



AASTA Report Focuses on Economic Impact of Astronomy, Space Sciences and Planetary Sciences Research in Arizona - Recommends Agenda to Remain World Class and Advance Opportunities for Growth

The Arizona Arts, Sciences and Technology Academy (AASTA) has published a new economic impact report outlining the importance that Astronomy, Space Sciences and Planetary Sciences (APSS) research plays in Arizona.

Key Findings

APSS Research in Arizona in 2006 returned a total dollar economic impact of \$252.8 million. This includes \$138.6 million in earnings and \$12 million in tax revenues.

During FY 2006 Arizona's observatories and related APSS research institutions spent a total of \$135.4 million on operations, including wages. An additional \$28.8 million was spent on capital investment and construction. For FY 2006, total expenditures for these APSS organizations amounted to \$164.2 million. Of that, \$69.3 million was spent in Arizona.

The total investment in capital facilities and land among Arizona's APSS institutions in FY 2006 equalled \$1.119 billion, with an additional \$635.7 million reported in planned capital expansion.

APSS organizations and institutions employed 1,830 people in FY 2006 with a total payroll of \$83.9 million.

APSS organizations in Arizona attracted 200,805 visitors in FY 2006, 22% of which were from out-of-state. Out-of-state visitors spent \$61.4 million in FY 2006 generating an overall economic impact of \$25.7 million. APSS institutions across the state also generated \$119 million in revenues for state and local governments in FY 2006.

Building on Previous Reports

In prior reports prepared for the Arizona Department of Commerce, Battelle noted that "Arizona ranks among the top ten of all states in the physical sciences (7th), led by astronomy (2nd) in which Arizona has nearly 18 percent of all university research activities nationwide". Battelle further noted that Arizona has key strengths in space sciences and physics citing two areas of excellence; (1) remotely operated instruments for measurements in space, and (2) advanced land

based and space telescope design and mirror construction.

AASTA's report encourages the State of Arizona to commercially develop and exploit APSS technologies embedded in the state's universities, federal labs and private institutions such as biosensing, communications, computing, imaging, instrumentation, materials, microelectronics, navigation, optics, power, propulsion, sensors, software and systems integration.

AASTA's report also recommends increased scientific collaboration, additional federal funds for APSS research, an APSS roadmap for the State of Arizona, and new measures to control light pollution emitted from growing urban areas that is degrading the effectiveness of existing Arizona observatories and limiting the state's ability to attract major new facilities for optical astronomy.

Project Partners

AASTA's report, "Astronomy, Planetary Sciences and Space Sciences Research Opportunities to Advance Arizona's Economic Growth" is the result of a collaboration among AASTA and twenty-two APSS organizations; eleven observatories, three related research organizations and eight university based departments/centers/labs.

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AASTA wishes to acknowledge the participation of the Business Research Center at the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona for their contribution in data collection and performing the economic impact analysis.

Read the full report at: <http://www.aasta.net>