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Is Space R&D Truly Fostering A Better World For Our Future? (2)

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OPPORTUNITIES ON NATIONAL SECURITY, AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND SOCIAL
EQUITY THROUGH SPACE TECHNOLOGIES IN MEXICO

Abstract

An active presence in the space sector is pivotal to the wellbeing and future development of a country. This is especially true for emerging nations like those in Latin America, which have the potential as well as the need to increase their involvement with technology, science, and innovation if they are to improve the living conditions and equality of their societies. For these countries, the participation in space is not a mere craving for exploration and knowledge, but a matter of survival. A lack of development in space technologies puts emerging countries in danger of forever trailing the developed world. At the center of their needs are satellites, which provide essential benefits in areas like observation for disaster protection, security and surveillance, climate change, distance education and healthcare to remote areas among others. Mexico has the potential to lead the development of the Latin American Space Sector with the existence of the three MexSat Satellite Systems currently in orbit, and the launch of AztechSat, their first nanosatellite. However, this is still not enough, the coverage these satellites provide does not yet suffice to encompass the whole territory. Thus, an increase of Satellite Systems can be a game changer in many of the needs of the country. The focus on this paper centers on three of its most pressing issues and demands: national security, agriculture development, and social equity for marginalized groups in remote areas of Mexico.