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VETTING SPACE BASED TECHNOLOGY SOCIETAL IMPACTS

Abstract

Since the inception of the U.S. space program, NASA has shared its results of research and development to facilitate the understanding of the technology behind NASA's science and exploration missions. Over the years this has been of great interest to space science and non-space science enthusiasts alike. The sharing of information has resulted in industry's interest for gaining access to space technology to enhance everyday life on Earth. NASA has a series of exercises to verify and validate the transfer of technology for developing new NASA and non-NASA related products. Such an undertaking relies on comprehensive knowledge of 1) NASA's development of the technology; 2) the ownership—if the technology was jointly developed; 3) the technology's novelty; and 4) the identification of potential alternative technology applications. Exercises for verifying and validating new applications of NASA technologies requires review and understanding with input by diverse expertise in scientific, technical, and business disciplines. This knowledge is very important for ensuring the purpose of NASA's research and technology assets have a significant proportion of technology utilization benefitting society. σ