

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM (E6)

Dynamics of Entrepreneurship (1)

Author: Mr. Paul Guthrie
Bryce Space and Technology, United States

DEFINITION AND ANALYSIS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PERSONAL SPACEFLIGHT INDUSTRY, 2008-2009

Abstract

This paper summarizes the 2009 update of an annual study of economic, technical, and regulatory metrics, characterizing the international personal spaceflight industry. In particular, the paper provides quantitative measures of the overall size of the industry by revenue; the amount of investment raised and spent; the relative percentage of investment sources; facility space devoted to these activities; and overall industry employment. The paper builds upon credible baseline data from 2006 and 2007, obtained directly from industry members.

The study that this paper summarizes was conducted with the cooperation of the Personal Spaceflight Federation and its member companies. Data from non-member companies was also obtained for a broader and more global depiction of the industry. The purpose of the study is to provide an accurate picture of the personal spaceflight industry that is useful to investors, entrepreneurs, regulators, media, and industry analysts. The methodology of the study included:

-

Collecting primary source data obtained through interviews with personal spaceflight companies, augmented with open-source research.

-

Characterization by appropriate industry metrics such as traditional financial metrics (revenue, investment), as well as specialized metrics that yield insight on a small, emerging industry (facility space, sources of funding).

-

Aggregating company-level data and analyzing industry-level results.

The cooperation of the Personal Spaceflight Federation, and the protection of individual organization data through aggregation and other measures, makes this measurement of the industry uniquely accurate. Results show cumulative investment levels committed to the industry through 2007; revenue and deposits for spaceflight services in 2008, and additional revenue to personal spaceflight companies for hardware, hardware development, and support services.

This paper will present the 2008 figures with increased international coverage, and provide insights and analysis of how these numbers reflect the maturing of this industry, and its role in the larger context of the space transportation industry.