

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
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KUWAIT UNIVERSITY CUBESAT-1

Abstract

The Kuwait University CubeSat project (KU CubeSat-1) is a cooperation between various academic and research entities in Kuwait, Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC), UAE, UAE Space Agency, Khalifa University of Science and Technology and University of Colorado at Boulder. The project is to be supported with full funding from Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS). The project involves developing a 1U CubeSat with a visible camera onboard and all required supporting infra-structure including a fabrication laboratory and a ground station. The primary goal is to provide a capacity building platform for Kuwaiti graduate students and young professionals in the fields of space sciences and satellite technology. The multi-institutional cooperation model intends to provide an excellent environment for technology transfer aiming to build the necessary infrastructure for future Kuwaiti space missions and inspire a new generation of space enthusiasts to pursue a career in the field of space sciences. This project will open a whole new frontier of space applications that will serve Kuwait and the region in establishing a foothold in space technology with a wide range of direct and indirect benefits that will have a significant positive impact on the region. This talk describes the main objectives of the KU CubeSat project, the educational model and expected outcomes, the management structure of the project and the implementation plan for the different phases of the project spanning over a three-year period. Moreover, it describes the current status and challenges facing the project during its first year and plans set to deal with such challenges.