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INDIAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PROMOTING ENTERPRENUER SHIP

Abstract

Indian Space programme, which has completed four decades of eventful progress, had maintained high focus on use of space technology for accelerating economic development and realizing societal benefits. The state-of-the-art satellites developed by the Indian Space research Organisation under the INSAT and IRS series have been instrumental in contributing to several direct applications in telecommunications, broadcasting, weather observations and management of natural resources. The strategies, which were implemented to promote space applications and the organizational innovations, which were adopted, resulted in creation of numerous opportunities for technically qualified entrepreneurs to undertake a variety of business activities involving manufacturing of sophisticated components, delivery of equipment for testing and space applications and also engaging in value adding services. As the process of globalization was unfolding and the international trade had been expanding, many entrepreneurs are looking beyond their traditional roles and territorial boundaries to create new relationships with their international counterparts. Based on a sample survey of enterprises related to space technology and services in India, the author reviews the trends and issues that confront them with regard to the market opportunities, risk environment, policy contours, technology transfer, IPR issues and access to financial resources. The paper also explores possible public private partnership solutions that can enhance the impact of innovations in space technology and applications