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Author: Mr. Gary Kushner  
Lockheed Martin (Space Systems Company), United States, gary.d.kushner@lmco.com

Mr. Christopher Hoffmann  
United States, christopher.m.hoffmann@lmco.com

THE IRIS SMALL EXPLORER MISSION

**Abstract**

The Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph( IRIS), a NASA Small Explorer mission, was successfully launched on Jun 27, 2013. The mission consists of a solar observing telescope and spectrograph supported by a small spacecraft bus along with ground data and mission operations systems. The observatory weighs 182kg, consumes less than 365W at peak power, and transmits approximately 60 Gbit per day. IRIS operates in a low earth orbit and provides continuous observations of the solar photosphere and atmosphere to help discover how the solar atmosphere is energized. This paper will describe the development, successful operation, and on orbit performance of the IRIS observatory.