

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Public/Private Human Access to Space - Supporting Studies (2)

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AN ANALYSIS OF THE OPERATION PATTERN AND THE DEVELOPMENT TREND OF THE
INDUSTRY OF REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE

Abstract

On September 24, 1999, the high-resolution IKONOS-2 which was the first commercially operated satellite in the world was successfully launched and started business operations. Since then, many governments have issued supporting policies, the technology of satellite remote sensing and the technology of information data processing have developed rapidly, and the commercial market of remote sensing data has grown continuously. Driven by many factors, the global commercial operation of remote sensing satellite has become matured gradually and the industry has developed dramatically. According to the latest research report released by some European consulting firms, in 2011, the revenue of global commercial market of remote sensing on land has reached to 1.4 billion U.S. dollars. According to the statistics of the NSR, if the value-added revenue of downstream industries is added, the entire scale of the industry will be more than 2 billion U.S. dollars. It is estimated that the world's industry of remote sensing satellite will grow by more than three times in the next decade, and become an important driving force of the development of space industry in the future.

But at the same time, the development of the industry of remote sensing satellite across the world is in different stage and shows different patterns and features because of a variety of factors, including government policies, technical level, market demand, and supporting industries. This paper will particularly analyze various factors that have impact on the development of the industry, and predict the industry's future development trend. As far as China is concerned, the industry of commercial remote sensing satellite is in its infancy. The analysis of the global development trend will also bring some enlightenment to China's remote sensing satellite industry.