

**Regional Workshop on the Long-term Sustainability of
Space Activities
Secure World Foundation - ACAE**



COSTA RICA

Basic goals and key space developments

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Opportunities in Costa Rica

- Qualified Work Force
- Strategic Location
- Excellent Business Climate
 - Renowned democratic tradition
 - Economic and political stability
- Quality of Life
 - Safest country in Latin America
 - Top 5 environmental performers in the world.

World class location for high-technology multinational companies in areas of Advanced Manufacturing, Life Science, Services, Clean Technologies and Renewable Energy, among others

Promotion of Aerospace Industry & Development of Aerospace Technology

- 2010: The Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT) created the **National Council for Aerospace Research and Development (CONIDA)**
 - An advisory board integrated by government representatives and delegates from the academy and the civil society
 - To design the necessary public policies required for the country's involvement in the aerospace field

CONIDA



- **Vision:** CONIDA is the reference and advisory organization for the development of the aerospace industry in Costa Rica. Its representation reaches all relevant sectors: government, academy, private sector and civil society.
- **Mission:** To position Costa Rica in the aerospace development map, by promoting its participation at an international level and strengthening its endogenous capabilities.
- **Strategic objective:** To guide Costa Rica in the strategic decision making process for the aerospace industry in:
 - Creating a system that articulates and coordinates the national efforts towards the aerospace development.
 - Facilitating the communication means among the different participants in such system.
 - Fostering the strategic the decision making process towards the aerospace industry development.

Central American Association for Aeronautics and Space (ACAE)

Non-profit organization,
established in 2010 to
inspire Central
American talent to
participate in the
aerospace industry and
related technologies

- To gather the main representatives of the aerospace industry in the region
- To promote innovation and development projects in the aerospace field and related technologies
- To guide future generations towards the development of science and technology
- To adopt and establish the main pillars of Space Law in the region



Promotion of Aerospace Industry

- 2011: ACAE in collaboration with the Foreign Trade Promoter Office (PROCOMER) and the Central American Institute of Business Administration (INCAE) conducted a research that identified conditions and potential of the Costa Rican industry related to the different levels of the value chain of the global aerospace industry
- 2010 – 2013: MICITT sponsored promotion activities such as training workshops in business opportunities, events and certifications for companies in the aerospace industry
- 2012 – present: The Technological Institute of Costa Rica (TEC) is creating the program for the Electromechanical Engineering Degree with Emphasis in Aircraft Maintenance.
- January 27-31, 2014: PROCOMER and the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE), prepared the “Central America Aerospace Meetings” as a learning expedition that will bring together industry, OEMs and suppliers.
- 2013 – present: Coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica at UN (COPUOS).

Design a National Plan for Space Technology Development

- There is a need to strengthen the national awareness of the potential opportunities that space technology can bring to a country like Costa Rica
- Policy framework – courses of action:
 - Identify developments in the space technology that can be transferable to other sectors (commercial and industrial).
 - Foster and promote the investigation, development and innovation.
 - Encourage the manufacturing of commercial goods and services related with space industry.

Create a legal framework

- Costa Rica lacks of a legal framework to support the development of a space industry
- Under the *corpus iuris spatialis* a State could be considered responsible for outer spaces activities conducted by its non-governmental entities, even if the State's government has not been directly involved
- There is a government duty to authorize and supervise such activities, whether they are conducted by governmental or non-governmental entities

Create a legal framework

- Costa Rica's government has the task to:
 - Assure adherence to the international agreements relating to outer space activities, in line with our legislation and the axes of the Costa Rican foreign policy.
 - Achieve international and regional cooperation agreements
 - Creating a national legal framework for the upcoming Costa Rican space activities (which include licensing, supervision and registration procedures)
- International cooperation would be a key factor for space law and policy capacity-building efforts in Costa Rica

International Cooperation

- Continue to develop the country position in the framework of existing international instruments and initiatives (Treaties on Outer Space, regulations of the International Telecommunications Union, the space code of conduct, etc.).
- Increased presence and participation at international forums such as the summit of Heads of Space Agencies, trade shows, COPUOS working groups, International Astronautical Congress.
- Creating an interinstitutional agreement that facilitates the participation of all CONIDA representatives at international forums.

CONIDA Challenges

The CONIDA should:

- Evaluate the integration of the Council (exclude and include some institutions).
- Enhance its facilitating role with public and private universities.
- Support the efforts of entities related to the industrial sector (COMEX, PROCOMER, CINDE, AEA, financial institutions) to create a cluster of companies in the aerospace sector in Costa Rica.
- Maintain its active role and coordinated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, analyzing international treaties and building technical capacity in UN forums and others.
- Maintain the collaboration with ACAE, as this has been positive to enhance the role of government with civil society.

Create an specialized governmental organization in space matters

- CONIDA lacks the proper administrative, technical and legal structure to support its activities
- It is necessary to strengthen CONIDA or transform it into a governmental institution with the ability to support and coordinate the country's aerospace(space) sector.
- Exchange of experiences with similar governmental institutions already working in other developing countries, will help Costa Rica to:
 - Analyze the most appropriate administrative structure
 - Identify funding sources
 - Define employment regime for its personnel
 - Determine the extent of its necessary legal powers

A futuristic spacecraft is shown in space, with a large moon in the upper left corner. The spacecraft has a white cylindrical body with a red 'Astronaut' logo and various sponsor logos. It is connected to a large, dark, segmented structure, possibly a solar panel or antenna. The background is a dark starry sky. The text 'Thank you!' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Thank you!

BEKUO: Human Mission to Mars with 10 MW Nuclear Powered VASIMR™

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