

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
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STRA2SPHERA: ACCESSING SPACE BELOW THE KARMAN LINE

Abstract

Space is not only rockets, satellites, and ISS. It still begins with the Karman line, but a similar environment, easily reachable, lies 30 km above our heads: the stratosphere. As students might find it difficult to access space, reproducing its environment becomes crucial. And this is when STRA2SPHERA comes into play.

STRA2SPHERA is a completely student-led programme created with the support of SEDS unina, a student association of the University of Naples Federico II, that gives students the chance to launch their experiments with very low-cost high-altitude balloons. The programme provides easy access to a space analogue environment to perform scientific research, test technologies, and witness breathtaking views.

The STRA2SPHERA V1 platform demonstrates the feasibility of this innovative approach but it must be recovered after each launch. This criticality is overcome with the V2, equipped with an autonomous guidance and recovery system that will make experimentation easier and more sustainable.