

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

2023 NASA SCIENCE

All about SmallSats, Challenges, Lessons Learned

Florence Tan Chair, Small Spacecraft Coordination Group NASA Headquarters

PI Launchpad 2023 July 25, 2023



AGENDA







SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE (SMD) & CUBESAT/SMALLSAT OVERVIEW CUBESAT/SMALLSAT PROGRAM REVIEWS & HIGHLIGHTS MISSION STRATEGY & OPPORTUNITES

Establishing the Vision for Small Mission Science

Small satellite community can contribute to the scientific and technical rationale for a sustainable, productive, and relevant role within a balanced portfolio of strategic science missions



National Academies and NASA Reports Impact SmallSat/CubeSat Strategy

- NASA formed and chartered a Cross-Agency Coordination Group that Advises AAs on Strategy, Guidance, and Policy For Innovative Small Spacecraft Science and Technology Missions
- SMD, STMD, and SOMD's small spacecraft missions are actively pursuing science, space technology, and strategic knowledge gaps



Science Hurricane observations via TROPICS constellation

New Observation Methods



Exploration Lunar imaging via Equuleus mission

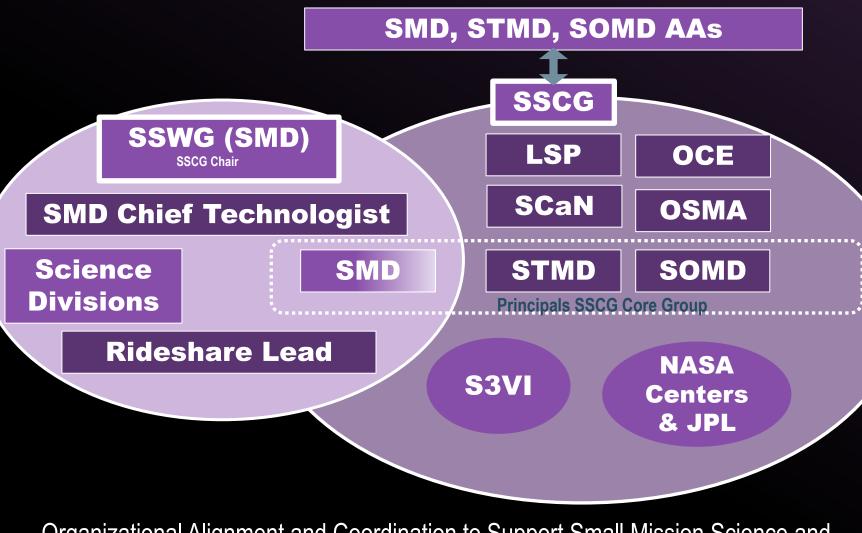
Strategic Knowledge Gaps



Technology maturation via CAPSTONE mission

Spacecraft Subsystems

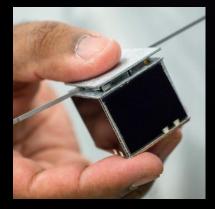
Structure of NASA Small Spacecraft Coordination Group



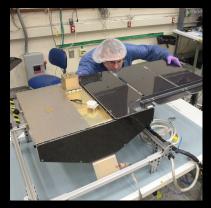
Small Spacecraft Coordination Group (SSCG) advises AAs on strategy to guide crossagency initiatives and relevant policies, programmatic scope and priorities **Small Spacecraft** Working Group (SSWG) advises the SSCG and assists SMD in development of innovative science investigations

Organizational Alignment and Coordination to Support Small Mission Science and Technology Community

Fundamentals of Small Spacecraft Spectrum of Satellite Development



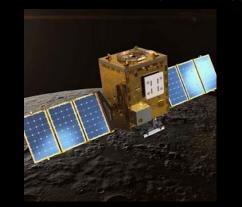
Picosatellite PocketSat (0.1 – 1 kg)



Microsatellite CYGNSS (10 – 100 kg)



CubeSat/Nanosatellite TROPICS 3U/6U (1 – 10 kg)



Small Satellite ESCAPADE (100 – 500 kg)



SPA-Ring Payload Port Limit (450 kg)

SmallSat Definition

A spacecraft that is interface compatible with a SPA Ring, a dedicated small or medium-lift launch vehicle, or a containerized dispenser, and with an upper mass limit of approximately 500 kg

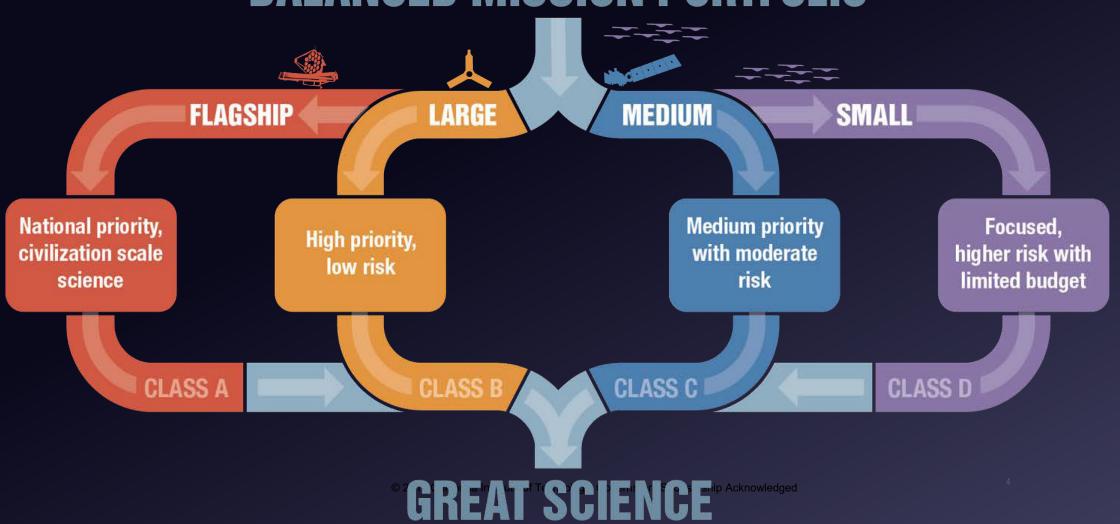








BALANCED MISSION PORTFOLIO



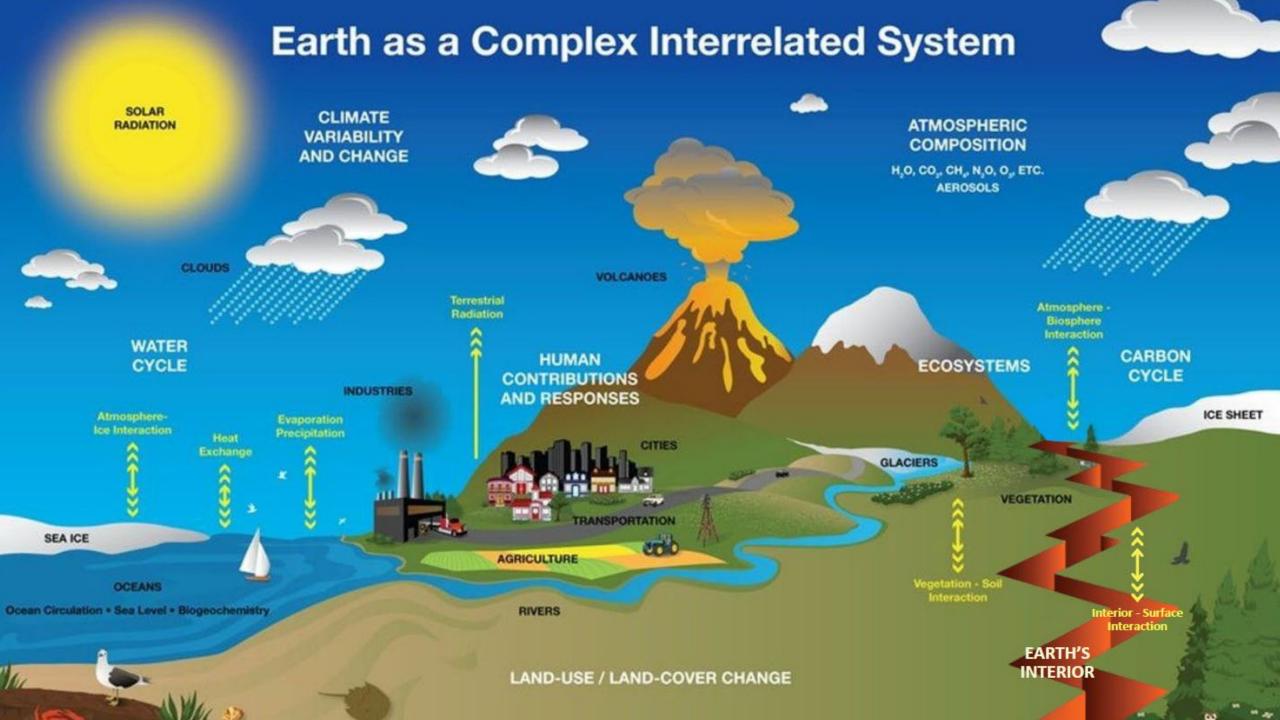
SPACE WEATHER

Researching Causes Studying Impacts Improving Predictions EXOSPHERE

STRATOSPHERE







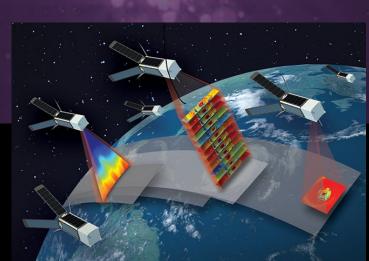
SPHEREX^{-S} CeREs MinXSS-2 EZIE **3UCubed-A** SPRITE ICON S REAL AEPEX CURIE CuPID **BurstCube** LLITED PUNCH^S CIRBE BlackCat CuSP **AERO** Pandora **SPARCS** CUTE VISTA MUSE JANUS S StarBurst ^S COSI PADRE TRACERS ^S CubIXSS SunRISE I-COVEX Q-PACE DIONE ACS3 CPOD ' Starling ALBus PREFIRE GLIDE S LMRST-Sat IPEX⁺ STF-1+ NanoSail-D, D2 TSIS-2^s GTO CYGNSS ^s OCSD-A *+ WindCube HyTI SWFO-L1 GPX2 Mini-Carb *+ OCSD-B/C *+ RadSat-g QuickSounder EDSN DYNAGLO MinXSS + ISARA LARADO INCUS TechEdSat-8 Shields TechEdSat-12 IRAD CSUNSAT-1 PetitSat TechEdSat-7* ASTERIA *+ SPORT PHARMASAT *+ JASD Courier SEP DEMO* **R5-S3** SORTIE + GeneSat*+ EARTH SCIENCE Dellingr *+ **R5-S2** DiskSat* O/OREOS HELIOPHYSICS R5-S4 ESCAPADE S RAVAN + PLANETARY SCIENCE PhoneSats (5) R5-S1 ACMES ASTROPHYSICS SEEKER-1 + RainCube BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL R5-S5 TROPICS CSIM-FD + Lunar Flashlight STMD Mars Helicopter/ Ingenuity R5-S6 **DUPLEX*** TROPICS MarCO (A/B) **Cislunar Explorers CIRIS-BATC** ON-ORBIT ANOMALY Pathfinder NACHOS 2 CLICK-A* FUTURE MISSIONS IN BOLD PTD-1 HYDROS * + PTD-3 T-BIRD IceCube Arcstone PARTNER-LED MISSIONS' NACHOS 1 CLICK-B/C* COMPLETED MISSIONS+ PTD-4 LISA-T* PTD-R* CU-E3 HARP CTIM-FD MC/COVE SmallSat Mission ^s NODES + CubeRRT + LUNAR TRAILBLAZER ^S MC/COVE-2 + V-R3X + **OPERATING, PAST, & FUTURE Missions Tracked: 150** TEMPEST-D + LunaH-Map **Team Miles SNOOPI** PACE-1 SMALLSAT/CUBESAT FLEET EcAMSat⁻ GRIFEX ⁺ CAPS MiRaTA Athena *s TechEdSat-11 CHOMPTT * +

MARCH 2023

For questions, please contact Florence Tan.

AGENDA







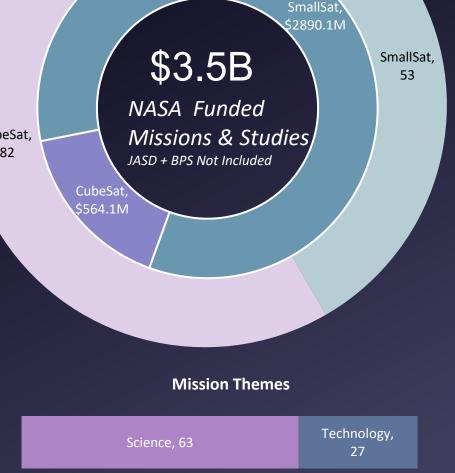
SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE (SMD) & CUBESAT/SMALLSAT OVERVIEW CUBESAT/SMALLSAT PROGRAM REVIEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

MISSION STRATEGY & OPPORTUNITES

SMD SmallSats/CubeSats Mission Overview

Data from Jan 2003 - May 2023 Data excludes studies unless specified

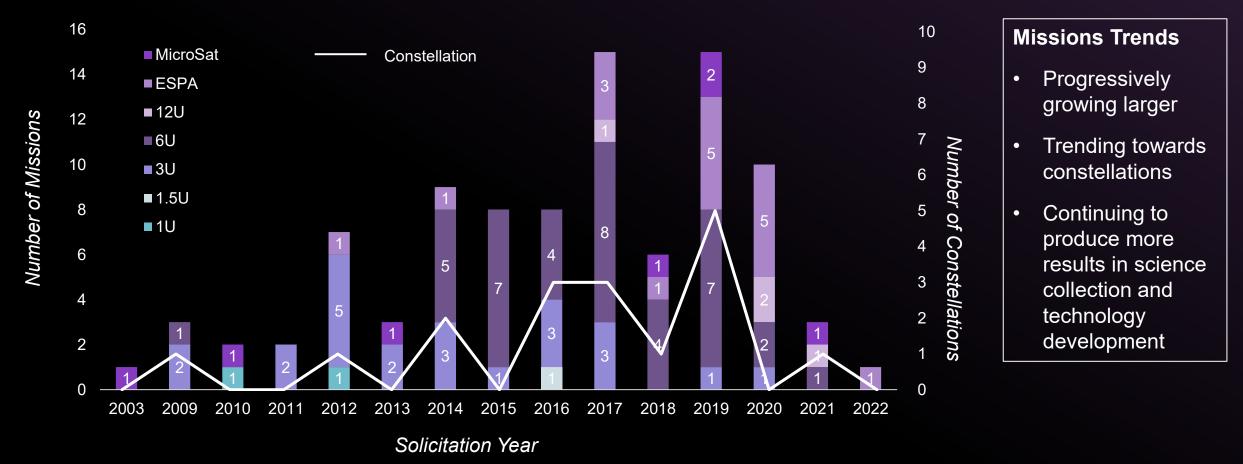
46 HELIOPHYSICS: 8 Studies, 38 Missions, 42% funding 90 **33** ASTROPHYSICS: 20 Studies, 13 Missions, 30% funding 28 EARTH SCIENCE: 28 Missions, 22% funding MISSIONS **25** PLANETARY SCIENCE: 18 Studies, 7 Missions, 7% funding **2** BIOLOGICAL & PHYSICAL SCIENCE: 2 Missions **2** JOINT AGENCY SATELLITE: 2 Missions **SPACECRAFT** HPD has the highest amounts of total funding and highest CubeSat. MISSIONS 90 82 number of awarded missions STUDIES 46 ESD (19) have the highest number launched missions 60 Spacecraft, 44 Launches since 2010 Launch Timeline 17 18 16 14 3 Missions Launched in 2023 12 10 Success. 10 34 8 6 20^{12} Failure, 10 Some missions manifested dates not yet determined



NASA SMD SmallSat Mission Trends

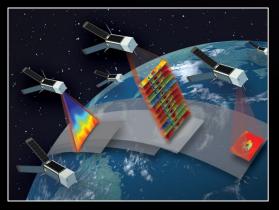
Excluding Studies Data as of Jan 2023

Mission Size & Constellation Trends



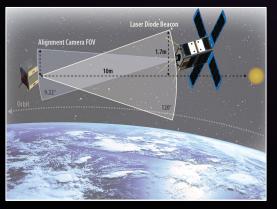
SmallSat Program Opportunities

Investing in Earth Science Constellations



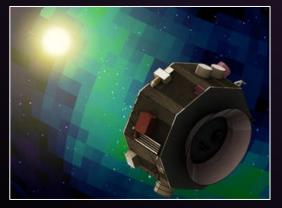
Earth Venture Missions (EVM/EVI) and In-Space Validation of Earth Science Technologies (InVEST)

Major Investment in Astro SmallSat Missions



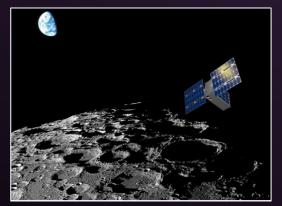
Astrophysics APRA CubeSat and PIONEERS program, Small Explorer (SMEX) Astrophysics Science SmallSat Studies

Investing in SmallSat Constellations and ESPA Class Missions



Heliophysics Technology and Science Mission of Opportunity (MoO), Small Explorer (SMEX), Medium Explorer (MIDEX), Flight Research and Technology (H-FORT) programs

Investing in Deep Space SmallSat Missions



Small Innovative Missions for Planetary Exploration (SIMPLEx)

SmallSat/CubeSat commercial engagement opportunities are essential to NASA Science's balanced portfolio, achieving distinct science objectives

SMD SmallSat and CubeSat Programs

SMD Directorate	Funding Program: CubeSats	Example Missions: CubeSat	Funding Program: SmallSats	Example Missions: SmallSats
Astrophysics	APRA	SPRITE, BLACKCAT, CUTE, BURSTCUBE	PIONEERS	Starburst, Aspera, PANDORA
Astrophysics			Explorer Small Explorer (SMEX) Program	IXPE
Astrophysics			Explorer Medium Explorer (MIDEX) Program	SPHEREX
Earth Science	INVEST	ACMES, SNOOPI, HyTI, CTIM-FD, NACHOS, RainCube	Earth Venture / SMEX	CYGNSS, TROPICS, PREFIRE, INCUS, TEMPEST-D
Heliophysics	H-FORT	GTOSAT, AERO / VISTA, CURIE, REAL, CUSP	SIMPLEX-2 / SMEX / MIDEX	ESCAPADE
Heliophysics	Explorer Mission of Opportunity	SunRise, EZIE	SMEX	TRACERS, PUNCH
Heliophysics	MIDEX		STP Explorer Mission of Opportunity	GLIDE
Heliophysics			STP Explorer Mission of Opportunity	Solar Cruiser
Heliophysics			MIDEX	Helioswarm
Planetary Science	SIMPLEX-1	Q-PACE, LunaH-Map	SIMPLEX-2	JANUS
Exploration Science Strategy & Integration Office			SIMPLEX-2	Lunar Trailblazer

NASA SCIENCE SHARE THE SCIENCE

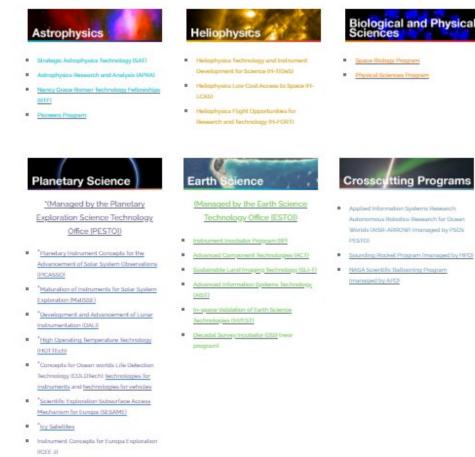
Science Topics News For Researchers Learners Get Involved Citizen Science About Us Español@

Science-enabling Technology

Overview SMD Technology Programs Technology Highlights

SMD Technology Programs

SMD develops cutting-edge technologies to enable groundbreaking science via technology development programs sponsored by its science divisions.



Radiosotope Power Systems Program (RPSP)

Crosscutting Programs

Autonomous Robotics Research for Ocean Worlds (AISR-ARROW) Imanaged by PSDs

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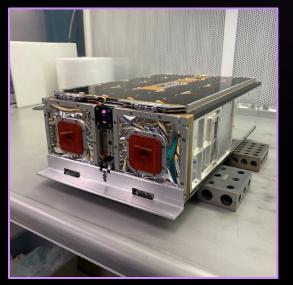
https://science.nasa.gov/techn ology/smd-technologyprograms

Compact Solar Irradiance Monitor-Flight Demo (CSIM-FD) / Compact Total Irradiance Monitor-Flight Demo (CTIM-FD)

Measures solar spectral irradiance (SSI), and monitoring Total Solar Irradiance (TSI) to explore how solar variability impacts the Earth's climate, contributing to long-term continuity measurements from TSIS SIM/TIM and SOURCE SIM/TIM

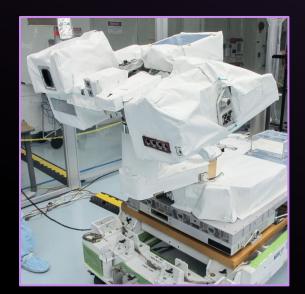


CSIM: 11kg CubeSatBuilt by LASP



CTIM: 11kg CubeSat

Built by LASP



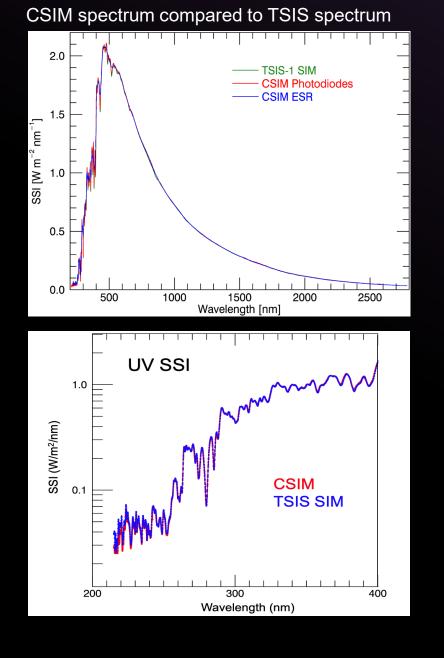
TSIS-1: 363kg

- Built by LASP
- Mounted to the ISS

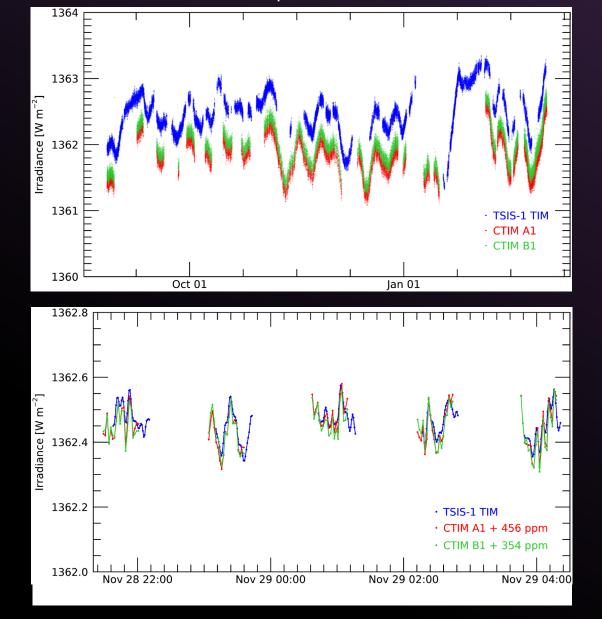


SORCE: 290kg

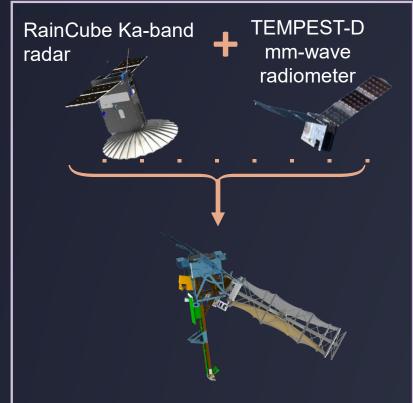
On an Orbital LEOStar-2 bus



CTIM TSI measurements compared to TSIS TIM



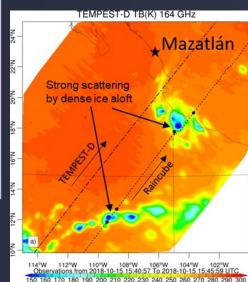
INCUS

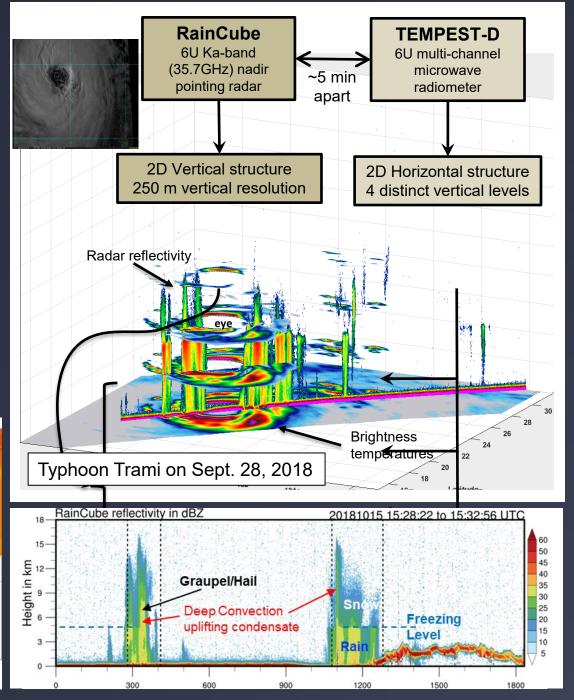


INCUS draws on the strengths of BOTH RainCube and TEMPEST-D to provide unprecedented vertical and horizontal views of storm structure and processes.

Figures and animations by Simone Tanelli, Shannon Brown and Steve Reising (Right) On September 28, 2018, TEMPEST-D and RainCube overflew Typhoon Trami < 5 minutes apart

(Bottom) Correlated storm measurements from RainCube radar and TEMPEST-D radiometer over Texas, Mexico and Pacific Ocean

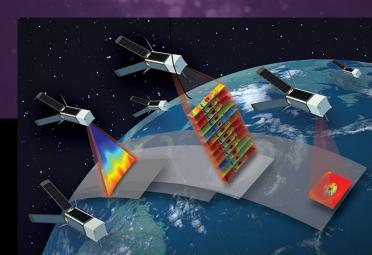




Ingenuity

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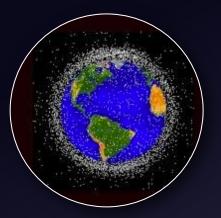
SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE (SMD) & CUBESAT/SMALLSAT OVERVIEW CUBESAT/SMALLSAT PROGRAM REVIEWS & HIGHLIGHTS MISSION STRATEGY & OPPORTUNITES

Small Spacecraft Focus Areas of Strategic Emphasis

Fundamental to Enabling NASA's Overall Vision for Small Mission Activities



1 - Strategy and Implementation



5 – Conjunction Assessment and Mitigation



2 - S&MA, Reliability, and Technical Excellence



3 - Launch Accommodation and Rideshare



4 - Services and Infrastructure

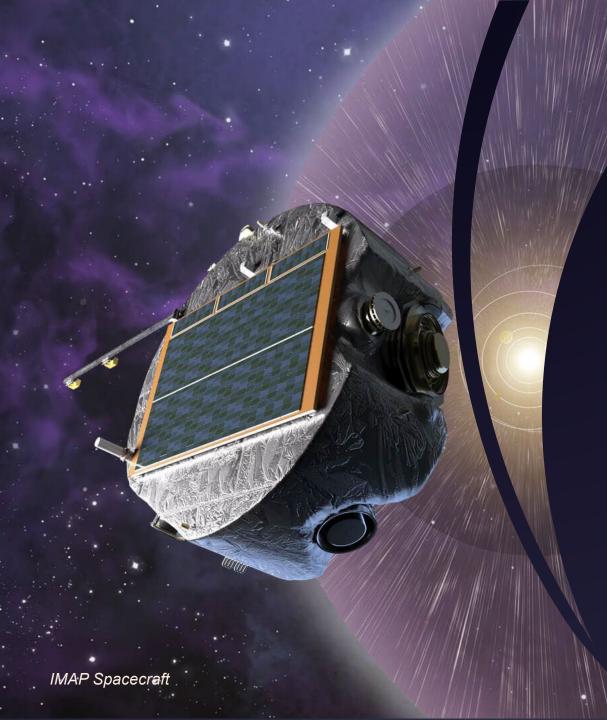


6 - Cybersecurity and Enterprise Protection





8 - International Relationships and Outreach



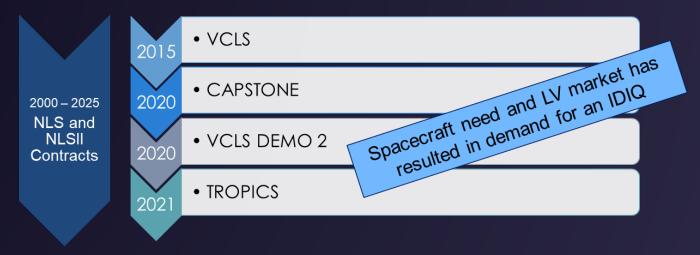
SMD Rideshare Strategy

Access to Space For SmallSats on ESPA-Rings

• SPD-32 Policy Impacts

- NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) Rideshare Policy SPD-32 provides ESPA-rings for SmallSats to utilize excess lift capacity on SMD-procured launch vehicles
- The SMD Rideshare Office manages SPD-32
 implementation
- The Carruthers selection was assigned to the IMAP mission launch vehicle under the SPD-32 policy
- SMD's rideshare strategy has accelerated the frequency and diversity of science returned while maximizing launch vehicle performance

Venture-Class Acquisition of Dedicated and Rideshare (VADR) Overview



VADR IDIQ:

- FAA licensed commercial launch services
- Class D or more risk tolerant payloads; Very limited LSP mission assurance (NPD 8610.23 modified technical oversight approach)
- Multiple providers/launch vehicles
- Mission specific requirements
- Dedicated (allow option for provider to sell excess capacity) and rideshare
- Capability for CubeSats due to risk posture (e.g., UCLASS, TROPICS Pathfinder, Non-ISS)
- On-ramp capability
- The loss of these payloads will not be considered a NASA "Mishap" under NPR 8621.1. Launch vehicle mishap investigations will not be conducted as part of the VADR contract
 SMD Rideshare Lead: Aly Mendoza-Hill

CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI)

NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI) provides launch opportunities to a variety of U.S. CubeSat developers who build small satellite payloads that fly as auxiliary payloads on previously planned launches or commercial missions to low Earth orbit and deep space destinations as well as International Space Station deployments.

https://www.nasa.gov/content/about-cubesat-launch-initiative



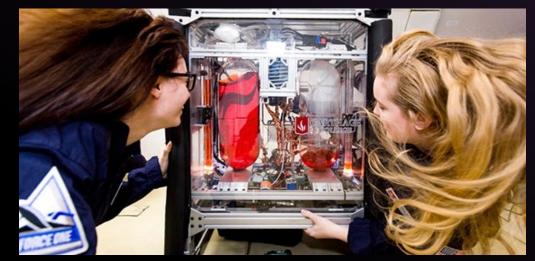




Flight Opportunities Mission

The Flight Opportunities program facilitates **rapid demonstration** of technologies for space exploration, discovery, and the expansion of space commerce through **suborbital testing with industry flight providers**.







Includes topic areas that address agency and mission goals; up to \$750K to purchase flights on suborbital or hosted orbital platforms directly from any eligible U.S. commercial flight provider



Challenges addressing specific NASA technology needs; previous awards have been up to \$650K to build payloads, plus access to a suborbital flight test



Competition to inspire the next generation of space researchers; offers hands-on insight into the design and test process used by NASA-supported researchers



Through collaborative internal and external relationships, the program takes advantage of opportunities to flight test valuable space technologies

Agency Initiatives To increase access to test opportunities in relevant environments, Flight Opportunities collaborates with other NASA initiatives like **SMD's ROSES and SOMD's SubC** to help them leverage the commercial flight ecosystem Flights of Opportunity Examples:

- In-Space Manufacturing/ ISS Program Office
- SBIR/STTR
- Intergovernmental support (Department of Defense, USDA)
- TechFlights Reflights

Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute (S3VI)



The Small Spacecraft Systems Virtual Institute (S3VI) is chartered to perform the following:

- Establish effective conduits for collaboration and the dissemination of information to increase overall awareness of NASA small spacecraft programs, opportunities and activities;
- Capture and share best practices, emerging technology opportunities, and data; facilitate and execute special studies; and
- Conduct external workshops and public events to share mission-enabling information with the small spacecraft community.
- Body of Knowledge

Activities

- Community Engagement with PI communities
 - SmallSat LEARN "Learning from Experiences, Achievements, and Resolution Navigation" Forum
 - SmallSat CoP, Science, and Industry Webinars
- Release of Small Spacecraft Technology Plan
- Occasional Technology Expo <u>https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/2022-techexpo-agenda</u>
- State of The Art Report at S3VI <u>https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute</u>
- 2021 Virtual SmallSat Forum Report https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/2021_SmallSat_Virtual_Forum_Report_final_TAGGED.pdf
- SmallSat Reliability Institute Website https://s3vi.ndc.nasa.gov/ssri-kb/
- Access to Space Opportunities (VADR, FOP, CSLI)

NASA SmallSat LEARN Forum

Learning from Experience, Adversity and Resolution Navigation

LEARN is a comprehensive approach to information exchange, community discussions and networking

Execution of LEARN

Bi-monthly virtual mission introductions and community discussions Yearly in-person gathering for information exchange and networking Online platform for community engagement Online repository of issues, risks and lessons learned

Website

LEARN Forum is primarily for NASA-funded missions principal investigators, systems engineers and project managers

The Future is Bright with SmallSats



SmallSats are now an integral part of NASA science strategy

"Destination drives the Science" and the "Science determines the platforms" We continue to invest in technologies and partner with industry to develop reliable flight systems while maintaining a culture of innovation

SmallSats is a a way of growing science community and is an innovation that broadens thought horizons of the science community florence.w.tan@nasa.gov

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Mark Twain

Virtual Meeting Frequency: every 2 months Format: 1.5-hour meeting

15 min: Mission 1 introduction, issues, risks and lessons learned 15 min: Mission 2 introduction, issues, risks and lessons learned 15 min: Mission 3 introduction, issues, risks and lessons learned 45 min: Open community discussion and missions Q&A

Attendance: request invitation and access using the LEARN Forum website

https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/LEARN

In-Person Forum

Frequency: once a year around October

Location: varies every year (WFF 2022, LaRC 2023)

Format: 2 days of presentations, panel discussions, classes, workshops and facility tours

Attendance: request invitation using the LEARN Forum website. Registration not open yet for 2023. An email will be sent to the distribution list for once registration is open.

2022 In-Person Forum @ Wallops Flight Facility



Challenges

Increasing popularity on LEO destinations

Orbital Debris

Spectrum Licensing

Cybersecurity

Access to space to the "hard" destination Secondaries are beholden to primary's launch schedule, cleanliness, C3 e.g. Janus targets not accessible because Psyche delayed

PSYCHE

Supply Chain issues

subsystems and parts

Training the next generation

Reliability of key components

especially deep space, GEO, cis-lunar



Lessons Learned for mission success

- Active management of gate reviews, adequate staffing, robust documentation process, and proper funding levels, experience mentors essential to provide guidance for Test Planning and Good systems engineering are keys to mission success, provide effective balance of insight vs oversight, flexibility in baseline vs threshold requirements
- Access to Space policies provide rapid access to space
- Coordination of Intentional investments in key low SWaP technologies accelerate science discoveries with SmallSats
- Community of Practice to build a robust and vibrant community of SmallSat practitioners to keep abreast of industry services/offerings for science investigations and technology demonstrations
- Supportive policies to provide "institutional scaffolding" such as policy guidance on spectrum licensing, conjunction analysis, cybersecurity planning are critical for small teams

Possible Reasons for Failure/On-Orbit Anomalies

PI-led missions and PIs have full discretion of mission build and operation:

Inadequate gate reviews/systems engineering challenges → recommend minimum gate reviews, senior experienced personnel to be assigned at the inception for best "setup for success"

- Project planning and scheduling and resource loading (missions work on limited funds);
- System engineering design planning e.g. understand grounding, intentional state of health HK data collection to identify the minimum subset needed at right sampling cadence; test data analysis planning/trending, test setup planning (eg plan to have a testbed)

Poor test planning and Incomplete and inadequate testing campaign → Recommend minimum test criteria and end-to-end testing

- Little to no workmanship inspection
- Poor subsystem testing (including risk reduction subsystem environmental tests)
- Some missions did not perform complete End to End testing including comm testing
- Incomplete or no environmental testing
- Did not achieve minimal On-Orbit Anomaly free hours of operation (some missions shipped w 0)

Incomplete or poor documentation process (hard to test and understand test results) **→** recommend be sustainable/ searchable/accessible configuration management setup (doesn't have to be expensive)

- Inconsistent test documentation
- Bus manufacturer went bankrupt, delivered system that had inadequate documentation

Staffing Irregularities → Recommend Assignment

- Poor staffing coverage competition other higher priority missions
- Inexperience Staff
- Limited Mentoring connections

2022 In-Person Forum Agenda

October 25 Agenda

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER(S)			
7:30-8:30 AM	REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN				
8:30-8:45 AM	WELCOME AND WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY OVERVIEW	DAVID PIERCE			
8:45-8:50 AM	SAFETY, LOGISTICS, SCHEDULE	ERIN MAJEROWICZ			
8:50-9:05 AM	LEARN INTRODUCTION	FLORENCE TAN			
9:05-9:15 AM	ANNOUNCEMENTS	BRUCE YOST			
9:15-9:45 AM	SMALLSAT SPACECRAFT BUS STATE-OF- THE-ART	LUIS SANTOS			
9:45-10:00 AM	BREAK				
		MODERATOR: LUIS SANTOS			
10:00-11:00 AM	SMALLSAT ENGINEERING PANEL	PANELISTS: ALAN RHODES, GREG DECHAINE, DAVID HINKLEY, KERRY GONZALES and MICHAEL SAING			
11:00-11:30 AM	SPECIAL TOPIC 1: SMD RIDESHARE	ALY MENDOZA-HILL			
11:30-1:00 PM	LUNCH				
		MODERATOR: EFTHYIA ZESTA PANELISTS: RICK KONHERT,			
1:00-2:00 PM	SMALLSAT PI/PM PANEL	AMIR CASPI, DANIEL KOCEVSKI, ANH NGUYEN and WILLAM BLACKWELL			
2:00-2:30 PM	SPECIAL TOPIC: CARA INTRODUCTION	JOSHUA KRAGE			
2:30-2:45 PM	BREAK				
2:45-3:30 PM	STMD SPECIAL TOPIC	JUSTIN TREPTOW			
3:30-4:00 PM	SPECIAL TOPIC 3: COSTING TOOLS	MICHAEL SAING			
4:00-5:00 PM	OPEN FORUM	MODERATOR: FLORENCE TAN			

October 26 Agenda

TIME	E-104, ROOM 116	E-104, ROOM 214	E100 AUDITORIUM	
8:30-9:30 AM	RADIATION EFFECTS & EEE PARTS SELECTION MICHAEL CAMPOLA	F PRIME OPEN-SOURCE FLIGHT SOFTWARE PRODUCT LINE TIM CANHAM & JEFFREY LEVISON	WALLOPS ISLAND TOUR	
9:30-10:30 AM	GUIDE TO WORKING WITH THE NASA SHARED SERVICES CENTER (NSSC) JIM HIBBS	MISSION CORNER: ACTIVE THERMAL CONTROL FOR MULTISPECTRAL EARTH SENSORS (ACME) LUCAS ANDERSON	WALLOPS ISLAND TOUR	
10:30-11:30 AM	SAFETY AND MISSION ASSURANCE FOR SMALLSATS JESSE LEITNER	ANOMALIES REPORTING CRAIG BURKHARD & VICKY LE		
11:30-12:30 PM		В		
12:30-1:30 PM	INTRODUCTION TO SMALL SPACECRAFT SYSTEMS VIRTUAL INSTITUTE (S3VI) TOOLS CRAIG BURKHARD & ROBBIE ROBERTSON			
1:30-2:30 PM	CONJUNCTION ASSESSMENT RISK ANALYSIS (CARA) IMPLEMENTATION JOSHUA KRAGE	COMMUNICATIONS LICENSING 101 WILLIAM HORNE	MAIN BASE TOUR	
2:30-3:30 PM	ORBITAL DEBRIS ASSESSMENT REPORT (ODAR) OVERVIEW CHRISTOPHER OSTROM	CYBERSECURITY/ ENCRYPTION REYNALDO ANZALDUA		
3:30-4:30 PM			CLOSING SESSION: HQ OFFICE HOUR & LEARN FORUM FEEDBACK FLORENCE TAN	

Online Community Engagement

Linked-In group by the community for the community

Single place to engage with the NASA SmallSat community Ask questions Share information Create new contacts

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14097449/

Online Repository

IN THE WORKS

The main purpose is to collect issues, risks and lessons learned into a single online searchable tool

Most likely will be tied with the Small Satellite Reliability Initiative (SSRI) Knowledge Base website

LEARN Forum Website https://www.nasa.gov/smallsat-institute/LEARN

LEARN Forum Overview – registration link Upcoming Session information In-Person Forum information Contact Us Session Archive