

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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ISRAELI AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES, CONTINUING AND RE-INVENTING SPACE EDUCATION
DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

Abstract

This paper describes how Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), as the main Israeli space house, found ways to bring our space technologies to high school students due to COVID-19 circumstances restrictions. We demonstrate the cooperation between our space engineers and the school student to encourage them to learn and excel in STEM. The article and lecture will also show how IAI Space Division works with other space industries and Israeli educational organizations and governmental organizations (like Israeli Space Agency ,Ramon foundation) to enrich the young generation's educational world and to show them how to be a part of the Israeli "startup nation". We started 2020 expecting to continue the educational programs like the last recent years. COVID-19 overturned the world and forced us, as an essential company to Israeli defense and acting in sensitive systems, to change our business methods. The pandemic restrictions were even greater on our educational activities, including a ban on student visits to our company campus. We consider education to be also "essential", and therefore we chose to develop appropriate tools for space education. During these COVID-19 days, IAI Space division together with our public relations department, initiated numerous on-line activities and resources, in order to continue the involvement with the students during the pandemic. For example: We created a virtual IAI Space visit that gives the impression of the whole life cycle of a satellite project, starting from challenges and ideas. Here are some of our main educational activities during the last 10 years: 1.Lecturing, mentoring and supporting high schools on space education 2."Female engineers of the future" program: encouraging high school girls who specialized in science technologies studies. 3.student visiting program. Thousands of school students have visited our facilities. 4.STEM teachers space training. After these years of space educational activity, we see our contribution in STEM studies. The Ministry of Education established a space studies track in many high schools. Our activities take place in many schools all over Israel. The students who are exposed to the programs come from various levels of social/economical/educational backgrounds. Here we see the beauty of finding in each one the desire to learn , by giving them the resources and igniting the desire. For example, we found out that when the students meet a young space engineer with whom they can identify (like young female pupils with female space engineers), they understand better the benefit in excelling in math and physics and see that the sky is not the limit to anyone.