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IS THERE A NEW TECHNOLOGICAL PARADIGM FOR THE SPACE SECTOR?

Abstract

Paradigm and technological trajectory are important concepts for the area of innovation and industrial economics. Through these concepts it is sought to evaluate the technological evolution of a certain sector of the economy. The technological paradigm means the current technological framework, the knowledge, and technologies available at that time to guarantee the development of the sector. Within a paradigm, several trajectories can be followed, and the adoption of one discourages the advancement of the others. The paradigm shift implies radical changes in the innovation patterns of the economy and industry. In the case of the space sector, it is possible to identify the main turning points with the change of technological paradigm. The creation of reusable rockets can be considered a turning point, which allowed drastic changes in the space sector, with a sharp reduction in costs, an increase in the number of launches and the growth of private sector participation in an environment historically dominated by the public sector.