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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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AN ANALYSIS ON SPACE START-UPS IN INDIA AND REQUIRED EFFORTS FOR THEIR
SURVIVAL

Abstract

It is not a coincidence that the most established space economies house the majority of space start-ups among themselves. This is because of the abundant support from the respective space agencies in the form of technology transfers and buyback policies, access to high capital investments and regulatory clarity to do business. However, in emerging space nations, start-ups often have no such support given their smaller sized space economies and thereby smaller markets for their products and services. In spite of this situation, space startups in emerging space economies have a distinct advantage over their peers in larger economies. By the very virtue of them being present in small numbers, it is easier for the players in smaller space economies to form a strong network among themselves and collectively strive towards making their voices heard during the drafting of their national space policies. In this paper, we present a case study on one such mechanism that brought together nearly all of the new space startups in India's emerging space scene.

NewSpaceIndia (NSI) is a community of not only space entrepreneurs but also journalists, lawyers, investors, engineers, scientists, academicians and analysts who are operating in the space sector in India. NSI began with a handful of participants in 2015 by leveraging social media. It now includes nearly the entire space community of the country (independent of the space agency) and has a global audience through its unique podcasts and social media platforms.

There are more than 40 startups in the NewSpaceIndia community. This paper will discuss in detail how these new space companies are organized in the domestic space ecosystem. It will also analyze and suggest steps and efforts that can be taken by the government for their survival and success. It will also include a commentary on the current domestic policies for space and contrast them against the requirements of these new space actors. This analysis and commentary can encourage similar efforts and developments in emerging space economies.