

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
New Space Industry Applications (3)

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NEXT GENERATION CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE COMMERCIAL SPACE MARKET

Abstract

The space industry today is profoundly affected and driven by the private sector. The role of industry and commercialization of space is certainly growing, and seen in many areas and applications from space tourism and new generation of launching companies to continued growth of traditional large aerospace companies. This paper is based on the workshop held at the Space Generation Congress (SGC) in September 2010, and hosted by the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). During this 9th annual congress, delegates from around the world discussed the prospects, challenges and potential hindrances of the development of this new generation of commercial space activities.

A group of about twenty carefully selected students and young professionals representing 15 countries, including South Africa, participated in the SGC2010 workshop aimed to provide a forum for the next generation of space leaders to discuss and evaluate current space issues and make recommendations for agencies, industry, and academia. The mission of the group was, while representing voice of the next generation, to raise awareness among the general public and decision makers about private aspects of space activities and the potential for successful development. The group discussed current and future private space ventures, including remote sensing, satellite applications, International Space Station (ISS)-related opportunities, transportation/launching industry, mining and manufacturing in space, and space tourism. They performed a detailed analysis taking into account factors such as economical, technical, market demand, legal, as well as political and governmental influences. Many recommendations were formulated based on this analysis, including some tactics that could be taken into consideration on both national and international levels. These included recommendations on laws and regulations, social and economic benefits, prizes and awards, networks to leverage human resource, lobbying for NewSpace, and public outreach and education. These fresh perspectives were gathered into a final report that was presented to the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS) and to industry, agency, and academic organizations that collaborate with the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

This paper provides an overview of this project and details of analysis and recommendations, and what these mean to the International space community in terms of opportunities.