

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

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Abstract

In the context of the New Space era, there are more and more countries trying to make use of outer space. Many of them do not have the experience, funds, technology, materials or other elements to be able to do so.

In order to achieve the equal access of countries to outer space established in the legal framework of outer space, technological and economic competition must be fostered on equal terms. Technology transfer (Tt) is a tool for guarantee the access to space and opportunity for business, especially in developing countries.

In concrete, Tt is the way to share technology, skills and knowledge. These transfers are produced between organizations with fewer resources, to get scientific advances in an easier and more accessible way. Thus, enables the technological development and at the same time creates value for products and services.

An important part of technology transfer is the protection of intellectual property (IP) associated with innovations developed in research institutions or enterprises. Usually the transfer is done through the following processes: a) Sale of rights to intellectual property assets. b) Licensing of intellectual property assets. c) Collaboration agreements. d) Generation of new technology-based companies (spin-offs and start-ups).

This is relevant for the space sector, since it requires multiple inventions and innovation for its operation, which raises the cost of research and commercialization, it is necessary to explore legal alternatives to facilitate and reduce the cost of technology use among the industry, on the other hand, it is also necessary to emphasize the importance of the protection offered by industrial property to inventions, although unfortunately sometimes this becomes a monopoly that slows down other agents interested in the use of patents.

For this reason, it is necessary to use the figure of technology transfer, to continue protecting and encouraging inventive activities within the sector and at the same time opening the possibility of using them. This democratizes knowledge, strengthens the economy, as well as national and international cooperation.

It is urgent for the developing countries' space industry to start using these tools for its economical and innovation development.