

Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget

By:

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List of Recommendations

- Recommendation 1: That the government properly invest in Canada's space program by restoring the A-base budget of the Canadian Space Agency to at least \$300M.
- Recommendation 2: That the government work with ISED to implement a consensus national space strategy that positions the nation to compete in the growing space market.

Body of Submission

The theme of this year's budget, "Ensuring Canada's Competitiveness," aptly describes the urgent need to support Canada's space sector.

As the latest State of the Space Sector report outlines,¹ space is already a beneficial sector of the Canadian economy. But as other nations invest in their space programs to take advantage of the burgeoning space market, Canada's investment in space remains stagnant.

The Canadian Space Agency's A-base budget has been flat – with no growth with inflation – since 2012, when it was cut by 13% to approximately \$260M from approximately \$300M. In a 2013 study by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Canada's civil space budget as a share of GDP ranked 16th in the world, and lowest among all G8 nations (Appendix 1).² Without renewed government investment Canada's ranking will continue to fall as other countries increase their commitment to the space sector.

There is a new space race between nations—a race to capture a growing marketplace that is projected to be worth \$3 trillion in the next thirty years.³ Canada is currently failing to compete in this new space race. It is short-sighted for Canada to ignore an industry with this much potential to generate high-quality, high-value jobs necessary to remain competitive in a global environment.

Without smart investment by the Government, Canada's space sector will continue to atrophy. The urgent need for renewed funding and policy reform was outlined by the Space Advisory Board in a 2017 report commissioned by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED).⁴ Based on the findings of the Space Advisory Board, ISED is preparing a comprehensive space strategy for Canada. This strategy will address the urgent needs identified by the Canadian space community, identify specialized areas in which the nation can invest, and identify a clear path forward for our space sector as a whole.

With further investment from the Government of Canada, the Canadian space program has the potential to foster a valuable, globally-competitive workforce in Canada, to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers, and scientists, to participate in ambitious international missions, and to ensure Canada's competitiveness in the space market.

On behalf of The Planetary Society, the world's largest pro-space non-profit organization, I urge the Minister of Finance to restore the budget of the Canadian Space Agency to at least \$300M and to support proposals included in ISED's space strategy. These are the necessary first steps to achieving Canada's potential in space, which benefits all of us here at home.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at the email address provided below.

Sincerely,



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¹ <http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/publications/2016-state-canadian-space-sector.asp>

² <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264217294-en.pdf>

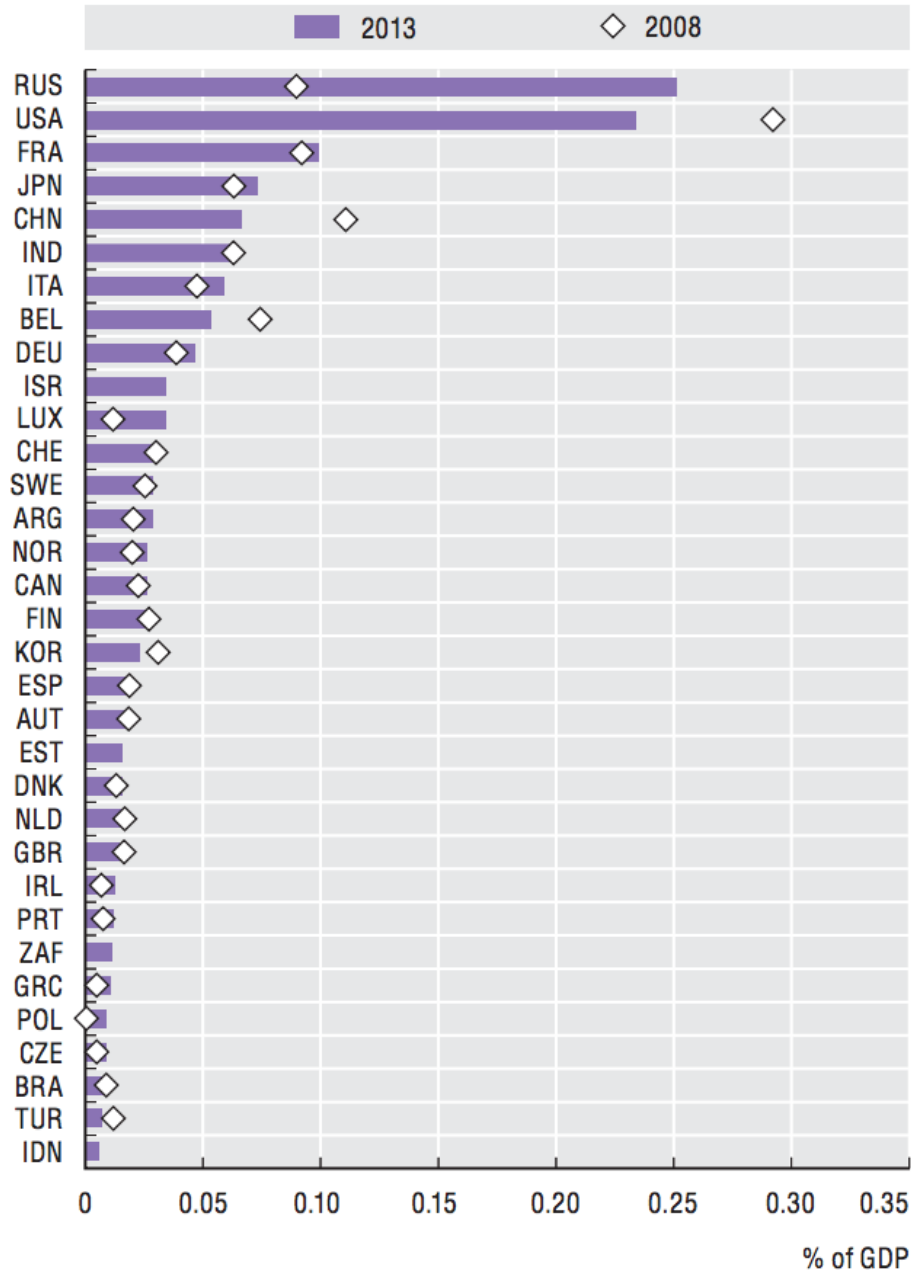
³ <https://go.guidants.com/q/db/a2//1e1ffc185c1d44bd.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ad-ad.nsf/eng/ad03996.html>


Appendix 1

Space budget as a share of GDP for selected countries

% of GDP (based on current USD), 2008 and 2013



Source: OECD calculations based on national data and OECD MEI data.

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933141760>