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1

## Abstract

### Smart Cities and Social Entrepreneurship: Remaking Markets and Manufacturing Open Innovation Spaces

In considering Smart Cities as an industry and not simply as a discourse or movement, it is important to analyze how technology diffusion operates in the context of the city. Smart Cities are a *market-making* enterprise. However, that enterprise directly involves social entrepreneurship and relies on open innovation. Smart cities applications allow people and firms to gather information about the (market) conditions of the individual and aggregated lived urban experience, and allow for cities (and other stakeholders) to collect data capable of optimizing (public) services and provisioning enhanced current and future infrastructure(s). These functions have both real and potential value --- for the public and the private sectors.

Thus, Smart Cities are a contested market space --- sitting somewhere between the private, public, and third sectors. Smart Cities, as an industry sector, are focused on the design, development, and deployment of an emerging class of cross-platform, service-integrated, technology products that enhance infrastructure performance. This paper discusses this process of technology diffusion into the *public sector* focused on “upgrading,” efficiency, and broadening access and opportunity on a platform of open innovation.

The paper also analyzes *who* is promoting Smart Cities (as a set of technologies and as a new “open innovation” market space). The diversity of stakeholders involved underscores the complexity of the private market vs. public sector challenge that frames technology diffusion into cities at this scale. And, as the private, public, and third sector networks are evolving to manage the implementation challenges, sets of privileged places have also emerged. These places are recipients of demonstration project grants and resources coming through philanthropic investments, private sector partnership, and government competitions and challenges. The ad-hoc implementation of the use cases and capacities produces a complex and uneven landscape with the potential to reshape regional competition and shift the focus away from enhanced quality and coverage of public services and towards increased privatization.

