

34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
Interactive Presentations - 34th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND
ECONOMICS (IP)

Author: Ms. Michele Cristina Silva Melo
Brazil

Prof. Andrea Felipe Cabello
University of Brasilia, Brazil
Ms. LUCIA HELENA FREITAS
Brazilian Space Agency (AEB), Brazil

BRAZILIAN SPACE SECTOR: HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC BUDGET

Abstract

In the last two decades, the total expenditure on Space Activities has increased in Brazil, although in a volatile way, it shows a growing commitment of the Brazilian Government with Space Policy that has transcended different administrations. The result is the creation of the Brazilian Space Agency in 1994, with its executive and coordinative role, which enabled that growth. After the VLSs accident in 2003, the Brazilian Government decided to increase the space program budget to rebuild its launching center. The budget increased from 2008 and on and then suffered a steep decrease from 2014 and on. Part of these variations are related to macroeconomic conditions that affected the government's abilities to increase funding (in 2008-2014) and then restricted again this capacity from 2014 and on, when a fiscal crisis hit Brazil in a way it has not been recovered yet. Space Policy is not immune to this process, although it was able to maintain the gains that were obtained in previous years and it does not seem to be losing any further ground in real terms, showing that, at least in comparison to other areas, it is aligned with the current administration's priorities. The analysis of the budget for 2000-2020 shows that in the first years, the priority of the Brazilian Space Agency has been the Launching Centers and Earth Observation. The Launching Centers option is related to necessary investments on Alcantara Space Center, first to rebuild the area that was destroyed on the 2003 accident, and later to improve the infrastructure and to adapt for new launching vehicle that was being developed. However, the amount of budget directed to the launch centers has decreased considerably, due to budget restrictions that the Brazilian Space Agency has suffered in the last few years. The second priority option has been the investments in Earth Observation Satellites. This choice is related to the partnership between Brazil and China in space sector. As a result of that, the CBERS-1 was launched in 1999; CBERS-2 in 2003; CBERS-2B in 2007; CBERS-3 was lost because of failure during launch in 2013; CBERS-4 in 2014; and then CBERS-4A in 2019. The CBERS series was finalized with the CBERS-4A but the investments were continued on the Amazonia satellite that was launched in February, 2021. This article analyzes whether the Space Applications and Technology is a priority for Brazil, and this volatile funding behavior may explain the obstacles that the country faces to complete the development of various project as, for instance, the vehicle launch. Space Applications could be an option for the future of Brazilian Space Program considering the new space economy and the Brazil's characteristics.