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Industrial Policies as Drivers of the Space Economy (3)

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NEW TRENDS IN THE ITALIAN SPACE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE: SMES AND TECHNOLOGY
DISTRICTS AS DRIVERS OF SPACE ECONOMY

Abstract

This paper offers an overview of the initiatives implemented by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) to support national space industry and specifically SMEs. The industrial context in Italy experienced an evolution process during the last decade, more oriented towards the European context. On the other side, the economic crisis is having a significant impact on the real economy, including a decrease in the budget managed by ASI and devoted also to industrial activities. Besides that, the aerospace sector experienced more recently an increasing role played by the Technology Districts and local administrations (Regions in particular, that are expressing the intention to invest in space activities for the benefit of their territories. In some cases ASI is also investigating the opportunity to make specific agreements with “Spacefaring Regions” in order to share economic resources and create economies of scale through the expertise of ASI, the financial resources of Regions and their capability to valorize the skills, the know-how and the relationships of specific geographical areas.