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VALUING THE CANADIAN SPACE SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPACE ECONOMY

Abstract

The Canadian Space Agency has been examining the state of the Canadian Space Sector for the past 15 years. An annual survey involves a call issued to all members of the sector including private sector companies, not for profit research centres and academic partners. This unique and comprehensive database provides the opportunity for trend analysis on revenues, employment, and sectors of activity and a focused examination of the market trends, both domestic and export, of the industrial sector as well as rendering a distinctive portrait of the activities of the academic participants.

This paper presents an analysis of the most recent survey results describing the State of the Canadian Space Economy together with a focused view on the important role played by exports. As well, the paper will discuss the methodological, definitional and interpretative challenges inherent in a surveying strategy as well as those raised when attempting to compare the performance of the Canadian space sector to other major space faring nations. The paper concludes with a discussion of the importance and complexity associated with valuing the underlying socio-economic benefits derived from public investments in the space sector and the role that a particular policy perspective can play in framing the discussion