

SPACE SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM (D1)

Hosted Payloads - Concepts, Techniques and Challenges, Missions and Applications (7)

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KEYNOTE: OVERVIEW OF HOSTED PAYLOADS AT NASA

Abstract

The quest to explore our universe through human exploration and science missions is evolving. Looking back, space exploration activities began as government funded activities, due to the high costs involved. Gradually these investments into fundamental research and technology development established a knowledge base and provided spin off technologies that led to the emergence of the commercial space industry. A significant portion of this is still tied into government-funded partnerships and activities, in support of “government space”, but gradually the landscape is evolving towards a self-sustaining commercial space business. To stimulate this emerging new market, NASA continues to work with the broader aerospace community, including academia, through partnerships and programs to provide opportunities for science exploration, technology demonstrations, outreach, and other activities. One of the approaches is through hosted payloads, which provides rides to space from suborbital flights through orbital missions to planetary destinations. In this keynote presentation an overview is provided on NASA’s approach to hosted payloads.