Group 7: Small satellites launch systems and services: needs, availability, development trends

Vesselin Vassilev

vesselin.vassilev@castra.org www.castra.org The "New Space' business - a few examples of recent ventures from non-governmental players



Audi's quatro Moon Rover 2015



Astrobotic's Moon Lander project 2017



Private airlaunch projects



Planet Labs EO 2013



"Croatia and "Swiss Space systems are to build a space port", 2015 (Croatia is a 4 Million people EU country)



A 1400 km 800 km space debris detection project

by SSTL and CASTRA "Luxembourg, serious about mining asteroids, seeks investors", 2017 theguardian



#Laugh -- a 3D sculpture fabricated from a sound simulation of crowd-sourced laughter, to be set in space , Eyal Gever & NASA 2016

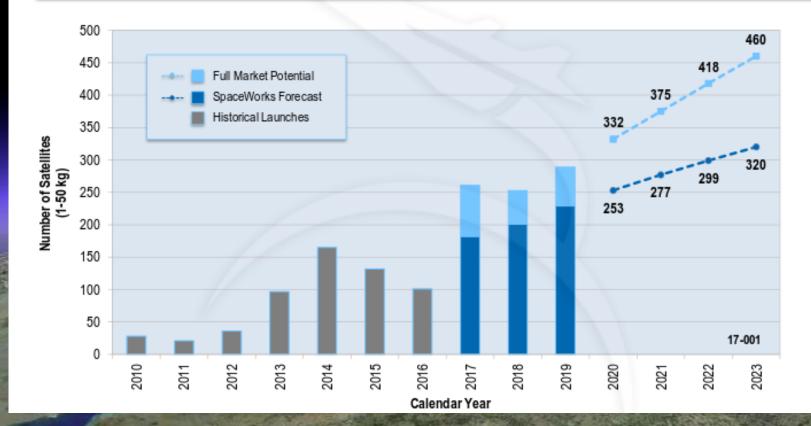
NANO AND MICROSATELLITE MARKET SIZE, BY APPLICATIONS, 2014-2019 (\$MILLION)

Application	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	CAGR (2014-2019)
Communication	100.2	127.7	155.5	177.8	193.8	206.8	15.6%
Earth Observation and Remote Sensing	81.1	132.3	206.6	301.5	422.7	555.8	47.0%
Scientific Research	202.7	261.0	323.3	379.2	425.2	455.2	17.6%
Biological Experiments	27.3	40.9	55.5	69.2	76.7	84.1	25.2%
Technology demonstration and verification	228.6	274.8	320.5	357.0	384.0	402.3	12.0%
Academic Training	31.9	44.8	60.7	78.5	96.1	106.1	27.2%
Reconnaissance	30.7	39.2	48.5	58.8	68.9	76.9	20.2%
Total	702.4	920.8	1170.7	1421.9	1667.4	1887.1	21.9%

3

2017 Nano/Microsatellite Launch History and Forecast (1 - 50 kg)

Projections based on announced and future plans of developers and programs indicate nearly 2,400 nano/microsatellites will require a launch from 2017 through 2023



"Launch delays continued to reduce market potential and added to a growing backlog of satellites awaiting launch. Over 100 small satellites were impacted by 2016 launch delays. SpaceX's Falcon 9 family delivered zero small satellites in 2016 ", <u>SpaceWorks Enterprises Inc.</u>

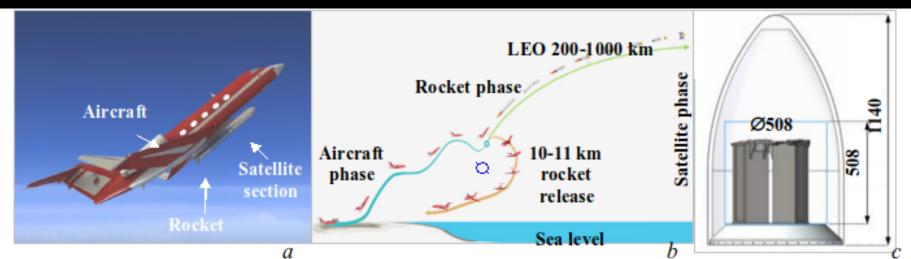


Fig 1 a) GO Launcher 2 Project [3]; b) Schematic trajectories; c) 45-kg payload in the rocket head



Subsonic Resealable Fairing

Liquid Nitrogen Fuel Tank

Air-Breathing Variable Intake

Hybrid Plasma Thruster

Rectenna

Key elements of the MicroLaunch Vehicle, Thales Alenia Space UK Ltd



Commission

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020

H2020 Programme

Rules of Contest

for the European Low-Cost Space Launch Prize

OBJECTIVES of the discussion

- Bring together people interested in new launcher systems
- Discuss the experience and needs for micro-nanopico satellite launch services
- Outline a list of existing cube-sat launch service providers and share experience
- Form a possible network of people interested in launch system studies and development using state-of-the art technologies
- Discuss possible interest and capacity to cooperate towards the EU H2020 small launcher program prize competition

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step 千里之行,始於足下 Laozi

(qiānlǐ zhī xíng, shǐ yú zúxià)

LET US DO IT TOGETHER !

OUTCOME of the discussion

 Participated: representatives of Argentina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania, USA

All agreed and shared opinion that having dedicated small satellite launcher systems is to be of high value and importance to the small-sat community, including commercialization
There is a number of small sat launcher developments in different countries , still there is yet no much of actual service offering (TRL to low still)

 Among the most important needs for SSL are : time to flight, custom orbit selection, cost

OUTCOME of the discussion-2

Next steps:

exchange additional information on the development status of the SSL initiatives worldwide and the possibilities to do some further feasibility studies on the topic, and even form a consortia for participation in the H2020 prize initiative - create an informal network (e.g. on LinkedIn) to further collaborate and network on the topic, with the goal to establish a more long term interaction within the UNISEC framework

Anyone interested is welcome !