

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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UNAMS SPACE PROGRAM, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

UNAM is a large university (more than 330 students). UNAM funded Programa Espacial Universitario, working under a special status granting access to different institutes and schools to coordinate efforts on specific areas for addressing problems of national and/or global relevance. Several groups have been called to get a more coordinated effort, working on research, technology development, innovation and human resources specific activities from high school education to postgraduate research. PEU will foster collaboration with industry, government, academic institutions and international agencies for project development. PEU will work on developing long term strategies for solving strategic issues for Mexican economy and infrastructure requiring RD, some of the initial actions and results to date are; A CANSAT contest involving more than 300 participants from 7 campi at High School and Bachelors level is currently running, for introducing students to aerospace related disciplines. Winners would be supported for an international contest with universities from USA and Canada. A meeting involving the Heads of 3 CONACYT National Laboratories working on Remote Sensing, Space system development and Space weather monitoring is coordinated for instrument development, ground observatories, space systems and mission development. An important initiative related to the study on the influence of the Development of the Mexican Aerospace Industry in the national economy is being conducted with researchers of the Economics Faculty of UNAM A Project Management course for Space Systems Engineering is being developed with the collaboration of the Management and Engineering schools. An Space Health diploma is being coordinated with the Medicine Faculty, as a prelude for RD projects and collaborative work with government agencies and other academic institutions, is aimed to get 200 attendees. Furthermore, the PEU (Programa Espacial Universitario) is developing a couple of proposals for space missions to establish a long term working relation with different Universities and Space Agencies,. PEU will assist different groups to get funding from national and/or international sources, in close collaboration with the Mexican Space Agency and CONACYT, the national research council. There is an Aerospace BEng syllabus under approval from the Engineering School, it would be receiving from 20 to 40 students every year (400 students in 10 semesters), PEU is going to be of paramount importance fostering RD projects involving groups from different UNAMs and other universities, research centers and government institutions for establishing a collaboration environment allowing Bachelors and graduate students to get hands on experience during their studies