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Author: Dr. Carlos Romo Fuentes

Geophysics Research Institute, Mexico, carlosrf2000@yahoo.com.mx

Dr. Saul D. Santillan Gutierrez

Geophysics Research Institute, Mexico, saulsan@servidor.unam.mx

Dr. Vivaldo Muñoz Gonzalez

Geophysics Research Institute, Mexico, vivaldo_mg@hotmail.com

Dr. Jose Alberto Ramirez Aguilar

Geophysics Research Institute, Mexico, dulbet2000@yahoo.com

Dr. Saul De la Rosa Nieves

Geophysics Research Institute, Mexico, saulrn7@yahoo.com.mx

ACADEMIC AEROSPACE PROGRAMME AT THE UNAM

Abstract

UNAM has been working on space projects during years, however there is a strong push to develop new, more ambitious projects in the aerospace field. Amongst them are the generation of academic programs in the field, the foundation of an internal research and development network and the design of a new satellite platform. These projects would help to consolidate an academic group of researchers with expertise in the field and capabilities for proposing and executing new alternative projects. The article describes the integration processes for the Mexican satellite platform, the development of academic programs and the foundation of the university network of space technology at the UNAM. Projects are supported by a group of specialists in different fields, including geophysics, geography and other users of satellite technology. The design of satellite platforms has a core in the group that has been working on the current satellite project CONDOR UNAM MAI. The development process of the components and systems that integrate the satellite platform is contributing to establish new research areas and promoting international academic and scientific cooperation in space technology projects. Researchers forming the group have begun the draft design of the satellite platform defining the tasks to be accomplished. There are academic programs for students interested in participating through graduate and postgraduate programs in engineering. The definition of the subsystems to integrate the platform is under way, with the vision to get specific working groups that will attack the future problems as the projects develops. The work for establishing the internal network is running at the same time, in order to establish different research topics related to aerospace. A strong effort is going to be dedicated on generating cooperation links or partnerships with different institutions or industries. Through these projects UNAM is strengthening the research in space technology and supporting the formation of specialized research group in the aerospace field.