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Author: Dr. Virendra K. Jha
Canada, vjha@vrspac.ca

CHALLENGES IN TRANSFERRING GOVERNMENT FUNDED EARTH OBSERVATION
SATELLITE SYSTEMS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

Abstract

Many of the world/s space agencies have their own earth observation satellite or constellation of satellites. The Government mandate in many cases is to transfer government funded activities to the private sector after having made initial investment and taking care of the risks. Canada had successfully used such a model to transfer its Communications Satellite activities from the Government to the private sector. However while trying to do the same for earth observation satellites, Canada has not been successful. It has faced many challenges ranging from regulatory issues to political issues and also cost etc. Such challenges are not unique to Canada, many other countries face similar challenges. This paper examines all these challenges and discusses ways to overcome some of these challenges.