

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)
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A MODEL OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: LAUNCH SERVICE FOR CHINA-BRAZIL EARTH
RESOURCE SATELLITE (CBERS)

Abstract

2018 marks the 30th anniversary of China-Brazil space cooperation. In July 1988, China and Brazil signed the “Protocol on the Approval of the Development of Earth Resources Satellites”, which kicked off the China-Brazil space cooperation prelude. In the past 30 years, China and Brazil have jointly developed and launched 6 CBERS satellites, which has promoted the development of aerospace science and technology in both countries. All of these launch services were provided by the Long March-4B launch vehicle. In February 1989, the former China Ministry of Aerospace Industry issued the “Notice of Launching the Long March-4 Rocket with CBERS-01 Satellite” and agreed to use Long March-4(A) rocket to launch the CBERS-01 satellite after adaptive improvements. In September 1993, the launch vehicle was named Long March-4B. On December 20, 2019, the Long March-4B launch vehicle successfully launched CBERS-04A with 8 piggyback satellites. The successful mission of 04A satellite is the largest number of satellites launched by the Long March-4B series launch vehicles in a single flight, and coincides with the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Brazil. China President Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages with Brazilian President Bossonaro on December 20, congratulating China and Brazil on the successful launch of the 04A satellite. The CBERS cooperation project has been praised by the leaders of the two countries as a model of “South-South cooperation” in the high-tech field and is one of the pioneers of China’s aerospace reform and opening up to the world. This paper will briefly review the previous CBERS launch services and highlight the new configurations and methods used in the CBERS-04A project.