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Author: Mr. Ademir Vrolijk
George Washington University, United States, avrolijk@gwu.edu

Dr. Michael Bergmann
Graz University of Technology (TU Graz), Austria, michael.bergmann@tugraz.at

Ms. Maria Victoria Alonsoperez
IEETech, Uruguay, valonsoperez@ieetech.com

Mr. Trevor Morris
Canada, Trevor.Morros@rmc.ca

THE GUIDEBOOK ON SMALL SATELLITE PROGRAMS: MANAGEMENT OF AN
INTERNATIONAL TEAM, LESSONS LEARNED, AND FUTURE VISIONS

Abstract

Small Satellite Programs have been a common way for countries, academia, industries and non-profit organizations to start a space program. Thus, based on experience from already pursued small satellite missions, expert knowledge in the field, and available literature, a team of 39 participants of the 2011 Space Studies Program of the International Space University (ISU) compiled a guidebook on small satellite programs aiming to support newcomers on the scene with their first steps. In this paper we describe the motivation, development, and main topics of this guidebook. We detail how a group of 39 people from 24 countries were coordinated and focused on a common goal within a short period of time, what difficulties arose and how these were tackled. Furthermore, we briefly answer the major questions addressed in the guidebook: Why small satellite programs? What can be accomplished? Who is involved? What legal and regulatory issues exist? How is the program concept envisioned? How is the mission concept implemented?