

The OECD Space Forum

How do Space Activities Relate to the Global Economy?

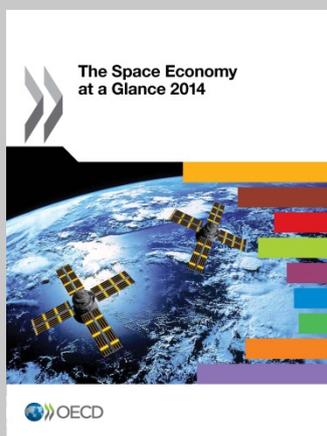
The OECD Space Forum in the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation assists governments, space-related agencies and the private sector to better identify the statistical contours of the growing space sector worldwide, while investigating the space infrastructure's economic significance and potential impacts for the larger economy.

Why space in the OECD?

Space activities are not anymore the remit of a few countries. In our interconnected world, more than 60 countries have now satellites in orbit. Satellite signals and data play an increasingly pivotal role in the efficient functioning of societies and their economic development, with investments in space programmes often contributing to drive scientific exploration and knowledge. The number of public and private actors engaging in space activities internationally has grown exponentially in the past decade, with global value chains forming and innovations in space systems (e.g. small satellites), products and services (e.g. satellite broadband, imagery) making space ever more relevant to tackling down-to-earth challenges.

The first OECD project on the space sector was launched in the early 2000s to explore how space technologies could contribute to managing some of the major challenges facing society (e.g. environment, natural resources, digital divide, mobility). Many new uses of space applications were identified in a wide range of economic sectors, although barriers remained to take full advantage of long-term investments. As a result of the project, it was found that the OECD could contribute expertise, evidence based information and a unique convening power in gathering stakeholders in the international space community to discuss crucial economic issues pertaining to their activities: the OECD Space Forum was born.

Selected publications



Activities of the OECD Space Forum

The OECD Space Forum is a unique international platform, with the mission to better identify the space sector statistically, and investigate its economic dimensions as an infrastructure for the larger economy and society. Co-operating with the space community and different OECD bodies, two main types of activities are undertaken by the Forum:

- Dedicated work on statistics and economic indicators, so as to contribute with other actors to the emergence of international comparative data on the space sector and its contribution to economic activity more broadly, including its role for innovation;
- Research on evaluation and impact assessment of space-related investments, exploring the broad economic and social dimensions of space applications, contributing to expert communities (e.g. international workshops on methodologies and specific applications).

As part of its activities, the Space Forum contributes to broader priorities of the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP), such as ongoing work on the digitalisation of science, technology and innovation, and the role of emerging technologies for addressing grand challenges.

Members of the OECD Space Forum

As of October 2016, the OECD Space Forum Steering Group Members include: Agencia Espacial Mexicana (AEM), Agenzia Spaziale Italiana (ASI), Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), Canadian Space Agency (CSA), European Space Agency (ESA), German Aerospace Centre (DLR), the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Norwegian Space Centre (NRC), and the UK Space Agency. Other interested parties, agencies, ministries from OECD and non-OECD countries and representatives of the private sector and industry associations are regularly invited to participate and provide their views during dedicated workshops.

Further reading

Website

The OECD Space Forum, <https://www.innovationpolicyplatform.org/oecd-space-forum>.

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