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Space Resources, the Enabler of the Earth-Moon Econosphere (5)

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HOW TO FINANCE A SPACE MINING OPERATION ON THE MOON AND NEAR EARTH
ASTEROIDS

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Abstract

For years, futurists have envisioned a vast space economy fueled by mining vital resources from various celestial bodies. However, despite the alluring riches of the cosmos, there are currently no profitable space mining enterprises. According to various estimates, a fully operational and lucrative space mining operation would not only require vast sums of upfront capital but a continuous flow of financial resources. For most investors, space mining is far too risky of a venture to justify the large amounts of the required capital. As a result, we have been unable to tap into the vast opportunities that space mining offers our civilization. It is obvious that if we are going to build space mining enterprises in the coming decades, we need innovative financial mechanisms that not only provide large amounts of upfront capital but for a period longer than most current investor time horizons. With recent developments, we now have the tools that if properly modified, can finance space mining operations on the Moon and Near Earth Asteroids. This paper analyzes various alternative financial mechanisms such as Tokenized Assets and how they can be best modified to finance space mining operations. In addition to innovative financial mechanisms, several unique policy tools are also examined for their potential to finance space mining operations. For example, a modified version of Canada's Mineral Exploration Tax Credit is proposed by this paper to help finance space mining operations. With these methods, not only can we finance successful commercial space mining operations but lay the groundwork for a more ethical space economy on the Moon and Near Earth Asteroids.