

SpaceMasters lift-off

In Wuerzburg's baroque Residence the first students from the European study curriculum "SpaceMaster – Master in Space Science and Technology" received their certificates on 21. of September. The coordinator Sven Molin from Lulea University in Sweden emphasized "The students from 21 nations intensively cooperated and pursued highly motivated their challenging courses in up to 3 European countries". Meeting the high demand for interdisciplinary and international education in this challenging discipline, the majority of the 39 students already got offered interesting positions worldwide, mirroring the internationality of the curriculum, supported by the European Union within its ERASMUS MUNDUS"-program of excellence. Students with a Bachelor degree can apply to start the first semester at the University Wuerzburg, where courses on spacecraft system design and space physics are offered. The second semester continues at the Space Campus of Lulea University in Kiruna with emphasis on instrumentation and electronics for space. For the final year the student can select specialisation fields from the broad range of research topics offered at the partner universities Cranfield University (United Kingdom), Universite Paul Sabatier Toulouse III (France), Czech Technical University (Prague, Czech Republic), Helsinki University of Technology (Finland), Lulea University of Technology (Sweden) and University Wuerzburg (Germany).

Integral parts are team design projects to realize a small atmospheric probe during the first semester in Wuerzburg. The best experiments to characterize the atmosphere are flown in the second semester on high altitude balloons at the European rocket test range in Kiruna to altitudes up to 20 km. Finally during the second year the students work on building CubeSats, miniature satellites with a mass below 1 kg. The first one, University Wuerzburg's Experimental satellite UWE-1 is in orbit since October 2005 to investigate parameter optimization for adaptation of Internet Protocols to the space environment with its high noise and delay levels. For the achieved results the students won at international conferences several awards. As Prof. Schilling from University of Wuerzburg points out "The SpaceMaster students worked with enthusiasm to realize an advanced miniature attitude determination and data processing system for UWE-2, such that it will be ready for launch at begin of 2008". This combination of lectures with challenging implementation workshops is an essential feature of the SpaceMaster program and these system design skills fits very well with the demands from industry far beyond space applications. Thus it was no surprise that at the graduation ceremony potential industrial employers attended and contacted the graduates.

For further information see

<http://www.spacemaster.eu/>,

<http://www.spacemaster.uni-wuerzburg.de/>

