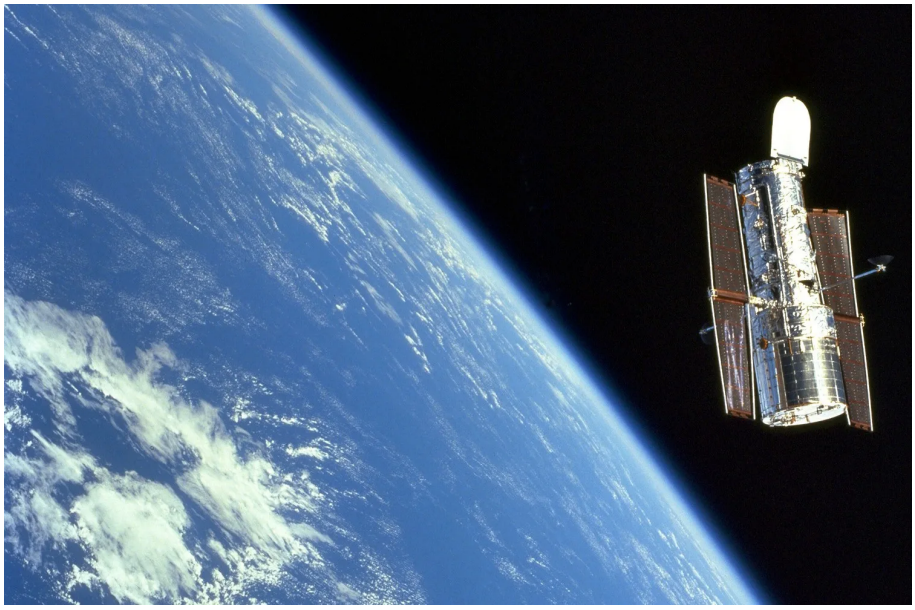

Avino, the Folgore Boy Who Wants Italy to Be a Leader in Space

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Italy today confirms itself as one of the leaders in the space economy, a sector that combines research, innovation, investments, and international projection. The growth of companies like **Argotec**, led by CEO David Avino, has allowed our country to carve out a leading role in global space missions, thanks to a design and production capability that has been recognized in both the United States and Europe.

From pioneering projects like **ISSpresso**, the first coffee machine brought to the ISS, to the **LICIACube** and **ArgoMoon** missions with NASA, Argotec has demonstrated how Italian ingenuity can compete with the world's largest players. The constellation **IRIDE**, funded with PNRR funds and managed by ESA on behalf of the Italian government, represents a key piece in this strategy, as it will allow the development of a national satellite infrastructure serving security, the environment, and industry. The growth of this ecosystem must be supported with continuity and strategic vision, because Italy's added value lies not only in technology but also

in the ability to create a system and link scientific excellence to a solid production chain.

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A National Supply Chain for the Moon and Mars

Alongside the initiatives already launched by Argotec, there is a strong need to build **a national supply chain of small and medium-sized enterprises capable of supporting the effort towards space, the Moon, and Mars**, strengthening the production fabric and creating opportunities for qualified employment. Today, the space economy is already a driver for the global economy, and our country must be able to intercept this transformation, converting traditional and manufacturing companies into entities capable of providing components, services, and know-how to the aerospace sector. This planning, which combines academic research, high-tech industry, and public policies, becomes essential to not lose ground against more structured competitors. International experiences show that the ability to integrate startups, SMEs, and large industrial groups into a synergistic ecosystem ensures greater resilience, faster innovation, and competitiveness in global markets. In this context, Italy has the opportunity to enhance its human capital and engineering skills that have historically made our country a world reference point in the fields of mechanics, automation, and robotics.

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Forward-Looking Policies for the New Space Economy

The role of the government is crucial to accompany this transition, not only through incentives and funding but above all with a **modern space law**, capable of regulating the use and management of satellite data, supporting the commercialization of technologies, and facilitating market access for emerging companies. A clear political commitment is needed: not to be bogged down by old bureaucratic legacies or the advantageous positions of large groups aiming to monopolize the country's digital and space change. Instead, it is necessary to encourage healthy and transparent competition, rewarding the most innovative and agile entities, those that can ensure Italy a future in space based on quality, reliability, and international collaboration capability. Argotec, with projects like **CURIE** and the new **SpacePark**, shows the way: opening new frontiers, creating cutting-edge infrastructures, and consolidating the Italian presence beyond Earth's orbit. If the government can accompany this vision with targeted and forward-looking policies, Italy can truly consolidate its role as a leader in the space of the future.

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