

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)

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GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN COMMERCIAL SPACE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EMERGING
INDUSTRY LEADERS**Abstract**

Government policy has the inherent ability to significantly influence business sectors. The commercial space industry, which is not unlike other industries in this respect, is particularly shaped by the government's roles as a customer, regulator, supplier, and investor. Simultaneously the established commercial space sector faces additional uncertainties in many business and risk related areas that are, or could, be influenced by government policy. As it stands, the collection of policies in the United States which provide an outline for behavior within the American private space industry originate from several government agencies. The current impact of these government activities, as well as how their future evolution will affect industry development, is the core focus of this paper. More specifically, the analysis of the effects and future developments of government policy will be provided by young professionals and students from a representative cross-section of the industry brought together for the 2nd Emerging Space Industry Leaders Workshop (ESIL-02) in Washington DC held March 2012. The effects of government involvement in the commercial space sector can at times be obvious, while at other times they may be more indirect. The specific points of emphasis for this paper will be identified and explored by the representative attendees of the ESIL-02 workshop. Such points are expected to include both broad, cross-cutting strategies as well as subtle specific activities. The observations and opinions of the assembled emerging leaders will be made available to those agencies and elected representatives who may find them of interest in the development and evolution of policies relating to commercial space in the United States. The very nature of commerce in the 21st century will undoubtedly result in broad international applicability of many of the observations and recommendations expected to originate from this workshop and subsequent paper. The product of this workshop is meant to represent a single perspective in the necessary ongoing dialogue of government and commercial interactions within the space industry. This paper will represent the personal opinions of the ESIL-02 workshop participants and in no way should be perceived as the position of any organization or entity with whom the attendees may be employed.