Paper ID: 23250
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SPACE SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM (D1)
Hosted Playloads - Concepts, Techniques and Challenges, Missions and Applications (7)

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AFFORDABILITY ADVANTAGES FAVORING THE IRIDIUM PRIME PAYLOAD ACCOMMODATION SERVICE

Abstract

To meet the demand by government agencies worldwide to purchase and use affordable commercial space capabilities and services to the maximum practical extent, Iridium Satellite LLC has announced that it will offer turnkey hosted payload accommodation service on Iridium PRIME satellites to be launched beginning in 2017. Customers will use the Iridium PRIME service to procure fully functioning on-orbit hosted payload capabilities, integrated space and ground system network services for payload command and data handling, and interfaces to deliver payload data to the end-user. Iridium Prime will take advantage of the Iridium NEXT bus platform design. The bus platform capacity and power that was formerly used by the primary telecommunications mission on Iridium NEXT can now be utilized by hosted payload customers instead. Since the Iridium PRIME platform will retain the advantages of the inter-satellite links, each hosted payload will enjoy near real-time connectivity through the Iridium space-based mesh network with typically less than 0.5 second delay for payload commanding or for data transmission. The Iridium PRIME program revolutionizes the hosted payload business model with an integrated service that reduces the complexity, delays and costs typically associated with building, launching and operating a satellite mission. The purpose of this paper is to describe the economic affordability advantages of the Iridium PRIME payload accommodation service.