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SPACE ELEVATOR COMMON LEXICON FROM THREE MAJOR ARCHITECTURES

Abstract

At the present time, there are three major recognized architectures for potential space elevators. They are all based upon the first: Dr. Edwards, 2002. The second was a ten-year update to Dr. Edwards' concept with international inputs within an International Academy of Astronautics Study: Feasibility of Space Elevators, 2013. The third view of the future of space elevators is portrayed in the Obayashi Corporation presentations of 2012, 13, 14. Each of these three presentations of the future concepts leveraged tremendous analyses, both engineering and social. The similarities are great while the differences are significant. These architectures will be shown leading to a proposed common lexicon for future space elevators. This common language will enable the diverse cultures and participants to discuss the strengths and uniqueness's that have surfaced. A common understanding should flow from a consensus of terminology and recognition of similarities and differences.