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Space Entrepreneurship and Investment: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

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EMERGING SPACE: PRACTITIONERS' REFLECTIONS ON BUILDING NEW SPACE
ECOSYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD

Abstract

The space sector is attracting more and more businesses from an ever-increasing number of regions and countries, rather new to the network of well-established partnerships. The emerging space ecosystem can be defined as a region or country that is relatively newer to a comprehensive space ecosystem build-up, yet significantly increases its efforts in this domain. Due to the dynamically changing nature of the global space economy, emerging space ecosystems can find themselves needing to use a novel approach distinctive from the one they would prefer in the past. This shift allows these regions to flexibly adapt their ecosystems to the current needs and developments of the global space economy to maximise efficiency in industrial capacity building. The purpose of this paper is to share the experience gathered over the past three years by the Slovak Space Office with its Emerging Space initiative. This initiative is providing international partners a unique opportunity to discuss and learn from business and institutional representatives about the most efficient mechanisms for space ecosystem creation and its integration to established value chain networks. The international spin-offs and side events of Emerging Space were an official part of various prestigious international platforms including UN COPUOS, IAC, or World EXPO. The objective of this paper is to share the analysis of survey data collected during the Slovak Space Office Emerging Space activities from dozens of partners all around the world (e.g., IGOs, NGOs, business, think-tanks, industry). The valuable data delivers views on current trends, challenges, and opportunities for countries with emerging space ecosystems. The analysis focused on best practices, strategies, challenges, or mechanisms of sector build-up and collaboration between institutional and industrial actors with a special focus on established and emerging players. This paper contributes to a broader understanding of the functioning and dynamics of space economies at a different level of evolution (established vs. emerging). What are the current capacity-building mechanisms in-and-for the emerging space regions? The main contribution of this paper relates to the discussion regarding the drivers of new businesses, markets, or industrial partnership exploration in the New Space era.