

Space Renaissance Initiative – Press Release

Press conference 2009 March 31st - 16.00

British Interplanetary Society - 27/29 South Lambeth Road - London, UK



<http://www.spacerenaissance.org/>

The Space Renaissance Initiative (SRI) will present a proposal to ignite a space economic revolution on 2009 March 31st, before the G20 summit.

The proposal is a simple priority-driven agenda: to develop low-cost civilian space transportation, orbital and sub-orbital space tourism, lunar industrialisation, space-based solar power, and the use of near-Earth asteroids to build space infrastructures. These include research and industrial settlements on the Moon; orbital stations, resources utilisation, space hotels, service facilities and space debris collection.

This is not speculation. All of these goals can be achieved within the first half of this century. By the second half of this century, based on the experience gained in near-Earth space, Mars and the Martian moons will be settled with the long-term goal of terraforming the red planet.

In order to help the development of the civilian space industry, we recommend governments should provide incentives in the form of tax abatements and financial help for companies working in the space industry; new investment funds for space tourism and the space industry; and special programs geared towards universities and other educational systems. These policies also extend to private organisations, individuals, space agencies, and financial institutions.

Governments can invest public money toward the new space economy through space agencies (primarily devoted to science and exploration), more commercially oriented agencies (to be chartered), and private enterprise, for the industrialisation of the Moon-Earth region.

With a current population of almost seven billion people, human growth on planet Earth is rapidly becoming unsustainable. Problems stem from a shortage of raw materials and lack of inexpensive and accessible energy. This dearth of resources, which results in continuous global economic recessions, could cause our civilisation to implode to one billion within the end of this century, with increasing risk of humanity falling back to pre-technological ages.

The only fundamental solution to assure continued growth of civilisation is to open the high frontier and start surveying the resources of the solar system. Space contains unimaginable amounts of unexploited resources on the Moon, asteroids and other

planets. Establishing a foothold off-Earth would also protect humanity from planet-wide catastrophes.

This new space-faring civilisation would experience a true *Space Renaissance* and catapult the human race toward boundless economic and cultural growth. According to **Dr. Feng Hsu** (NASA expert on Integrated Risk Assessment & Management at Goddard Space Flight Center), *“Human expansion into space brings about a new paradigm of a global view of humanity and could alter the confrontational geopolitical realities existed throughout human history, helping to foster world peace and elevating our earth-bound global economy into a whole new space-fairing economy. Human expansion into space is also the stepping-stone to find solutions to our energy and climate risk issues. It strengthens global collaboration and increases our likelihood to work with collective human intelligence and resources.”*

Our proposal includes a world-wide plan to encourage a broad collaboration on space projects among different countries, to build Space Renaissance schools and academia, in cooperation with the educational institutions, and to increasingly involve the younger generations in the greatest endeavour humanity has ever faced: the development of a new, post-Copernican, open-world philosophy.

The SRI is a collection of individuals and associate organisations determined to increase human expansion into space. We are backed by 26 organisations so far, including: Moon Society (US), Technologies of the Frontier (Italy), SpaceFuture (UK, JP), InterPlanetary Ventures Corporation (USA), MarsDrive (US), Polish Astronautical Society (PL), Sri Lanka Astronomical Association (Sri Lanka), CIRA (Italy), Coelum Astronomia (Italy), Advanced Technology Working Group (USA).

The SRI is founded on a philosophy of deep humanist principles and has no national interests nor ties to national space agencies, institutions, corporations, although we would encourage them to recognize and act on our recommendations.

According to **Adriano Autino** (SRI President): *“So far, the crisis only burned bits in bank accounts. Real wealth is not money, but technologies and the potential for work: with 7 billion intelligences, Humanity has never been so rich.”*

Some of our founding papers:

- “What the Growth of a Space Tourism Industry Could Contribute to Employment, Economic Growth, Environmental Protection, Education, Culture and World Peace” - Patrick Collins & Adriano Autino (http://www.spacefuture.com/archive/what_the_growth_of_a_space_tourism_industry_could_contribute_to_employment_economic_growth_environmental_protection_education_culture_and_world_peace.shtml)
- “Founding a New Renaissance” - Adriano Autino (http://www.spacerenaissance.org/papers/Founding_a_New_Renaissance.pdf)
- “A Unified Space Vision” – Feng Hsu & Ken Cox (<http://www.spacerenaissance.org/papers/A-UnifiedSpaceVision-Hsu-Cox.pdf>)

For more information, please contact:

- Adriano Autino – adriano.autino@tdf.it +39 335 8244435
- Charles Radley – charles@stratowave.com +1 503 579 4686
- Annie Bynum - smaojb@gmail.com +1 501 650 1405