

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)

New space at the national, international, and overall industry levels: innovation, entrepreneurship & investment at the macroscopic level of analysis (3)

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NEW SPACE. A GLANCE AT ITALY

Abstract

According to OECD, there are three main features of the new international space environment that are driving innovation in the sector. In the first place, the strong development in the downstream space applications which, for its size, can be described as a real revolution. Secondly, the strong commitment of new corporate players across a wide range of industries in space-related activities. Lastly, the role of Governments, which are still the predominant actors both as funders of science and long-term RD, and as customers for important space services: national security, societal applications, human spaceflight. After a description of these phenomena at international level, we try to discuss about the changing role of the public sector. Governments have more and more to transform their role from determine to facilitate the development of markets. How to promote the first two characteristics above mentioned and how to maximize the impact of the space sector on the national economy is the key question. In a new international space environment where the number of public and private competitors is dramatically increasing, Governments have to implement more focused horizontal policies on the basic conditions necessary for innovation and growth of the private sector. We finally examine three indicators of a deep transformation that we register in the Italian space policy and ecosystem: a deeply new Strategic Vision Document (2016-2025) focused on the growth of the space economy, the set up of new public-private partnerships, an increase of the number of innovative private start-up.