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STATE OF THE ART OF EARTH OBSERVATION INSTRUMENTS FOR SMALL SATELLITE
MISSIONS**Abstract**

Free access to Earth Observation images, growing number of spectral bands, and the ever-beter quality of corresponding products contributes to the growing number of applications especially in civilian areas. On the other hand, the progress made recently in the area of small satellites allowing for significant cost reduction of design and launching satellite creates completely new opportunities for the use of small satellites in Earth Observation, that is in such areas which until now was dominated by much larger satellites. In this article, we present an overview of the instruments that are currently used on Cubesats, Microsatellites and some Small Satellites. After extensive study we present an analysis of the discussed instruments from the point of view of potential small satellite missions.