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GUSTAVO MEDINA TANCO

Member and Vice Chair of the Space Science Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics
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Lecture:
Mission and strategy of the Laboratory of Space Instrumentation (LINX)

Originally from Argentina, Dr. Medina Tanco holds a BSc in Physics from UNT (Argentina) and a PhD in Science from the University of São Paulo (Brazil). He completed postdoctoral research at the University of São Paulo, the University of Cambridge, and the University of Leeds in the UK.

Over the course of his career, he has supervised 27 doctoral, master's, and diploma theses, as well as 8 postdoctoral researchers. He is the author of more than 230 peer-reviewed journal articles, which have been cited over 23,000 times.

Currently, Dr. Medina Tanco is a Professor at the Institute of Nuclear Sciences at UNAM (Mexico), where he founded and leads the Space Instrumentation Laboratory (LINX), established in 2009. He has led Mexico's contributions to numerous stratospheric and space science mis- sions in collaboration with CNES, NASA, ASI, and ROSCOSMOS. He is the principal investigator of the NanoConnect2 and NanoSWAI satellite missions, as well as the COLMENA lunar project. The first mission, Colmena-1, launched in January 2024 aboard Peregrine.

He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), where he serves as Vice Chair of Commission 1. He is also a member of the ISECG's Science Working Group and Chair of the IAF's Space Astrophysics Technical Committee (SATC), while serving as Vice Chair of the Space Universities Administrative Committee (SUAC).

His accolades include the 2022 Fernando Alba Medal for Experimental Physics (Mexico), the 2023 Gold Eagle Medal for Global Leaders, the 2024 Medal of Scientific Excellence, and several honorary doctorates from international academic and cultural institutions. He has advised the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs on space policy and played a key role in promoting constitu- tional reform to regulate outer space activities in Mexico.