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OVERVIEW OF SMALL SATELLITE IN LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN

Abstract

New Space is still a very recent subject in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since the start of the cubesat wave, Latin American countries have launched 23 nanosatellites, with Brazil taking the lead with seven launches, followed by Peru and Ecuador with four launches each, and Argentina with three nanosatellites launched. These numbers represent a lack of innovation reflecting on the space sector of these countries. With a worldwide interest in small satellites and its application, Latin America and the Caribbean has not taken its stand in the New Space race. Even though those countries have almost no efforts together, the number of events related to New Space has increased, indicating the rise of interest of students, professors and other sectors in the area. This paper aims to give an overview of past and present of cubesats in Latin America and the Caribbean by gathering the information of the cubesats such as mission state, orbit, payload, cubesat developer, and some lessons learned through the process to those countries. This paper will bring all together by analysing the future mission of those countries with the objective of investigating the gap between local government, Industries and the Universities, also giving an outlook of the field on where those countries can work on joint collaboration and action in order to develop the New Space in the region. Furthermore, the analyses should serve as a blueprint for business that plan on engaging in future missions in and applications.