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EMPLOYMENT, SUPPLY CHAIN AND SME SUPPORT IN PRIVATE-DRIVEN NATIONAL SPACE
PROGRAM IN COVID-19 CRISIS

Abstract

Korea national space program (esp.Space Pioneer, private-driven national space program), which launched in the middle of COVID-19 crisis has taken some ad-hoc policies on employment, supply chain and SME supports. Private-driven national space program requires private participants to match fund for certain ratio to program budget, but Space Pioneer Program required reduced fund-matching ratio so that SMEs, which are part of and affected from weakened global supply chain could be relieved from cash flow problem. Additionally, policies and measures on employment requirement corresponding to amount of budget support introduced to this program as sustaining employment is the first-of-all consideration, as employment has impacts on not only individuals and companies level but national space technology level and its capacity. Also, from the preparation and the beginning of the program, responses and actions to weakened domestic/international parts supply networks have been taken since delayed delivery and supply could have resulted in delay to national space systems development schedule.