

SPACE ACTIVITY AND SOCIETY (E5)
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THE AFRICA SPACE PROJECT

Abstract

Nowadays the space sector is dramatically increasing worldwide due to the universal aim of exploring the new horizons that have been discovered and to develop our quality of life. But it has been identified a general lack of infrastructure related to the space sector in Africa. The project that is presented in this abstract represents a hope for Africa and, in general, for the space sector and, because of this, the fact of linking space organizations by joining them up has an added value. The concrete objective of this project is to set up an organization of space students in Africa.

The organization and experience base will be taken from the organization "LEEM" in Spain, which is a NPA that joined many space students from all over Spain and from some other countries. LEEM is currently developing several space related projects in which students from different cities are working together with a perfect coordination.

The reason of this project is **to provide a significant benefit for the African space students and industries** while they will be engaged with other existing networks and associations through an inventory. Also there will be a strong link with the space industrial sector and other institutions, and the potential application field can be found there. This way the African space sector, that wants to grow but needs to be interconnected, will have the chance to become united and share knowledge, develop common projects and overall, to establish a solid platform that will empower the African Space sector. By now some actions have already been taken to promote this project in countries with few space related activities. Moreover, in future this project can be applied with the same structure to the worldwide scenery to finally reach to a global space network.

This project's paper will analyze the methods that are used, the concrete objectives that are expected to reach by it and the considerable impact that it will have in the African and global space sector. Also it will serve as an invitation for the people who believe in this project, mainly student organizations, to jump on this networking initiative.