



Space Economy: Africa In Focus

30 June 2021, 10:30 - 16:00 CEST

Context

The year 2020 saw the launch of the Space Economy Initiative under the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). This initiative provides free-to-access opportunities to exchange expertise and insights of public and private-sector experts from across the global space sector. It leverages in-house expertise and peer-to-peer exchange to bring emerging and non-space faring countries to grow and maintain sustainable space economies.

The African space sector is estimated over USD 7 billion and projected to exceed 10 billion by 2024. This rapid growth has been catalyzed by a combination of public and private sector spending in the region. African governments have budgeted over USD 400 million towards space programmes and private sector companies are increasing commercial operations to generate revenue. These are focused towards meeting the demands of the market in terms of telecommunication, environment, education, health, security and more.

The main fragment of the African commercial space economy is driven by satellite-enable services and products mainly linked to communications satellite operators. Nonetheless, with new investments, research and innovation to the value chain, the regional landscape is shifting. The overall sector is continuously expanding and fulfilling Africa's potential in a fast-growing segment that can make a vital contribution in addressing the continent's challenges. With multilateralism, growing interest in Africa's space economy and commercial space sector, a new era is emerging that addresses sustainable social and economic development within the region.

In this context, following from the successful Space Economy online event series, UNOOSA is organizing a one-day virtual conference dedicated to enhancing growth of the commercial space sector in Africa on 30 June. High-level representatives from UNOOSA, African Union, Portugal and the private space sector both within and outside Africa will engage in peer-to-peer exchange of good practices to foster space economy growth in the continent.

Registration is available here: <https://forms.office.com/r/XYj7jsNLsU>

Programme

Session One: High-level Opening (10:30-11:00)

Introductory remarks from:

- Simonetta Di Pippo, Director, UNOOSA
- Mahama Ouedraogo, Director, Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation, African Union
- Hugo Costa, Director, Portugal Space Agency

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Session Two: Expert-Level Discussions

Part 1: (11:00-12:30 CEST)

Moderator: Veronica Cesco, UNOOSA

- Introductory Remarks
- Presentations from speakers:
 - o Abimbola Alale, CEO, NIGCOMSAT
 - o James Barrington Brown, CEO, NewSpace Systems
 - o Bruno Henrion, CTO, RascomStar
 - o Jessie Ndaba, Co-founder and MD, Astrofica
 - o Francisco Vilhena da Cunha, CEO, GEOSAT
 - o John Lewis, Head of New Business Ventures, agriBORA
- Moderated Panel Discussion
- Q&A from Audience

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Part 2: (14:30-16:00 CEST)

Moderator: Veronica Cesco, UNOOSA

- Introductory Remarks
- Presentations from speakers:
 - o Temidayo Oniosun, MD, Space in Africa
 - o Amr Emam, Head of Space Segment, Nilesat
 - o Kammy Brun, Managing Director, Head Aerospace Group
 - o Vivyann Meta, Dir. Business and Technical Services, LocateIT Limited
 - o Pauline Bourg, Business Development Africa, Airbus
 - o Olugbenga Leke Oyewole, CEO, Atlantic Factorial
- Moderated Panel Discussion
- Q&A from Audience

Objectives

1. Exchange expertise and knowledge to support African countries strengthening their space economies.
2. Connect and provide visibility to the commercial space sector in Africa.
3. Provide a networking platform for collaboration between stakeholders.
4. Increase global awareness and understanding on how space sector growth can reinforce socio-economic development.

The event is open to the public

Following the conference, a written report will be published to share the case studies, insights exchanged and outcomes of the sessions.

Participating Institutions/Companies

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

The Office for Outer Space Affairs manages and implements the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space. The aim is to strengthen international cooperation in space activities and the use of space science and technology for achieving sustainable development.

<https://www.unoosa.org/>

African Union (AU) - Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI)

The Human Resources, Science & Technology Department (HRST) coordinates the African Union programmes on human resource development, education, science, technology and promoting the youth development agenda.

<https://au.int/en/esti>

Portugal Space Agency (PT Space)

The Portuguese Space Agency, Portugal Space primary purpose is to promote and strengthen Space in Portugal, its ecosystem and value chain, for the benefit of society and economy in the country and worldwide, acting as a business and development unit for research entities and companies

<https://ptspace.pt/>

Nigerian Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT)

Nigerian Communications Satellite Limited is a company under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Communications. In 2004, NigComSat-1 was built, and the spacecraft was operated by NigComSat and the Nigerian Space Agency, NASRDA. The Nigerian Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, NigComSat Ltd. and CGWIC signed a further contract for the in-orbit delivery of the NigComSat-1R satellite.

<https://ng.linkedin.com/company/nigcomsat>

NewSpace Systems (NSS)

NewSpace Systems (NSS) is a privately-owned, advanced manufacturer of robust spacecraft components and sub-systems with facilities in both South Africa and the United Kingdom. Particularly strong in the area of Attitude Determination and Control Solutions, the NSS team has more than 30+ years of experience in this industry.

<https://www.newspacesystems.com/>

RascomStar

RascomStar was incorporated in 2002. With Rascom (Regional African Satellite Communication Organization), an intergovernmental organization representing all African nations, and TAS (Thales Alenia Space) a world innovator in satellite and telecommunication systems, it is delivering on its set vision. The remit is to design, develop and facilitate the construction and deployment of a pan-African satellite telecommunications infrastructure, capable of extending voice and data services to off-the-grid regions on the continent.

<https://rascomstar.com/>

Astrofica Technologies

Astrofica Technologies is a satellite technology solutions provider. It is a group of innovative thinkers that are passionate about solving everyday challenges using Space-based technology. The core skills reside in the program management, assembly, integration and testing of satellite systems. Astrofica is an enabler to both Government and industry ventures as progressing Space science and technology in the country and continent is a big part of our vision and mission.

<https://www.astrofica.com/>

GEOSAT

Geosat - Global Earth Observation Satellites, established at the beginning of 2021 by Omnidea, is located near CEiiA and AIR Center. The portuguese company announced that it would acquire two Terra observation satellites, assuming one of the largest satellite operators in Europe.

<http://www.geosat.space/>

Space in Africa

Space in Africa is a media, analytics and consulting company focusing on the African space and satellite industry with its headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria.

<https://africanews.space/>

Nilesat

Nilesat is an Egyptian company established in 1996 with the purpose of operating Egyptian satellites. It has a series of Egyptian communications satellites, their associated mission control center and ground stations.

<http://www.nilesat.com.eg/en/>

Head Aerospace Group

HEAD Aerospace (HEAD), founded in 2007, is a privately-owned space company with its headquarter in Beijing. Over the last 13 years, HEAD has been providing upstream space products in China by introducing a significant number of space products and services of international aerospace companies into China. This traditional activity has allowed the company to maintain a sustainable revenue to develop diversified activities since 2017, including providing geospatial solutions based on Earth observation satellites and operating our Internet-of-Things (IoT) constellation.

<https://www.head-aerospace.eu/>

LocateIT Limited

LocateIT Ltd is a leading Geo-ICT company that offers cutting-edge location-based products and services pillared on ultra-modern Space Science & Technologies / Remote Sensing / Earth Observation, GIS, Airborne sensors, and Geo-Apps (especially for socio-economic data collection).

<https://locateit.co.ke/>

Airbus

Airbus Defence and Space is a division of Airbus responsible for defence and aerospace products and services. The division was formed in January 2014 during the corporate restructuring of European Aeronautic Defence and Space (EADS), and comprises the former Airbus Military, Astrium, and Cassidian divisions.

<https://www.airbus.com/space.html>

Atlantic Factorial

Atlantic Factorial, in association with its affiliates, is a space to cloud analytics company that utilizes proprietary satellite data and algorithms to provide the most advanced maritime, aviation, imagery, radio frequency analytics and weather tracking in the world. They currently boast of the largest constellations of satellites, belonging to its partners with more than 100 ground stations worldwide.

<https://atlanticfactorial.com/>

agriBORA

AgriBORA is a start-up in the ESA Business Incubation Centre (BIC) in Darmstadt, Germany, focusing on using space technology to support the agriculture in East Africa. It provides an integrated SaaS platform focused on utilizing location-based insights to de-risk smallholder agriculture systems through the use of data-driven services and digital tools.

<https://agribora.com/>