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Entrepreneurship and Innovation: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

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CATALYZING SPACE INDUSTRIES:: - LESSONS LEARNED FROM NEW ZEALAND ON BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL SPACE ECOSYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING AND EMERGING COUNTRIES

Abstract

Space plays a vital role in addressing global challenges and has the potential to create an abundant future. The greatest societal benefit from space requires shared participation and opportunities for people across the world. Exponential technologies have reduced the barriers to participation in both upstream and downstream space industries, and open opportunities for global participation. The key to creating equitable global space opportunities is the development of entrepreneurial space ecosystems.

We have spent the past five years supporting the development of the entrepreneurial space ecosystem in New Zealand. The New Zealand space economy has grown to employ more than 5000 and generates more than NZ1.7$Bperyear-largerthantheNewZealandwineindustry.Wetookasystemicapproachofbuildingthespaceecosystem$
$downandbottom-upinitiatedactivities.EachIndividualandorganizationhasapotentialroletoplayinco-$
$creatingthelocalspaceindustry.$

Our lessons and methodology for catalyzing the local New Zealand space industry include a systemic approach to community building, prize challenges, education, incubators, startup mentoring, and government engagement. We have developed a capability assessment tool and workshop to identify the strengths and needs to develop a local space industry in other regions. Each local country or region faces specific challenges to creating a sustainable entrepreneurial space ecosystem.

We present initial results from workshops with participants from more than 40 countries that helped them identify actions they can take to grow their local entrepreneurial space industries. Some simple actions from a few individuals can catalyze an entrepreneurial space ecosystem and enable a region to participate in space opportunities. Currently we are scaling up this effort to involve other nations and regions and are already seeing adoption in other countries. Space offers tremendous opportunities that the entire world must share, and entrepreneurship is the key element for regions to achieve the benefits of space.