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THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPACE CAPACITIES IN EMERGENT
COUNTRIES: THE COLOMBIAN CASE

Abstract

Colombia has a special relation with the space topic, because it is very active country in the international scene, in COPUOS, since the Bogota Declaration in 1976, but in a internal level, his development is minimal. Nevertheless, since 2004, the University Sergio Arboleda has been the principal actor in the development of space activities in the country. As consequence of the disinterest for a long time for the spatial issue by the gouvernement and the absence of entities in charge of the space policy, the University decided to initiate a satelital program, with the construction of a first cubsat, Liberad 1, which is still the only satellite launched by Colombia. Already the libertad 2 is under construction.

The development of these program in the University Sergio Arboleda, has had a fundamental impact in the development of space activities in Colombia, not only the Colombian Space commission was created since then, but in addition, it has had benefits important for education whit the creation of specific programs and research on space topics, as well as the development of courses and seminars in space law and the creation of spin-offs that are now companies that began to export products and satellites.

This paper seeks to show from this case of study on Colombia, how in emergent countries, the initiative of the universities can be fundamental in the developement of space activities, having an important influence in the academy, the industry, the State and the creation of a space policy