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Industry role key to raising share in sat mkt: Antrix CMD

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New Delhi: With Isro's newly formed commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) taking over the satellite launch contract business, the space agency's old commercial wing Antrix Corporation has now changed its priorities and is focusing on manufacturing space systems and promoting industry's role in the sector. Talking to TOI, Antrix CMD Rakesh Sasibhushan said, "With NSIL (in picture), Antrix's primary focus is now on manufacturing of space subsystems and playing a role in building the industry ecosystem."

On why India's satellite launch revenue is minuscule, he said, "India's launch revenue is less than 20% of Antrix's income, which is less than \$300 million. Basically you are looking at \$50-60 million (annually) as launch revenue, which is nothing compared to the \$360 billion global space industry. For increasing the revenue, you need to have good industry ecosystem. Isro alone can't do it as the agency's focus is on government systems and security requirements. We need to build technologies and have commercial companies which are able to provide end-to-end products that they can market them globally. We need to build a conducive atmosphere for growth of the private sector in commercial space domain so that the country can harness a fair share of the global market."

On promoting the industry's role, Sasibhushan, on the sidelines of Broadband India Forum's SatCom 2019 event, told TOI, "Isro has already announced plans for the industrialisation of space systems like PSLV and SSLV (mini-PSLV). Hopefully, when we move forward, we can reduce costs and be more competitive."