

35th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
Interactive Presentations - 35th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND  
ECONOMICS (IP)

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THE COSTA RICA SPACE AGENCY: A NEW PARADIGM FOR A SELF-SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC  
SPACE AGENCY

**Abstract**

Costa Rica, a country of more than five million people, has enjoyed development in the last decades that has transformed the country from a mainly agricultural economy to a complex economy where the main exportation products are medical devices and electronics. Since a decade ago, aerospace engineering has been proposed as a tool for development in the country. For this reason, a study was conducted in the country in 2012 showing that the aerospace market value in Costa Rica was  $170MM$ , *which approximately*