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IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Lift Off - Secondary Space Education (2)

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SSC FUTURE HANDS-ON ROCKET AND BALLOON STUDENT PROGRAMS - LAUNCHING AND TEACHING LOCALLY

Abstract

SSC has a long heritage of educating students since the 1990s in the areas of suborbital flights and balloons through a multitude of projects and the REXUS/BEXUS programme. SSC has during this time seen the imense benefit of these projects and programes have had for the European space community. Currently, SSC is investigating the possibilities of expanding educational activities to new countries and areas that previously have not been in involved in suborbital flights and ballooning. This new program would fly selected student experiments onboard a suborbital rocket or balloon flight locally in UAE or at Esrange Space Center in Sweden. It could either be a single experiments sharing the flight with other experiments or dedicated flight for student experiments. The goal of the activity is to foster, educate and train a young generation of space engineers and scientists to become the engineers and scientist of tomorrow leading the development of future space endeavours and scientific discoveries. Suborbital rockets and balloons are ideal for learning and training young people in all the essential skills required for larger space project, however in a smaller, confined and well defined project within a reasonable budget and time frame. The aim is also to enhance and expanded the space related capabilities and knowledge in UAE. This paper will expand on the topic of SSC assisting in setting up and operating UAE student programs. It will also elaborate on the possibility to establish UAE suborbital flight programs and stratospheric balloon programs for local requirements and needs and offering unique services to the international space community.