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STARTING A NEW SPACE SOCIETY: THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE ELEVATOR CONSORTIUM

**Abstract**

When the Academy published of “Space Elevators: An Assessment of the Technological Feasibility and Way Forward,” the arena of space elevators was officially “kick-started.” There have been four phases for development of space elevators leading to the second decade of the 21st century. • Phase One – Dreamers: During the last century, there were several people who thought of a string to space; but, they did not know how to accomplish the task. This included Konstantin Tsiolkovski and Arthur C. Clarke. • Phase Two – Creators: The actual designing of the space elevator using computational tools showed that the system could be built. This include Artsutanov and Pearson. • Phase Three – Engineering Feasibility: Dr. Edwards took the next leap in progress by showing how it could be accomplished. Ten years later the IAA study matured his design and presented solutions to many of the issues. • Phase Four – Development: This is the phase the industry is moving into, with its challenges for funding, mitigation of risks and deployment. With the last two phases of development, the creation of a society to support both individuals and organizations seemed timely. This paper will address its creation and its mission to support the development of the space elevator.