

Editorial

Welcome to the *STEP* Journal: A New Window for Sharing Progress across the NewSpace Economy

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It is a huge honour and it gives me great pleasure as the Chief editor to introduce you to the new gold open access journal “*STEP*” under the respected Melbourne based Scilight publishing house. *STEP* stands for “*Space, Tech and Economic Progress*”. We are dedicated to publishing high-quality research, insights and top opinion from within the rapidly evolving NewSpace ecosystem. We cover a wide range of related topics, including, but not limited to, space sustainability, space situational awareness, emerging markets, technological advancements (including in debris remediation and AI) and international regulation, arbitration, insurance and compliance for Space and so-called “NewSpace”.

STEP aims to serve as a leading interdisciplinary platform for disseminating innovative, peer reviewed research and facilitating dialogue and informed opinion across scientific, technological, economic, and policy dimensions of space and NewSpace development.

In recent years, the world has watched with a mixture of awe and anticipation as humanity’s reach extends beyond our precious blue planet into the depths of space. This frontier is no longer the exclusive domain of governments and large corporations but is becoming a dynamic arena where innovative technologies, reusable rockets and associated emerging markets converge. Together with attendant international cooperation, these dynamics will profoundly shape the future of global development.

STEP is designed to serve as a leading interdisciplinary platform for all of this. Across a quarterly cycle, for both timeliness and relevance, we will publish high-quality research and provide fresh insights across a broad spectrum of NewSpace and space topics. The space industry is evolving swiftly, and our goal is to ensure that pioneering research and policy discussions reach the global community promptly. We will champion interdisciplinary work that connects technological advances with economic realities and regulatory considerations because the success of space development depends on understanding the complex interplay of these factors. Our aim is to inform, educate and foster dialogue among scientists, engineers, economists, and policymakers. We fervently believe the future of space development should benefit all of humanity and promote collaboration across disciplines and borders.

The NewSpace revolution is not merely about how technological marvels, including AI in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in particular, can have commercial value, but how this is also increasingly intertwined with global economic growth and sustainable development. This is currently set against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty as a major challenge. Despite this the NewSpace era holds the promise of unlocking new markets, creating jobs, and addressing critical global issues provided we approach it with foresight, mutual responsibility and shared vision. That is why openness, internationalisation and inclusivity are at the heart of *STEP*. We believe that the best ideas emerge when diverse voices from the most advanced economies to the keenest emerging markets and purest talents wherever they may be found, will be heard and engaged.

The launch of *STEP* signifies our commitment to democratizing access to vital knowledge. In a domain where proprietary interests and geopolitical tensions can hinder progress, open access becomes a catalyst for innovation and cooperation. By removing paywalls and barriers, we aim to facilitate rapid dissemination of research so ensuring that insights needed to tackle space debris, improve situational awareness, or develop sustainable policies



are available to all stakeholders, regardless of their location or resources. That is the core philosophy behind Scilight press and is encapsulated in *STEP*.

With *STEP*, we are taking a decisive step into this promising new era one defined by collaboration, innovation, and shared prosperity. Let us embrace this frontier with ambition and responsibility, knowing that the future of space is, ultimately, the future of us all. As Chief Editor, I invite the global research community to join us in this exciting journey. Submit your research, ideas and opinion, engage with diverse perspectives, and help build a more equitable scientific landscape.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Use of AI and AI-Assisted Technologies

No AI tools were utilized for this paper.