

A Report on NewSpace Europe 2018

December 23, 2018



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Abstract

The NewSpace Europe 2018 conference was held at European Convention Center Luxembourg (ECCL) in Luxembourg City, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, on November 27–28, 2018. Meanwhile, on the day before this conference started, on November 26, 2018, another conference, the Space Investment Summit, was held at the same location.

NewSpace Europe 2018 was hosted by the Luxembourg Space Agency, Space Frontier Foundation, and Spire (a small satellites operator). This conference was the second one to be held, with about 500 persons gathering and discussing new space business under the theme, "Breaking Barriers." This conference consisted of numerous presentations and a few panel discussions, and only small exhibitions

were carried out.

The mission of the Luxembourg Space Agency, which was launched last September, is to promote the economic development of the space sector in Luxembourg in accordance with other industries. Due to the reason that the competent authority of this agency is the Ministry of Economics in Luxembourg, their mission does not contain any research & development matters, and it can be said that this agency is aimed at economic policies as pertaining to space activities.

Space Frontier Foundation is a non-profit organization aimed at the promotion of private-sector space development activities, and, in last June this year, the foundation hosted another conference, titled "Newspace 2018" held in a suburban area of Seattle, Washington, U.S. Space Frontier Foundation is the owner of a private volunteer organization that focuses its efforts on the promotion of NewSpace activities.

Meanwhile, the Space Investment Summit is a conference hosted by the Center for Space Commerce and Finance (CSCF). This conference was held in order to present and discuss the recent status of NewSpace businesses for investors, and only invitees were able to participate in this conference. About 50 persons gathered at the conference, and thus lively discussions and Q&As were carried out after the presentations and panel discussions. The CSCF

is a Texas-based, educational non-profit organization focusing on catalyzing the growth of the NewSpace economy. During this last summer, the CSCF held an event titled "New Space Business Plan Competition" (NSBPC).

This was the first time for the author to attend both conferences. The reasons for attending were to know the current status of companies and organizations involved in the NewSpace field, the ecosystems of their businesses, and the investors in Europe. Compared to the information that's available regarding this field in the U.S., interested parties in Japan have access to only small amounts of related information.

Impressions

First, the author attended the Space Investment Summit. Due to the reason that this conference was held with only a small number of specialist attendees, the author was able to obtain valuable information. Compared to startups in the U.S., it is uncommon for European startups in the field of space to be introduced to Japan. This conference allowed the author to get up to speed on the happenings of startups/organizations in Europe. Of particular interest to the author were the startups engaged in terrestrial flat antennas, communications satellite systems for the Internet of Things (IoT), and satellite operation systems using RF monitoring, and it can be said that these types of startups cannot be found in

Japan.

Furthermore, the author was able to come to understand the degree in which governments in Europe, such as those of Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Germany, and France, have promoted their respective space-related businesses, especially how such governments have provided support for the development of startups involved in space-related activities. Meanwhile, it seems that European governments have some concerns about the statement made by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe detailing that Japan will make investment of ¥100 billion to support Japanese startups involved in space activities. However, compared to Japan, it seems that European governments and the private sector provide considerate support structures and human resources, such as venture capital and mentorships, so as to support such startups domestically. For example, JOERG KREISEL International Consultants (JKIC) made a keynote speech at Space Investment Summit explaining the transitioning of venture capital and how the space agencies of each country have supported startups for over three decades in the NewSpace field. Seraphim Capital, a venture capital company (VC) in the U.K. specializing in space-related activities, has made investment in various companies such as Iceye and Spire, and also plays the role of "accelerator" for "Space Camp," a venue for entrepreneurs that are aiming to form their own startups. The ecosystem of the

NewSpace field not only requires financial support from governments and VCs to function properly—it also requires other forms of support necessary for startups.

The reason why the author participated in this conference was to gain an understanding of the recent status of space-related activities in Europe; however, the author came to recognize the fact that startups and related supporting organizations, such as VCs, have been carrying out business on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean (U.S. and Europe). Regarding major global companies trying to effectively utilize startups, not only European companies, such as SES and Airbus Defence and Space, but also major American companies, such as Maxar, have sent representatives to join discussion panels. Regarding American startups, Rocket Lab and Blue Origin have also participated in this conference. One can realize that global activities are necessary in space-related business, not only for big companies but also for startups. From Japan, startups such as ispace and Axelspace have also participated in these conferences. The author recognizes that these two companies, which have been carrying out their businesses developments on a global basis, are exemplary.

Presentations and Discussions **(1) Space Investment Summit**

<Omitted Below>

(2) NewSpace Europe 2018

(2-1) Spire

<Omitted Below>

(2-2) GOMSPACE

<Omitted Below>

(2-3) News Regarding the Amazon AWS Ground Station

<Omitted Below>

(3) Attractive Startups

<Omitted Below>

Other Miscellaneous Comments

The NewSpace Europe 2018 conference was held in Luxembourg City, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



After the conference, the author left the site of the venue and visited the old town of the city, which only took 10 minutes by taxi, only to find that the old town was steeped in Christmas celebrations. The square in the old town was fully furnished with Christmas decorations and was crowded with many street stalls. Though Luxembourg has adopted Central European Time (CET), this country is located in the middle of Europe, even more northward to Japan, and therefore, the city becomes dark at around 4:30 p.m. The Christmas illuminations appeared very bright in the early evening. Meanwhile, this is a very small area where anyone can complete a sightseeing tour within one hour. The author had to return to his hotel because around 5:00 p.m. was too early to have dinner there, while the cuisine at the hotel was nothing but standard European. Grilled lamb chops and lamb steak were not uncommon. So, the question is: What is the typical cuisine in Luxembourg?

The author would thus like to introduce the cakes served during the coffee break at one site as a typical confectionary of Luxembourg.

The cakes were very small, measuring only the size of approximately one's pinky finger. However, each cake was decorated very earnestly. It seems that the purple accents on the top of the cake consisted of flower petals. Because of the small size, one could eat two or three cakes with one cup of coffee. Each cake had its own taste, and the author was able to enjoy a variety of tastes.

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