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Author: Mr. Jari Makinen
France

THE SPACE TRUCK - A MOBILE SPACE EXHIBITION WITH HANDS-ON PROJECTS

Abstract

The Space Truck, a specially designed mobile space exhibition built inside an exhibition trailer, has been doing around the cities and villages in Finland already three times: in 2012, 2014 and now in 2017.

The 2012 tour was realised with Finnish partners and the European Space Agency. In 2014 tour extended also to Scandinavia and was done again with ESA (and national space offices), this time for presenting the Rosetta mission. The last tour in September-October 2017 presented the Finnish new space scene, cubesats and Finnish highlights in space research.

The last tour featured also a cleanroom, where the general public built a functional cubesat – step by step, monitored by students from the Aalto university, the satellite was assembled and tested, and finally flown up to stratosphere with an meteorological balloon. This turned out to be an excellent way to demonstrate how the satellites are simple and basically easy to make, but at the same time they definitely are not.

In this presentation I'd like to hand over the ideas for realising this kind of cost-effective mobile space exhibitions in other countries and come back to lessons learnt when doing these projects.

My main points are and will also be in my presentation:

1. I see the interactive space exhibitions and hands-on projects increasingly important on these days when practically all information is available online, but the internet connection still lacks (even the VR) the physical feel of the space technology, the excitement of the research told by the scientists themselves and personal experiences. People want to participate!
2. As the general public is also increasingly lazy, the best way to reach the people is a mobile exhibition. Like wrote Francis Bacon: "If the mountain won't come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain".
3. By going to public places like a space circus, we can also reach the people who are not usually interested in space.
4. The local medias are always interested in this kind of strange projects that come to town; people also trust more the local media than the national channels.

For more information, see:

- <https://www.facebook.com/avaruusrekka>
- <http://blogs.esa.int/rosetta/2014/04/22/rosetta-hits-the-road-in-scandinavia-and-finland>
- <http://blogs.esa.int/rosetta/2014/05/10/one-week-of-rosetta-truckin>
- <http://blogs.esa.int/rosetta/2014/05/13/rosetta-tour-into-week-2>
- <http://suomi100satelliitti.fi/avaruusrekka>
- #avaruusrekka in social media