

Re: Commercialization of Space

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In article <clp1d0pt6fe3ijjq7qflmol3e8o1c4lgg9@4ax.com>, baDBob <pagerw@bellnorth.net> wrote:

- > *Every once in a while the subject of power generation in space comes up.*
- >
- > *So my question is this, should the US incentivize the development of space based power generation and transfer to ground stations?*

"Incentivize" -- that's a creative word. :) But yes, any government of a country that uses significant amounts of energy should be putting some of its R&D budget into space solar power (and providing incentives for companies to do some of that R&D would be a good use of government funds).

- > *Is it feasible?*

Certainly. All the technologies involved have been demonstrated on a small scale. In "Advanced Technology Paths to Global Climate Stability: Energy for a Greenhouse Planet" (Science 298:981-987), Hoffert et al. looked into this (and many other approaches to energy production) and wrote: "With adequate research investments, SSP could perhaps be demonstrated in 15 to 20 years and deliver electricity to global markets by the later half of the century."

- > *Will it reduce our dependence on oil?*

Yes.

- > *Would this commercialization not push the envelope of space activities?*

Yes.

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