

56th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY, QUALITY AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SPACE  
ACTIVITIES (D5)

Emerging trends of knowledge management in organizations (2)

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TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICAN NEWSpace COMPANIES IN  
THIS DECADE

**Abstract**

The African NewSpace industry has experienced tremendous growth in the last decade; as more companies are disrupting new markets and democratising space technologies, investments increase. In Africa, commercial ventures are developing new technologies and offering space-enabled services to address market demands in various sectors, including communications, defence, security, maritime, aviation, mining, agriculture, environment, development, education, and health.

As a result, newSpace companies in Africa are championing the adoption of space technologies and services while creating values and capturing opportunities in different market segments, such as manufacturing of satellites and associated components, space-based and ground software and equipment, communication satellite services, earth observation and remote sensing services, surveillance and geospatial analytics, space tourism, navigation and positioning services, and propulsion system development.

While some NewSpace companies have expanded to regions outside of Africa, others have begun partnering with foreign companies. Specifically, 2021 ushered in the acquisition of the African NewSpace company by a big foreign player in the space industry, which is a testament to the growth and potential of the African NewSpace industry. In addition, these companies have also contributed significantly to the continent by offering solutions to security, education, environmental, and agricultural issues through satellites and other space technologies.

Although the NewSpace segment in Africa has enjoyed some great successes over the past few years, it is still primarily considered an emerging market. This is partly because of the slow progression of this market, attributed to a myriad of difficulties, most notably financial and political woes, market reach and lack of human capital. This paper will analyse the trends, challenges and opportunities identified for 285 profiled NewSpace companies. In addition, the paper will provide practical recommendations based on best practices from other regions to ensure the growth of these companies in this decade and beyond.

Also, the paper will highlight the investment potential of these companies, their chances in the long run, the strategic partnerships entered into by these companies since their inception, and the significant milestones they have achieved since their establishment.