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Abstract

Innovation and entrepreneurship play a significant role in the success of the European space sector. The dynamics over the years have shown that institutional pressures from main players such as the European Space Agency (ESA), European Union (EU), and European states continue to influence the innovation process. The level of 'independent' and 'breakthrough' innovation and entrepreneurship in the space sector under the current conditions is under debate. This debate concerns the question whether the full potential of the industry gets fruitfully exploited. This dissertation contributes to this debate by analysing entrepreneurship patterns in The Netherlands and by comparing the Dutch space sector with a number of other ESA member states. It relates the entrepreneurial patterns to institutional logics, legitimacy, business incubation and technology transfer infrastructure, and governmental incentive programs. Thus, this dissertation delivers important insights in how institutional logics, business incubation practices, and facilitating programmes impact entrepreneurship and innovation. Moreover, it delivers practical knowledge to design measures that foster the development of an entrepreneurial and innovative business environment in the Dutch and European space sector.