

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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LEVERAGING THE SPACE SECTOR'S MOST DIVERSE, INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
COMMUNITY - A CASE STUDY INTO THE SGAC PGS

Abstract

The Project Groups (PGs) of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) represent one of the five core pillars of the organization, and one of the largest space research communities. Originally, the PGs acted as a forum for young professionals and students from across the space sector to discuss and debate on relevant space related topics, from space law and cybersecurity to satellite applications.

In recent years, the PGs are now looking beyond not only ensuring a continuity of research, but also to become diversity activists, space law and policy consultants, start-up accelerators, and satellite integrators. As a result, PGs have attracted the attention of the wider industry that desire access to this network. The great impact of their respective subject comes from the team's cultural and interdisciplinary diversity, where young people from any part of the world may join and feel enabled to contribute, from the young student to the emerging expert.

To help support the PGs, SGAC project leadership has developed and initiated a strategy to enable, empower, raise the profile of PGs and create synergies within SGAC to leverage opportunities. First, empowering the PGs through partnerships, an initiative to connect and develop the team's relations with leading space organisations, founded on mutual benefits. This has developed a new internship 'formula' by sponsored projects, as well as support to attend conferences and access to specialised data.

Second, through the newly developed media and communication strategy, the PGs are able to raise their profile in developing publications to academic journals and conferences, as well as articles to mainstream media on recent outcomes and activities. This has included a new collaboration with SpaceWatch Global, where a series of articles have been developed and published highlighting the young team member's pursuits and impacts.

Third, logistical pathways and organizational charts have also been established and enable PGs to increase responsibility and skills development. Finally, the leadership supports the connecting of PGs to the SGAC pillars, creating synergies with existing SGAC events, regions and alumni to harness existing opportunities.

The proposed article and presentation will present a case study of the PGs, discussing their history, models, structures and future development potential. Examples will be detailed and analysed, and structured templates will be showcased. Suggestions and recommendations will be made to how this could be used or adapted for the benefit of other education and training institutions.