

24th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL SATELLITE MISSIONS (B4)
Small Satellite Missions Global Technical Session (9-GTS.5)

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KEYNOTE: SMALL SATELLITES: AN INITIATIVE AND A CONTINUOUS SUPPORT BY THE IAA

Abstract

This invited contribution will present the early contribution of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) to promote the concept, development and use of small satellites.

Several meetings and workshops held in the early 90's have led the Academy to initiate a strong support to the development and use of small satellites. For instance the Academy provided contributions to a meeting of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the United Nations COPUOS (Committee for the Peaceful Utilization of Outer Space) in 1996, and to the United Nations Space Conference UNISPACE III in 1997-1999.

Important aspects raised in these contributions will be recalled. Benefits were identified, such as: access to, or development and testing of advanced technology; development of space missions in science or applications such as communications or remote sensing; hands-on training; fostering of international cooperation. Two decades later they are still valuable guidelines for the development and use of small satellites, not only in space faring nations, but also in developing nations.