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KOREA'S JOURNEY TOWARDS SPACE TECHNOLOGY INDEPENDENCE

**Abstract**

The Korean space community has consistently emphasized the need for government budget support in developing core space technology. In response, a program was implemented in Korea from 2008 to 2021 to enhance technological self-reliance. The program focused on projects for space technology development. Over 13 years, 119 projects were supported, bolstering space development capabilities in various sectors. However, the technologies developed weren't directly applied to satellite and launch vehicle components. To address this, the government launched the Space Pioneer program, aiming to invest in space component development with the goal of practical application in space systems by 2030. Furthermore, a space technology satellite is being planned to serve as a platform for testing components developed through the Space Pioneer program. A feasibility study for this satellite was commissioned in May 2023. This paper highlights the key factors crucial for the success of ongoing and future programs supporting space technology self-reliance.