



**– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –**  
**OPEN LETTER TO THE US PRESIDENT, MR. BARACK OBAMA**

Dear President, Mr. Barack Obama,

the Space Renaissance Initiative is an international organization<sup>1</sup>, therefore this letter is also addressed to the Presidents and Prime Ministers of all the countries where we have members<sup>2</sup>, and to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

The US Administration is running a very courageous plan – which could be the first step towards a true *space revolution*. We are in agreement with the aim and the substance of that plan, though, if the plan will remain as it is, and if the United States will remain alone in this effort, it will be only half of what the world needs: a full change of paradigm, that only can be achieved by means of a wide coral effort. Not only the current space faring countries, but at least all of the G20 Countries should take responsibility, to take the first steps toward a solid Earth-Moon economy.

**1. SCOPE OF SPACE ACTIVITIES**

- a. The Twentieth Century space program was targeted at: *telecommunication, science and exploration*.
- b. The new paradigm shall include, and give top priority to, *space industrialization*, starting from Earth Orbit and extending to Geo-Lunar space region, including Lagrange points; begin the exploitation of the immense resource of Space Based Solar Power, both for Earth energy supply and for new space settlements; begin using off-Earth resources for industrial purposes, also to start relieving our mother planet from the burden of human development.

**2. SPACE ECONOMY**

- a. The Twentieth Century space economy always viewed the space agencies as *The Customer*, and the aerospace industry as *The Suppliers*, and everything was *on the shoulders of tax-payers*.
- b. The new paradigm shall see the new emerging space industry as the *provider of civilian astronautic transport services and space energy supply*, and private tourists, citizens and industries as customers.

**3. ASTRONAUTICS**

- a. The Twentieth Century astronautics was *based on a military concept*: very few astronauts that were military trained, for science and experimentation; the space-shuttle was produced in five unique prototypes.
- b. The new paradigm shall facilitate a *growing number of civilian astronauts* to safely travel to orbit and to the Moon, to stay for long periods and start working, transferring their normal commercial activities, e.g. hotel accommodations, restaurants, sports, ...; to achieve the above goals, and give birth to the *Mercantile Astronautics*, we need to give first priority to developing an inexpensive, fully reusable, industrially produced – new class of Earth-Orbit vehicles.

For our civilization, of almost seven billion intelligent beings, the possibility to survive and to restart growing up in a cultural, ethical, wealthy and free way, only relies on expansion into space, as it was recently pointed out by the astrophysical genius Stephen Hawking. Lacking such a development, civilization will implode during this century, as stated by Prof. Lovelock (author of the Gaia theory): according to him this planet will not sustain more than one billion people, by the end of this century.

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<sup>1</sup> The Space Renaissance Initiative (<http://www.spacerenaissance.org/>) joins 63 organizations world wide, so far. More than 40% of our membership is in the US, almost 40% in Europe, and the remaining 20% in the rest of the world.

<sup>2</sup> The Space Renaissance Initiative has members, at least, in the following Countries: United States of America , Italy, United Kingdom , Australia , India , Germany , Sri Lanka , France, Spain, Iran , Ireland , Japan, Poland, Sweden, Barhain, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Israel, Malta, Nederland, Hungary , Belgium, Switzerland, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republik, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kailua-Kona Hawaii USA, Mexico, Norway, Paranà, Perù, Republic of San Marino, Romania, Russia, Serbia , Slovenia, South Africa , Switzerland, Turkey.



Likely we are already late, in opening the space frontier, and our societies will not be able to avoid conflicts and pain, due to shortage of energy, resources and environment.

But we, at Space Renaissance, do not rely only on numbers, as the Malthusian economists used to do. We believe that economy is ruled not only by cold numbers, but very much more by hope, by psychology, by the mood of the people. And we never, ever underestimate human intelligence.

We know that human intelligence, when endowed with true hope and challenged by feasible objectives and great projects, (regardless of their level of difficulty), can create miracles. History has shown that. Human Kind is a young intelligent species, the only one in existence in the universe, to our knowledge, and it doesn't deserve to end due to greediness, lack of vision and philosophical closure.<sup>3</sup>

What then are we asking, to all the Terrestrial enlightened Governments? To just help the space revolution:

- A) Choosing a few suppliers was the old method; today we need to stimulate the growth of a *new mass space industry*, oriented to the market (no longer to agencies), many small and medium enterprises, enthusiastic space entrepreneurs, not just old industries who were used to depending on the *captive market* of agencies.
- B) Such an emerging space industry should also be supported by public funds, to validate the new technologies for low cost and safe access to Earth's Orbit (remembering what Scaled Composites was able to accomplish in 2004 with just 30 million), giving tax discounts and financial help to all the small and medium enterprises that are developing technologies, systems and methodologies for astronautics.
- C) The many experts of NASA and of the other space agencies should be used to giving back to society at least a part of the huge value they accumulated (one trillion in 40 years); let them go around the world, supporting industry, to teach space technological matters and methodology standards.
- D) Encourage the creation of *International Space Investment Funds*, where all citizens can invest their own money for the sole truly worthy industrial enterprise: space colonization.
- E) Encourage the creation of all possible facilities to allow the growth of the space funds, such as: 1% on credit cards, a small percentage on sport tickets, luxury goods, or anything can let people know what they are doing: donating small amounts of money for the future of our children!

Last but not least, we believe that the full cancellation of the 2020 Moon program is depressive for the world economy (and we all know that the world economy does not need to be even more depressed!). We criticized that program, since it was fully based on the Twentieth Century philosophy, a remake of the Apollo program 40 years later: going to the Moon in a very costly way, by expendable rockets! Therefore we definitely will not weep for the cancelation of that program.

But that backward plan shall be soon replaced by a new – strategic – plan for the construction of the Geo-Lunar industrial economy, joining together all the available resources and good will of Planet Earth.

Sincerely

- Adriano V. Autino, Space Renaissance Initiative, President
- Rick N. Tumlinson, Space Frontier Foundation, President
- The Space Renaissance Initiative Board of Directors<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> To know more about our astronautic humanist philosophy, please review our Philosophical Manifesto ([http://www.spacerenaissance.org/papers/The\\_Space\\_Renaissance\\_Manifesto.pdf](http://www.spacerenaissance.org/papers/The_Space_Renaissance_Manifesto.pdf))

<sup>4</sup> See the whole list of the organizations so far joined in the Space Renaissance Initiative here: <http://www.spacerenaissance.org/sri-call.htm>