

26th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE AND SOCIETY (E5)  
Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (4)

Author: Mr. Juan Díaz Infante  
Mexico

ULISES 1, AN ART MISSION TO SPACE

**Abstract**

Ulises I is a satellite and a piece of art. The idea started in 2010 in Mexico City, and it was designed as a project of residence for the Fonoteca Nacional (national sound archive) to be presented during Play! Festival as an art exhibition in June 2011. The original idea belongs to Juan José Díaz Infante, also director of the festival. . The Mexican Space Collective was founded in 2010, one year prior to the Mexican Space Agency. The collective is in charge of the building of Ulises I. Also the MSC becomes a platform in which normal citizens, artists, engineers and scientists are working together in a true interdisciplinary way. As a curatorial statement we decided to generate the project through the concept of poetry. The idea of building a satellite is a statement and a poetic action. We want to change reality. Mexico for the last 6 years has been immersed in a drug war declared by Mexico's last president. Over 50,000 deaths are related to this action. There is a need to change this reality, the solution is to launch a mission to space successfully as a citizen's group. This independent action will prove reality can be changed and the future can be transformed in our own terms. There is no need to wait for the lobbyist and the politicians. The anatomy of Ulises I, it is designed as a Tubesat. It will have a heart bit which will be a poem in morse code called "Yo amo el camino". It will transmit in 438 MHz, a greeting, its health, telemetry and a sound piece. It will be in a polar orbit at 300 Kms, approximately for 4 months. In 4 years, Ulises I is ready for launching, and besides being an art and science project, it has also become a social phenomenon. It is the first satellite built in the last 15 years in Mexico. We have already 4 missions to generate the beginning of the Ulises constellation (1 tubesat, 1 modified tubesat, 1 cubesat, 6U cubesat) running in parallel that brings over 75 people working together, 6 institutions, 3 universities, 2 foundations and the private initiative. We have become aware of all the knowledge that we are producing and we have founded, last June officially, ESAT MX, School of Satellites. We are changing the conversation of a country, organizing the other space race.