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FIRST STEPS TO ESTABLISH AN SMALL SATELLITE PROGRAM IN PERU

Abstract

In the past years a couple of universities in developing countries did manage to establish and develop small satellite programs in their countries. They were using the so called Cubesat technology. Now it is the time for Perú in South America to do the same. The aim of this paper is to inform the space community on the first steps and achievements carried out by some Peruvian institutions to create an aerospace program starting with a small satellite project.

This challenging project will be carried out with the involvement of governmental and educational institutions from Peru as well as abroad. Cooperation with European entities and universities has been started and we are in the process to engross the number of partners to be involved in this project.

The small satellite program will be conducted by the Center for Technological Information and Communications (CTIC) at the National University of Engineering (UNI) in Lima, Peru. CTIC has for goal to create a nano-satellite, using the technology of and having the size of a Cubesat and to launch it in the next 3 years, demonstrating that in Peru such a space program is as well doable.

Since last year, the efforts of Peruvian students, young engineers, academic personal and consultants have been centralized in the definition of the mission design. They have already master to identify and select which subsystems the satellite will carry into space. The Peruvian government is also interested in and currently is working on the development of the aerospace area in the country. The National Commission of Investigation and Aerospace Development of Peru (CONIDA) and the Department of Defence are supporting such challenging and promising program. A first step has been achieved establishing the National Committee for Operations of Satellite Images (CNOIS). The objective and purposes of CNOIS is to promote the technological and scientific development of the country in the remote sensing area.

This paper will describe the, until now, selected subsystems and the possible payload to be used during the operational mission live of the first Peruvian satellite. The progress of our society and country can be ensured developing this kind of technology. It will give us the great opportunity to perform space science and exploration.