

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

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SPACE INVESTMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE SPACE INDUSTRY

Abstract

Space Investment to Contribute to Sustainable Space Industry
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The landscape of space industry has been changing for a few years because of geopolitical pressures, emerging space countries, investment status and so on. Virgin Orbit bankruptcy was crucial for investment status, which is a kind of symbol of difficulties after SPAC corruption in the market.

It has a big against wind on space investment for these two years. Space venture companies have had exertion to achieve funding. The weak business fundamentals have come up to the surface by SPAC rush. Now space venture companies drive a real change to be healthy to meet that VC still has a mind to invest in space venture companies. Now MA is expected to strength and sustainable space industry for the next decade.

In these circumstances of such commercial space difficulties, for the first time, Japanese space venture company, ispace, went public on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in the first half of April 2023. ispace, a lunar lander company which has had launched its first lunar lander at the end of 2022 and failed to land on the moon in the second half of April 2023. Two more space venture companies, ridge-i and QPS went to public in 2023. There expect other few space venture companies which aimed to go public in 2024.

There are three following winds on Japanese space venture companies, which are Startup Development Five-year Plan, increasing space budget, and increasing defense budget. Especially, Startup Development Five-year Plan Funded in 2022 to establish startup ecosystem with 10 times investment within five years. A big funding by SBIR, K Program(Key and Advanced Technology RD through Cross Community Collaboration Program), and Star Dust Program, and so on have been started for space venture companies. In addition to that, JAXA fund was established with 1 trillion yen over 10 years and will be start funding in 2024.

The demand of space for our daily life and home land security have been expanded. Space based data and secure communication are sought more and more. AI has brought innovation for space utilization dramatically. It is also transition time to expand LEO destinations and Moon to Mars. SpaceX has been changing the architecture and landscape of global space industries. Now another big step toward sustainable space industries are expected by strategic space investments.