

MOOT PROPOSITION

**9th C.L. Agrawal Memorial National Moot
Court Competition 2025**

Organised by

Raffles Law School

**Raffles University, Neemrana,
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**RAFFLES
UNIVERSITY**

The Union of Atlantic
vs.
The Starfuel Co Ltd

Facts:

1. The Union of Atlantic is a developed nation renowned for its advanced IT industry. There is one multibillion-dollar company, Startrek Corporation, running the IT industry with different products and sister concerns, and one of its sister concerns is Starfuel Co. Ltd., which searches for new energy-efficient technology and battery systems to meet the energy requirements of worldwide needs. They developed a nuclear waste-based advanced battery that can last for more than 50 years without the need to recharge it. This groundbreaking innovation has the potential to revolutionise the energy sector by providing sustainable solutions for everything, from electric vehicles to grid storage. As Starfuel continues to refine its technology, the prospect of reducing dependence on fossil fuels becomes increasingly attainable, paving the way for a cleaner, more efficient future.
2. Their sister concern, Starsoft Pvt. Ltd., has developed software for Starfuel to control this battery pack. To use the battery monitoring system, customers need to give access to storage, location, contact details, SMS, heat sensor, radioactive sensor, and camera to Starfuel's software to monitor the health of that battery pack. Nuclear batteries require proper monitoring because of safety hazards. This software not only ensures efficient operation but also provides real-time data analytics to preemptively address any potential issues. By integrating cutting-edge technology and strict safety protocols, they aim to revolutionise the energy landscape while prioritising environmental responsibility. This battery monitoring system is backed by a subscription-based model, and customers will be held liable if they do not pay the subscription fee and it causes any damage to the customer or public. The laws of the Union of Atlantic are perimetria with the laws of the India and USA.
3. The company, Star Fuel, was accused of fraudulent practices, including misleading customers, using deceptive tactics to obtain recurring payments from their bank accounts without proper authorisation, and sharing information with third-party companies

for economic benefits, such as energy, software, online shopping, and gambling. The allegations sparked an investigation by regulatory authorities, who sought to determine the extent of the company's misconduct and protect consumers from further harm. As the inquiry unfolded, many former customers came forward, sharing their experiences and shedding light on the troubling practices employed by Starfuel Co Ltd.

4. Starfuel Co. Ltd. used an extensive marketing strategy and algorithm network from Startrek Co. Ltd. to advertise its products and target potential customers. They designed the subscription plan based on the customer's needs and the size of the batteries used. The entire system is encrypted to ensure the privacy of its customers. The subscription plans are subject to government regulations and the common taxation system of the nation as well as DTAA (Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, signed by the Union Government) for international customers.
5. Starfuel Col. Ltd. has a policy to purchase assets from the company's profits for future expansion, and customers can easily manage their subscriptions through a user-friendly app that provides real-time updates on battery usage and offers personalised recommendations. Furthermore, Starfuel Co. Ltd. demonstrates its commitment to sustainability by using eco-friendly and recyclable materials in all their products.
6. Investment in real estate property: This strategic approach not only strengthens the company's financial stability but also positions it for sustainable growth in the competitive market. By prioritising reinvestment, Starfuel Col. Ltd. aims to enhance its product offerings and improve customer satisfaction in the long run.
7. During the investigation, federal prosecutors obtained Starfuel's emails stored on third-party servers (by his Internet Service Provider, N1Net Communications) without a warrant. They relied on the Stored Communications Act (SCA), which allowed the government to compel service providers to disclose stored emails under certain conditions without requiring a warrant. This sparked a heated debate about privacy rights and the extent of government surveillance. Critics argued that such practices undermine the 4th Constitutional Amendment, while supporters claimed they were necessary for national security and public safety.
8. Starfuel Co Ltd. challenged the government's access to his emails,

arguing that it violated his 4th Constitutional Amendment rights, which protect individuals against unreasonable searches and seizures. Starfuel contended that emails stored on a third-party server should still be subject to the same privacy protections as physical letters or documents. Whether digital communications held by third parties deserved the same constitutional safeguards as traditional forms of correspondence was the court's task. As the case unfolded, it sparked a broader debate about the balance between individual privacy rights and the government's duty to protect its citizens.

9. The High Court of Ostata (one of the 21 states of the Union of Atlantic) heard the case, agreed with Starfuel Co Ltd., and found the government agencies guilty of violating the 4th Constitutional Amendment. They also had to pay Starfuel Co Ltd. for damages related to its reputational loss and customer privacy breaches. The court ruled that:

- a) Even when storing their emails on third-party servers, individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Furthermore, the court emphasised that any government intrusion in private communications must be justified by a compelling state interest and conducted in a manner that respects constitutional protections. This decision was treated as a landmark judgement that not only reinforced privacy rights but also set a precedent for future cases involving digital communications and governmental oversight.
- b) Accessing emails without a warrant constitutes a violation of the 4th Constitutional Amendment. This amendment serves as a critical safeguard, ensuring that individuals retain control over their personal information in an increasingly digital world. As technology continues to evolve, it is essential for legal frameworks to adapt and protect citizens' rights against unwarranted surveillance.
- c) The government must obtain a warrant based on probable cause to access the contents of stored emails. This requirement not only upholds the principles of privacy and due process but also reinforces public trust in the legal system. Demanding accountability and transparency ensures that citizens feel safer while protecting their digital communications from unauthorised scrutiny.

10. The Union of Atlantic decided to appeal against Star Fuel's malpractice and criminal acts under the SCA Act to the honourable Supreme Court of the Union of Atlantic. The court's decision will likely set a significant precedent regarding digital privacy rights and the extent of governmental authority over private communications. This case underscores the ongoing tension between national security interests and the protection of individual privacy in the digital age.

Legal Issues:

- Does the 4th Constitutional Amendment protect emails stored with third-party service providers from warrantless access by the government?
- Does the Stored Communications Act (SCA) allow the government to obtain stored emails from a service provider without a warrant?
- Does the “third-party doctrine” apply to emails stored on servers operated by an Internet Service Provider (ISP)?
- Should evidence obtained in violation of the 4th Constitutional Amendment be suppressed if law enforcement acted in good faith reliance on existing laws?
- How should courts balance individual privacy rights with the government's need to investigate crimes?

Charges: Charges Against the Starfuel Co ltd:

- Starfuel Co. Ltd. used deceptive marketing practices to sell its nuclear waste material-based batteries.
- Starfuel Co. Ltd. was charged with using e-mail and electronic communications (e.g., phone calls, emails, and online transactions) to carry out the fraudulent scheme.
- Starfuel Co Ltd and his company misled banks by submitting fraudulent information to process unauthorised payments from customer accounts.
- Starfuel Co. Ltd. was charged with laundering the proceeds of the fraudulent activities to hide the origin of the funds and use them for personal and business expenses.

- The funds were traced to luxury purchases and investments.
- Starfuel Co. Ltd. attempted to obstruct the investigation by concealing evidence and misleading authorities during the inquiry.
- Starfuel Co. Ltd. provided false information in various contexts, including during the investigation and in documents submitted to financial institutions.

The Union Government of Atlantic filed an appeal to the Supreme Court of the Union of Atlantic against the decision of the High Court of State of Ostata:

- **Procedural errors:** Allegations of significant procedural mistakes that may have affected the fairness of the trial.
- **Error of fact:** Claiming that the evidence was misinterpreted or given undue weight.
- **Error of law:** Arguing that the wrong legal standards or principles were applied.
- **Disproportionate sentencing:** Challenging the appropriateness of the sentence relative to the crime.

Annexure:

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/fourth_amendment

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stored_Communications_Act

<https://www.justice.gov/archives/jm/criminal-resource-manual-1061-unlawful-access-stored-communications-18-usc-2701>

<https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Digital%20Personal%20Data%20Protection%20Act%202023.pdf>