

Preface

A lot has happened since the first edition of this volume was published in 2010. First, the order of authors has changed. That's because Greg Matloff elected to take early retirement from his full-time teaching position at New York City College of Technology and Les Johnson's responsibilities at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center have expanded.

After the publication of the first edition, artist C Bangs created with Greg Matloff's collaboration an artist's book *Biosphere Extension: Solar System Resources for the Earth*, which has been collected by the Brooklyn Museum and the British Interplanetary Society. Some of the art from that volume has been modified to appear as chapter frontispiece art in this edition.

The concept of applying solar system resources to improve terrestrial existence seems a bit more immediate in 2013 because of the increased number of private and public players in the space arena. Diverting Earth-threatening asteroids using our developing interplanetary capabilities has taken on fresh urgency after the 2013 air burst over Siberia that injured about 1,500 people but happily resulted in no fatalities.

Colleagues of ours affiliated with Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee who authored a chapter in the first edition discussing a space-based approach to alleviating global warming have expanded their efforts to contribute an additional chapter to this second edition on suggested Earth-based approaches to deal with this global issue.

Perhaps the failure of many world governments to adequately address this urgent problem is a cause for pessimism. But such pessimism might be countered by the fact that application of green energy is increasing on our planet.

No one can predict the outcome of the multiple current world crises. But solar system resources can certainly be applied to alleviate some of these problems if we have the will to tap them. It is hoped that the ideas presented in this volume contribute to a positive future for humans and all terrestrial life.

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