

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT SAFETY ISSUES (D6)
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPACE EXPLORATION UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS ACCESS TO
SPACE FOR ALL INITIATIVE: ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021-2022

Abstract

Access to Space for All is a joint initiative of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and space agencies, research institutions and industry to offer access to space research facilities, infrastructure and information with the aim of developing technical know-how, engineering processes and infrastructure in the areas of hypergravity and microgravity, satellite development and space exploration and promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. To that aim the initiative is structured around three tracks that provide gradual learning steps that help participants develop capabilities in a sustainable and responsible manner. Each track contains a variable number of hands-on opportunities under a theme and currently there are three tracks:

- Hypergravity/Microgravity Track: designed with the end goal of developing the capacity of running space experiments onboard orbital vehicles or space stations.
- Satellite Development Track: aiming at building the capacity to design, implement, verify, operate and decommission a satellite in a responsible and sustainable manner.
- Exploration Track: designed to cover aspects related to space exploration beyond the geostationary orbit and provides opportunities, as building blocks, to that goal.

The Initiative is supported by governmental, intergovernmental and private sector entities, which are providing access to world-class facilities and infrastructure to support the development of technical and scientific capabilities in the different tracks. Partnership is a distinctive feature of the Initiative. UNOOSA is working on establishing new partnerships to cover some of the gaps identified in the Initiative and expand its portfolio. New contributions to the Initiative are possible and encouraged. Currently, the Exploration track consists of one opportunity which is delivered in partnership with the Keldysh Institute of Applied Mathematics. This opportunity is the first of more to come, offering the opportunity to study celestial bodies beyond the geostationary orbit. This paper will provide an update of the activities and experiments carried out under the Exploration Track during 2021-2022 together with information on the new opportunities available and future prospects.