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

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# THE NATIONAL SPACE ACADEMY

**Abstract**

The National Space Academy, an initiative by the UAE Space Agency, plays a pivotal role in advancing the nation's space program and fostering the development of skilled human resources in the field. This paper explores the academy's alignment with the UAE Space Agency's vision and strategic goals, emphasizing its unique contributions to the workforce transition for Emirati youth. The academy integrates academic research, hands-on practical experience, and interaction with industry experts to provide a comprehensive learning environment. Additionally, it significantly contributes to entrepreneurship by creating job opportunities, meeting the demand for specialized roles, and fostering innovation. The paper presents an in-depth examination of the first wave of Emirati youth through the academy, highlighting their experiences, challenges faced, and the overall trajectory. Through detailed insights into milestones, processes, and future directions, this presentation aims to provide the international space community with a coherent understanding of the National Space Academy's evolution and its valuable contributions to space science and technology.

**Keywords:** Emirati youth, Hands-On Practical Experience, Innovation, Job Opportunities, Knowledge Transfer, Milestones, Space Academy, Space Science and Technology, Strategic Direction, UAE Space Agency, Vision, Workforce