

Values and New Models for Space Exploration (10)

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## ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS OF NEO EXPLORATION

### **Abstract**

As more and more near earth objects (NEO), especially asteroids in the belt are discovered with predictable orbits and abundant mineral resources, the zeal of space expedition for “gold” is being aroused. In the year 2015, Obama passed the law of “Space Resource Exploration and Utilization Act”, further encouraging private companies and capital participating in this novel sector. As a result, Planetary Resources backed by Google and Virgin Galactic have already made their plans to touch the lucrative market. Like Colombo discovered American continent, there will always be a process from concept to real profit. Then the key issue to confirm companies to do the job should be nothing else but economic calculation. The technical feasibility, timeline, legal permission from the government, time to get the investment back and final ROI etc.. are the real considerations which companies and funding should care about.