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Space economy – Stimulating measurable economic activities through space policies and budgets (3)

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A ROADMAP FOR SPACE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE  
COLLABORATION IN AUSTRALIA

**Abstract**

A new Australian space technology roadmap identifies opportunities for facilitating access to space technologies by Australian startups and SMEs through public-private collaboration and alternative models of technology partnership.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national research institute and one of the largest and most diverse single multidisciplinary research institutes in the world. CSIRO conducts world-leading research and development in close association with all Australian industry sectors including astronomy and space technology with the mission of supporting Australian businesses and delivering national benefit.

With these dual aims CSIRO has developed a space industry strategy to enhance the competitiveness of Australian startups and SMEs entering the space business. Decreasing launch costs, miniaturization and the servitization of space hardware have made it possible for startups and SMEs to access space and provide value-added solutions. As a part-publicly funded national research organisation CSIRO has a significant role to play in assisting Australian industry to solve technology challenges, develop markets and build the necessary relationships to access space but at the same time avoid crowding-out the private sector.

A new roadmap from CSIRO describes a strategy for assisting Australian industry to develop prime opportunities. Key to this strategy is CSIRO's core role as a collaboration hub – connecting big and small industry with academia, government and international agencies. CSIRO is also seeking to fill a gap in Australia's high-tech venture capital market with a full-chain suite of finance and technology development opportunities.

CSIRO has incubated Australian industry for over 100 years, including the introduction of Australia's first computer – providing a platform for Australian entrepreneurs to enter the digital age and acting as a customer willing to take on first-mover risk for innovative Australian technology businesses. The institute also has a long history of effecting technology transfer, including the universal “wi-fi” wireless protocol which was spun out of CSIRO's radio astronomy research.