

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)

New space industry segments, firms, actor groups, and multiple programs: innovation, entrepreneurship & investment at the mesoscopic level of analysis (2)

Author: Ms. Aria Colton
Australia

SPACE INNOVATION STRENGTHENS THE SOCIOECONOMIC FABRIC OF SOCIETY

Abstract

This paper addresses one main theme - the need for greater understanding of the benefits that space technology and knowledge transfer models provide to socioeconomic development and draws attention to the socioeconomic value the ISS continues to provide to humanity.

Socioeconomic development is measured using indicators including GDP, literacy, life expectancy and levels of employment while developing a Space economy is about building a nation's resilience to meet its future challenges.

Space ignites the imagination; it inspires students of all ages to become interested in math, science, art, design, technology and engineering. Developing the Space narrative as a driver for innovation will launch new industries, education, jobs/careers underpinning socioeconomic growth and providing positive externalities and technology spillovers.

Space innovation builds on and expands existing intellectual capital to strengthen the socioeconomic fabric of society. A business model such as the "National Space Innovation Hub©" would serve to organize and mobilise institutions, corporations, interested stakeholders and advocates across Australia to develop and implement a broad range of space-related programs and activities. Such an initiative is the logical step and necessary catalyst to establish South Australia and Australia as a key participant and (regional) leader in one of the fastest growing sectors of government, private, academic and commercial partnerships in the world.

While this model is focused on Australia's needs, it can be utilised by all space-faring nations. Its purpose is to provide a strategic, inclusive and integrated focal point to facilitate collaboration between industry, research institutions and local, state, territory and federal governments.

-Highlighting the socioeconomic value the ISS continues to provide to nations on Earth- Fundamental to the success of an entity dedicated to the promotion and enabling of Space Innovation is sustainability of the effort amidst evolving societal and governmental priorities and competing resource allocations. To help illustrate the kind of process that can provide that sustainability, a description of the effort to "save" the ISS from 24 different attempts to kill it in the US Congress between 1993 and 2000 is provided. The effort succeeded due largely to the marshalling of a unified support effort involving all ISS stakeholders, continually expanding that base, and having consistent themes and messages for both the focused efforts in the Congress and the outreach and public relations activities of the stakeholders. A similar effort is being undertaken now by the Coalition for Deep Space Exploration.