

21st IAA SYMPOSIUM ON BUILDING BLOCKS FOR FUTURE SPACE EXPLORATION AND
DEVELOPMENT (D3)

Space Technology and System Management Practices and Tools (3)

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MAJOR MANAGEMENT COMPETENCES OF SPACE COMPLEX PROJECTS

Abstract

Project management has been promoting a significant transformation in the world economy, revealing the urgency of developing relevant managerial skills, in multiple dimensions, better performance by people and organizations in contexts of complexity. As the space sector has characteristics that differentiate it from other technological and innovative segments, the objective of this research is to investigate the necessary level of development of competences to manage its programs or complex projects. To build knowledge in this regard, the study is based on two methodological approaches and articulated techniques: first, it uses a bibliometric review to survey the literature about the nature and main characteristics of managing complex programs and projects in the space sector; secondly, the questionnaire analysis proved to be a relevant quantitative technique for surveying indicators of the main managerial competencies for acting in complex space initiatives. This triangulation between different sources and collection methods allowed establishing a dialogue between the theoretical perspectives related to the management of complex projects and the vision regarding the level of development of competences required for managerial success in the space sector. Indeed, it is expected to contribute to the construction of a rigorous, valid, and reliable body of knowledge in this field of study so that it can eventually be applied to an empirical reality in the context of space activities development.