

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
New Worlds - Non-Traditional Space Education and Outreach (7)

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TEKNOFEST ISTANBUL AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL AND ITS KEY ROLE IN
REALIZING “NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE”

Abstract

TEKNOFEST, an Aerospace and Technology Festival inspired by Turkey’s experience in aviation and space science held between 20-23 September 2018 at İstanbul New Airport. Festival led by the Turkey Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation) and the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, supported by over 30 stakeholders from the Turkish Industry and Ministries. TEKNOFEST welcomed over 550,000 guests for four days to dozens of booths by technology and RD companies in 2018 with opening speech by the President of Turkey . Students from high schools, universities and graduate schools competed in various categories. Participating teams gained lifelong experiences at the World Drone Cup, Hackathon, UAV Supported Unmanned Land Vehicle, Robotic Conquest, Swarm UAV, Artificial Intelligence, Technology for Humanity’s Benefit, and Robotaxi. Model Satellite, and Model Plane competitions offered a visual feast. The rocket competition organized in low and high altitudes categories aimed to promote aerospace technology among students and to improve their skills. In 2018, the meeting highlighted the technology competitions that were the most important parts of the festival, which includes 750 teams and more than 2,000 contestants. By providing competition teams with technical equipment support to design and develop their own projects during the preparation process, the event aims at supporting young innovators’ technological developments. In 2019, competitions in 15 different categories are organized for supporting youth’s interest within future technologies in the scope of TEKNOFEST, which aims to create technology and science awareness in the whole society including various target groups and increase trained human resources of Turkey in the fields of science and engineering. This paper looks at TEKNOFEST’s impact on national youth space outreach and its key role in realizing “National Technology Initiative”.