

Space Summit Recommendations -2002

Below are observations and recommendations from the three sessions.

Commercial Space Issues:

- Today's commercial satellite market is not sufficient to sustain current space launch systems or justify industry investment in new technologies. Government support is needed to meet national objectives in security, civil and commercial sectors.
- In many cases, government funding or requirements lead to the development of new technologies and applications. Once the development is mature, industry develops commercial products and services based on those applications.
- Although export controls on space-related technologies reflect legitimate national security and nonproliferation concerns, they limit international cooperation and inhibit growth of the commercial sector. Governments should harmonize export control requirements according to true national security needs and create timely, predictable and transparent systems for licensing space technologies.
- Dual-use space systems can efficiently and reliably serve users in both the public and private sectors.

Space Exploration Issues:

- Discoveries to be made through space exploration are inexhaustible. Space exploration is a global endeavor and a vision is needed that looks beyond the space station and involves robotics, human exploration and the search for life.
- The International Space Station program represents an unprecedented technical achievement and, despite current problems, it will be successful and provide a model for international cooperation.

Space Applications Issues:

- Data access is still a problem in certain circumstances, although the cost of the raw data itself might be a minor contributor to the overall cost of value-added products. If requests are defined to meet specific needs rather than as a blanket demand, it might enhance data availability from providers.
- Remote sensing programs are increasingly being defined by user requirements, rather than by space data providers, which is a welcome trend.
- The Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership is a first real step toward a global Earth-observing system and is providing a foundation on which to build. It is important to use and strengthen existing activities such as IGOS and not try to create new mechanisms.