

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Calling Planet Earth - Space Outreach to the General Public (6)

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HATCH: OPENING THE DOOR TO SPACE RESEARCH

Abstract

This paper describes the progress of a project to develop an online portal for European space research. It summarises our development approach in understanding the needs of the different stakeholder communities. It outlines the technological approach, the issues encountered, and explores some use cases for engagement following launch in early 2019.

While there are collections and repositories of space research technologies, these tend to be limited to one organisation or funding body and do not cover the whole sphere of space research in one place. The portal being developed under the project HATCH is designed to solve this problem.

Space is inspiring and interesting to the public, but there is a challenge in communicating it due to its perceived industrial niche, often linked to defence and aerospace. HATCH aims to communicate the impacts of space research projects demonstrating how they influence everyday life and provide solutions to diverse challenges. No single place exists where people can find out about the breadth and depth of space research, at whatever level their interest lies. The project will create an open door to enable access to research data, projects and related impacts. Every relevant project with European Commission funding since the start of the Framework 6 programme will be included, but it is also designed to support national programmes and privately-funded industrial research outreach.

A user-centred design creating personalised networks of common interest will help people to find the information they do not know they need to know. This will provide a novel method for promoting space research. The project is not designed to replicate existing platforms, but to create a multiplier effect upon the impacts of other projects and initiatives. As well as being directly accessible to the public it will also help education, outreach and research practitioners to explore space research activities, outcomes, and data. HATCH will deliver targeted messages to relevant audiences through videos, written content, social media and events.

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