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Assuring the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (4)

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ENABLING COMPLEMENTARY COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES IN SPACE

Abstract

The human exploration and development of the space frontier for the benefit of society is a common theme in national and international space policy discussions. At the same time, it is increasingly recognized that private enterprises and individuals may have distinct and more immediate interests deriving from the unique attributes of the space environment. The extent to which governments can and should encourage such private interests, and the means by which this might best be done while continuing to preserve and protect the larger public interest, is a topic at the forefront of space policy. In this paper, we consider various imperatives for the human development of space, public and private, and the relative strengths brought to the task by each. Public policy initiatives designed to promote the creation of free markets and the private development of space infrastructure are offered.