Regional Space Cooperation: Spotlight on Latin America

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About SWF

• SWF is a private operating foundation dedicated to the secure and sustainable use of space

• **Why space sustainability?**
  Increasing reliance on space assets coupled with potentially destabilizing trends

• SWF Focus Areas
  – Space Sustainability
  – Space Law and Policy
  – Human and Environmental Security

Screenshot from Stuffinspace.net; cover of Apogeo Spatial spring issue; panelists at “Challenges in Sharing Weather Satellite Spectrum with Terrestrial Networks” event held in Wash. D.C.
• Range of space development across the region, recent emphasis on formalization and diversification
• Development steps vary; active mix of industry, government, and academic activities
• Some programs had military beginnings in the 1960s, others a more recent emergence (2000s)
• Two main trends:
  – Challenge of making the case for space
  – Strong linkage with practical goals of development agenda
ARGENTINA
- Since 1960s; civil agency est. 1991
- Latest national space plan for 2004-2015
- Broad range of activities; including Tronador rocket program

BRAZIL
- Since 1960s
- Civilian agency est. 1994
- PNAE issued in 10-year increments (latest 2013)
- Focus on industrial development, and meeting national needs

COLOMBIA
- Momentum with 2002 CEA hosting
- Coordinative functions under Vice Presidency (CCE)
- Academia a primary player, ex. cubesat university programs (Libertad 1)
Snapshot of space nations

**MEXICO**
- Since 1950s – decentralized activities
- Agency est. 2010
- PNAE issued in 2012
- Industry roadmap - Orbit Plan - issued 2013
- IAC host in 2016

**PERU**
- Est. 1974 (Ministry of Defense), space agency since 2007
- Joined APSCO in 2005
- 2016 est. satellite imagery processing center

**VENEZUELA**
- Agency est. 2007
- Emphasis: telecomm; Earth observations
- VeneSat-1, VRSS-1
- Progress towards indigenous capabilities
International Cooperation

A consistent theme

- Captured in the statements and plans of the agencies and country leadership
- Couch as both need (technology transfer) and commitment (political goal)
- Manifest through bilateral, regional, and multilateral (international) engagement

Drivers for regional cooperation

- Shared socioeconomic challenges = drivers for space investment
- Limited resources (financial, institutional, human capital)
- Political commitment to regional development
Regional cooperation mechanisms

Bilateral agreements and programs

- Range from general statements of shared goals and goodwill to detailed agreements laying out shared tasks and responsibilities
- Examples of bilateral agreements within the region:
  - Brazil: **Argentina**, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela
  - Venezuela: **Uruguay**, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia
- Important to note bilateral cooperation is not limited to regional partners

Above: Uruguayan and Venezuelan flags; Japanese and Brazilian flags.
Regional cooperation mechanisms

Multilateral

• Within international frameworks, examples of regional structures to promote coordination and develop shared positions:
  – AmeriGEOSS (Group on Earth Observations)
  – GRULAC (United Nations: General Assembly and COPUOS)

• Space-focused regional efforts:
  – Space Conference of the Americas (CEAS) - Seven regional conferences since 1990. Latest (VII CEA) celebrated in Nicaragua in 2015
  – Central American Association of Aeronautics and Space (ACAE) – based in Costa Rica, focused on Central American sub-region

• Standing regional conferences have also emerged:
  – Latin American Remote Sensing (LARS) Week, International Air & Space Fair (FIDAE), Latin American Cube Sat Workshop, etc.
Final considerations

• Space in the region: Diversity of experiences, common priorities and areas of interest

• Commonalities manifest in consistency of views on space-related issues (e.g. space security and space sustainability)

• BUT – group dynamics not just defined geographically (e.g. BRICS); strong partnerships also exist with countries outside of the region (e.g. Brazil and China)

• Main shared challenges impacting space efforts/ cooperation:
  – Lack of resources
  – Lack of sustained political commitment
  – Limited institutional coordination

• Real momentum across the region has also manifested itself in innovative partnerships: *space is there to stay*
THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments?

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