

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
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ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP IN SATELLITE ENGINEERING TRAINING,
RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT AT UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Abstract

Academia-industry collaboration has a long history in Malaysia. First satellite program under the government of Malaysia, namely TiungSat, in 1998 involved training and technology transfer to the engineers who were previously in academia. In conventional and global trends, university and industry partnerships stimulate government demand to develop national satellites and sustain skilled human resources through capacity building in the university. Most emerging countries in the Asia Pacific and Africa adopt this approach to establish local capability in satellite design, build and operation. However, in the new space economy model, the space industry, now driven by the commercialization of space products and involvement from the government in investment, becomes frivolous except in policy and regulation. This paper discusses industry involvement in private partnerships with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to develop the small satellite. In addition, this partnership with USM will focus on curating and creating a satellite-related engineering course, targeting students, academia, and tech professionals in Asia in the hope of creating a future pool of talent in the field. The set-up of an RD lab at USM is included in this collaboration. The collaboration will facilitate the transfer of technology from foreign partners in areas of design, development, and delivery of technical and technological know-how in preparation for the actual launch.