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CROWFUNDED SPACE EXPLORATION MISSIONS

Abstract

Crowdfunding is the practice of funding a project or venture by monetary contributions from a large number of people (individuals or groups) using web-based platforms, bringing interested parties together to launch an idea. Many successful projects have been funded using this platform, from videogames and software to movies and other forms of art. As one might expect, this type of funding is also being extended to space exploration projects.

A few projects, such as Lunar Mission One and Africa2Moon, are currently using crowdfunding platforms to raise money for their first phases and to increase public awareness on space exploration topics. These projects are seen by some as unique opportunities to make space exploration open to the general public. However, others are more skeptical of the practicality of this approach to space exploration.

The Space Generation Advisory Council Space Exploration Working Group (SGAC-SEWG) is undertaking a study to evaluate the possibilities crowdfunding offers to space exploration missions. Our paper will analyse management and economic aspects of these projects as well as outreach opportunities.