

## *The Human-Space Connection*<sup>®</sup>

In June 2004, I was pondering the need for a new message about the value of space that would resonate with people who don't love space for its own sake, or who are against the exploration and settlement of space. I realized that a new theme was needed; one that relates space to issues that most people do care about. And so I conceived *The Human-Space Connection*<sup>®</sup> and first wrote about it in "[Space is Our Home, Not a Program](#)," from which the following has been excerpted:

For decades the space debate has focused too much on exploration. The exploration of space is valuable in and of itself, but the most important reason for exploring space—the reason that robots alone simply don't count—can be summed up in one word: settlement. This time, we go to stay. Even if science was the only reason to go, the best science is performed by onsite scientists with their instruments, not by onsite instruments without their scientists. But science isn't the only, or even the best, reason to go. Survival and prosperity are the fundamental reasons, and these are worth any price.

What does space have to do with our survival and prosperity? If you think of space as a federal program, it's difficult to answer this question. When you realize that space is a place, a place where we live—just as we live in our hometown, the US, and on Earth—the answers reveal themselves. Space is:


- A mere [62 miles above us](#), and thus a [continuation of our environment](#)
- An [extension of the economy](#), and thus part of our lives
- A [place of abundant resources](#), and thus crucial to our survival and prosperity

Many believe we shouldn't spend money on space until we solve all our problems here. Sounds reasonable, but this offers little more than false hope. Just when will all our problems be solved? How can this be measured, and who declares this accomplished? How many nations, governments, companies, organizations or people do you know that have solved all of their problems? Humanity isn't going to solve all its problems, ever. We are too dynamic, always solving problems and creating more at the same time, and forever continuing this cycle as we endlessly evolve. We go into space for reasons that humans have historically gone elsewhere; to find resources and freedom, to create better lives. If humans didn't leave home until all was well, all six billion of us would still be in Mesopotamia, crowded and miserable.

Lunar visionary Kraft Ehricke said it best in 1970: "While civilization is more than a high material living standard it is nevertheless based on material abundance. It does not thrive on abject poverty or in an atmosphere of resignation and hopelessness. Therefore, the end objectives of solar system exploration are social objectives, in the sense that they relate to or are dictated by present and future human needs." With a ceaselessly growing global population requiring ever more resources, human survival and prosperity require not just the exploration of space, but also its settlement and development.

I hope this gives you a new appreciation for human space activity, and a new awareness that there is no boundary between our lives on Earth and our actions in space.

Sincerely,



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