

31st IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
Space economy – Stimulating measurable economic activities through space policies and budgets (3)

Author: Mr. Benoit Michel
France, benoit.michel@eleve.ena.fr

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SPACE CLUSTERS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY

Abstract

Since the fifties and the early hours of the space age, space has moved from being only a strategic issue to a more global economic. Space activities mainly thanks to its applications have progressively imposed itself in the daily economies of many countries and sectors. The public support of space activities and the space industry itself consequently adapted its own structure. Worldwide, many economic clusters were created to foster innovation, becoming a very interesting structure enabling to benefit from regional and national sustained policy where public and private sectors strongly interact.

In Europe, space activities are now mainly being oriented towards innovation, however with differences among countries. The two main contributors to the European Space Agency (ESA), Germany and France, both have different national political forms: on one hand a federal state and a more centralized one on the second hand, both integrated in a larger European political structure. But despite these differences, Germany and France created dedicated space clusters. These political realisations are the result of local and national decisions, also influenced by the European innovation programmes.

This article will analyse the difference between the clusters that have been created in Germany and France. It will investigate if these innovation clusters have the same area of influence and the same economic importance in both countries. It will focus on the process that led to clusters creation in each of these two countries and analyse what kind of cooperation, if any, were achieved in the past decade.