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THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE SPACE ACTIVITIES IN MÉXICO, 1933-2010

Abstract

To say, physical Ruth Gall, “in Mexico began the space studies in 1933, where the physical Manuel Sandoval Vallarta published in coauthorship to the Belgian Geroges Leâitre two articles about the cosmic rays”. In the year of 1941 was inaugurated the Astronomical Observatory in Tonantzintla, Puebla, with this event can be considered that began in Mexico the activities for the study of outer space, in 1955 was created Mexican Society of Interplanetary Studies (MSIS), with the purpose of conducting research and dissemination of spatial issues. Thus space activities in Mexico were institutionalized and diversified gradually. For example, in 1957 at the Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi initiated a project to launch of space rockets with two purposes, the first cause rain and the second the study of outer space. In 1959, established the Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space by the Organization of the United Nations (UN), Mexico was part of the Commission. In this process you can distinguish different phases in the development of space science research in Mexico: 1) 1933-1958: Period precursor, 2) 1959-1962: The process of institutionalization of the space studies with the creation of the Department of Space Studies, The National Commission of Outer Space (1962-1976) and the Station Rastreadora Guaymas, Sonora (1960). 3) 1963- 2010 activities to put into orbit communication satellites and research to close in the last year with the creation of the Mexican Space Agency (MSA). The aim of this paper will build and analyze the process of institutionalization of studies and activities on outer space, as well as scientific and telecommunications research in our country in the period 1933-2010.