

Interactive Presentations (IP)
Topic 12 - Interactive Presentations (12)

Author: Ms. Iva Ramuš Cvetkovič
Slovenia

THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND SPACE EXPLORATION

Abstract

There is a major gap between how experts and the regular Joe and Jane perceive space exploration. Frequently asked questions are: is there law in outer space, will crime on the Moon be legally prosecuted and my personal favorite, why is this important for me? Once each of those questions is fully addressed a new aspect appears: will privatisation swallow outer space and stop paying attention to the rules, is SpaceX permitted to send 1500 satellites into outer space? Several societal issues arising with increasing space exploration is due to simple ignorance. Our daily existence is dependant on satellites but few people are aware of that. Even while using GPS the majority doesn't realise the significance. Advertising commercial or TV segments could easily cure that, evolving people's understanding of space exploration through constant presence of space related matters in the (social) media. Once the population is made aware of the fundamentals, interest almost invariably rises, however, this can quickly be lost once exploration to other planets is brought up. Partially this might be cured by careful analysis of what space exploration actually means, but still the all time favorite question remains, "Why is this important for me?" Using terms such as "benefits to humanity" is often too abstract to explain why a matter is important, a more personal approach is required. Psychology teaches us that people strive most for what impacts them personally. Making people part of space matters is a crucial turning point in advancing space exploration. For the advancement of space exploration the first requirement is simply articulated goals that reveal to the civil society what the benefits to each Joe and Jane will be. By providing a goal benefiting the civil society, it is encouraged and motivated to debate space matters. Once that occurs, people start to take an interest, study and spread the word, making the civil society a space-oriented society. Movements often start slowly, but can grow rapidly. Often the catalyst is a small action that explodes into conversation and spreads. Crucial is to explain to the civil society how exactly space exploration benefits them, how they are involved, can be involved and most importantly why they should be involved. Offer solutions and they will be accepted. After the initial spark all that is required is a small, but constant presence in the daily life of the civil society, be it media generated or otherwise.