

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Overview Session (Present and Near-Term Human Space Flight Programs) (1)

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THE ECUADORIAN CIVILIAN SPACE PROGRAM: NEAR-FUTURE MANNED RESEARCH
MISSIONS IN A LOW COST, ENTRY LEVEL SPACE PROGRAM.

Abstract

The Ecuadorian Civilian Space Program was presented on August 29 2007, to date, big steps have been taken by this Civilian program endorsed by the Ecuadorian Air Force and the Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency.

We will discuss the creation of microgravity facilities for training and research from scratch and the joint microgravity research missions made with the Ecuadorian Air Force, the development of tailored astronaut training programs alongside with the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center and the training of the first Ecuadorian as a professional astronaut, the planned use of would-be available commercial spacecrafts as a low cost alternative to the ISS for microgravity research manned missions and briefly discuss the building of a ground station for a national satellite program and the ramifications to climate monitoring in the country.

The methodology and training components unique to the Ecuadorian Space Program (ESP) will be outlined and how those training components were used in other sub-programs of the ESP like the Microgravity Induction Regime during the the parabolic flights for reducing the discomfort in the flight participants and improving their work performance in microgravity research work. The mission planning and training methodology and components will be outlined as well as the list of proposed experiments for the first stage of the manned space program, know as the ESAA-01 phase.

We will also discuss the impact in the Ecuadorian society and in the region of the Ecuadorian Space Program.