

THE SPACE ECONOMICS

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One of the biggest debates in the first half-century of spaceflight has been regarding the economic rationale for sending spacecraft—robotic or human—into the cosmos. Opponents of spaceflight, particularly human missions, see such efforts as extravagances that waste money that could be better spent “on Earth”, that is, in different areas like the environment, education, and social programs, among others.

But let's face the fact that Earth cannot solely support our entire race for much longer. If fact it can't support all of us now. With each new child born the resources get spread a little thinner. We need to begin moving into space in order to survive as a species. We are completely capable of doing this. The only thing that is holding us back is our inability to come together and become organized. Unfortunately in order for our civilization to begin spreading into space it is going to take a combined effort of many (to say the least).

It is projected that earth can theoretically sustain a human population of 7.7 billion. The current population is 6,676,349,373 and is growing by at least 90 million a year. From those numbers you can see that we have a rather significant problem looming over us. Think about how many times you have heard about people that are starving because they have no access to food, just in the month or so. It is estimated that we are a little over half way through our planet's oil resources and not even half the world is even industrialized yet. There are just too many people depending on this planet for their only sources of, well everything. This does not make any sense.

In June, NASA released a new strategic communications plan to better communicate the agency's mission to a public that was skeptical or simply unaware of the relevance the agency has in their lives. Part of that plan was a concept of “The Space Economy” intended to show the effect of space exploration on the economy: