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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPACE: WHEN WILL IT MATTER, AND WHY?

Abstract

This paper examines the development of modern Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and investigates implications for space sustainability. Using a comprehensive study as a model, the research explores historical factors of CSR evolution and discusses current gaps and potential parallels that could bring space sustainability under a typical corporate sustainability management strategy. This paper provides a brief overview of CSR, the space economy, and space sustainability, and then begins a comprehensive discussion of space-focused CSR. As part of the research for this paper, the author conducted a review of current sustainability strategy of leading global firms, as well as sustainability standards and recommendations from prominent non-government organizations. This paper also provides suggested policy, management, and research initiatives to further the progression of CSR for space sustainability. The summary conclusion of this research is that, historically, CSR has only evolved after environmental disasters, and while space sustainability likely has several years to become part of modern CSR, the space industry cannot endure similar catastrophes without significant impact on space operations. Therefore, incorporating space into CSR should be encouraged and hastened through appropriate initiatives.