SPACE ACTIVITY AND SOCIETY (E5)
Technology Transfer Trends (1)

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TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TRENDS IN INDIAN SPACE PROGRAMME

Abstract

Indian Space Programme, whose objectives involve acceleration of economic and social development through applications of space technology, has been engaged in the development of state-of-the-art satellite systems, launch vehicles and equipment necessary for applications. Even during the early phase of evolution of this programme, deliberate policies have been adopted by the national space agency, namely, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), to promote spin off benefits from the technologies developed for the use of space projects. Consistently adhering to this policy, ISRO has transferred over 280 technologies till date, spanning a wide spectrum of disciplines. This has resulted in a fruitful two-way cooperation between a number of SMEs and the ISRO. In order to make the technology transfer process effective, ISRO has adopted a variety of functional and organizational policies that included awareness build up measures, licensee selection methods, innovative contract systems, diverse transfer processes, post-licensing services and feedback mechanisms. Besides analyzing these policies and their evolution, the paper discusses various models adopted for technology transfer and their impact assessment. It also touches upon relevant issues related to creating interface between public funded RD and the private commercial enterprises. It also suggests a few modes in which international cooperation could be pursued in this field.