

In the "Girls and the Space Sector" event

FIFTY GIRLS LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPACE SECTOR FROM FIVE OF HISPASAT'S RENOWNED FEMALE SCIENTISTS AND PROFESSIONALS

The Inspiring Girls Foundation, together with HISPASAT, has organised a speed networking event for girls from the Canary Islands and female role models from the Spanish satellite operator to learn the amazing professional opportunities that a little known sector offers for our young women.

Madrid, 07 June 2019.- The Inspiring Girls Foundation and HISPASAT, the Spanish satellite communications operator, today hosted the event entitled "**Girls and the Space Sector**" in the Space Centre of the National Aerospace Technical Institute (INTA) in Maspalomas, the Canary Islands, with 50 girls attending from the Guanarteme de Las Palmas high school.

The president of HISPASAT, Elena Pisonero, the Director of Communications, Cristina Perez Cantó, and the engineers Nuria Candelaria Trujillo, Herenia Barrera and Andrea Peña participated as volunteers in a speed networking event with the young girls, sharing personal and professional experiences in order to show them that the space sector can be an interesting choice for them and a sector with many professional opportunities for women. The women also spoke with the girls about the obstacles they have faced throughout their careers and how they have overcome them. The women also answered all the questions the girls asked, spending a unique and inspiring morning in the Space Centre's installations, where HISPASAT has one of its control and monitoring centres. During the highly innovative event, the volunteers rotated in 10 minute-rounds throughout all the girls' tables. The visitors were also allowed to see the installations.

For Elena Pisonero, the president of the operator *"this has been a very worthwhile experience. Our sector is highly technical and specialised and there are not so many women. Therefore, it is essential for us to promote technical professions for women and we here in HISPASAT work along these lines so that our sector can be sustainable. We have to motivate these girls while they're young, as some of them will be future engineers that will operate our fleet or will develop new, innovative satellite projects."*



The event finished with an activity which featured, in addition to HISPASAT's president, colonel Rafael Sahagún, director of the Maspalomas Space Centre, and Marta Pérez Dorao, president of the Inspiring Girls Foundation.

For Marta Perez Dorao, *“the space sector is a field with enormous opportunities for our young girls: from Aeronautics Engineering to Telecommunications, Systems Engineering, logistics or experts in different technologies related to the sector, there are opportunities which our young girls do not know about. Therefore we need leading companies and the women in them to become more visible so that the girls can think: If Elena, Nuria or Andrea can do it, I can too: that's why being here today is truly motivating for us, showing the girls that STEM careers can open many professional possibilities for them and that these careers are also a professional alternative for them”*.

The closing ceremony for the event was led by Maria Teresa Máyans Vázquez, Vice Delegate of the Government in Las Palmas who said *“We are breaking molds. What we dream can be reality and we should not put limits on our professional paths. There is nothing that can stop us”*.

Among those attending were María Nebot Cabrera, Minister of Equality and Citizen Participation of the Government of Gran Canaria and Marco Aurelio Pérez, mayor of San Bartolomé de Tirajana, the town where the Maspalomas Space Centre is located.

About Inspiring Girls

The Inspiring Girls Foundation aims to raise the professional ambitions and self-esteem for young girls, as well as improve their job expectations, making the wide variety of professions and jobs that exist visible and overcoming limitations and stereotypes. To do so, the Foundation carries out various activities -talks, speed networking events, and so on- in which women from all sectors and professions share their professional and personal experiences with young girls. Currently the Foundation has offices in Spain, Serbia, Italy, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica.

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About HISPASAT

HISPASAT is comprised of companies that have a presence in Spain as well as in Latin America, where its Brazilian affiliate HISPAMAR is based. HISPASAT is a world leader in the distribution and broadcasting of Spanish and Portuguese audiovisual content, and its satellite fleet is used by important direct-to-home television (DTH) and high-definition television (HDTV) digital platforms. HISPASAT also provides satellite broadband and connectivity services which include Internet access, mobility and the extension of mobile networks, in addition to other added value solutions to governments, corporations and telecommunication operators in America, Europe and North Africa. HISPASAT is one of the world's largest companies in its sector in terms of revenue, and the main communications bridge between Europe and the Americas.

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