

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

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PREPARING AND DEVELOPING THE FUTURE OF SPACE OPERATIONS PROFESSIONALS AT
SPACE OPERATIONS

Abstract

The Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) is an organization comprised of students and young professionals, formed during the third United Nations Conference on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE III) held in Vienna (Austria) from 19 of July 1999. SGAC focuses on the development of the new space workforce, especially by offering networking opportunity to cultivate professional soft skills and leadership skills. Over the years, SGAC has worked very closely with organizations that are responsible for planning and hosting space operations (SpaceOps) conferences, starting in 2014 and continuing in 2016 and 2018 conferences in order to foster planning and developing the future space operations professionals and next generation young leaders in space operations community. Currently, SGAC, SpaceOps Committee and conference hosting agency, South African National Space Agency (SANSA), are working on the SpaceOps 2020 Conference to be held in Cape Town, South Africa on 18-22 May 2020.

Primary focus of SGAC is to implement the Students and Young Professionals Program (SYP) during SpaceOps Conference. The participation of students and young professionals have increased steadily over the years for this specific conference: 25 participants in 2014, 120 participants in 2016 and 150 participants in 2018. Due to its successful implementation of SYP, SGAC has evolved into a contributing member of the SpaceOps organizations and currently two SGAC representatives have been integrated into the SYP sub-group of Communications, Outreach, and Publications Group (COPG) working group to lead the SYP activities, demonstrating the growing importance of SGAC's participation to space operations community.

This paper will describe the planned activities of SYP formulation and required coordination activities with the SpaceOps Committee and SpaceOps 2020 Conference hosting agency spanning the two year-preparation period over the conference and then during the conference itself. Moreover, lessons learned from SpaceOps 2018 Conference will be described and the targeted improvements for the next conference will be discussed. The central part of this paper will describe the contents of SYP that will be implemented during the conference and the benefits gained from them. Normally, three type of activities are carried out: a Sunday workshop on a space-related hot topic (the last two years, the focus has been on CubeSats), a Speed mentoring event and a tour on local space facilities.