



UNITED NATIONS EXPERT MEETING ON SPACE FOR WOMEN

***ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR
OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS AND UN-WOMEN IN SPACE***

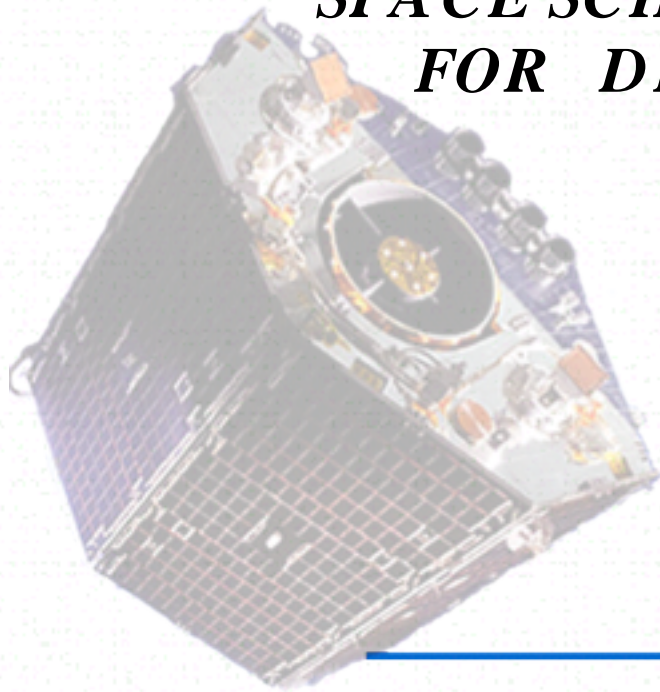
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ON

***SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: A VERITABLE TOOL
FOR DEMOLISHING GENDER CEILING IN NIGERIA***

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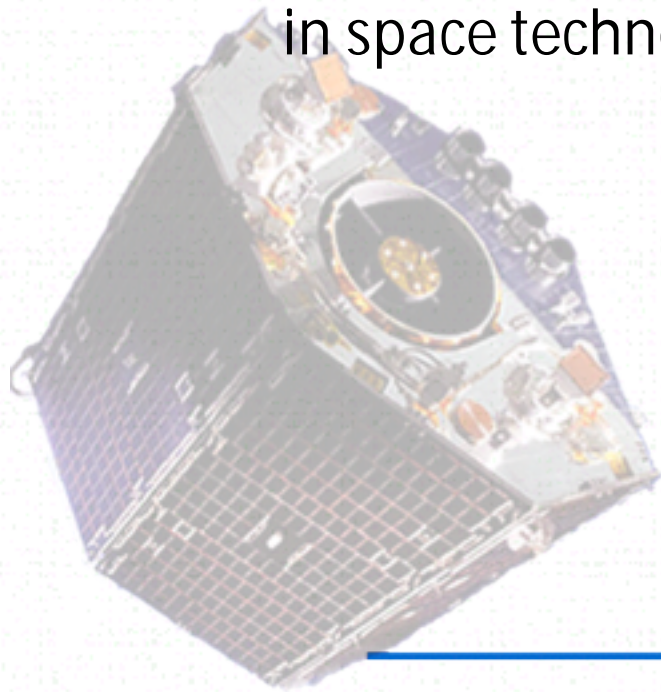
NASRDA/ WIAN







- ü NASRDA was established in 1999 with the mandate to vigorously pursue the attainment of space capabilities as an essential tool for the socio-economic development and the enhancement of the quality of life of Nigerians.
- ü The Agency is to achieve this mandate through:
 - research ,
 - rigorous education,
 - engineering development,
 - design and manufacture of appropriate hardware and software in space technology.





NASRDA AND ITS OPERATIONAL CENTRES





Women involvement in NASRDA programmes



NigeriaSat -X



N-X launched in 2011

NigeriaSat -2 (N-2)



N-2 launched in 2011





Women involvement in NASRDA programmes



- ü Earlier in the Country's Space Programme, the male-female ratio in the Technical Departments was near-zero
- ü Two of us (female) were the first engineers employed; about 8 years after the space agency in Nigeria was established
- ü You would agree with me that there are super-intelligent female engineers and scientists in Nigeria; however, NASRDA just did not employ them
- ü And if women aren't given the opportunity even when qualified, how can they even get to the top of their profession or encourage the young girls into the STEM system?
- ü We decided to speak to management for affirmative action regarding technical women recruitment. Although, it is still very low but male-female ratio is now about 80:20.





Women involvement in NASRDA programmes



- ü If we think that isn't deliberate enough, NASRDA has done four missions- N1, NigComSat, N2 and NX.
- ü But it is during the last missions (N2/NX) that two female engineers were included: A female colleague and I. So if we sum all the male that have worked on all missions combined compared to just two females, the result is very discouraging
- ü Now, it is interesting to know that this happened in a country that is the giant of Africa: Nigeria. What about more perplexing things happening to women in work places in Rwanda, Uganda, Ethiopia, and so on?





Women involvement in NASRDA programmes



- ü Two ladies were part of the Nigerian Engineers and Scientist that were trained and participated in the building of the NigSat-2 and NigSat-X, at the Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) United Kingdom and were launched in 2011 respectively
- ü While the other lady was trained to man the Ground station with her team, I was a member of the RF team trained in the building of the NigSat-2 and NigSat-X, the satellite which were launched at S-band (2.0-4.2GHz) for uplink and at X-band (8.0 - 8.5GHz) for the downlink frequencies respectively
- ü My colleague and I started the women in Aerospace Nigeria (WIAN)





Factors that affect gender ceiling includes



Some of the factors that impose or cause all these gender ceiling in Nigeria are as follows:

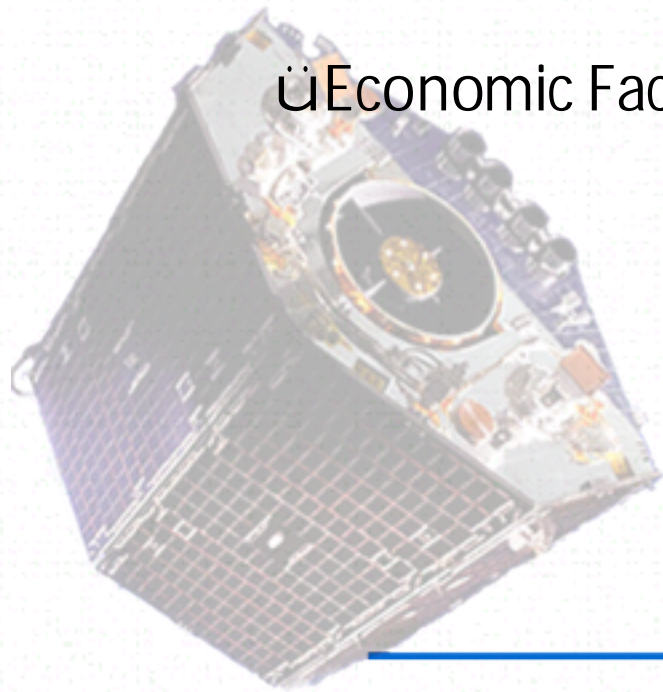
üCultural/Traditional Factor

üReligious Factor

üSocial Factor

üPolitical Factor

üEconomic Factor





Who are we - WIAN



WIAN EXCO Members



WIAN Members

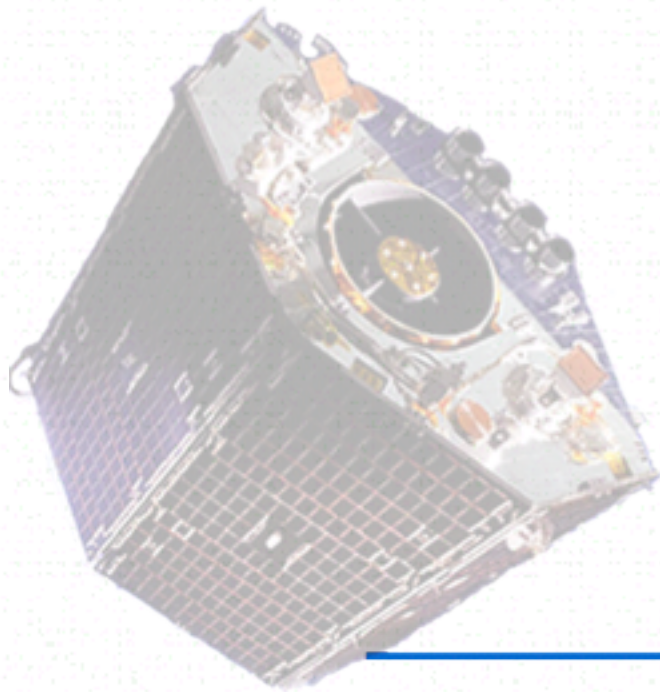




Who are we - WIAN



- ü The Women in Aerospace Nigeria (WIAN) was established in November 2012 with the mission of expanding women's opportunities in professional development, increasing their visibility and impact in aerospace community by creating a network in Nigeria, Africa and across the globe
- ü The WIAN has been fully registered with the Cooperate Affairs Commission (CAC) Nigeria, with a domain name (www.wian.ng) and has about 50 registered members nationwide



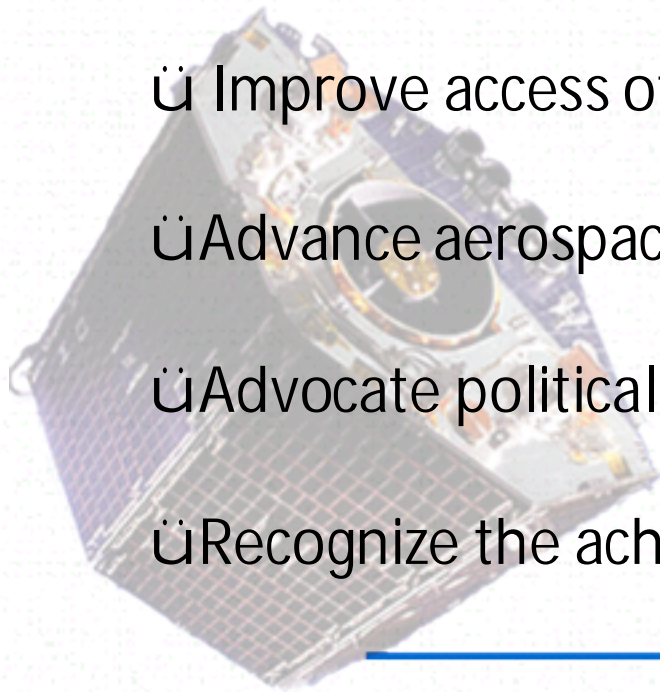


Who are we - Objectives



Women in Aerospace has the following objective:

- ü Be a networking platform for women in aerospace
- ü To give young girls a head start in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- ü Attract more women to the aerospace sector
- ü Foster the interests of women working in aerospace
- ü Improve access of women to leadership positions in aerospace
- ü Advance aerospace education
- ü Advocate political commitment to aerospace programmes
- ü Recognize the achievements of women in aerospace





WIAN Journey so far



§ Policy

- ü Policy of networking with women makes things faster, allow their voices to be heard
- ü Policy of catch them young, conditioning their mind to the study of STEM
- ü Building confidence ahead of them

§ Advocacy

- ü Advocate political commitment to aerospace programmes that means talking, being in the forefront of advocating for government participation in Aerospace Industry
- ü The advocacy gives visibility to women in the industry
- ü It also gives equal opportunity to compete with male counterpart because they have proven their capabilities to the public





WIAN Journey so far- contd



§ Honours and Recognition

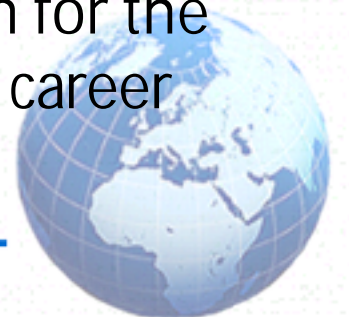
- ü Just like the saying “give honour to whom honour is due ”
- ü Honouring those that have done well , encourages them to do more and those coming behind to aspire to get there
- ü This healthy competition helps women to get to the top

§ Scouting

- ü The WIAN has the policy of going round the schools and doing their public advocacy programmes , not only to spur up interest but also to identify young girls with special traits and interest in the area of STEM these prepares them for the challenge ahead

§ Apprenticeship

- ü Those scouted are not just abandoned by the WIAN and are mentored by seasoned professionals to provide a clear career path
- ü This mentoring programme by the WIAN prepares our young women for the challenges ahead and help them to get to the pinnacle of their chosen career





WIAN Journey so far- contd



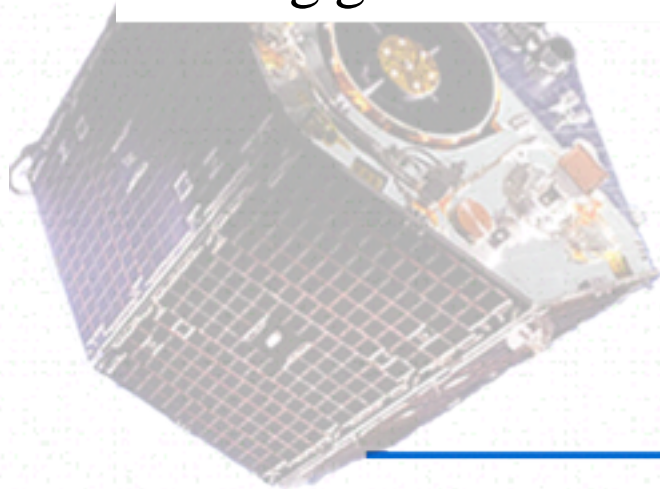
Target audience



Young girls in science class



WIAN professional





RECOMMENDATIONS

- ü Other countries should emulate the WIAN so as to train the younger generation of women and provide support where needed
- ü WIAN partnering with UN-Space for women to improve uptake by African girls.

CONCLUSION

- ü As a popular adage said, "what a man can do, a woman can do better.
- ü WIAN has shown that this saying is not just cliché but a reality
- ü Given the necessary support and opportunity we will not only put Nigeria on the global map of space industry but Africa as a whole
- ü Yes we can





THANK YOU

