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ADVOCATING SPACE – ISRAELI NGO’S SPACE ACTIVITIES: A FIELD REPORT

**Abstract**

With a population of just 8 million, Israel is a small country, but has a vibrant space program. On 1988, Israel became the 8th nation to join the “space Club”, with the launch of its first satellite on a dedicated satellite launch vehicle – both are indigenously designed and built. Although the Israeli space agency is 30 years old (established on 1983), there are some non governmental organizations with the prime directive of education, increase public awareness and promote space exploration and activities.

From a modest beginning in the 1950’s, with the establishment of local astronomy groups and clubs, Israel enjoys the work of several NGO such as the Israeli Astronomical Association, The Israeli Space Society, the Israeli Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics – among other initiatives.

The paper will outline the NGO space activities during the years, and will focus on the participation in international initiatives such as the World Space Week (of which the author is the national coordinator for WSW in Israel since 2003) and will explore new ideas and possibilities for international cooperation and collaboration in the important activities of promoting space education, activities and exploration, through societies and associations.