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PAVING THE WAY TOWARDS UNIVERSALIZATION: MULTIPLYING SUCCESS AND VALUE THROUGH GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Abstract

In the coming decades the concept of globalization will be transformed into universalization. No longer will humans be looking at the interconnectedness of people on Earth, but also on the Moon, Mars, and eventually the Universe. Universalization will not only focus on Earth issues, but more on the social, economic, and cultural opportunities on the frontier of space. To accomplish the future colonizations in space, countries need to be more cooperative in order to create a plan for a sustainable settlement in space which meets all governments' agendas.

Since the beginnings of human evolution collaboration has been a key process in innovation. It was collaboration that led Europe out of the Middle Ages, allowed Asia and the Middle East to make colossal technological advancements in their Golden Age, and enabled Russia and the United States to build the International Space Station, promoting a new era in human space flight. In the same way, international collaboration will be necessary to reach new milestones in modern space exploration. It is becoming increasingly clear that the missions related to space exploration continue to overlap between global space leaders. Although countries seek dominance in this field, studies show that forming partnerships achieves more impact, greater sustainability and more value for all.

The Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team (WCDT) located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, takes collaboration to heart. These middle school students are involved in an aerospace program where they advocate and legislate on behalf of space exploration, participate in space policy and universalization debates, compete in international space settlement contests, and design, build and launch satellites through NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative. Additionally, by creating partnerships with students in other states which have not yet launched a CubeSat, WCDT increases public awareness and contributes to expanding STEM opportunities across the United States. Through integrated CubeSat missions, WCDT aims to establish a communication network in space between CubeSats built by students from different states, thereby dividing the task and multiplying the success. Ultimately, through this collaborative spirit, WCDT aims to play an important role in producing a more educated workforce for the future of the aerospace industry.

In a similar manner, nations need to come together and approach the future of space exploration with a joint effort. The power of collaboration has been proven through the test of time and will continue to pave the path to achieving significant milestones in space exploration, and ultimately, universalization.