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Entrepreneurship and Innovation: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

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HIGH ALTITUDE PLATFORMS AS A COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO MASSIVE
SATELLITE CONSTELLATIONS, FOR BANDWIDTH DELIVERY TO UNDERSERVED AREAS

Abstract

Companies like SpaceX and OneWeb are committing billions of US dollars to collectively launch over 6000 smallsats over the next few years, in hopes of delivering broadband services to the entire world. And yet, despite the vast commitment of resources, and the promise of low latency, another alternative may end up being far easier and much cheaper to deploy, operate, and maintain.

High Altitude Platforms, in the form of stationary airships, or propellor-driven drone airplanes, could provide targeted solutions to underserved areas of the world, at far less cost than constellations of satellites, which, for 90

The author will explain the cost models, state of the art of HAPs today, and offer a deeper view into his company's own efforts to provide broadband and mobile backhaul services, from an "orbit" of only 20km up.