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FORMALISING SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMME: THE DAWN OF A NEW
SPACE ERA

Abstract

South Africa has embarked on an ambitious space programme for which the key policy driver is "leveraging the benefits of space science and technology for socio-economic development". The South African space sector is currently poised at a critical juncture, with a number of approved instruments set to transform the space landscape. These instruments include a National Space Policy, a National Space Strategy and the South African National Space Agency Act, all of which were approved in December 2008. This paper will elaborate on these instruments and how they collectively create the enabling framework for a national space programme in South Africa and provide an update on the progress to date in terms of implementation of these instruments.