

25th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE ACTIVITY AND SOCIETY (E5)
Space Societies, Professional Associations and Museums (6)

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GERMAN SPACE AND AERONAUTICS SOCIETY (DGLR): A FUTURE BASED ON SOLID
TRADITION“

Abstract

Over a hundred years ago, on April 3 1912, Prince Heinrich of Prussia and Ludwig Prandtl founded the first German association of aeronautics to help turning the scientific vision of human flight into a technical reality. Today, about 3000 personal and over a hundred corporate members use the interdisciplinary platform that DGLR provides to produce and to spread new technical and scientific findings and theories among the community of experts in space and aeronautics as well as to inform public and politics about the technological progress in one of the most important key areas of modern societys economy. The DGLR is present for its members and target groups on regional level via 14 regional DGLR-groups and eleven student groups as well as on national level through its highly reputed annual conference German Space and Aeronautics Congress“; however, the association is also deeply rooted in international networks by way of membership and active partivipation in CEAS (Council of European Aerospace Societies), ICAS (International Council of Aeronautical Societies), IAF (International Astronautical Federation) and many bilateral cooperations with space and aeronautics organisations in Austria, Poland, France, in the U.S.A. and in Asia, to name but a few.

Besides acting as an information and networking platform the DGLR is eagerly promoting career chances for young people in the exciting field of space and aeronautics, concentrating especially on projects to gear up interest among female pupils and students.

While neither the fascination of flying and exploring space nor the central goals of the DGLR have changed much over the past 100 years, the future of the association will - like in the case of all societies of its kind around the globe - largely depend on ways to keep the idea of personal membership and personal networking attractive for modern people, who have grown up in an environment which is determined rather by virtual than by real communities.