

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture: Innovative Approaches for Public Engagement in Space (8)

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THE ROLE OF NETWORKING FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN SPACE

Abstract

We live in the era of advanced and rapid technological progress which influences every part of our life. The progress made our life more “international”, removing boundaries like distance and communication. It provided an access and created opportunities for all the people around the globe on a scale never seen before. The progress made it possible to create a network for all the space enthusiasts, enhancing international cooperation, development and contribution.

The space sector became an important link for people of all fields and expertise: engineers, lawyers, doctors, philosophers, sociologists and many more. They are linked by many commonly accessible social media but also by well organised networking organisations focusing specifically on space activities. Over the years the role of international networking organisations became crucial for public engagement into space awareness and activities. They made possible for people to access information, data sharing, connecting people, gathering ideas and much more. By using different tools they had an impact on local and global societies and created fora for discussions on further progress, on new technological ideas which could be realised by space agencies and companies.

The paper analyses current networks and existing not-profit organisations associated with space activities and the industry. The analysis is offered based on works and activities of two non-profit, volunteering space organisations: Space Generation Advisory Council and World Space Week Association. It also presents other forums and events and their value and contribution to the public engagement and the industry in general. Aims of the organisations and specialised networks, their current status, activities and potential problems are also examined in the paper. Moreover, the paper presents an analysis of how will look the future networking and provide recommendations for an improvement, to make the networking even more effective.