

Article Overview

Uganda is actively developing its space sector, highlighted by the launch of its first satellite, the establishment of a space laboratory, and plans to start a national space agency in 2026.

Satellite Initiatives

Uganda launched its first satellite, PearlAfricaSat-1, on November 7, 2022. The satellite was built by Ugandan engineers Edgar Mujuni, Derick Tebusweke, and Bonny Omara, who were students at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan. PearlAfricaSat-1 was tested by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and deployed into orbit by NASA from the Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, USA. The satellite provided data for weather forecasting, mineral mapping, agricultural monitoring, and disaster prevention, marking Uganda's entry into space technology .

Infrastructure and Facilities

Uganda has rehabilitated the Mpoma Earth Satellite Station in Mukono district, originally built in the 1970s, to communicate with satellites. The station is planned to evolve into a Ground Station As A Service, supporting both national and regional space initiatives. Additionally, a space laboratory has been established to allow innovators to test technologies under conditions similar to space, fostering local research and development .

National Space Agency

Uganda plans to launch its national space agency in 2026, aiming to advance scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and national interests through space exploration. The agency will focus on developing infrastructure such as earth observation facilities, space launch vehicles, and reusable rocket technology, while also building a skilled workforce of astronomers, astrophysicists, and aerospace engineers .

Regional and International Collaboration

Uganda collaborates with countries like Egypt and Kenya on projects such as the ECU-Climcam initiative, which addresses climate change in East Africa using earth observation systems. The country also participates in multinational programs like BIRDS-5, which facilitated the development and launch of PearlAfricaSat-1 . These partnerships help Uganda leverage expertise, technology, and economies of scale in its emerging space sector.

Human Capital Development

Uganda emphasizes training and knowledge transfer through universities and volunteer programs. The space

laboratory and satellite projects are integrated into educational programs across ten universities, aiming to cultivate a new generation of space scientists and engineers .

Future Outlook

With the establishment of a space agency, ongoing satellite projects, and regional collaborations, Uganda is positioning itself as a growing player in Africa's space sector. Future plans include launching additional satellites, expanding ground station capabilities, and fostering innovation in aerospace technologies .

Uganda is following the lead of her regional counterparts with funding in the space program but, Kenya is still ahead. In

MIRA Aerospace representatives presented proposals centred on the establishment of a dedicated aerospace base

? Hello from Lagos Welcome back to your weekly update. After our Africa Space Industry Year-in-Review last week, we

The development of Ugandan space initiatives has been largely shaped by that country's position on the equator. Its history is

At SpaceX Africa, we don't simply supply Starlink hardware--we help design complete connectivity solutions, from planning and

Uganda is aggressively developing its indigenous space capabilities, with major upgrades at the Mpoma ground

Uganda, in partnership with the Egyptian Space Agency and five other African nations, is co-developing a satellite

Airtel Uganda has kicked off trials of Starlink's Direct-to-Cell satellite technology after approval from the UCC.

Our role is to coordinate and facilitate research, development, technology transfer, and commercialization of innovations in space

About Space Technology Agency-Uganda Space Technology Agency-Uganda, aims to consolidate and develop tools in Earth

Yet these actors operate without a unified national data backbone. The data exists, the expertise exists, but the system

According to local press reports, state-owned operator Uganda Telecom Limited (UTL) has announced a

Ugandan space initiatives refer to the nascent governmental efforts in Uganda to harness satellite technology for Earth observation,

By Frank Tumwebaze The Outer Space is where satellites (including the moon) are located

Uganda's space programme is coordinated by the Aeronautics and Space Science Bureau under the Science Technology and

Uganda conducts audits and stakeholder mapping to boost human capital and infrastructure for its

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