

IAF BUSINESSES AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Public-Private Partnerships: Traditional and New Space Applications (2)

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BOOSTING THE START-UP ECOSYSTEM TO HARNESS NEW SPACE ECONOMY
OPPORTUNITIES. THE SYSTEM OF STRATEGIC ITALIAN INITIATIVES DEDICATED TO SPACE
START-UPS AND NEW SPACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROJECTS.

Abstract

The Italian Space Agency (ASI) plays a crucial role in promoting and supporting the growth of innovative entrepreneurial ventures in the space sector, such as SMEs and startups. Through a series of targeted initiatives and programs, these entrepreneurial ventures are aimed to more quickly and efficiently seize current opportunities by developing new solutions, products, or services in order to reduce costs, increase efficiency, and promote sustainability. Specifically, in addition to its traditional development space programs (e.g. scientific missions, COSMO-SkyMed, Platino, LUGRE, etc.), ASI supports startups with access to financial resources and technical expertise, as well as incubation or acceleration dedicated programs. In this work, we present the system of strategic Italian initiatives dedicated to support start-ups and New Space Economy. Particular emphasis is placed on the actions done to develop and support the birth and development of the network of Italian “Business Incubation Centers (BIC)”, in collaboration with ESA, as well as the cooperation with CNES and UniBW on the elite space-related acceleration program called SPACEFOUNDERS. We highlight difficulties met and the success stories of structuring strategic projects dedicated to start-ups, with emphasis on the need for the European countries on acting together on new space economy activities.