

IAF BUSINESSES AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)  
Space Entrepreneurship and Investment: The Practitioners' Perspectives (1)

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INVESTING IN THE COSMOS: STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL SPACE  
DEVELOPMENT

**Abstract**

**Abstract Objective:** This study aims to dissect and analyze the complex relationship between innovative financial mechanisms and sustainable, responsible space entrepreneurship. The paper's goal is to offer a comprehensive strategic guide that not only promotes a robust and profitable space economy but also ensures it is underpinned by ethical and sustainable practices.

**Methods:** The research begins by mapping the evolution of the space industry from predominantly government-led explorations to a more diversified, private sector-led endeavor. It provides a thorough examination of the financial landscape, detailing the shift from traditional funding sources to a variety encompassing venture capital, angel investment, and emerging crowdfunding platforms. The paper then zeroes in on key growth areas of the space economy, such as space tourism, asteroid mining, and in-orbit servicing, dissecting their financial viability, technological trends, and the ethical implications of their development. Critical to this analysis is a focus on the risk management strategies that investors and companies employ in these inherently high-risk markets, looking at how they balance potential returns with the unique risks of space ventures.

**Results:** The findings illuminate a distinct trend towards a more varied and innovative funding landscape, catalyzed by rapid technological advancements and the expanding commercial potential of space. The study identifies promising economic prospects within new space industries, acknowledging the complexities of their market entry, technological challenges, and regulatory hurdles. It provides a nuanced understanding of the risk-reward calculus that underpins space investments and highlights the emerging tools and methodologies used to manage these risks. Throughout, the study emphasizes the need for responsible investment practices that consider the long-term implications of space activities.

**Conclusions:** The paper culminates in a set of strategic recommendations targeting a broad range of stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers. These recommendations advocate for fostering an ecosystem that not only seeks financial returns but also prioritizes responsible innovation, economic sustainability, and ethical stewardship. The study asserts the necessity of viewing space as a shared domain, emphasizing collective responsibility and the potential for widespread benefit. By integrating financial analysis with market insights and ethical considerations, the research contributes to a more nuanced discourse on space entrepreneurship and investment, advocating for a future where space is not merely a venue for commercial gain but a sphere of human achievement, cooperation, and ethical opportunity.