

The Space Business

Voice-over 1:

Magali Vaissière manages ESA's programme to support research and development in the telecoms sector of the space industry. She views close cooperation between public and private sectors as both justifiable and necessary.

Voice-over 2:

These sorts of partnerships work very well. For us, when we support a development project and there is private financing, effectively, it allows us to do more with a little less public money. That's the first advantage. And the second advantage is that we are sure that what we're developing will be used. If a private sector company has put money into something, it's a good guarantee for the public sector that they have a strong interest in the result.

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The space sector is all about shared interests, be it developing a future capsule for the international space station or new communications satellites. The companies involved have multiple layers of ownership and cross cooperation.

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Government bodies feed that growth. That's because space isn't just about business.

Voice-over 3:

Space is seen as a strategic investment. You have countries which are just discovering this strategic investment, like China...well, they discovered it some time ago now...and India, which are investing massively, at growth rates of 12% in China and 25% in India. You have countries which have always had ambitions in space, like the United States or Russia, which continue to invest at a high level.

Voice-over 1:

However, this industry leader believes Europe runs the risk of lagging behind.

Voice-over 3:

And today in Europe ambition in space is flat; that's to say budgets aren't going up. So the problem for us, European companies, is to find growth while Europe's ambitions in space are constant, and the ambition of other countries is growing...and that, I can tell you, is very, very hard.

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