

Simposium Innovación e Inteligencia Artificial CONALEP 2021

Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Small Spacecraft Missions

Andres Martinez, Program Executive, Small Spacecrafts April 29, 2021





This is one of them... her name is Lunar IceCube!





National Aeronautics and Space Administration







We're going to the Moon to learn to live on other planets and for the benefit of all humanity.

With the Artemis lunar exploration program, NASA will put the first woman and first person of color on the lunar surface and build a sustainable presence there and in lunar orbit.

NASA Human Exploration Programs

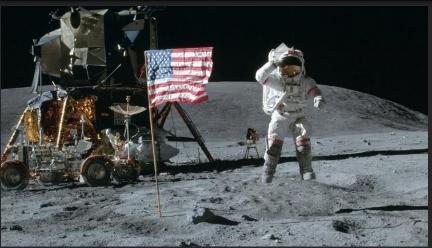




Project Mercury
1958 - 1963



Project Gemini

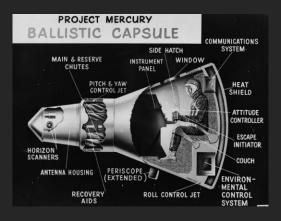


Apollo Program



Space Shuttle Program

1981 - 2011



Project Mercury

6 Crewed Missions



Project Gemini 1965 – 1966 10 Crewed Missions



Apollo Program
1961 – 1975
6 Missions to the Moon
12 Walked on Moon



Space Shuttle Program

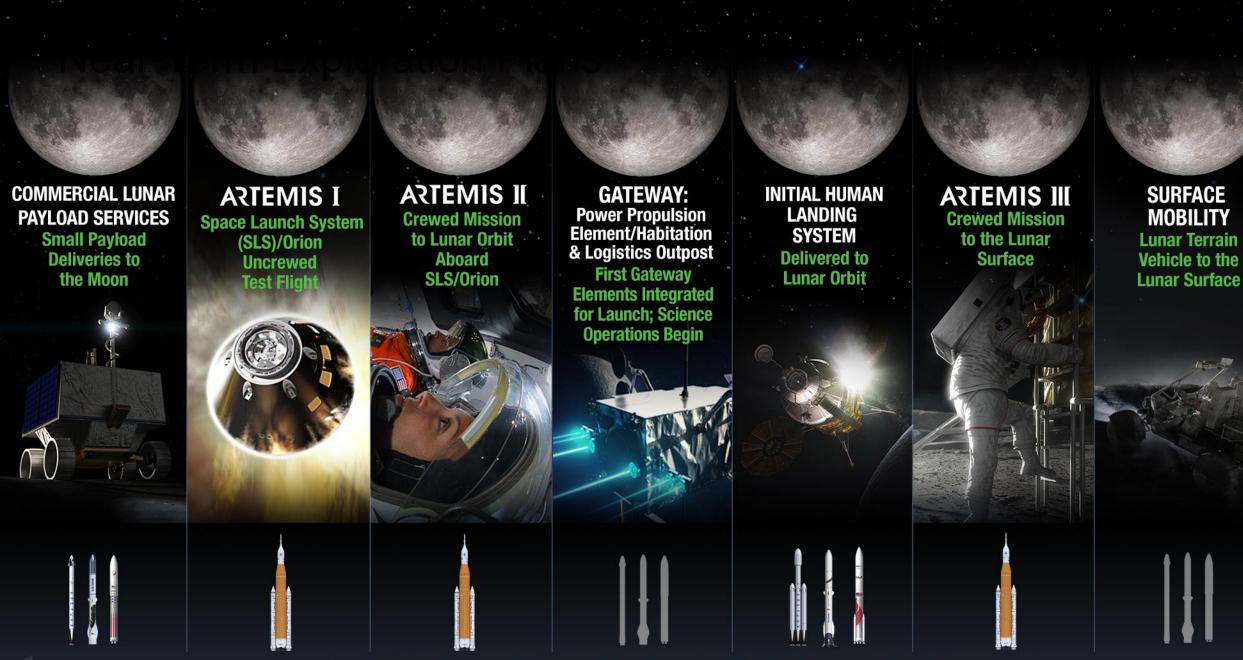
1981 – 2011 135 Missions 355 individual fliers (306 men and 49 women flew) 848 total crew

The Artemis Generation









Conducting science missions on Mars in preparation for human exploration

First artificial satellites in space





Sputnik (satellite in English) – OCT 1957 Russia (83.6Kg, 58 cm)



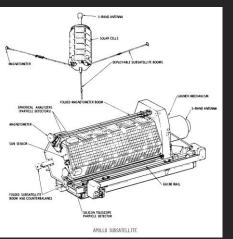
Explorer1 – FEB 1958 USA(13.97Kg, 205.1 cm, 15.2 cm)

Small Satellites Supporting Human Exploration





Sputnik – OCT 1957 (83.6Kg, 58 cm)









Explorer1 – FEB 1958 (13.97Kg, 205.1 cm, 15.2 cm)

Deployment of small spacecraft during the Apollo 15 and Apollo 16 missions as the command module left lunar orbit. The Particles and Fields Subsatellite (PFS) series, built by TRW, was designed to study the plasma, particle, and magnetic field environment of the Moon as well as to map the lunar gravity field.

These units were the first small spacecraft released into space from a containerized deployment system.

Optical Communications and Sensor Demonstration (OCSD)



Mission Description:

Aerospace Corporation delivered the Optical Communications and Sensor Demonstration (OCSD) and demonstrated small spacecraft proximity operations and high-speed optical transmission of data using a laser (200 Mbits/sec).

Spacecraft pointing accuracy of 0.1° or better was achieved. Aerospace leveraged much of the spacecraft's design from previous versions of the AeroCube (AC4 though AC6, the NASA SSTP version is AC7).

OCSD included two flight demonstrations: a single satellite in the first demonstration and two satellites in the second demonstration.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 2.18 kg (wet)

• Quantity: Three 1.5U CubeSats

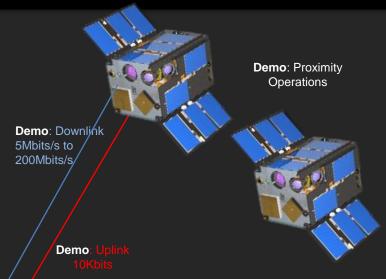
Missions: Two

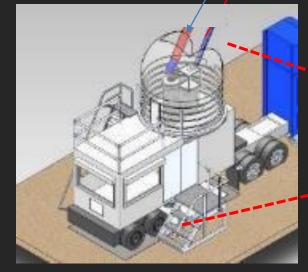
• **Orbit**: 450 km x 720 km @ 98.7 incl.

• Size: 10cm x 10cm x 17cm

 Communication: RF (UHF) & Optical: 1064nm Laser

 Launched: Falcon 9, DEC 2016, ORB/Cygnus NOV 2017







CubeSat Proximity Operations Demonstration (CPOD)



Mission Description:

Tyvak delivered CPOD, its mission is to demonstrate rendezvous, proximity operations and docking (RPOD) using two 3U CubeSats.

The ability of the two spacecraft to remain at determined points relative to each other (called relative station-keeping) will be demonstrated, as well as precision circumnavigation and docking.

Docking will employ the use of a novel universal docking device, imaging sensors, and a multithruster cold gas propulsion system.

Using on-board navigation systems, one CubeSat will perform a series of circumnavigation maneuvers relative to the second CubeSat in order to validate and characterize the new miniature sensors.

Spacecraft Specifications:

Mass: 6 Kg

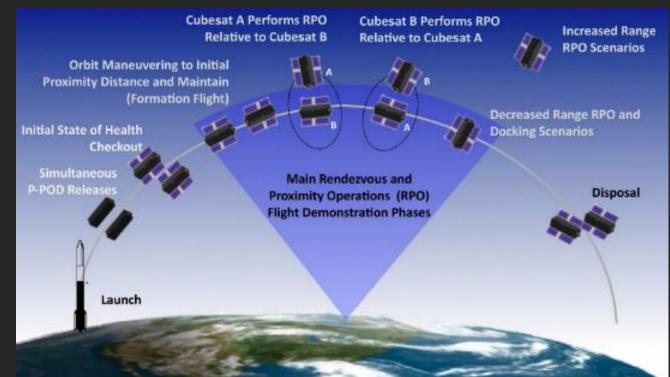
Quantity: Two 3U cubesats

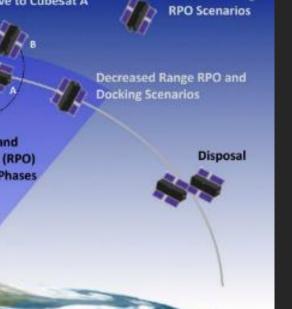
• Orbit: 500km sun-sync; 97 degrees

10cm x 10cm x 30cm • Size:

Communication: UHF; S-band; Inter Satellite Link

• Launch: TBD





CPOD Concept of Operations

Edison Demonstration of SmallSat Networks (EDSN)



Mission Description

NASA Ames Research Center delivered Edison Demonstration of Smallsat Networks (EDSN), a mission to launch and deploy a swarm of 8 cubesats into a loose formation approximately 500 km above Earth.

The cubesats swarm would have collected multipoint satellite data and transmitted the data to the ground through one cubesat.

This capability was to enable a wide array of low cost missions to perform scientific, commercial, and academic research.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass:** 1.73 kg each

• Quantity: Eight 1.5U cubesats

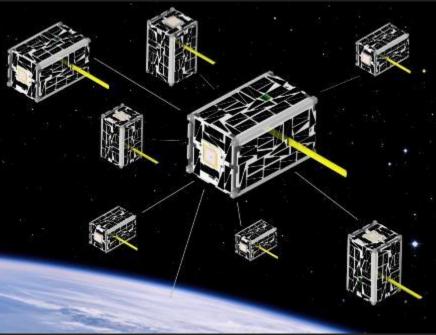
• **Orbit**: 430 km x 505 km @ 94.8°incl.

• **Size**: 10cm x 10cm x 17cm

Communication: UHF / S-Band

• Launched: Super Strypi, NOV 2015







EDSN mission lost with Super Strypi failure (ORS-4) on November 3, 2015.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Network & Operations Demonstration Satellite (Nodes)



Mission Description:

NASA Ames Research Center delivered Nodes, a mission launched and deployed two 1.5U CubeSats from ISS into low-Earth orbit.

Nodes explored issues associated with the command and control of multi-spacecraft swarms by:

- 1) relaying ground commands through one satellite to the second satellite,
- 2) collecting and relaying science data from each satellite to the ground station, and
- 3) autonomously determining which of the two satellites is best suited to control the space network and relay data to the ground. This capability will enable a wide array of low cost missions to perform scientific, commercial, and academic research.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 1.73 kg each

• Quantity: two 1.5U cubesats

• **Orbit**: 400 km x 400 km @ 51.6 incl.

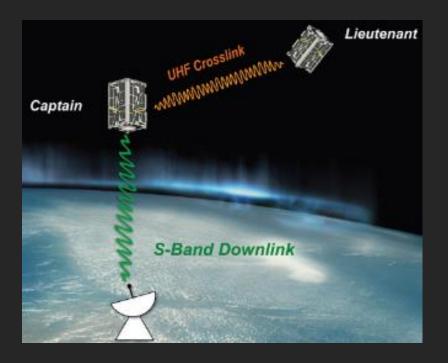
• **Size**: 10cm x 10cm x 17cm

Communication: UHF / S-Band

Launched: ISS CRS - Orbital 4







Integrated Solar Array and Reflectarray Antenna (ISARA)



Mission Description:

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) delivered ISARA, a mission demonstration of a Ka-band reflectarray antenna that provides the capability to increase downlink data rates for CubeSats from the existing baseline rate of 9.6 kbps, to over 100 Mbps.

For a modest increase in mass, volume, and cost, this technology is paving the way for data return on high value science missions that utilize distributed CubeSats and small satellites.

On-orbit, the antenna transmitted a signal which was received by a ground station located at the JPL.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 4kg

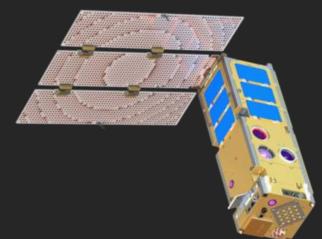
• Quantity: One 3U cubesat

• **Orbit**: 450 km x 720 km, 98.7°incl.

• **Size**: 10cm x 10cm x 34cm

 Communication: Reflectarray Antenna and ultra-high frequency (UHF) telemetry antenna

• Launched: ORB/Cygnus NOV 2017



ISARA Reflectarray







ISARA and Ka-band Ground station at JPL - Pasadena, CA

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

SporeSat



Mission Description

NASA Ames Research Centered, in collaboration with Purdue University, Texas A&M University, and Santa Clara University delivered SporeSat.

SporeSat was a fundamental space biology science mission in support of human exploration to investigate biophysical mechanisms of plant gravity sensing using a "lab-on-a-chip" experimental approach.

The unicellular germinating Ceratopteris richardii fern spore was studied in outer space.

SporeSat was to determine gravity thresholds for calcium ion (Ca²⁺) channel activation in wild-fern spores.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 5.2kg

• Quantity: One 3U cubesat

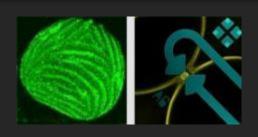
• **Orbit**: 350 km x 350 km @ 51.6 incl.

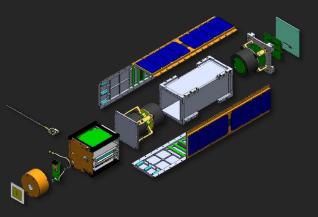
• **Size**: 10 x 10 x 30 cm

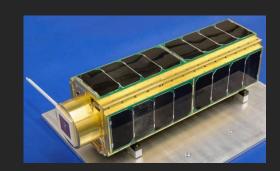
• Communication: UHF, and S band

• Launched: SpaceX-3 (April 2014)









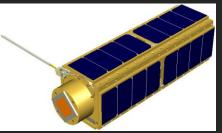
NASA Ames Research Center - Small Satellites







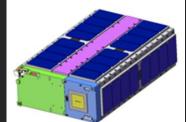




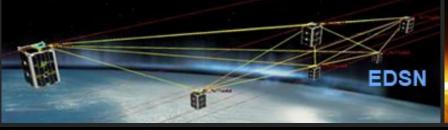








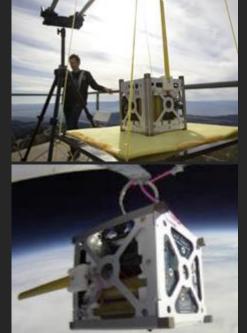


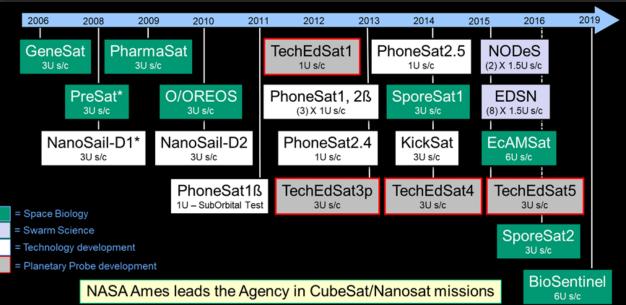






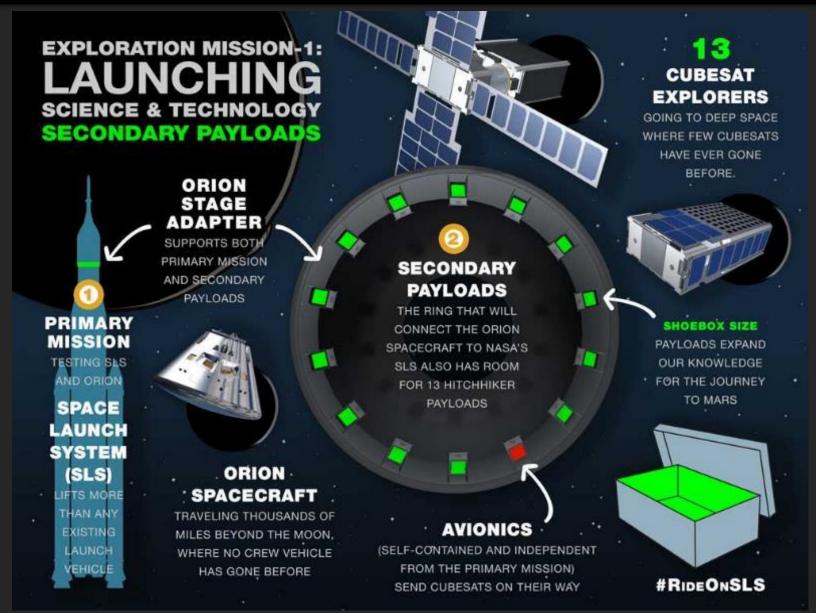






NASA's Deep Space Exploration System

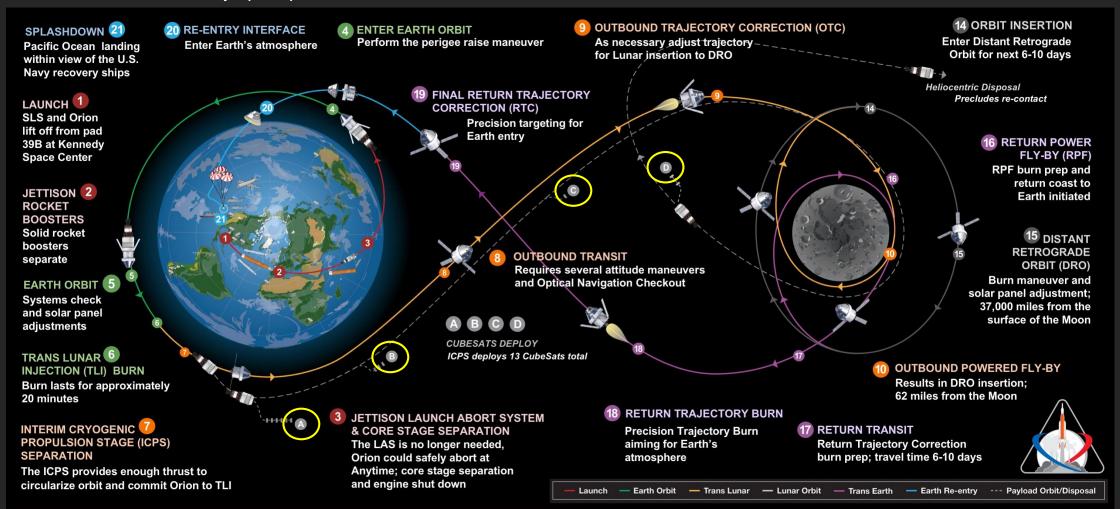




SLS Artemis-1 LRD NOV 2021



The first uncrewed, integrated flight test of NASA's Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket, launching from a modernized Kennedy spaceport



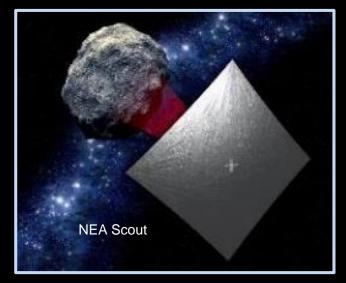
Total distance traveled: 1.3 million miles - Mission duration: 25.5 days - Re-entry speed: 24,500 mph (Mach 32) - 13 CubeSats deployed

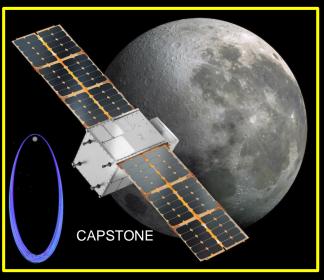
AES SmallSats Supporting Artemis



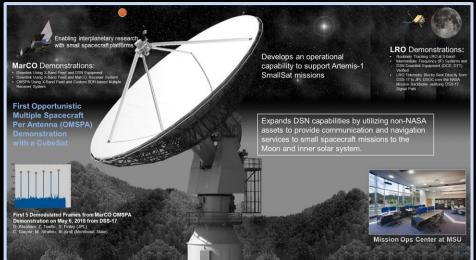












AES SmallSat
Missions selected
to contribute to
key Human
Exploration
Strategic
Knowledge Gaps
and to Advance
Key Technologies

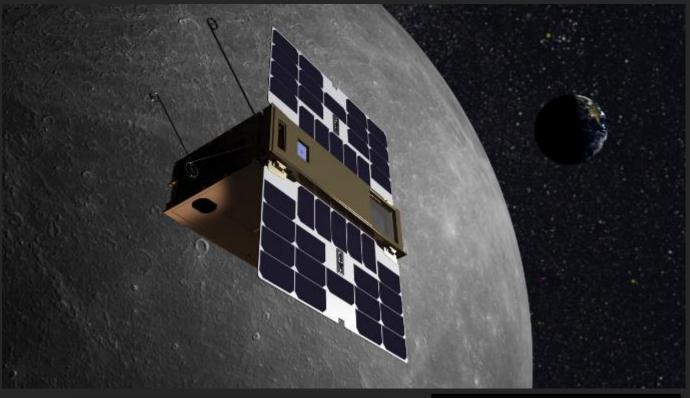
LunIR

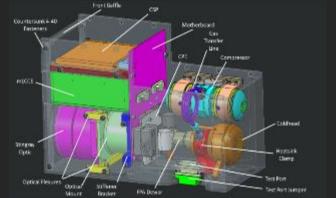


Why is this project important?

- Capture and downlink MWIR images of lunar surface for analysis toward (7) SKG's
 - ✓ Sensor, optics, control electronics, Cryocooler fit within a 2.4U volume
 - ✓ LM developed micro-cryocooler for Focal Plane Array (FPA) less than 0.5U size

- Pathfinder small satellite mission hosting a mid-wave Infra-Red (MWIR) sensor. During lunar flyby, LunIR will collect and downlink surface imagery. The MWIR sensor system includes an integrated micro-cryocooler and a high temperature nBn-based 1 Megapixel focal plane.
- LunIR hosts a visible wavelength camera that will be used for on-board navigation processing using the moon
- Data from both will be used for post-processing applicability toward a low Size, Weight and Power (SWaP) common sensor suite for relative navigation.











LunIR - Sensor Payload



2.4U IR Optical Payload (MWIR, 3.4 to 4 um)

• <2.5 kg, <15 Watts steady-state

1280 x 1024 FPA (nBn) – SBF207

- 12 um pixel pitch; response 1 um to 5 um
- nBn Detector (space qualification 2013-15)

LM micro-cryocooler

- TRL 6 mechanical Unit
- Tactical cryocooler electronics (Iris)

Fixed focus, no shutter

COTS 50mm Focal Length, f/2.3, MWIR Lens

- Optical transmits 76.6%
- FOV = 22.8 degrees

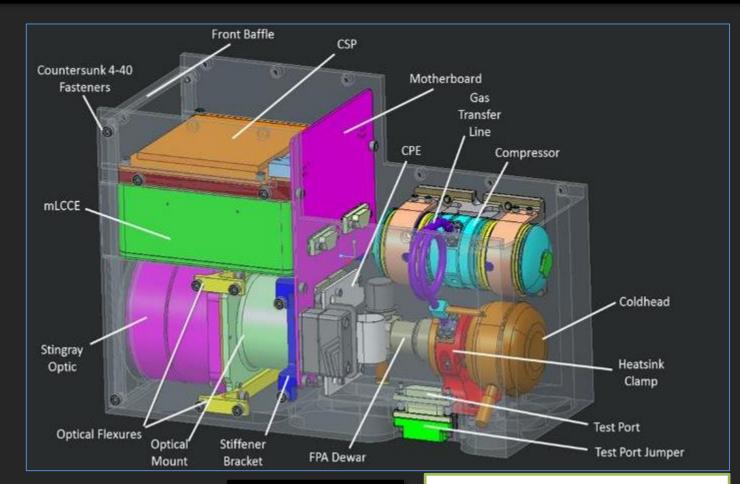
Common Core FSW (NASA/Goddard)

CHREC Space Processor

· Fab by SpaceMicro

Image Storage: 512 Mbytes, ~100 images (uncompressed)

 Payload data downlinked to bus after each imaging opportunity









Legend:

MWIR - Mid-Wave Infra-Red

CSP - CHREC Space Processor

CHREC – Center for High-performance Reconfigurable

ATC - LM Advanced Technology Center

SBF - LM Santa Barbara Focal plane

mLCCE - micro Low-Cost Cryocooler Electronics

CPE - Close Proximity Electronics

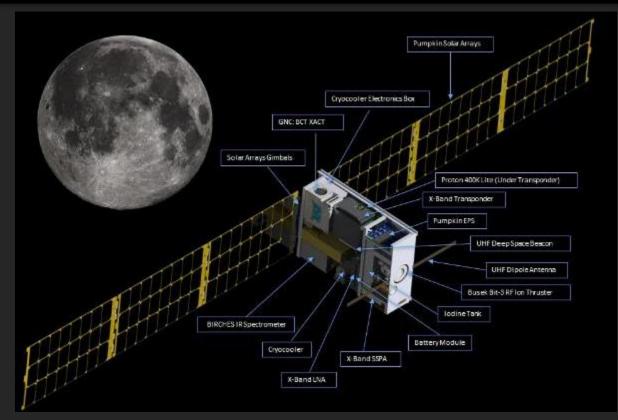
Lunar IceCube



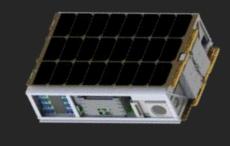
Why is this project important?

- The mission goal is to prospect for water in ice, liquid, and vapor forms and other lunar volatiles from a highly inclined lunar orbit (100 km perilune) using NASA GSFC's BIRCHES infrared (IR) spectrometer: a miniaturized version of the instrument used on OSIRIS REX.
- Potentially lends insight into the location and transport physics of water on the Moon in support of future Human Exploration.

- Demonstrates enabling technologies for exploration of the Solar System with small satellites, including an innovative RF Ion engine combined with a low energy trajectory to achieve lunar capture. The Busek BIT-3 uses solid-state iodine as the propellant generating significant Δv (1.3 km/s)
- Prospect for water in ice, liquid, and vapor forms and other lunar volatiles from a low-perigee, inclined lunar orbit using NASA GSFC's BIRCHES - IR spectrometer.















Lunar IceCube - BIRCHES

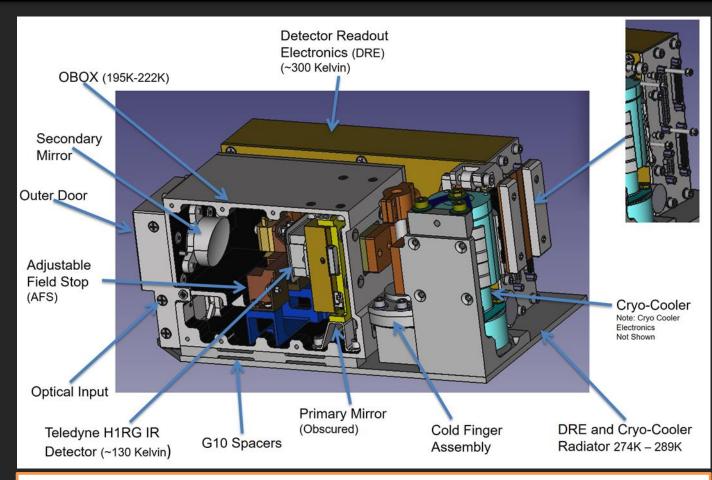


Description:

- Broadband InfraRed Compact High Resolution Exploration Spectrometer
- BIRCHES Point Spectrometer will determine distribution of volatiles, including forms and components of water, and other volatiles such as NH3, H2S, CO2, CH4, to the extent possible, in lunar regolith as a function of time of day and latitude
- IR measurements associated with volatiles in the 3 micron region at </= 10 nm spectral resolution
- Leverages OSIRIs-REX Heritage spare

Technology Demonstrations

- NASA GSFC BIRCHES Miniaturized IR Spectrometer characterize water and other volatiles with high spectral resolution (5 nm) and wavelength range (1 to 4 µm)
- Innovative SmallSat thermal design will maintain detector <115K +/- 1K, optics box <230K +/- 5K, avionics in nominal range



Lunar IceCube instrument: **B**roadband **I**nfra**R**ed **C**ompact **H**igh **R**esolution **E**xploration **S**pectrometer (**BIRCHES**)









NEA Scout

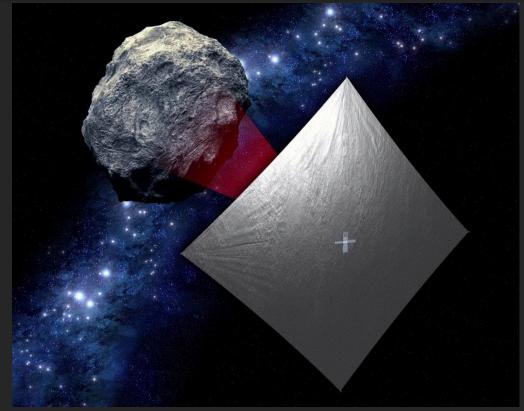


Why is this project important?

- Serves as a robotic reconnaissance mission to fly by and return data from an asteroid representative of near-Earth asteroids that may one day be human destinations.
- Addresses Strategic Knowledge Gaps (SKGs) for future Near Earth Asteroid exploration
- Furthers our scientific understanding of Near Earth Asteroids
- Demonstrates solar sail propulsion for use on future robotic and science exploration and science missions

Project Objectives

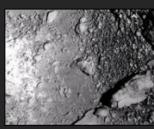
- Image/characterize a NEA during a slow flyby (e.g. 2019 GF1)
- Design, develop, integrate and operate a spacecraft for the purpose of demonstrating a low cost reconnaissance capability
- Enable asteroids as potential destinations for human exploration
- Characterize a candidate NEA with an imager to address key SKG's





Target Reconnaissance with medium field imaging Shape, spin, and local

environment



Close Proximity
Imaging
Local scale morphology,
terrain properties,
landing site survey







BioSentinel



Why is this project important?

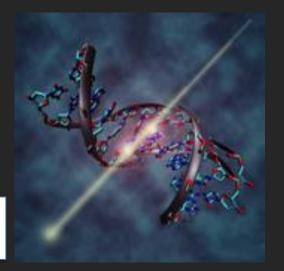
BioSentinel is a deep space mission to detect, measure and correlate the impact of space radiation on living organisms over long durations.

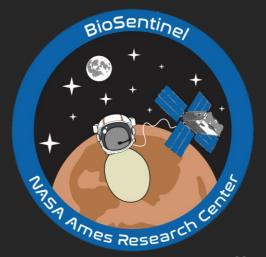
BioSentinel is a free-flyer mission carrying the BioSensor and linear energy transfer (LET) Spectrometer instruments. The BioSensor is a self-contained biology-based radiation sensor using yeast, a simple model organism.

The yeast cells will receive ionizing radiation in desiccated state and in suspension; the BioSensor measures cell growth and metabolic activity.

- Develop a deep space nanosat capability
- Develop a radiation biosensor useful for other missions
- Define & validate SLS secondary payload interfaces and accommodations for a biological payload









Deep Space Network (DSN) - Deep Space Station 17 (DSS-17)

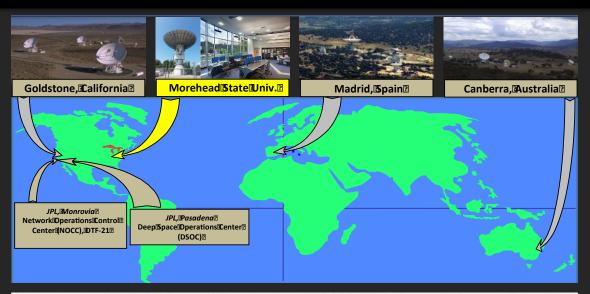


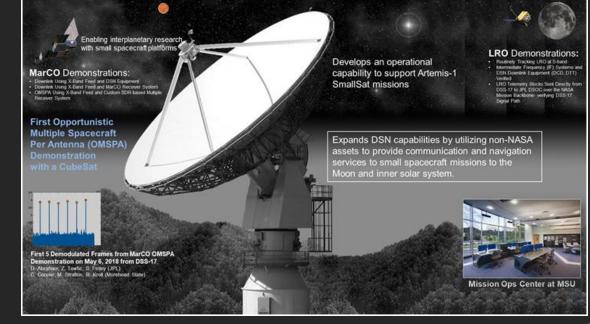
Why is this project important?

- Serves as a test-case for other non-NASA ground stations to provide auxiliary deep space navigation and tracking support for small spacecraft missions.
- Ground segment support for Artemis, Moon to Mars, and Beyond!
- Provides operational capability to support Artemis 1 CubeSat missions in the 2021 timeframe:

Artemis Missions Supported by DSS-17 at MSU:			
Lunar IceCube	LunIR	CAPSTONE	LunaH Map
BioSentinel	NEA Scout	Lunar Flashlight	CuSP

- Expand DSN capabilities by utilizing non-NASA assets to provide communication and navigation services to small spacecraft missions to the Moon and inner solar system
- Provide operational capability to support Artemis SmallSat missions
- Enable interplanetary research with small spacecraft platforms









CAPSTONE



Why is this project important?

- The Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment (CAPSTONE) is expected to be the first spacecraft to operate in a near rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO) around the Moon. In this unique orbit, the CubeSat will rotate together with the Moon as it orbits Earth and will pass as close as 1,000 miles and as far as 43,500 miles from the lunar surface.
- Following a three-month trip to the Moon, CAPSTONE will enter a near rectilinear halo orbit, which is a highly elliptical orbit over the Moon's poles, to verify its characteristics for future missions and conduct a navigation demonstration with NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

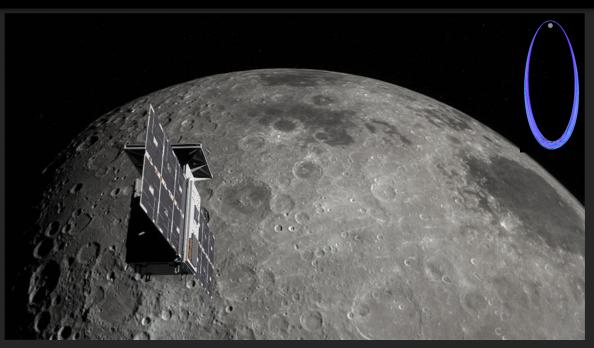
- Verify the characteristics of a cis-lunar near rectilinear halo orbit NRHO/three-body Earth-Moon Operations for future spacecraft. Demonstrate entering and maintaining this unique orbit.
- Demonstrate the Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System's (CAPS) ability to generate spacecraft-to-spacecraft navigation services that allow future spacecraft to determine their location relative to the Moon without relying exclusively on tracking from Earth. CAPSTONE spacecraft communicates with LRO to demonstrate relative measurements and components of autonomous navigation system
- Pathfinder Document operational experience and lessons learned for insertion into and operation in a lunar NRHO. Mitigate technical risks of NRHO operations and validate navigation and stationkeeping analysis and simulation and directly transfer that experience and lessons to inform NASA Gateway planning activities.
- Demonstrate one way ranging using chip scale atomic clock (CSAC) integrated with IRIS radio.

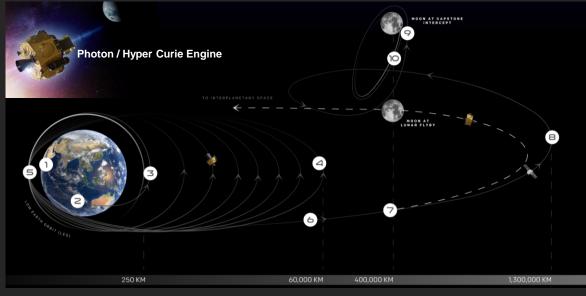












TechEdSat-1



Mission Description

NASA Ames Research Centered mentored students from San Jose State University. The mission was to demonstrate:

- 1.) the capabilities of the JAXA J-SSOD aboard the ISS, and be one of the first cubesats to be deployed from the ISS.
- 2.) Iridium and OrbComm inter-satellite communication as a method of eliminating the requirement for a physical ground station in small satellite missions.
- 3.) Ability for engineering students to deliver a flight system to be up-massed to the International Space Station for deployment to space.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 1.2kg

Quantity: One 1U cubesat

• **Orbit**: 400 km x 400 km @ 51.6 incl.

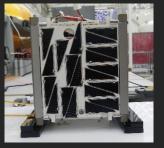
• **Size**: 10 x 10 x 11 cm

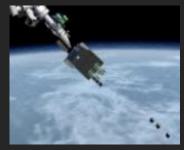
Communication: UHF band

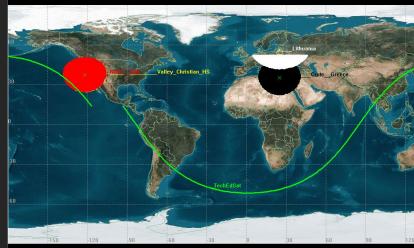
• Launched: HTV-4 (JUL 21, 2012













Led, AztechSat-1 - NASA's First Spaceflight Collaboration with Mexico



Mission Description

The AztechSat-1 is a 1U CubeSat-class small satellite managed, designed and built by an interdisciplinary team of engineering students and other areas of the Puebla State Autonomous University (UPAEP-Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla – Puebla, Mexico). This primary mission to conduct an intersatellite communication demonstrations between AztechSat-1 and the Globalstar Constellation.

AztechSat-1 is the first spaceflight project of the Aerospace Engineering department at the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP). This project provides participating students the handson experience managing, designing, building satellites, and operating a space mission.

Using inter-satellite communication with the Globalstar Constellation to augment the downloaded data will increase data availability and reduces the requirements for ground stations, thus reducing mission cost. This may potentially increase the amount of data available for the principal investigators.

Spacecraft Specifications:

• **Mass**: 0.910 kg

• Quantity: One 1U cubesat

• **Orbit**: 400 km x 400 km @ 51.6 incl.

• **Size**: 10 x 10 x 11 cm

• Communication: UHF band, Globalstar

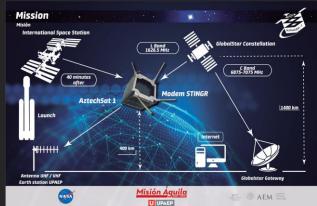
• Launch: SpaceX-19 (DEC 05, 2019)

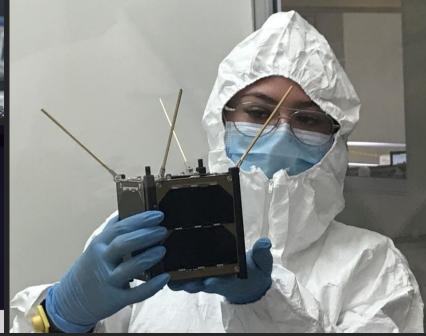








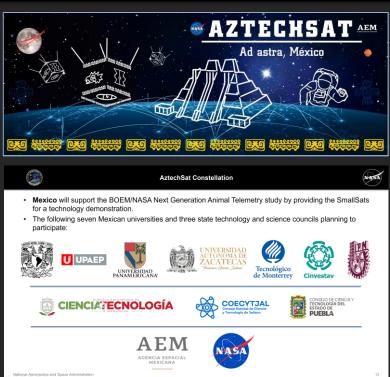


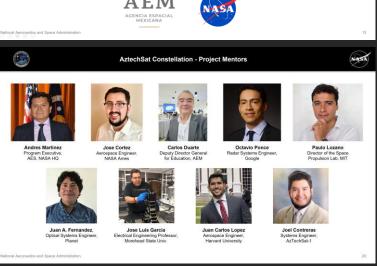




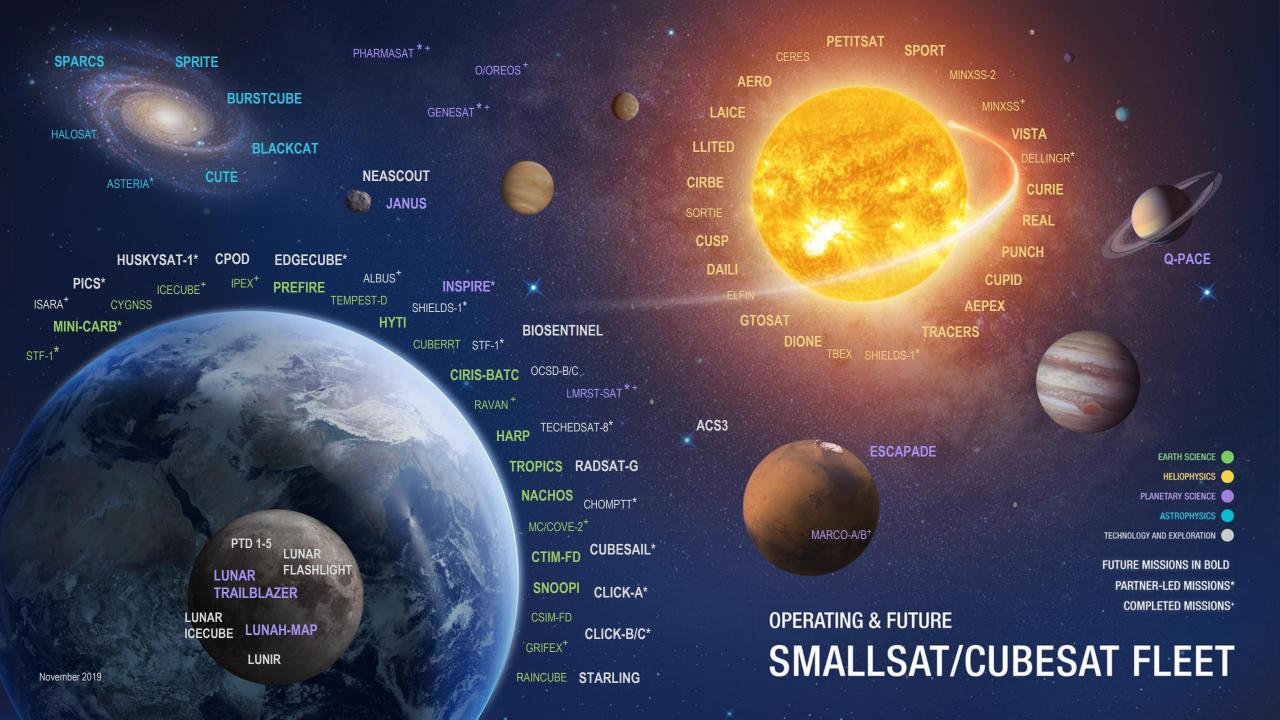
AztechSat Constellation – NASA / AEM Proposed Mission











Small Spacecraft Coordination Group



Formed to advise the SMD, STMD, and HEOMD Associate Administrators on strategy to guide cross-agency initiatives, policies, and programmatic scope

Small Spacecraft Integrated Strategic Plan

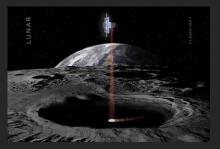


SSCG Focus Areas

- Strategy and Implementation
- Safety, Mission Assurance, & Reliability
- Services and Infrastructure
- Launch Accommodation and Rideshare
- Cybersecurity and Enterprise Protection
- Commercial Partnerships & New Space
- International Relationships and Outreach



ScienceNew Observation Methods



Exploration
Strategic Knowledge Gaps



TechnologySpacecraft Subsystems

Small Spacecraft Virtual Institute: https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute







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