



Name	Thomas L. Matula, PhD
Email	tommatula@hotmail.com
Country	USA
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Abstract

Over the years several strategies have been advocated for human expansion into the Solar System. To date these space settlement strategies have approached the challenge from a physics perspective rather than one based on economics. Usually these strategies are built around the requirement of massive government funding and a national commitment to human expansion into the Solar System. As a result, these strategies have only remained visions in books, articles, and presentations.

This paper approaches the challenge of human expansion into the Solar System from a completely different perspective, an economic one, using techniques developed to generate business strategies. This approach allows the development of a grand strategy that starts out at the existing state of affairs and provides a practical road map for human expansion independent of dedicated government funding. The Astrosettlement Grand Strategy (AGS) consists of four levels that start with Earth based research and lead to the stars. The four levels are 1) Earth Research, 2) Lunar Industrialization, 3) Solar System Expansion, and 4) Interstellar Migration. It provides a road map for human expansion for the next two centuries that starts out with activities that could be started today with modest funding. The four levels are described in the paper with an emphasis on the first level an agenda for Earth based research.

A short bio

Thomas Matula, Ph.D. is a Tenured Professor at Sul Ross State University, Texas. Dr. Matula believes in a multidisciplinary approach to strategy that integrates economics, history, and technology, providing exciting forward-thinking academic programs. A futurist, he has applied the principles of strategic development and economics to write numerous academic papers on ecommerce, online education, and the emerging field of space commerce. Recognizing that the more you understand the past the better prepared you will be to shape the future he integrates economic history into both his academic publications and his instruction.