

Re: Mars vs Moon :-)

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2004-12/2337.html>

From: William Mook (william.mook_at_mokindustries.com)

Date: 12/14/04

Date: 14 Dec 2004 01:32:19 -0800

We need to commit our species to becoming space-faring.

We need to understand the core economics, economic metric, driving space development.

We need to understand how the development of that metric creates opportunities for wealth creation.

We need to organize markets to take advantage of that wealth in a way that fosters the natural business development of space based assets and resources.

COMMITMENT TO BECOME SPACE FARING SPECIES

All species exist in a range, and are shaped and constrained by that range. Humanity is unique in the animal kingdom in that it uses technology to extend its range. Humans are evolved from lowland apes. Without the technology of fire, clothing, and shelter, humans could not exist beyond the tropics. With these technologies we have expanded to the ends of the Earth. Humans are competitive as are all other animals. Humans are also cooperative – unlike other animals. This cooperative instinct evolved in the last 2 million years as humanity moved beyond Olduvai Gorge and worked cooperatively in family/clan/tribal groups to jointly exploit the resources created at the frontier of human settlement. This has shaped our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual landscape. Joe Campbell speaks of the monomyth, which is a mythic form of exploration and settlement of the frontier. It reflects a deep seated understanding of what it takes to survive as human beings – and this requires a frontier made available through technical means which offer riches far beyond those in the center. In myth the riches are spiritual and occur in a transcendent realm. In mundane reality the riches are real and occur in the frontier created by new technical means. Since reaching what some historians have called the 'omega point' in human affairs (the total filling of the earth and all its ranges by humans) our frontiers have ceased to play a role in practical affairs. As a result, we have become more competitive and less human. This trend will ultimately lead to a collapse in human numbers as we expend resources on Earth, and the rise of a post-technical, neo-human species – whose relation to

sci.space.policy: Re: Mars vs Moon :-)

the frontier and technology are distinctly different than humanity's current relationship. It is only by re-establishing our relationship to the frontier that we can preserve the continued development of technology in the classic tradition, and our human capacity for deep and meaningful cooperation on a planetary and if lucky, an interplanetary scale.

THE CORE ECONOMIC METRIC OF SPACE TRAVEL

Can we derive benefit from space development? The conventional wi