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World Space Week 2026

Latin America's space agency is now a reality

The World Space Week runs from 4 to 10 October.

The first date marks the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957, and the second the entry into force of the Outer Space Treaty in 1967. **One celebrates the technology, the other the law that governs it.**

The Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE) was signed in 2021 and has been in force since October 2024.

Its first priorities are Earth observation, disaster early warning and rural connectivity.



Latin America's space agency is now a reality

ALCE is an international organisation with its own legal personality.

It coordinates national agencies and does not replace them, following the European model.

Five legal questions will decide whether it works:

- liability and registration of space objects;
- financing and distribution of contracts;
- procurement rules;
- intellectual property and technology transfer;
  dispute settlement and immunities.

What it means for Venezuela and for business

Venezuela approved the Convention in December 2021 and took part in the first General Assembly.

It is a party to the Outer Space Treaty, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention and the Moon Agreement.

A regional agency is also a regional market for manufacturers, operators, insurers and financiers.

Rockets draw the attention, but institutions decide who gets to fly.

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