

Perspective on Benefit in Lunar and Space Resources Development

MVA Webinar Series:

Governance of Global Moon Exploration and Settlement Episode 3 – Sharing the Benefits of Lunar Activities September 8, 2020

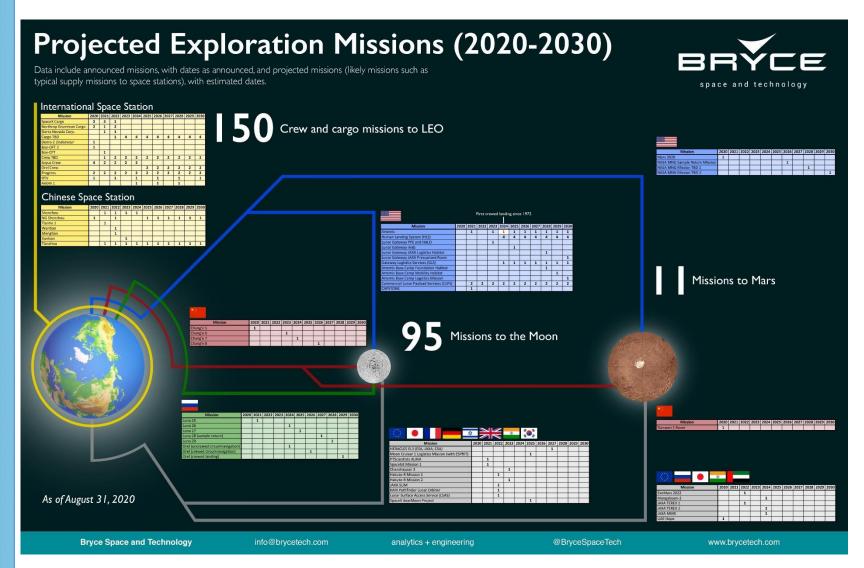
Ian Christensen

Director of Private Sector Programs

Secure World Foundation



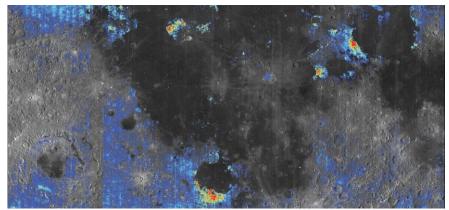
A Busy Time for the Moon...





Space Resources - Opportunity and Need

- Living in space for long periods of time will require making use of available resources
- Both the Moon and asteroids contain useable deposits of water and other natural resources which can support exploration activities
- Water can be processed into rocket fuel while other resources can be used to support other infrastructure development
- Fuel sourced from in-space resources offers the potential to lower the cost of in-space applications and enable broader and more sustained exploration activities



Space resource utilization is a gateway capability for human space exploration and a sustained human presence beyond low Earth orbit



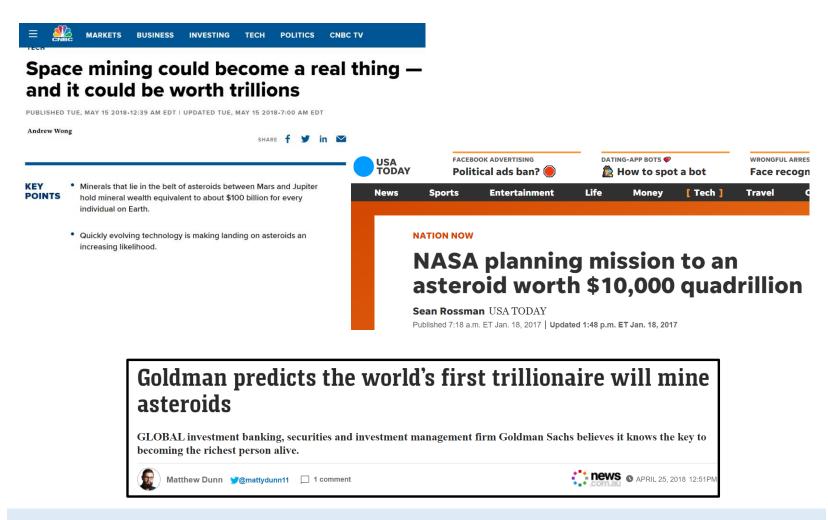
Observations on Industry Positions

- Commercial or private lunar exploration & space resources industry segments are new and in-early stage
 - Most activity in the near-medium term will be closely associated with government programs & government customers
- Companies are under pressure to demonstrate technical viability and to fly successful technology demonstration missions
 - Companies also responding to investor pressure need to demonstrate progress towards executing business plans
- Profit motivated of course but also a motivation of expanding humanity's access to space
 - Industry concerns about benefit being defined in purely monetary terms
- Industry actors looking for regulatory certainty but concerned about too much regulation. Need for adaptive governance
- Industry actors interested in broad partnerships, but may be uncertain about the best ways to partner with emerging space countries





But What About:



Business and technical plans for returning resources to Earth are very speculative. And the economic assumptions require further analysis...



Benefit From Space Resources & Lunar Development

The Outer Space Treaty

- Preamble: "Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for the <u>benefit of all peoples</u> irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific development,..."
- ARTICLE I: "The exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the <u>benefit and in the</u> <u>interests of all countries</u>, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind."
- > What is benefit? How do we define it? How do we communicate it?
 - ➤ Need not be should not be monetary in nature
- > Participation of, and impact on, emerging or developing space states
- Identification of responsible and sustainable space resources utilization practices
 - Can we leverage experience/examples from other domains: e.g. Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
- ➤ Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group Building Block on Benefit
- ➤ MVA Principles #2 on Benefit Sharing



Benefit Sharing Topics - Broadly



SocioEconomic Panel

Capacity Building for Space Resources

- Increase participation and engagement by stakeholders whom are not directly involved in or space resources activities.
- Includes policy, technical, and business awareness
- Partnerships and data sharing
- Successful models in particular in Earth observation segment

Five Analysis Topics

- 1. Social License to Operate
- 2. International Cooperation Models
- 3. Principles for Responsible Investment
- 4. Capacity Building for Space Resources
- 5. Data Sharing and Lessons Learned

Principles for Responsible Investment

- Recommend that separate set of principles be created specifically for Responsible Investment in Space Resources activities
- Informing factor for the future development of industry operator focused best practices and/or standards
- Helps to consider sustainability



Key Issues Moving Forward

- Identification and/of description of global benefits from space resources & lunar development
- Resource access rights balancing "non-appropriation" vs.
 "freedom of exploration and use"
 - International claim and registration system?
 - Historic/heritage sites / sites of scientific interest?
 - Balancing commercial use vs. scientific use
- Establishing safe operations practices / principles for lunar activities
 - Lunar dust mitigation
 - Cis-lunar SSA
 - Safety zones?
- Coordination of various national laws/regulations/policies

General need for increased communication and dialogue between space resources development & the international policy/legal communities



Thank You

ichristensen@swfound.org

Direction of Private Sector Programs
Secure World Foundation