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BURNING OUT: WHY THE NEXT GENERATION NO LONGER LOOKS TO SPACE

Abstract

The perspective on space exploration has shifted. While space exploration is advancing rapidly, it feels more distant than ever. Gen Z seems to be a lot less excited about space than millennials. While millennials grew up watching NASA launching astronauts regularly, today space is more automated, with robots taking the centerfold, and it feels less and less like a human dream. Now, younger generations are drawn to fields with more immediate impact, and see space exploration as a lower priority. Furthermore, the increasing presence of private companies has reframed space from being a scientific pursuit to a commercial venture, which has made it feel less accessible. As robotics advance and the exclusivity grows, space becomes less captivating. Reigniting interest in space starts with redefining it as a field of human innovation with great significance beyond commercial gain.