

14TH IAA SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING BLOCKS FOR FUTURE SPACE EXPLORATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (D3)

Strategies & Architectures as the Framework for Future Building Blocks in Space Exploration and
Development (1)

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A PATHWAY TO A THRIVING COMMERCIAL SPACE ECONOMY

Abstract

After over 50 years of human spaceflight and an investment of half a trillion dollars in space exploration the United States has no well accepted overarching rationale for its human space exploration program. This paper will explore recent events that not only point to this overarching rationale but will also layout a framework for its implementation. The essential role that a thriving space economy plays in the sustainable development and settlement of space will be examined and several historical analogs are explored that offer insight into how the future program could best be structured and executed. Finally the evolving roles of government and industry as they morph during the maturation of a robust space economy will be described from government led and industry supported to industry led and government supported.