

University Nano-Satellite Activities in Korea : Current Status and Vision

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Abstract

Since the very first launch of satellite KITSAT-1 in 1992, Republic of Korea (ROK) has been actively pursuing national space program. The space program has been dominated by large scale Earth observation satellites represented by KOMPSAT series. As the scale of national space program increases with recent success, university started to launch their space programs. To respond to worldwide trend in nano-satellite programs, a few Korean universities are being involved with nano-satellite activities including Cubesat. Currently, 4 academic institutes are leaders of university nano-satellite. Even if there was only one launch attempt for Cubesat in 2006, it is believed that nano-satellite activity in Korea will rapidly expand. Recently, there have been issues on the need for promoting university space activities, and government funding opportunity has become reality. The biggest obstacle for Korean universities is lack of experience and infrastructure, especially finding launch opportunity. With no doubt, Korean university teams will benefit from other world-leading universities through student exchange and information sharing. Driven by on-going efforts and own vision, it may not be that far when Korean universities teams will be launching own satellite into space to reach a new horizon for space research.