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POWERING THE NEW SPACE ECONOMY WITH ADVANCED SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES

Abstract

The new space economy, fueled by commercialization, will provide significant benefits to all of humanity. Investment in space has been unlocked by decreasing launch costs, spurring near-earth, lunar, and deep space missions. These activities cannot be sustained by existing energy solutions alone. The development of advanced solar technologies will play a critical role in this and is necessary to power the spacecraft and other systems that will be used to explore and utilize space, as well as to support the infrastructure that will be needed to sustain life and create a viable economy on the Moon and Mars. Along with nuclear power and innovative propulsion systems, key energy technologies that will be needed are advanced solar power systems. With this as a focus today, we can lay the groundwork for a vibrant and sustainable space economy tomorrow.