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Space Entrepreneurship and Investment: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

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AN ANALYSIS OF UNIQUE ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGES IN THE SPACE SECTOR IN THE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND AFRICA.

**Abstract**

This paper will present study, analyze, and report on the entrepreneurial challenges in the MENA region based on the work and research done by the authors. The research is based on a unique training program to provide access to and the use of open space data in countries in Africa and the Middle East. Seven national events, training sessions, and national hackathons were created in Uganda, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates. More than 4000 people have been trained through these programs and hundreds of projects have been created in the hackathons, many of which use open space data. These projects using satellite data range from topics on improving agriculture, fighting corruption, reducing poverty, and mitigating the impact of climate change. Partnerships with local universities, the national government, and tech companies and startups are crucial to ensuring the success of these events, and the ability for the young people who are trained to find employment or start their ventures.

Importantly, it will also discuss unexpected roadblocks as well as successful outcomes in entrepreneurial development in open space data and effective training methods, particularly in looking at the global south, developing countries, and new entrants to the aerospace field.