

Defining the Space Economy

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Recent analysis suggest that a fully developed space-based economy is poised to dwarf the current economic activities on Earth. Realizing the full promise and possibility of that growth—a forecasted \$1 trillion globally by 2040—demands bringing together business leaders, academics, innovators, investors, technical experts, government stakeholders and decision-makers to envision, design, and build the future of space commerce, together.

One of the primary goals of ASCEND is to facilitate that collaboration by expanding the opportunity for participation and, ultimately, the collection of industries that are included in the definition of the space economy. The commercial space ecosystem must transcend the aerospace and defense industries to include a much broader range of adjacent interests, such as agriculture, construction, IT, telecommunications, hospitality and tourism, food and beverage, fashion, and more.

To achieve this expansion, there is an immediate need for new ideas, investment in promising ideas, and support for critical infrastructure and capabilities. ASCEND will be the platform, working with other national and international professional organizations, to engage relevant stakeholders and interested parties in this discussion.

An increased emphasis will be placed on interdisciplinary submissions that incorporate education, public outreach, policy and law, manufacturing, operations, economic factors, supply chain management, international partnerships, public-private partnerships and technical standards.

Technical Papers | Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- » Adjacent Industry Applications, such as Agriculture, Construction, Entertainment, Food and Beverage, Hospitality, Mining, Pharmaceuticals, and Retail
- » Commercial Space Stations
- » Economic and Business Case Analysis
- » In-Space Infrastructures
- » In-Space Manufacturing & Assembly
- » Insurance and Risk Management
- » Investment and Financing
- » LEO Constellations
- » Licensing and Oversight Regimes
- » Market Stimulation and Incentivization
- » Multisector Partnerships
- » National and International Advocacy, Cooperation, and Outreach
- » On-orbit Servicing
- » Realizing Societal Benefits
- » Space Laws and Legal Structure Supporting Economic Expansion
- » Space Tourism
- » Supply Chain Management
- » Sustainable New Space Enterprises
- » Technology Transfer
- » Utilization of Commercial Flight Vehicles for Maturation of Space Technologies

Entrepreneurial Development Activities

Individuals, organizations and subject matter experts are encouraged to propose case studies, workshops, and tutorial sessions on space-related commercial stimulation initiatives, such as SBIR/STTR programs, technology incubators and accelerators, business plan and pitch development, and technology transfer programs.