

## 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: (11:30-13:00 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, Rascom Star
  - o Jessie Ndaba, Co-founder and MD, Astrofica
  - o SpaceX (TBC)
  - o SES (TBC)
- 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 Vivyann Meta, Dir. Business and Technical Services, LocatelT Limited
  - o Olugbenga Leke Oyewole, CEO, Atlantic Factorial
  - o Kammy Brun, Managing Director, Head Aerospace Group
  - o Nilesat (TBC)
  - o Airbus (TBC)
  - o YahSat (TBC)
- 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.