



Artemis Accords Readiness Briefing

Prepared for: AetherForge Components Ltd — Precision Aerospace Manufacturing, United Kingdom

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1. Executive Summary

The Artemis Accords are a set of non-binding political commitments — now signed by more than 50 nations, including the United Kingdom — that establish shared principles for civil exploration of the Moon, Mars, comets, and asteroids. While the Accords bind **states**, not companies, their obligations cascade down to commercial suppliers in three practical ways: **contractual flow-downs** from primes serving NASA, ESA, and national agencies; **national regulatory implementation** (in the UK, via the Outer Space Act 1986 and Space Industry Act 2018 licensing regimes); and **de facto market standards** for interoperability, debris mitigation, and transparency that procurement teams increasingly treat as qualification criteria.

Our assessment: AetherForge is well-positioned on engineering fundamentals — its AS9100-certified quality system and existing ECSS-aligned test practices cover much of the technical ground. The material gaps are **administrative and contractual rather than technical**: no export-control compliance programme formally scoped for lunar work, no interoperability standards mapping, no Accords-aware contract review process, and no sub-tier supplier due-diligence framework. These gaps are closable within **6–9 months at an estimated internal cost of £40k–£90k**, and closing them early converts a compliance burden into a competitive differentiator when bidding into Artemis-aligned supply chains.

2. What the Artemis Accords Mean for Suppliers

The Accords comprise thirteen sections. Seven have direct operational relevance to a component supplier; the table below translates each from state-level principle to supplier-level implication.

Accords Principle	What It Says (State Level)	What It Means for AetherForge
Peaceful purposes (§3)	All activities must be for peaceful purposes per the Outer Space Treaty	End-use screening: know which missions your components fly on; dual-use export classification becomes critical
Transparency (§4)	Signatories broadly share national space policies and plans	Customers may require disclosure of component provenance, test data, and failure histories to a degree exceeding terrestrial aerospace norms
Interoperability (§5)	Partners develop and use open international standards where practical	Components should align with recognised interface and data standards (e.g. NASA-STD series, ECSS, emerging LunaNet/lunar power standards); proprietary lock-in designs face procurement resistance
Emergency assistance (§6)	Commitment to render assistance to personnel in distress	Hardware on crewed elements faces elevated reliability documentation and traceability expectations (human-rating flow-downs)



Accords Principle	What It Says (State Level)	What It Means for AetherForge
Registration of space objects (§7)	Objects must be registered per the Registration Convention	UK-licensed missions trigger UKSA registration; suppliers must provide accurate mass, material, and configuration data on time
Space resources / ISRU (§10)	Resource extraction is affirmed as lawful and should comply with the Outer Space Treaty	ISRU equipment (valves, seals, drills) is a growth market — but contracts will embed compliance representations suppliers must be able to stand behind
Deconfliction & safety zones (§11)	Operators provide notification and coordinate to avoid harmful interference	Components destined for surface operations near other actors' assets may carry location-disclosure and operational-coordination data requirements
Orbital debris & spacecraft disposal (§12)	Plan for safe disposal and limit debris generation	Design-for-demise, passivation compatibility, and material selection records become part of the component data pack

Key insight: none of these principles requires AetherForge to change *what* it manufactures. They change *what documentation, screening, and contractual machinery must surround* the products.

3. Detailed Gap Analysis

Assessment scale: ● Aligned · ● Partial — action needed · ● Gap — not yet addressed

Domain	Requirement (derived from Accords + flow-downs)	Current AetherForge Position	Status
Quality & traceability	Full material and process traceability to support transparency and human-rating flow-downs	AS9100 Rev D certified; lot traceability in place	●
Technical standards	Mapping of product lines to NASA-STD / ECSS / emerging lunar interoperability standards	ECSS test practices used informally; no formal standards-compliance matrix	●
Export control	ITAR/EAR classification of all products; UK Export Control Order compliance; technology-transfer controls for US prime engagement	Terrestrial aerospace export licences held; no lunar-programme-specific classification review; no Technology Control Plan	●
Contractual readiness	Ability to accept and flow down Accords-derived clauses (FAR/NASA FAR Supplement, ESA GCC)	Standard UK aerospace T&Cs; legal team has not reviewed NASA FAR Supplement or ESA clause sets	●
Registration & data provision	Timely, accurate component data (mass, materials, configuration) for object registration	Engineering data exists but no defined customer-facing data-pack process for registration support	●
Debris mitigation / disposal	Material and design records supporting demise analysis and passivation	Materials declarations exist for REACH; not formatted for debris-mitigation assessments	●



Domain	Requirement (derived from Accords + flow-downs)	Current AetherForge Position	Status
Sub-tier supply chain	Due diligence on lower-tier suppliers (provenance, export-control status, sanctioned-entity screening)	Informal supplier vetting; no documented screening against denied-party lists for space programmes	●
Insurance & liability	Liability posture for in-space hardware failure under the Liability Convention's state-liability backdrop	Product liability cover for terrestrial aerospace; space-specific exposure not assessed	●
ISRU readiness	Compliance representations for resource-utilisation hardware (§10)	Strong product fit (seals, valves); no template representations or counsel review	●

Summary: 1 of 9 domains fully aligned; 5 partial; 3 material gaps. The three ● items — export control, contractual readiness, and supply-chain screening — are prerequisites for any serious engagement with US or ESA primes and should be sequenced first.

4. Specific Compliance Actions

TECHNICAL

- Build a **standards-compliance matrix** mapping each product line to applicable NASA-STD, ECSS, and emerging lunar interoperability standards; identify deltas and re-test needs (est. 6–8 weeks, engineering-led).
- Reformat existing materials declarations into a **debris-mitigation data pack** (demise characteristics, passivation compatibility) reusable across bids.
- Establish a **registration-support data template** (mass, materials, configuration) deliverable within customer-set deadlines.

LEGAL & REGULATORY

- Commission a **product-by-product export classification review** (ITAR vs EAR vs UK dual-use lists) before any US prime discussions; implement a Technology Control Plan governing drawings, test data, and personnel access.
- Brief the board on the **UK regulatory chain**: Outer Space Act 1986, Space Industry Act 2018, and UKSA licensing — AetherForge will rarely hold licences itself, but must understand the obligations its data supports.
- Obtain counsel-reviewed **template representations for ISRU contracts** (§10 compliance language).

CONTRACTUAL

- Conduct a **clause-readiness review** of NASA FAR Supplement and ESA General Clauses & Conditions flow-downs commonly imposed on Tier 2/3 suppliers; pre-agree internal positions on IP, data rights, and audit access.
- Update standard T&Cs with **space-specific limitation-of-liability and warranty language** reflecting the unrepairable-in-service nature of lunar hardware.

SUPPLY CHAIN

- Implement **denied-party and sanctions screening** for all sub-tier suppliers on space programme work; document provenance for critical materials (relevant given transparency expectations and export-control aggregation rules).



- Issue a **supplier code addendum** flowing down export-control and traceability obligations to sub-tiers.

5. Risks of Non-Compliance vs Benefits of Early Alignment

	Non-Compliance / Delay	Early Alignment
Market access	Disqualification at pre-bid stage; primes screen for export-control programmes before sharing technical data	Listed as "Artemis-ready" supplier; faster onboarding with US/ESA primes
Legal exposure	UK export-control breaches carry criminal penalties and unlimited fines; ITAR violations can bar US market access entirely	Defensible compliance posture; insurable risk profile
Commercial terms	Accords-derived clauses accepted blind under bid pressure → unpriced liability	Negotiating from prepared positions; risk priced into quotations
Reputation	Association with a transparency-driven programme magnifies any provenance or screening failure	Early-mover credibility in a supplier base that is still thin
Cost profile	Remediation under contract deadline pressure typically costs 2–3× planned implementation	Estimated £40k–£90k programme absorbed over 6–9 months on AetherForge's schedule

6. Recommended Next Steps & Roadmap Outline

Phase 1 — Foundations (Months 0–3) Export classification review and Technology Control Plan; denied-party screening process; board briefing on regulatory chain. *Gate: cleared to engage US/ESA primes.*

Phase 2 — Documentation & Standards (Months 2–6) Standards-compliance matrix; debris-mitigation and registration data packs; T&Cs update and clause-readiness positions. *Gate: bid-ready data room.*

Phase 3 — Market Engagement (Months 5–9) Targeted outreach to CLPS, ESA Argonaut, and ISRU programme primes with compliance posture as a differentiator; first contract negotiations using prepared positions. *Gate: first Artemis-aligned contract.*

A fully costed, customer-targeted version of this roadmap — including qualification sequencing, funding-call alignment (UKSA / ESA Terrae Novae), and a 36-month revenue model — is delivered through our **Custom Lunar Strategy Roadmap** engagement (from £6,500).



Ready to explore *beyond?*

The gaps identified in this briefing are closable in months, not years — but the suppliers who close them first will be the ones primes call back.

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No obligation — just a clear, honest conversation about what's possible for your organisation beyond Earth.

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