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A REVIEW OF THE PERUVIAN AEROSPACE ECOSYSTEM: THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERUVIAN STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED TO THE AEROSPACE SECTOR

Abstract

Nowadays, the Peruvian aerospace ecosystem is growing at a slow pace, on the one hand the academy shows a promising development having already developed and launched nanosatellites, laboratories with know-how in nanosatellite development and satellite instrumentation, use of satellite data and training programs, however the other two actors: industry and government still do not show a considerable development, which slows down the dynamism of the ecosystem. On the government side an observation satellite (PeruSat-1) was acquired in 2016 which is in the middle of its useful life, also launched some training programs, which we will show in the paper, finally the industry is based on the processing of satellite images, which has been discussed previously by other authors. This context, meaning the limited number of job positions in the aerospace sector in Peru, suggests that many students interested in aerospace subjects have to change fields or emigrate. In this paper we will describe the main initiatives of the different actors of the Peruvian aerospace ecosystem (academia, industry and government) and show statistics on the number of publications, researchers, graduates of related careers, students involved in programs or groups related to the aerospace sector such as SGAC, The Mars Society, APSCO, among other indicators. These statistics will allow us to evaluate if there is any correlation between the launching of programs, technology development and the number of professionals working in the sector in the country or abroad and/or the amount of desertion and underemployment in Peruvian professionals and/or students that at some point were involved in the aerospace sector. Finally, we will briefly review the lessons learned about the programs and initiatives detailed in the paper and reflect on which programs and initiatives should be continued, cancelled and/or encouraged.