

Forum - The Fourth General Assembly

Issue - The question of evolving space technologies and its application in the exploration of outer space

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Introduction

The practical application of scientific knowledge to space, or space technology, has made a significant impact on our way of life. Although some people may be concerned about the potential consequences of technological development, such as an increase in the likelihood that people will commit suicide, space technologies have not only had enormous positive effects on many aspects of life but have also helped us understand the true nature of humanity. Future space exploration objectives include creating sustained access to places like the Moon, asteroids, and Mars as well as transporting humans and robotics beyond Low Earth Orbit. The Global Exploration Roadmap³ of the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG), which is made up of space agencies, is being discussed as a global strategy for achieving these objectives. This strategy starts with the International Space Station (ISS) and results in manned missions to Mars' surface.

Humanity will be able to achieve this most ambitious space exploration challenge and will increase advantages for society by utilizing the complementary abilities of both humans and robotic technologies. These advantages fall under three main categories: innovation, culture and inspiration, and new ways to tackle global concerns. Innovation.

There are several instances where fresh knowledge and technologies from space travel have benefited society. From solar panels to implantable heart monitors, cancer therapy to lightweight materials, water purification systems to enhanced computing systems, and a global search and rescue system, space exploration has influenced many different facets of daily life⁴. The above-mentioned ambitious ambitions for future exploration will increase the economic value of space. As new areas of science and technology are opened up by space exploration, other industries will be encouraged to collaborate with the space industry on joint research and development.

The increased strategies were required in response to the increased obstacles. Because of the enormous expense of launches, designers had to create computers for spacecraft that were lighter, smaller, and more dependable. The necessity for solar cells, batteries, and

fuel cells in space led to benefits for numerous industries on Earth. The original satellites' expertise was crucial in the development of space communications, global location, and improvements in weather forecasting. They were built to investigate the space environment and test early capabilities in Earth orbit. Early missions also laid the technological groundwork for more sophisticated space exploration, paving the way for the first robotic and human Moon missions as well as highly effective planetary spacecraft and crewed space stations in orbit. Governments from all across the world have worked together more and more to carry out challenging space projects, showcasing the strength of multinational collaborations to boost space achievement.

Definition of key terms

Developing Space Technologies

Space exploration-related scientific and engineering instruments are constantly being developed and improved upon, which is known as evolving space technologies. This covers advancements in scientific instruments, propulsion systems, communication technologies, and spacecraft design. The desire for more economical, dependable, and efficient ways to explore and comprehend space is what propels the advancement of space technologies.

Utilization in Extraterrestrial Exploration:

Applying developing space technologies to space exploration entails using state-of-the-art instruments and platforms to observe celestial bodies, collect information, and carry out research outside Earth's atmosphere. This comprises telescopes, rovers, space probes, and other cutting-edge tools that help scientists study and observe far-off planets, stars, galaxies, and other cosmic phenomena.

Spacecraft Design:

The process of building space-traveling vehicles is referred to as spacecraft design. The design of spacecraft is evolving with a focus on increasing durability, decreasing weight, and optimizing efficiency. Technological developments in the fields of materials science, aerodynamics, and propulsion systems aid in the creation of spacecraft that can survive the extreme environments found in space.

Systems of Propulsion:

In order for spacecraft to travel great distances in space, propulsion systems are essential. The advancement of propulsion technologies in space includes the creation of engines that are both more potent and fuel-efficient. Innovative propulsion technologies that allow spacecraft to travel faster and explore farther reaches of the universe include nuclear, solar sail, and ion propulsion.

Communication Tools:

Since communication technologies make it easier for data to be transmitted between spacecraft and Earth, they are essential to space exploration. The main goals of developing communication technologies are to guarantee dependable long-distance communication, lower signal latency, and increase data transfer rates. Technological developments in deep space communication systems improve our capacity to receive and process data from far-off space probes.

Scientific Equipment:

The equipment and tools that spacecraft carry to gather data and carry out experiments are known as scientific instruments. In this context, evolving space technologies refer to the creation of increasingly complex and sensitive celestial body observation instruments. Scientists can now collect comprehensive data on the composition, atmosphere, and geology of planets and other celestial objects thanks to advancements in telescopes, spectrometers, and cameras.

Key issues

In addition to other factors like increased communication, tourism, resource extraction, geopolitical concerns, and strategic interests, space exploration is driven by scientific curiosity and discovery. Nevertheless, space travel has dangers, such as those to astronauts, as well as financial and physical hazards from space debris, as well as the possibility of contaminating the ecosystems we visit (forward contamination) or our own planet after space missions (backward contamination). We must also choose trade-offs, such as choosing to invest limited public funds in space rather than enhancing the health and welfare of Earth's inhabitants. In light of significant values, space ethics urges us to

consider if certain motivations are justifiable, what risks and trade-offs they entail, which activities should be permitted, and what restrictions should be placed on space operations.

It is necessary to address the overuse of the radio frequency spectrum and the threat posed by the increasing amount of space debris to the long-term viability of the space environment. It is necessary to find solutions and, more significantly, to put them into action that are acceptable to the many stakeholders, including commercial organizations and governmental groups. Space activities are not limited to the confines of a nation's borders and have the ability to have an impact on resources or regions of the globe that are outside the legal authority of a launching country or the country where a satellite operator is registered. The ability of nations to exploit less stringent laws as a way of luring in foreign companies should therefore be restricted and the international regulatory framework should clearly take precedence over national regulations.

Starting with the launch vehicles, their capabilities (generally, payload capacity, and thrust) have largely plateaued, as only comparatively small incremental advancement has been accomplished in the recent decades. The issue is to create and execute technologies that can replace the need for present vehicles to carry significant amounts of oxygen, such as hypersonic air breathing rocket engines that can be employed in hybrid launchers. Also needed are launch vehicles that could land and take off like airplanes without requiring significant and expensive maintenance in between missions.

While competition can spur innovations at previously unheard-of rates, it can also result in the creation and use of technologies that may not benefit the greatest number of stakeholders and society as a whole. As major powers like the United States, China, and Russia become more politicized, geopolitical tensions also obstruct attempts at collaborations, leading to the duplication of efforts and the rise of security concerns. If Russia follows through, its cooperation with the United States will probably continue in other ways. However, when driven by geopolitical unrest on Earth, moves of this nature can jeopardize the stability of space operations, which would be bad for everyone involved.

While offering tremendous opportunities, the growth of private firms in space also carries enormous hazards. As several applications for space exploration and space technology are still in the early stages of development, there are many first-mover advantages available right now. Thus, there is a chance that private companies may create monopolies in some industries, like broadband, despite the fact that their incentives might

not be the same as those of the government or the general public. Due to the potential for arbitrary state borders in space, collaboration would be made even more difficult as a result. The private sector's inclusion as a major voice among many stakeholders will be crucial as ethical and legal frameworks continue to be built.

Major parties involved

The United States of America

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been at the vanguard of many ground-breaking missions, and the United States has long been a pioneer in space exploration. We now have greater access to far-off celestial bodies and can observe the universe in unprecedented detail because of innovations like the Space Launch System (SLS) and James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

The capacity for space exploration has substantially increased thanks to the United States and its space agency NASA. These innovations have greatly advanced our understanding of space, allowed for the successful completion of challenging missions, and paved the path for upcoming exploration outside of Earth's orbit. For both political and scientific reasons, the U.S. continues to play a major role in expanding space technology and exploration.

The Russian Federation

Russia has a long history of space exploration through its space agency Roscosmos, going all the way back to the beginning of the Space Race. In cooperation with NASA and other international partners, Russia continues to run the Soyuz spacecraft and the International Space Station (ISS).

Russia has recently investigated the possibilities of nuclear propulsion technology for deep space missions, which might dramatically reduce travel times to far-off locations like Mars. Its historical accomplishments and active involvement in the development of space technology have established it as a major actor in the ongoing effort to explore space. The nation's efforts continue to influence the course of space exploration, promoting global cooperation and improving our knowledge of the cosmos.

The People's Republic of China

China has made important contributions to the development of space technology and space exploration. In recent years, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) has made outstanding progress, solidifying its position as a significant player in the international space arena. Successful moon landings, rover trips to Mars, and the development of Tiangong, or the Chinese Space Station (CSS), are just a few of China's space accomplishments.

China's space technologies, like its lunar and Martian rovers and Long March rockets, demonstrate its dedication to exploring and researching the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies. These initiatives support international cooperation, peaceful space exploration, and advancement of scientific knowledge. China's participation in space technology research and development is noteworthy.

India

Through the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), India has established itself as a major actor in space exploration. With the help of developing space technologies, ISRO has carried out challenging missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan. India's lunar mission Chandrayaan helped us better comprehend the Moon's surface, and its Mars mission Mangalyaan successfully entered Martian orbit, demonstrating India's rising prowess in extraterrestrial exploration.

International satellite launches frequently choose ISRO due to its improvements in satellite launching and cost-effective strategy. These accomplishments demonstrate India's dedication to employing cutting-edge space technologies to promote scientific understanding and support international space initiatives.

Japan

Japan has taken a leading role in the creation and use of innovative space technologies. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has played a significant role in a number of space missions that have advanced our understanding of the universe. One noteworthy accomplishment is the Hayabusa series of missions, which successfully

transported asteroids' samples back to Earth and revealed important details about the early solar system.

Japan's dedication to space exploration is shown by JAXA's participation in international partnerships like the International Space Station (ISS) program. Japanese astronauts have carried out experiments and research on board the International Space Station, advancing science in a variety of subjects; With a constellation of satellites monitoring changes in our planet's climate, weather, and ecology, Japan's space technologies also cover Earth observation. These satellites deliver vital information for agriculture, environmental protection, and disaster management.

Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Description
1957	the first artificial satellite was launched
1961	The first human in space was Soviet astronaut Yuri Gagarin. During the 108-minute flight, his spacecraft, Vostok 1, circled the Earth at a speed of 27,400 kilometers per hour. Vostok was reentering under computer control.
1969	President John F. Kennedy pledged that by 1970, American astronauts would set foot on the moon. The first humans set foot on the moon on Apollo 11.
1972	Apollo 17 was the final Apollo mission to the Moon.
1977	To investigate the outer solar system, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 were launched.

1981	First Space Shuttle mission (STS-1, Columbia)
1990	The Wide Field and Planetary Camera was used to help focus the telescope in order to get the famous "first light" photograph from Hubble. The picture demonstrated how much better Hubble's resolution was than that of ground-based observatories, with the images being about 50% sharper.
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2000	The 100th space shuttle mission and the 100th spacewalk for the American space program occurred in October 2000 during the STS-92 mission on Discovery.
2004	Spirit and Opportunity, two robotic geologists, touched down on different parts of Mars in January 2004.
2012	The Curiosity rover from the Mars Science Laboratory mission touched down in the Gale Crater of Mars on August 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. (August 6, EDT).
2014	When Rosetta's Philae probe touched down on the comet's surface and started returning pictures and data, it achieved yet another historic first on November 12, 2014.
2015	Lamb et al. (2015) produced thin-film photovoltaics that are inexpensive and lightweight, making them suitable for large-scale extraterrestrial applications. The development of photovoltaic technology has made it possible for space missions to generate power more economically and efficiently.

<p>2017</p>	<p>It was investigated how CdTe thin film photovoltaics placed atop cerium-doped space glass will react to proton radiation (Lamb et al., 2017). The objective of this study was to enhance the resilience and efficiency of solar power systems operating in the challenging atmosphere of space.</p>
<p>2018</p>	<p>The idea of contemporary small satellites and how they affect space exploration's financial viability were examined (Sweeting, 2018). Due to their ability to lower costs and increase accessibility to space, small satellites have completely transformed space missions.</p>
<p>2019</p>	<p>Ophirst et al. (2019) investigated the design of passenger dining experiences for potential space flight scenarios. In order to satisfy the dietary and psychological requirements of astronauts on extended space journeys, this research concentrated on creating novel food technology and scenarios.</p>
<p>2020</p>	<p>Research was done on the internet's potential for space travel (Sweeting, 2018). The development of networking and communication technologies to facilitate space tourist activities was the main emphasis of this study.</p>
<p>2021</p>	<p>Timelines were found to be an effective teaching tool for space weather storms (Knipp et al., 2021). Scientists are better able to comprehend and anticipate space weather phenomena by looking back at historical occurrences and how they affected space-based technologies. Systems for human-computer interaction were created for space travel (Pataranutaporn et al., 2021). By utilizing cutting-edge technologies and user-friendly interfaces, these systems seek to improve both the productivity of space missions and the overall experience of their users.</p>

The previous attempts

The Moon, Earth's closest neighbor, was the primary goal of early space exploration. In this perspective, NASA's Apollo program from the 1960s to the early 1970s. A significant accomplishment in this sense is the NASA Apollo program, which ran from the 1960s through the early 1970s. Astronauts were transported to the Moon's surface using cutting-edge technologies including the Saturn V rocket and the Lunar Module. These expeditions served as both a showcase for the capabilities of space technology and the first occasions when humans set foot on an extraterrestrial body.

The design of spacecraft, their propulsion systems, and communication technologies have all made significant strides over the years. With the aid of these developments, we have been able to send missions to other planets like Mars rovers and Voyager probes as well as maintain a permanent human presence in low Earth orbit thanks to the International Space Station. Furthermore, as we go beyond mining the moon and asteroids to the possibility of sending people to Mars and beyond, advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, and materials science are poised to change our capacity to explore and utilize the tremendous riches of space. Our view of the cosmos is still being shaped by the development of new space technologies, which also hold the potential of opening up new areas for us to explore and establish our presence in.

The Mars rovers Curiosity and Perseverance are two prominent instances of the trend toward robotic missions to other planets that has taken place in recent years. Modern technology is used by these rovers to carry out experiments, gather samples, and look for indications of past or current life on the Martian surface. Furthermore, by creating reusable rockets and outlining ambitious ambitions for lunar and extraterrestrial exploration, private businesses like SpaceX and Blue Origin are advancing the field. Space technology are constantly pushing the limits of human knowledge and bringing us one step closer to discovering the mysteries of our vast galaxy. The opportunities for furthering exploration and understanding of the cosmos are as fascinating and enticing as ever in the years to come as space technologies advance.

In the past, payloads were created using traditional satellite architecture, which resulted in payloads that were large, bulky, expensive, and specialized. These payloads frequently ran late and required years to develop. Traditional satellites typically have a 5- to 10-year development time, weigh thousands of kilograms, and cost more than \$500 million each.

They are low-tolerance, low-redundancy, high-risk appealing targets because of their devoted, highly specialized goal.

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky outlined how this may be accomplished in 1903 by substituting liquid oxygen and hydrogen for solid fuels. The "rocket equation," which depends on the amount of energy required to defy gravity, the amount of energy present in the rocket's fuel, and the rate at which the mass of the rocket is increasing, was refined by Konstantin Tsiolkovsky. Throughout Europe, the USA, and the Soviet Union in 1920, rocket development was gaining momentum. In addition to developing rocket engines on cars and airplanes, they began experimenting with liquid fuels. However, it was World War II that really popularized rocket technology.

On January 27, 1967, the Apollo 1, also known as Apollo/Saturn 204, experienced an all-around fire during the simulation launch that killed the entire crew. When the Soyuz 1 ran into technical difficulties after launch, Russia's attempt to land on the moon also failed. Because he was the only crew member on board and couldn't address the issues, he perished. The United States of America launched this ship in 1947, and it returned to Earth safely with the fly inside still alive and well. Albert II, the first monkey sent into space, reached an altitude of 83 miles on June 14, 1949; he was carried on a V-2 rocket as well, but he wasn't as fortunate as the fly; a problem with the parachute sadly caused Albert II to die from the force of the landing. Dogs were traditionally preferred by the Russians when sending animals because they believed that dogs would be less clumsy than other animals.

In many cases, ground-based uses for space technologies that were created to withstand the severe conditions of space were successful. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), more than 2,000 commercial items derived from NASA technologies have helped life on Earth since 1976. Some of these include camera phones, polarized lenses that are scratch-resistant, CAT scans, LED technology, dust-busting tools, foil blankets, home insulation, wireless headsets, freeze-dried food, adjustable smoke detectors, enriched baby formula, artificial limbs, the computer mouse, portable computers, insulin pumps, noninvasive internal imaging, cochlear implants, and GPS navigation.

Possible solutions

A number of interesting ideas to further our exploration of space are presented by the continual development of space technologies. In order to continually improve propulsion systems and enable faster and more efficient travel within our solar system and beyond, additional investments in research and development are essential.

Furthermore, the effectiveness and safety of space exploration are expected to be improved through the integration of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems. Artificial intelligence (AI) can help with mission planning, navigation, and data processing, decreasing the need for human intervention and enabling spacecraft to adapt to unforeseen problems. Private and international partnerships in space exploration, such as those between NASA and for-profit organizations like SpaceX, can spur innovation and lower costs, opening up space to more people. Such alliances can support the funding of large-scale initiatives and tap into the knowledge of numerous parties.

Focusing on sustainable technologies is essential if space exploration is to remain viable in the long run. This includes creating reusable spacecraft and rockets, like SpaceX's Falcon 9, to lessen the environmental effect and increase affordability of space travel. More frequent and less expensive trips will be made possible by sustainable space flight, allowing for expanded scientific study and commercial endeavors. The storage of solar energy in space is one novel solution. Clean energy might be transmitted back to Earth using orbital solar power plants, such as those suggested by businesses like Space Energy and Northrop Grumman. This innovation has the potential to meet our planet's energy needs while lessening our reliance on fossil fuels and lowering the environmental cost of producing electricity. The development of space technologies for planetary defense is crucial given the rising worry about potentially dangerous Near-Earth Objects (NEOs). In order to shield Earth from devastating asteroid strikes, space agencies and organizations from all over the world might work together to build and test deflection tactics, such as the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) project.

The use of cutting-edge propulsion technologies, like ion and nuclear propulsion, is essential for future exploration of our solar system and beyond. The development of these technologies will permit more thorough expeditions and faster travel to places like Mars, the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and even intergalactic exploration. Long-duration missions and future colonization depend on the construction of self-sustaining space habitats. Technology for agriculture, closed-loop ecosystems, and life support systems can be adapted for terrestrial application to increase resilience and sustainability. Telemedicine and international communication have already advanced thanks to space

technologies. Long-duration space missions and isolated locations on Earth can benefit from improved access to healthcare thanks to remote diagnostic equipment and telehealth services made possible by satellite networks. More of the secrets of the cosmos are expected to be revealed by space telescopes like the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). Continued investment in these tools may result in advances in our knowledge of the universe, exoplanets, and the beginnings of life.

Finally, the creation of sustainable space infrastructure, such as in-orbit refueling facilities and resource exploitation on asteroids, has the potential to lower the cost of space missions and support a sustained human presence in space.