

2024 Workshop: IT CubeSats Missions

Long title

Enhancing Our Understanding of the Ionosphere/Thermosphere through CubeSat Missions

Conveners

Rebecca Bishop

Bryce Halter

Aimee Merkel

Scott Palo

Diana Swanson

Charles Swenson

Maggie Zheng

Rebecca.Bishop@aero.org

Description

In the past five years, a number of CubeSat missions have successfully provided observations of the Ionosphere and lower thermosphere. Missions such as SORTIE, IDEASSat, INSPIRESat1, DAILI, SPORT, and LLITED have provided a range of neutral and plasma measurements at altitudes below 550 km from a variety of instruments. This workshop focusses on the contributions of past, current, and future NSF and NASA CubeSat missions and the role of their observational data in ongoing IT studies. The three objectives of the workshop are:

1. Highlight observations and science returns from recent CubeSat missions.
2. Forge collaborations among current and future CubeSat missions along with ground-based instruments and facilities for expanded studies and enhanced science returns.
3. Promote observational capabilities of soon-to-be launched IT CubeSats.

Agenda

Introduction:

10:00 – 10:05 Session Overview: Rebecca Bishop

10:05 – 10:15 Current/Past Mission Overview Summary: Diana Swanson

Current/Past IT Missions.

10:15 – 10:25 DAILI: Jim Hecht
10:25 – 10:35 SPORT: Swenson
10:35 – 10:45 ECLIPSE: Bruce Fritz
10:45 – 10:55 LLITED MIGSI: Jim Clemmons
10:55 – 11:05 LLITED PIP: Shantanab Debchoudhury
11:05 – 11:15 Discussion

Future IT Missions.

11:15 – 11:25 WindCube: Qian Wu
11:25 – 11:35 DYNAGLO: Aimee Merkel
11:35 – 11:45 SWARM-EX: Scott Palo
11:45 – 12:00 Discussion

Justification

The maturing of CubeSats from technology demonstrations to more science and observational focused missions has begun to firmly establish their potential for significant contributions to aeronomy research. In recent years, the number of IT focused science missions has increased, paving the way for a potential grassroots IT observatory. Through a combination of individual CubeSat missions, sophisticated ground-based instruments, data buys from LEO commercial constellations, hosted payloads, and the more traditional satellite mission, will allow the community to investigate the physics of the global IT. It is important to understand the type of observations that can be obtained, their quality, and the level of science investigations enabled by recent CubeSat mission in order to incorporate them into future IT studies and experiment plans.

Related to CEDAR Science Thrusts:

Encourage and undertake a systems perspective of geospace

Develop observational and instrumentation strategies for geospace system studies

Manage, mine, and manipulate geoscience/geospace data and models

Workshop format

Short Presentations

Round Table Discussion

Keywords

CubeSat Missions, Ionosphere/Thermosphere, System Science

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