United Nations ST/sg/ser.e/388



Distr.: General 9 March 2001

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Information furnished in conformity with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space

Note verbale dated 27 February 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in accordance with article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex), has the honour to transmit information concerning the launching of the Swedish satellite Odin (see annex).

Annex

Registration of objects launched into outer space*

Launching State: Sweden

Name and registration number: Odin, 2001-07A

Date and territory of launch: 20 February 2001 Syobodny Cosmodrome,

Russian Federation

Basic orbital parameters:

Nodal period: 97.09 minutes
Inclination: 97.83 degrees

Apogee/perigee: 631/605 kilometres

Geostationary position: N/A

General description and mission of the space object:

The scientific disciplines that Odin will serve are astrophysics and atmospheric science. The main astrophysical objective is to improve understanding of the chemistry and the cooling processes of the interstellar medium and thereby the conditions for star formation.

The research programme for Odin will also address scientific problem areas in the stratosphere and mesosphere by making measurements of various trace species. For example, an objective is to elucidate the geographical extent of and mechanisms responsible for ozone depletion in the "ozone hole" region.

To perform these studies the satellite is equipped with a radio telescope operating in the sub-millimetre wave region of the electromagnetic spectrum and a spectrometer for ultraviolet, visible and near-infrared light. The spacecraft weighs 242 kg in orbit and is three-axes stabilized. It is 2.0 metres high and has a span across the solar panels of 3.8 metres. The solar panels deliver 340 W of electrical power. The spacecraft is controlled from a ground station at the rocket/balloon launch site and satellite ground station at Esrange, near Kiruna, in northern Sweden.

Odin is a cooperative project between, Canada, Finland, France and Sweden.

^{*}The registration data are reproduced in the form in which they were received.