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The space economy: what are the socio-economic impacts? (3)

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SPACE ECONOMY AND ETHICAL DECISION MAKING : A DISCUSSION

Abstract

OECD measures the Space Economy by identifying the impact of resources and activities utilising space and its spin offs to mankind. The space economy goes well beyond the traditional space transportation delivery and service based sectors to a more indirect application in terms of (1) human attitudes (2) societal changes, and (3) multi disciplinary technologies. This paper is an attempt to develop and discuss an array of conceptual frameworks which can help in ethical decision making in the Space Economy, what we term: "Ethics of Space Economy." Building on author's previous ideas of space philosophy booklet to real world applications, we discuss a hueristic framework (genetic algorithm) for ethical decision making. In addition, we discuss the relevance of the concepts of Social Welfare Functions and the Capability Approach to ethical decision making in the Space Economy. Specific examples of these concepts are discussed in diverse cross cultural contexts to illustrate the socio-economic benefits to mankind at large.