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

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THE BRAZILIAN SPACE PROGRAM PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AS AN INSTRUMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Abstract

The National Institute for Space Research (INPE) is responsible for the development of the Brazilian satellite projects. The first projects, started in the 80's, served mainly to capacity the Institute in the satellite technologies and space projects management methodologies. The upcoming projects, whose technological content has been gradually improved, were developed with an increasing participation of the industrial sector, composed mainly by small and medium companies established due to these projects. The model used in more recent projects is quite close to the model considered by specialists as ideal for public procurement of technology: functional requirements defined by the government and design and manufacturing in charge of companies contracted through competitive processes. In this context, the purpose of this paper is to comprehend the evolution of the public procurement policy related to the Brazilian satellite projects and to evaluate in which extent these contracts promote the industrial development and technological learning. This study was based in a case study about the contracts for development and supply of the Brazilian equipment and subsystems of the CBERS 34 satellites, built in a partnership between Brazil and China. The case study results show that the Brazilian satellites projects are being structured to allow the establishment and technical expertise of a specialized industrial sector that uses resources and skills applicable to other strategic industrial sectors, generating various social, industrial and economic direct and indirect benefits.