

Press Release

The Elecnor Foundation analyses the future of crewed space flights with representatives from the European Space Agency and NASA

Madrid, 15 March 2012.- Elecnor Foundation has taken part in the Space Conferences organised by the Polytechnic University of Madrid - Elecnor Foundation Chair in Space Systems. Astronauts from the European Space Agency and NASA took part in these conferences, who reviewed the history of the space shuttle and analysed the future of crewed space shuttle flights.

The conferences were attended by Pedro Duque, an astronaut from the European Space Agency and Director of the Elecnor Foundation, Paul F. Dye, Flight and Mission Operation Director for NASA, and Stephen K. Robinson, a NASA astronaut.

The two speakers from the American aerospace agency spoke about the history of space shuttles, highlighting their importance not only for the development of the aeronautic industry but also for other operations such as launching and retrieving space satellites, carrying out scientific tests and experiments in space and the construction of the International Space Station. In his speech, Pedro Duque analysed, from his point of view as an astronaut, the future of crewed flights into space following the retirement of NASA's space shuttle programme.

As well as the guests mentioned above, the President of Elecnor and the Elecnor Foundation, Fernando Azaola, and the Vice-Chancellor of the Polytechnic University of Madrid, Javier Uceda, also attended the event.

The conferences took place in the Higher Technical School of Aeronautical Engineering of the Polytechnic University of Madrid and in this university's Vice-Chancellor's Office in order to, according to Fernando Azaola, "introduce students to space travel and its conquest".

About the Elecnor Foundation

The Foundation was established in late 2008 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Elecnor, one of Spain's leading companies in infrastructure, renewable energy and new technology sector. It operates in more than 20 countries and has more than 11,000 employees.

The Elecnor Foundation is a private, non-profit entity that works on social matters. Its objective is to show how committed the engineering sector is to providing solutions for human beings and society in general. In order to be more effective, the Foundation's efforts are intimately linked to Elecnor's own business activity.

More information: www.elecnor.com

Photo caption: Pedro Duque during his conference speech.

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