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Space Elevator and Tethers (3)

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SPACE ELEVATOR DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE

Abstract

During the last 16 years, since the Dr. Edwards' modern day design of a space elevator, there have been many approaches of how to proceed from concept to operations. The International Space Elevator Consortium (ISEC) has conducted many studies on the topic with a growing body of knowledge for this revolutionary transportation infrastructure. As a mega-project, the basic developmental steps will evolve; however, as it is a unique structure, there will be innovative concepts along the way. While there are many similarities with other mega projects, the differences are significant. This paper will discuss the developmental process as it applies to the space elevator and layout a proposed sequence of major milestones that are recognizable, measurable, and critical. A common understanding should flow through a consensus of ideas from the ISEC's body of knowledge leading to a recognition of similarities and differences with other mega projects.