



INTA-NASA's 60th Anniversary

The INTA-NASA space agreement turns 60 years old

The commemoration of this significant event took place at the Madrid Deep Space Communications Complex (MDSCC) in Robledo de Chavela on October 21

October 21, 2024 - The **Madrid Deep Space Communications Complex (MDSCC)** commemorated a significant event this Monday. This year marks the 60th anniversary of January 29, 1964, when Spain, the United States government, INTA, and NASA first signed a contract for the operation and maintenance of the Spanish complex facilities. Today, the space complex located in Robledo de Chavela celebrated this important milestone with the presence of both Spanish and American authorities.

The construction of the **MDSCC** began in August 1964, but it was not until the following year, with the completion of its first 26-meter diameter antenna, that it began operations. This facility was completed in record time, as its full operability was crucial for receiving data from the Mariner IV mission, which captured the first image of another planet (Mars).

In fact, the **MDSCC** is one of the three global communication centers that are part of the **Deep Space Network**, along with those located in Canberra, Australia, and Goldstone, California. At the Robledo Space Complex, tracking, control, and telemetry of space missions such as *Cassini-Huygens*, for the study of Jupiter and Saturn; *Rosetta*, of comet *67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko*; *Voyager 1* and *2*, and *New Horizons*, for the boundaries of the solar system; and *James Webb*, for observing the sky in infrared light, are carried out.

The purpose of this meeting was not only to celebrate all these years of success and operability of the space complex, but also to reaffirm the collaboration between Spain and the United States, INTA, and NASA, for the next 60 years, with the aim of continuing to expand our knowledge of space through future missions. Among these missions are Artemis, which

Press Release



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will allow us to return to the Moon; Dragonfly, which will explore Titan, Saturn's moon; and Europa Clipper, which will study Europa, Jupiter's moon, in detail.

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