Sustainable Space Initiative

RESEARCH SUMMARY

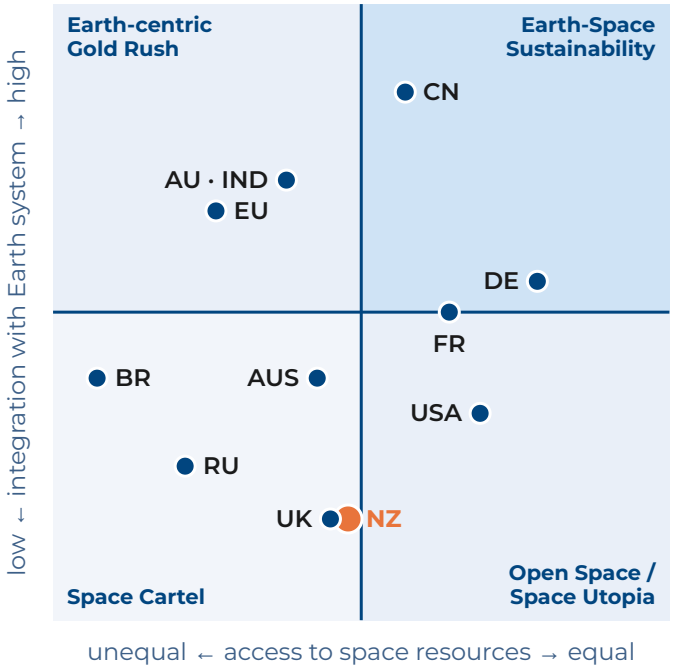
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Examining possible future trajectories of global space sectors

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Governments shape where space goes as investors, operators, regulators and customers. We analysed the space strategies of **12 governments** and mapped each onto **four possible futures**, using causal layered analysis to uncover the worldview and metaphor behind each one.

WHERE GOVERNMENTS ARE HEADING



Space Cartel *"Survival of the richest"*
Space as a limitless frontier to conquer and market. Brazil, Russia.

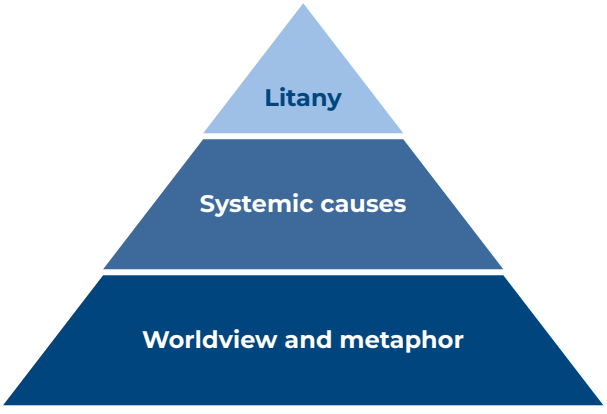
Earth-centric Gold Rush *"Go get it as fast as you can"*
Space used for national development and sustainability on Earth, not in space. EU, African Union, India.

Open Space / Space Utopia *"After us, the flood"*
Earth's decline seen as inevitable; space as a new home. USA.

Earth-Space Sustainability *"The ecosystem of the universe"*
Earth and space as one interconnected system. China, Germany. The desirable future.

NZ **Aotearoa New Zealand** sits between Space Cartel and Open Space, close to the UK. Its 2023 strategy gave Indigenous rights the highest priority of all 12 governments, but these aspects are absent from the 2024 strategy, which leans further towards growth and profit-driven incentives.

MOVING TOWARDS EARTH-SPACE SUSTAINABILITY



Change is needed at every layer. Fixing only the visible problems leaves the values that created them in place.

Litany: Monitoring, metrics and feedback loops; explore the Mauri Model with Māori

Systemic causes: Accountability rules, enforcement, Space Sustainability Rating, space as UN SDG 18

Worldview and metaphor: From space as a dumping ground to interconnectedness; co-governance with Indigenous Peoples, e.g. Tāwhaki

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