



Stanford eCorner

Space Mining vs. Human Space Flight

Elon Musk, *SpaceX*

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/394/Space-Mining-vs-Human-Space-Flight>

Musk thinks that establishing a base on the Moon or on Mars is an enormous opportunity, on a trillion dollar level.



Transcript

There are a couple of things that I think are pretty bogus. One is space mining, another is space solar power. I mean if you calculate how much it costs to bring either the photons from space solar power back to earth or the raw material back to earth, the economics don't make sense. They just can't close the economic case. It's probably all by... So I think probably the biggest thing that could happen is if we decide to establish a base on the moon or a base on Mars and particularly, if we attempt to make a self-sustaining base, self-sustaining civilization on the moon or Mars, that is an enormous opportunity on probably the trillion-dollar level because then you have basically interplanetary commerce going on. I think that's pretty huge, but it's all going to be space solar power; it's not going to be space mining I think.