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SUMBANDILASAT - LEADING THE WAY FOR FUTURE SATELLITE PROGRAMMES

Abstract

SumbandilaSat, South Africa's first government satellite, was successfully launched on the 17th of September 2009 on board a Soyuz rocket from the Russian Cosmodrome in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. To date, the satellite has performed successfully since launch providing our country with beneficial data. This paper outlines the SumbandilaSat programme from its specifications to applications. It also serves as a status report on the current operations of the satellite. It celebrates the triumphs of SumbandilaSat and focuses on the satellite as a technology demonstrator to a new generation of micro-satellite that will hopefully strengthen South Africa's role in national and international space initiatives that are already in progress.