

43rd HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4)  
History of Korean contributions of Astronautics (3)

Author: Dr. Sang-Ryool Lee  
Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI), Korea, Republic of, leesr@kari.re.kr

THE HISTORY OF THE KOREA MULTI-PURPOSE SATELLITE PROGRAM

**Abstract**

Twenty years have past since a research center in KAIST started developing small satellites in 1989 and this year Korea is planning to launch a scientific satellite using its own launch vehicle from a launch complex constructed on a southern island of Korea. The history of space development in Korea thus started from a satellite program of which the KOMPSAT program played a key role. This paper will review the history of the KOMPSAT program.

This paper intends to present the birth, the development, the operations after launch, and the technical obstacles faced during the KOMPSAT program. The KOMPSAT program includes plans to continue developing the series up to KOMPSAT-7 with KOMPSAT-5 and KOMPSAT-3 preparing for launch in 2010 and 2011, respectively. Korea has shown rapid technological progress in satellite development even though it has a short history. This paper reviews the background and effort that made this possible.

This paper will look forward at the future direction of satellite development as well as examine the present satellite development program. Korea has been oriented towards the acquisition of satellite technology so far, but now needs to concentrate on new areas such as international cooperation for space exploration, climate change, remote sensing using the technology which Korea has attained.