

50th IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)
History of Mexico and Latin America's Contribution to Astronautics (3A)

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SPACE IN FRENCH GUIANA, 50 YEARS OF HISTORY

Abstract

After Algeria independence in 1962, the French government had to look for a new launch site in order to continue its space program. In 1964, among 14 sites proposed, Georges Pompidou throughout a ministerial order chose French Guiana as territory in order to welcome the French Space Center. Then, in September 1965, that is to say more than fifty years ago, began the future European Space Center. More than 2500 people from eleven different countries work there. At that time Kourou had only 660 inhabitants...

After 50 years of history, the Space Center is part of the French Guiana everyday life. Today, the CSG represents over 7500 jobs that is to say 30% of the payroll department.

This article relates the life of the Guiana Space Center seen by a local Guiana man involving his routine and anecdotes...