

IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Innovation: The Academics' Perspectives (3)

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DOES ONLY INNOVATION STIMULATES NEW SPACE?

Abstract

New Space is said to boost spaceflight based on private initiatives. Basically, it is assumed that globally the private space sector will grow based on private investments. This will allow cheaper access to space driven by commercial needs rather than politics. Hence innovation for space business will grow. However New Space is seen differently in the USA compared to Europe. Even in Europe, each state sees its own way to go into the market or not. To have access to nearby cost efficient spaceports is regarded as a key element for the development of a New Space industry. Existing policies of different European countries for the space access are analyzed. Special focus has been set on different business cases for spaceport operations. This includes also the geographical logistics of industries and research organizations with needs for flying hardware in space or to conduct space experiments. Logistics and accessibility to a spaceport are included in a discussion of the different business models which analyse the spaceport operations as well as the benefits of local access to space. The results show that for specific innovative payloads i.e. bioscience or responsive information access, local spaceports will emerge the business activities in local European countries. Also constraints which will slow down innovation are discussed. An example is the missing European space law including missing standardization of rules for licensing launches. This yields to fragmentation and business uncertainty, preventing investments. The different cases are compared taking the different innovation and investment cultures in the European states and the USA into consideration.