IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Entrepreneurship Around the World (5-GTS.1)

Author: Mr. Jose Pedro Ferreira
Polytechnic Institute of Setubal, Portugal

Mr. Ananyo Bhattacharya
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), India
Mr. Federico Rondoni
International Space University, Italy
Ms. Imane El Khantouti
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Morocco
Mr. Maxim Mommerency
Germany

THE SPACE-FARING AFRICA: COMMERCIAL SPACE INDUSTRY AND ITS READINESS FOR INNOVATION-DRIVEN INVESTMENT

Abstract

The African continent has seen a marked increase in its economic pulse, stimulating research and investment in the development of space technology. Differentiating factors and key business enablers have been studied, having the Space Generation Advisory Council contributed for such effort with an analytical outlook on the entrepreneurial potential of the African space sector by analysing the cases of Nigeria, Ghana, Morocco, Mauritius, Sudan, and Tunisia.

Although such countries have already put forward efforts to develop their research and entrepreneurial tissues, they rely on foreign entities to get access to space. These countries have developed tools to gather, analyse and do research on data from their own satellites, which were however acquired through prime satellite integrators.

It becomes evident that African countries should focus their efforts in innovation, fomenting applied R&D and the development of national facilities to create the means to retain the large community of highly qualified young professionals that graduate every year, thereby reducing the brain drain. In this sense, foreign investment may play a critical role either by establishing partnerships for knowledge transfer, or by investing and encouraging an innovation-driven and business-prone African ecosystem.

In this way, this research aims at investigating the correlation between African nations' R&D-related efforts, foreign investment, and the legal framework that may make such ecosystems attractive from an investment standpoint. The conclusions will then pave the way to identify competitive advantages and discern about the space business-prone African countries.

Note that the present abstract is submitted under the auspices of the Space Generation Advisory Council, as part of the activities of the Commercial Space Project Group