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CARIBBEAN SPACE SOCIETY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPACE AGENDA

Abstract

Founded in 2018, the Caribbean Space Society (CSS) is an initiative of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) established to advocate for and drive the creation of a Caribbean Space Agenda. In addition, part of CSS mission is to support the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, as well as depict how space technologies can be used as a tool for growth that provides small nations with opportunities that improve the economic welfare of the people. The purpose of this paper is to follow CSS' journey to not only promote an agenda for Caribbean nations trying to enter the space industry, but to set the blueprint for Small Island Developing States to do the same. Following the development of CSS, this paper explores 3 issues that small NGOs like CSS must consider to effectuate change in the space industry: 1) financial models that space societies can employ to achieve optimal resourcing of funds for space programs at national or regional level; 2) important base infrastructure requirements needed for space societies to operating on the national or regional space level; and 3) legislative and policy elements must be considered in establishing the foundation needed for national and/or regional space programs.