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STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE ECOSYSTEM THROUGH SMALL SATELLITE  
DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

**Abstract**

The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) is spearheading the development of the Multispectral Unit for Land Assessment (MULA) satellite project, which recommenced in late 2023 and is expected to finish by mid-2025. PhilSA envisions MULA to help in advancing Space Science and Technology Applications (SSTA) domestically by fostering a local space industry, eventually contributing to the global space community. Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) leads the satellite development through their Know-How Training and Transfer (KHTT) program wherein Filipino engineers, co-located with SSTL engineers, are being trained and mentored in the sustainable development, operation, and maintenance of future satellite missions upon their return to the Philippines. The MULA satellite will carry a medium-resolution imager primary payload with ship Automatic Identification System (AIS) and aircraft Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) secondary payloads. MULA is expected to produce data for utilization in agriculture, disaster management, coastal monitoring, ocean studies, and national security. This paper will present the status of MULA satellite's development, expected impact of the KHTT to the local fledgling upstream sector, and potential contribution of MULA's data products and services, not only to the Philippines, but to the international space community.