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Space Economy - New models and economic approaches for private space ventures, with an emphasis on
the needs of emerging space nations (3)

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THE BEST FROM THE TWO WORLDS: ON COMBINING THE PUBLIC GOOD AND CORPORATE
BENEFIT APPROACHES FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN OF THE EMERGING SPACE
PROGRAMS

Abstract

The paper discusses the cases of the space activities' efficiency measurement under the condition of the faded distinction between the public (that is, ones driven by the public interests) and corporate players. The necessity of more explicit approach has arisen recently due to the accumulated changes in the global space landscape, which is also of importance for building the originally efficient institutional layout by the emerging space programs of today and tomorrow. On the one hand, the growingly influential in the general context private companies like SpaceX insist on achieving goals of the universal value rather than pure corporate benefit while implementing the ambitious projects holding the interplanetary mottos. On the other hand, countries like Russia and India concentrate both for-profit and public-driven space research and exploration programs within the unified organizational perimeter of the mixed nature with correspondingly mixed goals and efficiency criteria of operations. Thus, previously clear separation between 'firms' manufacturing and selling goods and services and 'governments' supporting the flow of less tangible but very visible space exploration results seems being blurred. The methodology dilemma is two-fold. Both government and private actors should either get accustomed to considering the public goods resulting of the space exploration as a specific type of the deliverables provided by corporates and agencies alike; or rebuild the once clear 'shop counter' between the government agencies and private players where the delicate issues of public good generation stay within the public domain. While the later might sound obviously obsolete in the rapidly changing environment of today, the remaining reasonable approach is associated with 'counting the stars in the sky', that is, formulating the general approaches and particular procedures supporting the private investment in generating the non-excludable and non-rivalrous goods like scientific knowledge and supporting the further space expansion of the humankind. The paper discusses the issues of 'commodification' the space public goods and building the corresponded mixed systems of the efficiency evaluation for the players combining public and corporate elements of once rather transparent and understandable space economy value chains. This kind of analysis might be of the special interest for the emerging space players, as they are going not to be tied with the inertia of existing approaches and on-going programs, and thus are much more free in selecting the institutional design of the national space activities in a way reflecting most recent developments in space economy and industrial landscape.