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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA

Abstract

Every year countless research projects are conducted within the astronautical industry at universities and research centers throughout the world. Although this research covers a breadth of knowledge and areas of study, it is often inhibited by the fact that it is envisaged, prepared, and conducted solely within the academic setting. Such projects, as well as the students who partake in them, would greatly benefit with an intimate interaction with members of industry. The Commercial Spaceflight Federation is currently in the process of rolling out a program that aims to create and foster such relationships. On its highest level, this program aims to best prepare the participants for the industry they seek to join, while providing low cost research to burgeoning members of commercial and government enterprises. If selected, my paper will examine the overlying strategy of the project, the benefits to both members of academia and industry, as well as an update on the successes and areas that need improvement that have been discovered from the initial roll out. The presentation will also serve as a call out to any interested parties to get involved (whether they be from academia, industry, or otherwise).