

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)

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EUROAVIA - AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PREPARE THE GLOBAL SPACE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW

Abstract

EUROAVIA - European Association of Aerospace Students - is a Europe based non-profit organisation for international students and young professionals interested in space and aeronautics to support and enhance both their professional and personal development. Established in 1959, two years after the Treaties of Rome that paved the way for economic cooperation in Europe, EUROAVIA connects nowadays more than 2000 members in 38 different cities of 19 European countries. Its goal is to stimulate cooperation between the industry, the institutions and the academia in aerospace research and technological applications, preparing the members' association to become the skilled and knowledgeable aerospace workforce of tomorrow.

On March 16, 2014, EUROAVIA celebrates an outstanding milestone in its history: the XI Lustrum. For 55 years, hundreds of aerospace passionate members have fostered the EUROAVIA spirit, a set of common values based upon hard work, innovation, cultural awareness, teamwork and international networking, to promote the grounding idea of cooperation as a matter of education.

In this context, the paper focuses on EUROAVIA commitment in space to develop the current and future global workforce. The added value of the association is the creation of a unique experience for its members based on direct and authentic interactions with representatives from companies and institutions. Bridging the gap between the educational and professional world, EUROAVIA aims at offering innovative and complementary formation opportunities for its members.

The paper presents a selection of recent successful activities which simultaneously include technical and intercultural management aspects, such as the design workshop "Preliminary Design of an UAV for Exploration of Mars" hosted by ESA Estec in 2006 or the "Space and Entrepreneurship Symposium" organised in Toulouse in collaboration with CNES and the Aerospace Valley in 2013. Additionally, the foundation of a EUROAVIA branch in Kourou in 2013, made possible the realization of unique activities within the Guiana Space Centre such as visits to facilities and meetings with representatives from CNES, ESA, Arianespace, Airbus Space Defence, Europropulsion, Regulus, Snecma, and MT Aerospace.

In conclusion, EUROAVIA is meeting the challenge of building a global culture mindset and a multi-disciplinary cooperation to add value to members' education and careers development in space.