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LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SPACE AGENCY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Abstract

Due to the enormous challenges of the space sector, especially in developing countries, as well as the enormous cost of scientific and technological research in the sector, in September 2021, in Mexico City, 18 nations signed the Constitutive Agreement of a Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) whose objective is not only to generate collaborative actions between space agencies in the region, but it also seeks to encourage the scientific and technological development of nations that do not currently have space agencies. The ALCE seeks to enhance space-related capabilities so that they have a direct impact on the daily lives of their societies. However, faced with the process of forming an agency, such as determining a budget, regulations and a program to direct the agency's activities, among many others, what challenges will this collaboration face in its goal of consolidating space projects while achieving international competitiveness? It is not the first time that, in the context of enormous international competition, the strategic importance of cooperation in the space sector through a transnational agency has been highlighted. The European Space Agency was created in 1975 and its constitution has made it possible to observe the functioning of the collaboration of nations with the objective of giving their own role to their own region. Therefore, by approaching the European Space Agency as an organization whose projects have constituted the European region as a fundamental actor in the international space scenario, this paper aims to analyze the challenging factors that the formation of ESA could show on the establishment of the ALCE and the new challenges it faces specifically in the Latin American context.