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FOUNDING OF KOREA'S SPACE PROGRAM: 1985-1995

Abstract

South Korea's space program emerged in the mid-1980s and took shape in the early 1990s, coinciding with the rapid expansion of its economy and the end of Cold War. During this period a number of policy windows opened and allowed policy entrepreneurs to promote space as a national agenda. Among the key figures were Soon-Dan Choi, Tu-Hwan Kim, and Jangsoo Ryu, who became actively involved in the process of laying down the foundations of Korea's space program. In particular, their competing ideas led to the establishment of three different space research organizations, which they respectively played leadership roles. Such institutional setting remains largely unchanged today, along with much of the long-term vision and objectives of Korea's space program first curved out during this period.