

IAF BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
Entrepreneurship Around the World (5-GTS.1)

Author: Ms. Elyka Abello
Argentina, eabello@innova-space.com

Mr. Ignacio Pintos
Argentina, ipintos@innova-space.com

Mr. Alejandro Cordero
Argentina, acordero@innova-space.com

SPACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA: UNREACHABLE DREAM OR PERFECT
OPPORTUNITY?

Abstract

Traditionally, space industry has been led by space agencies, which are strongly dependent on government budgets and policies. In developed countries, this worked well enough for more than 40 years; but for developing countries, which are usually political and economic unstable, the government dependency drives to a lack of continuity to the space projects. Some countries, like Ecuador and Colombia, have established civilian space agencies as an answer to this problem. Globally, the answer has been the new space. Thousands of private companies and start-ups are emerging; with hundreds of US dollars billions revenue, space industry is a very interesting market, but it is also getting very crowded, hence, very competitive. Latin America doesn't want to be the exception; there are several companies emerging, some of them already globally recognized, like Satellogic. But the question is, are the economical and political problems going to affect also this new way of space industry development? This research shows an outlook of the current state of the space entrepreneurial ecosystem in Latin America. It was found that space entrepreneurship remains heavily dependent on government, policies and economic stability, since there are still not private funds suitable for space startups. On the other hand, compared to developed regions, like Europe or USA, in Latin America there is not much competitors in the sector, making it easier to get the few opportunities available. Nevertheless, these opportunities, usually coming from government funding, are enough just for the seed capital and maybe build the minimum viable product; meaning that taking your start-up further, requires foreign investment.