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INTERNATIONAL SOUNDING BALLOON PROJECT

Abstract

Sounding balloons constitute a cost-effective platform for conducting a wide range of experiments at high altitudes, and an excellent tool for science and technology education. The 'International Sounding Balloon Project' aims to establish an international network of university students to increase awareness on sounding balloon experimentation, share results and flight opportunities.

Based on the experience gathered through several national campaigns, the tracking system, data procedures and flight protocols will be standardized. The lessons learnt on every campaign will be systematically organized to allow a continuous improvement as a result of this international cooperation system.

This paper will review the rationale behind this initiative, highlighting the potential of an international and interdisciplinary sounding balloon campaign for capacity building, science and technology education and research of the atmosphere. Finally, it will describe the development achieved so far and the roadmap for establishing a broader international cooperation.