

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
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BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE: THE CONVERSION OF THE COTOPAXI STATION INTO A
LIVING MUSEUM

Abstract

The Cotopaxi Station ('NASA Quito S.T.D.N.'), a former part of the NASA Space Flight Tracking and Data Network, is proposed to be transformed into a living museum by the Sideralis Foundation. The Cotopaxi Station is located 26 km from Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and was used to support the US space program before being transferred to the Ecuadorian government in 1982. Up to today, it still acquires satellite images from various satellites and still functions, more on the side of the historical aspect rather than the productive one. First of its kind in Latin America, the museum will feature exhibitions on the station's past operations, technology used by NASA, and the current state of space exploration, as well as showcasing the architecture and technology from the 60s and 70s. The museum will also provide opportunities for students and researchers to develop initiatives in areas like telecommunications, astronomy, and education, specially for the Ecuadorian and Latin American population. The Sideralis Foundation aims to create a worldwide network of support, including space agencies, universities, and NGOs, to bring this proposal to life and connect visitors with history, science, and space.