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Space Economy - New models and economic approaches for private space ventures, with an emphasis on
the needs of emerging space nations (3)

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GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT TO PRIVATE SPACE VENTURES IN EMERGING SPACEFARING
NATIONS

Abstract

Established space nations are no longer the only players populating the space industry. Not only the number of countries engaged in space is increasing, but private companies are blooming across the map, including within emerging spacefaring nations. Emerging spacefaring nations such as Australia, New Zealand, the UAE and Argentina, just to name a few, are now progressively witnessing the emergence of a vibrant commercial space industry with the ability to provide end-to-end missions, dealing with all stages of design, development, and manufacture, and at times even operation. Private companies in these countries, often start-ups, have now started to position their offerings within the national and international market and promise not only to disrupt the way space activities are conducted in their home countries, but also to exercise a relevant influence on the future space economy.

Cases where private actors thrive most successfully tend to be where public institutions and private actors realize both sides have something to bring to the other and have established synergies in the fulfilment of their respective objectives. On the one hand, public institutions enact regulations fostering an environment that is ideal to economic initiatives, and provide support through investment, visibility, training, competition, etc. On the other, private companies support governmental objectives by contributing to innovation and breakthroughs and service delivery that public stakeholders may not be able to achieve.

Drawing on extensive research conducted at the European Space Policy Institute, this paper aims to shed light on specific governmental support structures to private space ventures in emerging spacefaring nations. In the first section, the paper explains why the private sector in emerging spacefaring nations is operating under new models and generally following different economic approaches in comparison with more traditional models and approaches adopted in Europe and the United States. The second section reviews the type of financial, legal, and policy incentives put in place by public institutions in emerging spacefaring nations in order to either attract, retain, or retrieve private initiatives. The third section lays current trends fed by the private sector in those nations, with a particular emphasis on micro launchers and small satellite constellations. Lastly, the fourth section focuses on case studies from three countries (Australia, Argentina, and UAE) where private ventures have successfully conducted their operations, contributing to the space economy and the societal needs of their country.