

The Space Commodities Exchange, Financial Infrastructure to Grow a Sustainable Space Economy

Bruce Cahan, Urban Logic, bcahan@urbanlogic.org

Abstract

Once we mine space minerals, how will we trade them? Before we mine space minerals, how will the risks be packaged and evenly born by investors, customers, suppliers and their insurers? To support continuous space mining operations, how will supply chains evolve to improve the efficiency and profitability of mining companies and their technological evolution? In short, what cooperation and competition mechanisms will be put in place to secure a healthy space economy?

Such questions recall the discovery of gold and silver near Denver in 1858, the subsequent building of railroad connections to the East, and the central role of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange for assuring a consistent grade and supply of steel for rails, a futures market for gold, silver, livestock and other goods produced in the West, and the means to package and transfer production and market risks.

Bruce Cahan is organizing the Space Commodities Exchange, inspired by the historical precedents of previous commodities markets, and adapted to sustain and accelerate the space economy.

Relevant Papers

Bruce Cahan, Bruce Pittman, Sarah Cooper & John Cumbers, *Space Commodities Futures Trading Exchange: Adapting Terrestrial Market Mechanisms to Grow a Sustainable Space Economy* (New Space Volume 6 Number 3 - September 1, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1089/space.2017.0047>

Bruce Cahan & Major Timothy Locke, *Space Commodities in Service of National Security* (2018 AIAA Space & Astronautics Forum - September 2018), <https://arc.aiaa.org/doi/pdf/10.2514/6.2018-5150>.