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THE INSTITUCIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE ALCANTARA LAUNCH CENTER

Abstract

The world space economy grows every year, with private participation in this sector increasing and with projections of growth of this market. The socioeconomic benefits of a strengthened space sector come from the applications of space technology, which have applications in decision-making on issues such as environmental protection, urban and rural development, climate change, among others. Launch infrastructures are essential to ensure the launch and replacement of satellites, which act in constellations or isolated and provide data. Brazil has one of the best infrastructures for launching space artifacts in the world, the Alcantara Launch Center, which has the potential to serve this launch market, but does not offer a commercial service. Considering that Brazil is one of the few countries that has access to space, through the CLA, and that this is recognized as one of the most favorable geographic locations in the world for space launches, and considering that the space economy is growing at big steps on a world scale, this research proposes to answer why the CLA is not part of this economy, in the launching niche. To this end, the theoretical perspective offered by the new institutional economics was adopted, which will allow identifying the institutional environment and governance structures that involve the commercialization of services by the CLA. The single case study was adopted, which will allow to deepen in the proposed theme. The study points to the existence of governance structures, but they are fragile and do not favor the commercialization of space services, either due to the lack of legal security due to territorial conflicts, or due to the lack of national legislation that regulates the sector, among others. Finally, the governance structures that are missing for the CLA to be part of the space market are presented.