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SPACE SCIENCE AND EXPLORATION IN THE SPANISH CENTRO DE ASTROBIOLOGÍA

Abstract

Spanish scientists and industry are currently participating in all space science missions of ESA as well as in the exploration of Mars with ESA and NASA. The Centro de Astrobiología (CAB, CSIC-INTA) is a key player in these activities. The plans for future developments are mainly centered in the improved characterization of extrasolar planets and in-situ studies of the habitability of Mars. In addition, the astrophysical links to these properties, like the formation of stars and planets, are also studied. The design, development and exploitation of several instruments for this research will be presented as well as some future plans for new issues to be tackled.