

Lessons learned by using a Cubesat Receiving Station from a student point of view

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We are 8 students at the Bois d'Olives Senior High School (LBO). We are working on the CRIS-LBO receiving station (Cubesat Reunion Island Station).

By receiving data from a large area above Indian Ocean, the station allows a greater extension of the acquisition network on the surface of the globe. We can track cubesats and small satellites in Low Earth Orbit.

This project grants us with scientific, technical and organizational skills and also a personal and collective enrichment.

The satellite data tracking and the operating of a ground station were totally unknown for us.

We asked ourselves questions, and we had to solve an unexpected amount of problems by putting our learning in several topics (mathematics, physics, english) at work, and asking our partners in different countries for help, to finally succeed in managing the station and receiving data from a predetermined satellite.

Our approach of our work has evolved, it is now more professional. The traditional learning has been replaced by team work. We experience a project process which is essential in engineering.

The way we experience time and space is not any more the one a high school student is familiar to. This project we are going to work on for two years, is much more enriching than a training course. By analysing problems, managing the station, and making decisions, this project gives us a glimpse of the engaging job of an engineer.

This project gives us the opportunity to go beyond our school and island boundaries, and also beyond some psychological obstacles.

We talk with foreign universities and laboratories. We will participate in two international congress this year, and receive european students next year (2018). We didn't thought such a dynamic was reachable for the high Schools of Reunion Island

We have learned to argue and to promote our project of the CRIS-LBO station to local politicians, and executives.

For each of us, this project represents a guiding track for our coming studies and at the same time, a window to a professional environment for sharp technologies.

Our vision of our Island has changed, now we consider it as a land of opportunities, particularly for space activities. Our vision of ourselves has changed, now we can be ambitious and we feel able to act as ambassadors of our island, and in addition to become the future actors of the space activities in the Indian Ocean, and beyond.....

Key words : Reunion Island; Cubesat; Tracking Station; Ambassador;