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Author: Mr. Gary Martin  
International Space University (ISU), United States, glmartin88@gmail.com

GOVERNMENTS ENABLING EMERGING SPACE COMPANIES TO SUCCEED

**Abstract**

The last two decades has seen a steep growth in the number of new space companies entering the marketplace due to government support and private funding. At the same time new countries are entering the space economy by creating opportunities and nurturing the grow of private space companies. This movement is generating sustainable growth, competition and innovation within the world space ecosystem.

NASA has supported the development of new space companies in the United States since the 1980s with increasing recent funding since 2000 by creating new programs and providing help for the nascent commercial space community. Since 2016, the Luxembourg government and now the new Luxembourg Space Agency (LSA) has focused on creating a sustainable space industry ecosystem by encouraging new space companies to come to Luxembourg and set up shop through a number of innovative programs.

NASA and LSA offer programs that can be modeled by other countries interested in encouraging the growth of their own local space industrial sector. NASA, through programs like Small Business and Innovative Research (SBIR), Commercial, Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS), and recent Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) has stimulated growth in the U.S. space industry, producing excellent results. In 2016, the LSA established a 5-point holistic strategy covering local and international policy, law, research, education, public-private partnerships, and funding, to grow their own new space industrial ecosystem.

This paper examines the programs set up by NASA and LSA to support new space companies that can be used as models for other countries interested in growing their space sector.