

15th SYMPOSIUM ON SMALL SATELLITE MISSIONS (B4)  
Access to Space for Small Satellite Missions (5)

Author: Mr. Alex da Silva Curiel  
Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL), United Kingdom, a.da-silva-curiel@sstl.co.uk

Mr. Gerry Webb  
Commercial Space Technologies Ltd., United Kingdom, cst@commercialspace.co.uk

THE CHANGING LAUNCH SOLUTIONS FOR THE SMALL SATELLITE SECTOR

**Abstract**

Over the past few decades, the capabilities of small satellites have transitioned from technology demonstrators and academic interest, to more operational missions. Traditionally this class of satellite has used parasitic launch capacity, which is no longer adequate when businesses and governments depend on timely mission deployment and success.

An analysis is made of the small satellites launched in recent years by their sub-classes and annual rates of launches. The statistics of the principal launch methods for small satellites are analysed as well.

The barriers to launching small satellites are analysed, and opportunities are presented on how these can be overcome. Furthermore, the changing launcher market is analysed with regard to the current and future needs of deploying small satellite missions into orbit.