

IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Entrepreneurship Around the World (5-GTS.1)

Author: Ms. Carla Sharpe
SKA South Africa, South Africa

THE CHALLENGES IN FUNDING SPACE AND INNOVATION AND THE UNIQUE PROGRAMMES
AND SOLUTIONS WITHIN LESSER DEVELOPED AFRICAN COUNTRIES.**Abstract**

Africa is a continent of contrast, having birthed greatness and enormous potential the continent has also faced enormous challenges. Most Africans are faced with poverty, hunger, poor education, ill health, corruption and violence with more growing numbers living in urban slums each year. In addition, Africa has suffered an economic growth rate that is far too low as well as insufficient industrial development overall.

Africans need to change Africa, educating their people and creating opportunities, value chains and industries that can grow a vibrant and integrated African economy. It is well understood that innovation and technology development are drivers of sustainable economic growth. Coupled with improved education, collaboration and good governance; African partners can work together to overcome the difficulties faced by our continent.

Technology infrastructure and development can directly impact lives by contributing to the improvement of education, provision of services, industry development and unemployment as well as by contributing to enhanced regional economic integration.

This paper examines the unique programmes such as the SKA project, Africa2Moon and the African Colocation Programme and the unique funding and innovation solutions employed by them to generate socio economic benefit in the face of many challenges.