



## The Great Game of Economics Afoot in Space

**Summary:** On Thursday January 14, 2021, over 170 participants joined "[The Great Game of Economics Afoot in Space](#)" webinar with NewSpace New Mexico and authors, Bruce Cahan and Dr. Mir [Sadat of "Space Policies for the New Space Age: Competing on the Final Economic Frontier,"](#) a report that dissects the challenges of space as viewed from 2060 - 40 years from now, and proposes a multidisciplinary framework to advance government, private sector and scientific interests in space.

**The Great Game of Economics Afoot in Space:** This was the first in a series of five webinars hosted by NewSpace New Mexico to explore the findings and recommendations from "[Space Policies for the New Space Age: Competing on the Final Economic Frontier,](#)" authored by Bruce Cahan and Dr. Mir Sadat. Their Report dissects the challenges of space as viewed from 2060 - 40 years from now, and proposes a multidisciplinary framework to advance government, private sector and scientific interests in space. Their Report reviews the U.S. economic and political history that created terrestrial critical infrastructures, and recommends that space economic development leverage fully all U.S. national instruments of power (diplomacy, information, military, economics, financial, intelligence, legal, and science & technology). Noting that every country has sovereign rights to develop space assets, the Report recommends that U.S. design and implement a multi-Administration North Star vision to compete effectively, which involves increasingly more nations' national security, civil, and commercial space stakeholders.

Based on Proceedings from the [State of the Space Industrial Base 2020 workshop](#) sponsored by the U.S. Space Force, the Defense Innovation Unit, and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, this supplemental Report "describes how to transform existing and emerging US space policies, legislation, and strategies into action plans that will ensure U.S. strategic leadership in space for the 2040-2060 timeframe."

Following a welcome and introduction of the authors by Casey Anglada DeRaad, NewSpace New Mexico's founder and CEO, and opening comments from Bruce Cahan and Mir Sadat, Kevin O'Connell, U.S. Department of Commerce's Director of the Office of Space Commerce, delivered the keynote remarks. Mr. O'Connell, who wrote the foreword to the Report, emphasized the necessity of leveraging both government and industry capabilities to maintain our comparative advantage in the growing space economy. He pointed to the unprecedented bipartisan, whole-of-government priorities documented in the recently published National Space Policy as evidence of the government's recognition of the prominent and expanding role of

commercial activities to bolster America's national security and economic prosperity. Mr. O'Connell also stressed the need for the following:

- Developing more robust methods of quantifying specific sectors of the space economy to attract and increase the confidence of investors;
- Leveraging all the economic development, regulatory, and other tools to make the government a better, more predictable partner; and
- Improving partnerships with traditional allies, emerging space powers, and the private sector to establish the norms, values, and behaviors that will guide global space activities.

The webinar continued with initial presentations from our diverse panel thought leaders (listed below) each who emphasized one or more U.S. national instruments of power that the Report identified. This was followed by a question-and-answer session wherein Mr. O'Connell, the panelists, and authors addressed audience questions on topics ranging from space policy continuity in the new Administration, to property ownership in space, to the impact of U.S. Space Force maturation, to U.S.-China relationships, and how to address the threat of space debris.

To conclude the webinar, the authors summarized the discussions and touched on the need for increased emphasis on technical and vocational workforce development that reflects America's diversity to drive required innovations across government agencies. Recordings and a more comprehensive summary of the webinar are available on the NewSpace New Mexico website ([www.newspacenm.org](http://www.newspacenm.org)).

Panelists (in order of speaking):

Dr. Keith W. Crane, Economist, Science & Technology Policy Institute (STPI)

Mike French, VP Space Systems, Aerospace Industries Association

Christopher Johnson, Space Law Advisor, Secure World Foundation

Dr. Brendan Mulvaney, Director, China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI)

Christian Zur, Executive, Procurement & Space Industry Council, US Chamber of Commerce

Carissa Bryce Christensen, CEO & Founder, Bryce Space Technology