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SPACE ECONOMICS ORIGINAL APPROACH: ECONOMIC THEORY TO THE BENEFIT OF
SPACE. CASE OF THE EUROPEAN SPATIAL SECTOR ANALYSIS. EVALUATION OF ECONOMIC
INDIRECT INDUSTRIAL IMPACT

Abstract

With the emergence of the world crisis, economists of many sectors have been solicited to explain the situation and to assist decision making. A wide range of diversified economic theories provide them with models, methods and references. So, similarly, can the economic theories benefit to the space sector, for problematics like its structure, its modelling, its characteristics ? This knowledge would set the foundations for decision taking like industrial policy and strategy. This paper, based on a current PhD research in space economics, will present the main results of theory application to the European space sectoral analysis. The methodology is based on the selection of theories, the definition of tools and indicators for each theory, and the creation of a protocol sequencing the tools for a sector analysis. For instance the following concepts have been adopted: SCP (Structure-Conduct-Performance), Contestable Markets, 'filière' approach, Michael Porter model. But the paper will mainly focus on the applicative side: the whole European sector, 2 sub-sectors (ARIANE 5, Satcoms) and a production stage (systems) will illustrate the capacity of this sectoral analysis toolbox. As another application, this paper will recall the BETA (Bureau d' Economie Théorique et Appliquée, Strasbourg) methodology to evaluate the economic indirect industrial impact (extended spin off) for space contractors. Used primarily for ESA, this method considers the technological, commercial, organisational and work related economic effects of space programs to industry.