

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)  
Enabling the Future: Developing the Space Workforce (5)

Author: Mr. Etim Offiong  
University of Pretoria, South Africa

REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST ASLI COLLOQUIUM ON THE AFRICAN OUTER SPACE  
PROGRAMME

**Abstract**

The African Union (AU) indicated its interest to embark on a continental space programme for the first time in 2010. By 2016, the African Space Policy and Strategy was drafted and adopted by the AU and the African Space Agency was established in 2018. In 2024, the African Space Council was constituted. Thus, the African Outer Space Programme is now formalised and efforts are ongoing to get the African Space Agency operational.

One of the success requirements stated in the policy and strategy documents is human capital development. The documents also indicate two key indicators for assessing progress in human capital development, namely the number of graduates in space-related fields and the number of space-related experts employed in space-related professions.

The African Space Leadership Institute (ASLI), an independent think tank, established to provide evidence-based advice for the development of the African space ecosystem, is organising its First Colloquium on the African Outer Space Programme. The theme of the colloquium is: “Education, Skills Development and Workforce Engagement, for a Responsive, Competitive and Sustainable Space Programme” and is scheduled to be held from 21-22 May 2024. This paper will present the deliberations and outcome of the colloquium. The paper also reports on a survey that is been conducted by ASLI, on the state of Africa’s space workforce.