Impact on Society

The automatic refueling and extraction station will first of all allow humans to travel to other planets, and potentially become multiplanetary if they settle there. Furthermore, the impact of the system on the job of the astronomers is to reduce the risky jobs they might have to do and allow them more time to perform science experiments. Now, as the station takes away a risky part of an astronaut’s job, there is also possibly a need for fewer astronauts in the future, which will take away some people’s potential jobs. However, it is not certain that these jobs are something we want or not, as they are based upon risking human lives. Another problem is that this station will collect a large amount of highly flammable liquid in a single place which could be attached to a rocket filled with potentially hundreds of people in a hard to control environment. This could make a very big target for future terrorists and escalate the use of weapons and warfare in space which is less than ideal. Finally, the station could help further the scientific field of autonomous robotics, allowing future projects to build upon the experiences in this project. This will be especially important in future space related applications, like automatic building of space station and setting up “Highways” for spaceships.