

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

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FIDÉSPACIAL - FIRST STUDENT AEROSPACE GROUP FROM A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN
COSTA RICA

Abstract

article

Working towards the globalization of space and enabling a platform where everyone has access to opportunities within the aerospace sector are some of the great challenges of our generation. In order to reduce gaps and expand participation in the space field in Costa Rica, FidÉspacial was founded, the first student group of a private university in the country. This is an eloquent example of how passion for space and the desire to be an active part of the sector come together to form an interdisciplinary group seeking equality of opportunities. Historically, private universities in Costa Rica have had limited access to aerospace education. Traditionally, only public institutions have had access to opportunities in the sector and the necessary knowledge to participate in this growing industry. This is due to the lack of experience in the subject by the faculty and students at private universities, as well as a cultural stigma suggesting that students from private universities are "transient students." FidÉspacial is changing this perception through the organization of outreach activities open to the public within the university, as well as through a strong presence on Instagram. This platform has been an invaluable tool not only for sharing our story but also for disseminating the experiences of individuals inside and outside the country who work in the sector and are willing to collaborate and share their expertise. The founding of FidÉspacial in 2023 demonstrates the potential of students from private universities in Costa Rica and seeks to change the perception of other institutions through active collaboration. Furthermore, it aims to become a reference point for other student groups from private universities wishing to venture into the sector but unsure where to start. As a student group dedicated to the aerospace field, we also have our own goals and dreams, and we are determined to demonstrate what we are capable of. We firmly believe that we deserve to be heard and have a place in the space industry.