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CENTRAL AMERICAN COOPERATION AND SPACE DEVELOPMENT: ACHIEVEMENTS AND
CHALLENGES

Abstract

The Central American Association for Aeronautics and Space (ACAE, in Spanish) is a non-profit organization which leads the efforts to introduce the Central American region in the world's technological paradigm of aerospace development. Its vision is to inspire the Central American talent to participate in the development of the aerospace field. ACAE works with the governments, private sector and academic institutions of the region, through initiatives such the development of the aerospace related law framework, promotion of research, generation of innovative projects as well as promotion and diffusion of knowledge in the aerospace field. Although since the foundation of ACAE in 2010, relevant achievements in the development of space activities in Central America have been reached, there are many issues to tackle in order to ensure an effective integration of policies and legislation among the countries.

This paper will summarize the state of the art of space developing in Central America (government's programs, legal framework and international cooperation), the potential role of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and will describe the most important challenges to discuss in the upcoming years.