SatCom Today in Canada: University Research Programs

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University Research Programs

In order to better support its overriding objective of the Canadian Space Program, which is "to develop and apply space science and technology in order to meet Canadian needs and develop an internationally competitive space industry," the CSA has created a grants and contributions program to support awareness, research and training in space science and technology.

In summary, the program provides grants and contributions to support endeavors or projects relating to scientific or industrial space research and development and the application of space technology. The Program allows the Canadian Space Agency to work closely with the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), universities, and industries across Canada to advance space knowledge, develop and demonstrate new technologies and applications, and help train skilled manpower needed by Canada's universities and high tech sectors.

The Program is broken down into 11 elements, each fulfilling a specific objective and addressing various types of applicants:

1. The CSA Supplements to NSERC Post-graduate Scholarships and to Post-doctoral Fellowships program fosters advanced studies in space science and technology by offering high-calibre students working towards a Master's, a PhD degree or a post-doctoral specialization, a supplement equal to one-third of the value of the regular NSERC scholarships or fellowships.
2. The CSA/NSERC Research Partnership Support program fosters advanced research in space science and technology areas and training of highly qualified personnel by encouraging R&D collaboration between space industries and universities.
3. The CSA Support to NSERC Industrial Research Chairs provides funding for research chairs implemented with university and industry collaborations to develop Canadian advanced expertise in space science and technologies and support training of highly qualified personnel.
4. The CSA Fellowships in Space Science, Space Technology or Aerospace Medicine program is aimed at encouraging promising researchers in space science, technology or medicine to pursue their activities in a Canadian university, industry, or government research institution.
5. The Support to Not-For-Profit R&D Organizations for Space Research and Technology Development is a Program that shares the costs of pre-competitive research projects in space-related areas of interest to Canada.
6. The Aerospace Medicine Elective Award program encourages qualified Canadian medical students and residents to pursue interests and careers in aerospace medicine by facilitating attendance of NASA's training sessions at the Johnson and Kennedy Space Centers.
7. The Space Science Enhancement Program provides funding to university scientists for conducting initial concept studies on space science.
instruments, carrying out analysis on data produced by space science missions, and performing space science-related academic studies.

8. The CSA Support to Scientific and Technical Space Conferences is an initiative to support conferences, workshops, and seminars on space-related topics of interest to Canada.

9. The Youth Space Awareness Contribution Program supports not-for-profit initiatives that seek to increase awareness of the Canadian space activities among youth by facilitating access to opportunities for learning about space science and technology.

10. The Support to the International Space University is a program that provides young Canadians with multi-disciplinary and international training in space-related studies.

11. The Joint CSA/Networks of Centres of Excellence Research Program is dedicated to supporting advanced space research in universities.