

23rd SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
The Space Economy in Figures (3)

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THE SPACE ECONOMY AT A GLANCE 2010: THE OECD / IFP APPROACH

**Abstract**

An increasing number of countries are developing space systems and applications and there is a general sense that the larger “space economy” is growing as well. However, internationally agreed definitions for statistical terminology on space activities do not yet exist and estimates of the size of the space economy vary considerably depending on the sources.

*The Space Economy at a Glance 2010*, produced by the OECD / IFP offers critical insight into some of the main issues involved in deriving internationally comparable data for the industry and its downstream activities. Much remains to be done in developing a universal, data-driven methodology to measure at least some specific components of the space sector. This publication represents a step forward in data analysis, thanks to active international cooperation with key actors in the industry. It also examines the conceptual and definitional differences amongst countries that will have to be tackled to make objective international comparisons possible.

The findings presented in this paper are based on research conducted in the framework of the OECD Forum on Space Economics. Hosted by the OECD’s International Futures Programme, the Forum benefits from the Organisation’s intergovernmental and international economic expertise, and from the active participation of the space community. The Forum’s aim is to provide an improved understanding of the space sector statistically, but also to investigate its impacts as an infrastructure on the wider economy.