

28th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)
Space Societies, Professional Associations and Museums (5)

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THE COLOMBIAN SPACE FOUNDATION: AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP THE SPACE SECTOR

Abstract

Since the space conference of the Americas held in Cartagena in 2012, the Colombian state has tried to create a space policy to become a space faring nation. In 2006, the Colombian Space Commission was created, it was composed by 30 public entities and a private university and whose president was the Vice President of the Republic. The purpose of this commission was to create space policy and coordinate the space activities of the various ministries.

To give a new impetus to the space policy, in November 2013, the Presidential program for Colombian Space development was created. This program had as main goal the creation of the Colombian space policy and had to work hand in hand with the Colombian Space Commission. Again the program had little impact and did not achieve its objectives and disappeared.

After 2014, the new Vice president of the Republic considered that the space topic was not a priority and it was decided that the commission would be chaired by the Secretary of the presidency. However, since the date, the Commission has no real president or true functioning.

Noting that 11 years have passed and no real space agency and space policy have been created and history has been chaotic, the private sector took the initiative to create a Private Space Agency as a foundation, financed with Private Capital, following the example of some countries of the America region.

The agency, although founded by individuals, has the participation of public entities, universities and industry in order to achieve synergies and the development of space activities. This agency aims to promote education, research, development of activities and cooperation in space. The Agency has created programs of education for children and adults, the creation of space competitions, support for the creation of startup in space, financial support for research projects and Cubesat and the creation of national and international strategic alliances.

The main goal of the Colombian space agency is to promote knowledge of the space topic in the country to make it a priority issue in the medium term.

This paper seeks to demonstrate how the private sector can establish a space policy and the and engaging public in space topics