SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)

On Track - Undergraduate And Postgraduate Space Education (2)

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EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF FOUR YEARS OF CUBESAT ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIÈGE, BELGIUM

Abstract

The University of Liège started CubeSat activities in 2007 with a single-unit nanosatellite, OUFTI 1. The innovative feature of OUFTI-1 is its main payload: the D-STAR amateur-radio digital-communication protocol. OUFTI-1 will also carry an innovative electric power system and high-efficiency solar cells. The main objective of this project is educational: it aims at providing hands-on experience to students in the design, construction, and control of complete satellite systems. Students also have the opportunity to develop different skills such as working in a team, managing projects and participating in reviews.

Students take part in the OUFTI-1 project within the framework of their master thesis. The fourth generation of students will graduate in June 2011. This will lead to a total of 39 students that were involved in the project. The objective of this contribution is to carry out a survey aiming at assessing the educational outcomes of OUFTI-1. The survey focuses on the careers of former students. The impact of participating in such a project is envisioned, as well as the perception of former students about the developed skills.