

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Case Studies and Prizes in Commercial Space (1)

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ENABLING SPACE MANUFACTURING: AN UPDATE FROM MADE IN SPACE

Abstract

During the Summer of 2014 an email will have been sent to space, and on that email the instructions, the blueprints, for a robot on the International Space Station to begin building the first parts ever manufactured off Earth. This incredible event marks four years of work by Made In Space, Inc., and decades of dreams by the space industry - a dream to enable space manufacturing. The robot that Made In Space has built is a 3D Printer designed specifically for operating in the microgravity environment of the space station to build spare parts, tools, science experiments, and even spacecraft. While the Made In Space ISS 3D printer will provide valuable science, increase the operational capability for the station crew, and lengthen the station life, it is but just the beginning for space manufacturing and for the vision that Made In Space is bringing to fruition. In this paper Made In Space will provide an update on our ISS 3D printer activities, which will be ongoing during the 2014 IAC, as well as discuss how these first steps lay a foundation for a future of space exploration that we have all been waiting for.