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

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BUILDING ROCKETS, TAKING RISKS, AND BREAKING BARRIERS: THE TRAILBLAZING
STORY OF GWYNNE SHOTWELL'S CAREER IN AEROSPACE

Abstract

Gwynne Shotwell's leadership has earned her a place in Forbes 2022's list of '100 Most Powerful Women,' where she is listed as the 31st most powerful woman in the world. She has worked at SpaceX since its early days in 2002, is responsible for its day-to-day operations, and as SpaceX's President and Chief Operating Officer, she plays a crucial role in the company's growth. Under her direction, SpaceX has achieved remarkable success, including becoming the first privately funded company to send a spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS) to successfully landing and reusing the Falcon 9 rockets. Gwynne Shotwell's contributions to space industry extend far beyond her work at SpaceX. She has authored dozens of papers on a wide array space-related subjects and has received numerous awards including The World Technology Award for Individual Achievement in Space, Induction into the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame, and Forbes' America's Top 50 Women in Tech, to name a few. Shotwell's career trajectory and leadership make her a powerful role model and an inspiration for women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). This paper discusses in detail, Shotwell's journey at SpaceX, as well as her substantial efforts to promote inclusivity and diversity in the space sector.