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THE BRAZILIAN SPACE PROGRAM: AN ANALYSIS ON INNOVATION, SPACE EXPLORATION  
AND ITS SOCIOECONOMIC BENEFITS

**Abstract**

It is undeniable that space and the activities pertaining to it receive considerable interest from the public opinion. Its innovative character places it in the technological frontier, requires highly qualified work-force and allows it to represent perfectly Joseph Schumpeter's ideas on how innovation plays such an important role on society's economic development. This paper, while bringing to light the connection between innovation, space exploration and the socioeconomic benefits from the interaction of the first two to the Brazilian population, consists of a case study aiming to discuss the Brazilian Space Program's current status with the help of a SWOT analysis and its possible future by presenting a list of goals that could lead to its efficient implementation. Finally, this paper could influence the decision-making process of the Brazilian public administration by providing strong evidence of the effects of investment into space exploration on society.