the allocation of the orbital slot. The allocation process involves technical and diplomatic considerations. The technical aspect entails pinpointing the optimal orbital slot through research and calculations. On the other hand, the diplomatic aspect involves liaising with other nations and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Given that Genovia solely undertook the orbital slot allocation in the past, Genovia proposes that Utopia oversees the diplomatic aspect this time. This suggestion stems from the acknowledgment of Utopia's superior soft power capabilities and its increased likelihood of securing a desired slot, especially in light of the prior failed mission.

The negotiating parties are hopeful that they will come to an amicable agreement in this regard as Genovia has responded to the request of Utopia to negotiate in an affirmative manner.