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VIETNAM SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO 2020

**Abstract**

Vietnam is believed to be one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change due to its long country with multitudinous climatic and geological conditions plus a long low-lying coastline caused easily exposure to typhoons, storms, and heavy rainfall and its impacts like salt water intrusion, floods, soil erosion and other hydrological events... It also easy gets the risks from man-made disasters like oil spill, forest fire. . . Promotion of scientific and technological activities is considered as one of the most important aspects to achieve climate change adaptation. To support this, Earth Observation Satellite is essential to conduct monitoring, forecasting, and impact evaluation of disaster and climate change. Utilization of satellite system to the social, economic, industrial interest... is also emphasized by Government. To recognize the need of space applications to the safe, secure and prosperous society, in 2006, Vietnam's Prime Minister had approved "The Strategy for Research and Application of Space Technology towards 2020" and from that day, the space technology in Vietnam has a big improvement in all subject. The Vietnam National Satellite Center (VNSC), a national research agency under Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), was established in 2011 by the Decision of the Prime Minister as a part of this master plan with the main tasks to concentrate to satellite technology and its applications. The most VNSC's challenging target is building up the capabilities of critical infrastructure and human resource to produce satellite domestically by 2020. That aim will be fulfil by the implementation of the Vietnam Space Center in Hanoi which provides almost the needs to self-develop the satellite including a complete program for education and training activities. In addition, a growth roadmap for satellite producing is also built for progress measurement. Besides, to foster the satellite utilization and applications, VNSC has established the Vietnam Southern Satellite Technology Application Center (STAC) in Ho Chi Minh city. This paper shares the viewpoints of immediate needs, strategic roadmaps and mid-term plan to growth over the next decade.