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50 years after Apollo 11: The future of space exploration and innovation (2)

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NEW SPACE ECONOMY DRIVERS AND INDICATORS

Abstract

The New Space is a commercially driven approach impacted by new business models and mega trends, coming also from other sectors. The perimeter of impact of Space is steadily enlarging, especially in the space-related or derived activities. Space is no longer only for scientists, specialists and space users; is now perceived as an enabling infrastructure, space data will become commodities that can serve all sectors with efficient, reliable and cost effective services. The role played by the private sector is changing accordingly, with an ever increasing number of initiatives led by industry through private funding, opposed to the more traditional model led by government agencies. These initiatives are led not only by the “Space Incumbents” but also by newcomers, including giant multinational companies, small and medium companies (SMEs), start-up and non-space actors. The objective of the paper is: 1) to investigate the main drivers of the New Space Economy model, taking into consideration on the one hand the peculiarities of the geographical contexts, i.e. the European frame, with a specific focus on Italy, and the US one; and, on the other hand, the different roles along the space value chain, i.e. in particular the upstream and downstream sector; 2) to analyse and identify the most appropriate indicators useful to analyse, monitor and assess the New Space Economy.