

20th SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL SATELLITE MISSIONS (B4)
Small Earth Observation Missions (4)

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THE CANADIAN SPACE AGENCY MICROSATELLITE PROGRAM

Abstract

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and its partners in Canada will launch three small-satellites in 2013: CASSIOPE (a Ka-band communications and space-weather satellite), NEOSSAT (a satellite that will track Near-Earth Orbit objects) and M3MSAT (an advanced relay satellite for AIS and communication services). In parallel, CSA is still operating the very successful SCISAT (for ozone and trace gases) and MOST (an astronomy mission for astro-seismology). As new satellites enter in operation, CSA is making plans for the next missions that will be part of its re-engineered microsatellite program. Currently, CSA has a portfolio of missions covering science, operational monitoring of environment, communications and technology demonstrations that are all possible candidates for future implementation. Industrial capabilities to build small-platform satellites in Canada have been established and should be maintained but, at the same time, CSA is also considering alternatives and potential collaborations to augment flight opportunities. CSA is currently reviewing the objectives and implementation framework for its program. This framework will seek effective leverage of available resources, including partnership with international partners. The paper will present the current portfolio of candidate missions, the objectives of the program and the implementation framework.