
NASA Lasercom Development

Bryan S. Robinson

MIT LL

10 October 2024



DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A. Approved for public release. Distribution is unlimited.

This material is based upon work supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under Air Force Contract No. FA8702-15-D-0001. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

© 2024 Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Delivered to the U.S. Government with Unlimited Rights, as defined in DFARS Part 252.227-7013 or 7014 (Feb 2014). Notwithstanding any copyright notice, U.S. Government rights in this work are defined by DFARS 252.227-7013 or DFARS 252.227-7014 as detailed above. Use of this work other than as specifically authorized by the U.S. Government may violate any copyrights that exist in this work.



NASA Lasercom Portfolio Development

LEO, GEO, Lunar, and Beyond

LCRD (launched 7 Dec 2021)
1.244 Gbps relay from GEO

ILT (launched 9 Nov 2023)
LEO to GEO connection from
the International Space Station

O2O (launching Sep 2025)
250 Mbps moon to earth from the
second Artemis mission

DSOC (launched 13 Oct 2023)
132 Mbps downlink from 0.25 AU
200 kbps downlink from >2 AU

TBIRD (launched 25 May 2022)
200 Gbps direct to earth from 3U LEO
cubesat

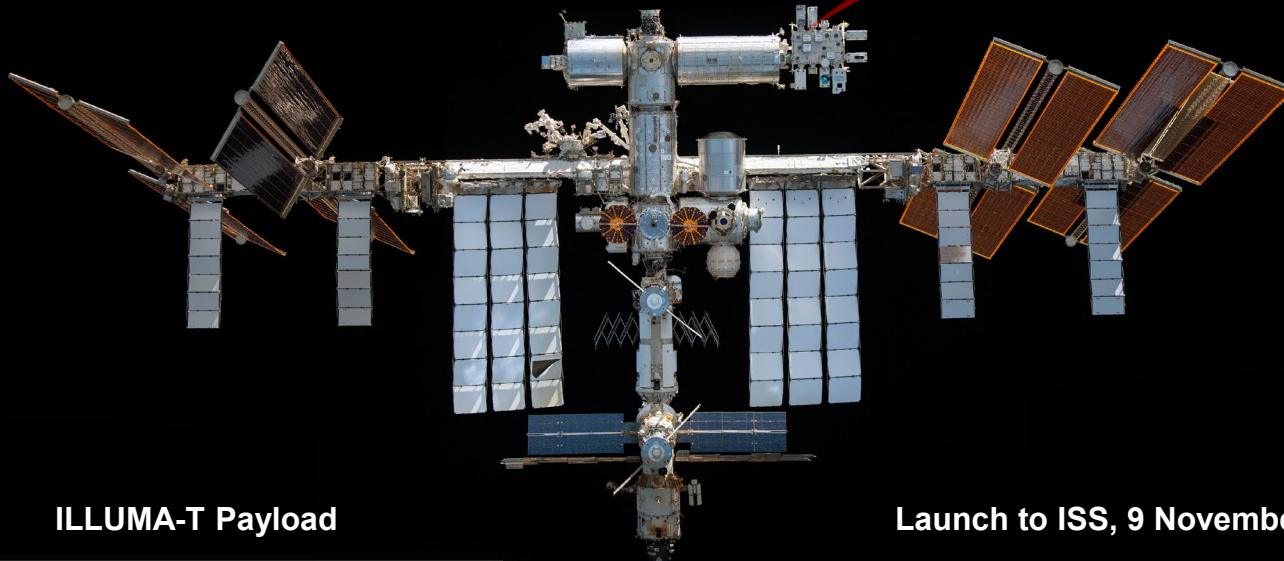


ILLUMA-T



NASA's First Optical Relay User

- ILLUMA-T terminal on ISS communicates via NASA LCRD relay to ground
- 10-cm gimbaled aperture; 3W transmitter
- 1 Gbps link from ISS to ground
- 155 Mbps link from ground to ISS
- First demonstration of new flexible optical module design– also installed on NASA's Orion spacecraft for Artemis II
- Successful operations aboard International Space Station, December 2023 – June 2024



ILLUMA-T Payload

Launch to ISS, 9 November 2023

Mission Complete, June 2024

