

MICROGRAVITY SCIENCES AND PROCESSES SYMPOSIUM (A2)
Facilities and Operations of Microgravity Experiments (5)

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ALPHASPARKS SPACE TRANSPORTATION

Abstract

In the recent years, several new initiatives came up in the commercial spaceflight domain. These initiatives are primarily targeting sub-orbital commercial space tourism and orbital commercial supply of cargo to the ISS. In addition, the carriers required to fulfil these goals, are being offered as platforms to perform experiments on, in a commercial scheme. These initiatives offer great possibilities for experimenters, since they introduce the possibility to perform experiments without the limiting factors that are experienced in the institutional domain. It is the intention of AlphaSparks to strongly reduce the time of the overall experiment cycle as it is known up till now, to reduce the cost of conducting the experiment and to increase the possibilities for repetition of the experiment. This paper describes the way AlphaSparks foresees to reach these goals by offering possibilities to experiment on various carriers, by combining payload brokerage with payload integration and payload development. The paper also underlines what will be changing as compared to the current way of working and what mindset-change will be required from the customer.