



Newsletter

Project NEWS



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Muriel Noca

SwissCube waiting for launch

SwissCube is ready for launch! It is patiently waiting for the green light from the launch vehicle provider in the Netherlands (ISIS) to fly to India and be integrated on the PSLV Indian launch vehicle. But before being ready, several steps had to be completed successfully...

In our last newsletter, we described the test campaign that the twin of SwissCube, the so-called qualification model, experienced. The same test campaign was performed earlier this year (January-February), but at reduced levels (the intent was not to break it this time, but rather to discover the manufacturing and component defects before it flies). Thus the SwissCube Flight Model, the one that will actually fly in space, passed one test after the other, uncovering its mysteries as we went along in the testing.

SwissCube get final go-ahead during Flight Acceptance Review

Early March 09, the project organized and performed the last review of the project: the Qualification and Flight Acceptance Review. This review gave the opportunity to external experts to verify that the job had been done correctly and that nothing was left behind. It concluded with the label "Ready for flight". Now SwissCube is patiently waiting in a clean room at EPFL before flying to India.



SwissCube ready to reach space



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The test team relaxes after the Thermal Vacuum Cycling test of the flight model.

Most of the SwissCube team has now joined industry and is working on advanced space projects. The educational goals of the SwissCube project have thus been successfully reached.

What is next?

As soon as the green light is given, SwissCube will be flown to India with four cases of ground support test equipment. A team of three engineers (Fabien Jordan, Nicolas Steiner and Guillaume Roethlisberger) will be flying with it. They will have a week at the Indian launch base (SHAR) to perform final

check of the satellite before being integrated on the 3rd stage of the rocket. About two weeks after integration, the launch sequence will start.

Our PSLV mission (C14) will release first its main payload, an Indian satellite that will be observing oceans (OceanSat-2). Once released, the 3rd stage of the rocket will perform a maneuver to steer away from OceanSat-2 and then will release the 4 CubeSats aboard (BeeSat and UWE-2 from Germany, ITUpSAT1 from Turkey, and SwissCube). SwissCube will be released 4th.

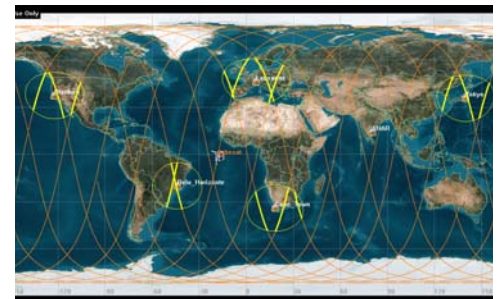
It is expected that SwissCube will be heard about first from our radio-amateur colleagues in South Africa, after about 3 hours. But soon after (45 min), Swisscube should be flying over Switzerland! The excitement will be at its peak!

ISILaunch

ISIS 01 ANTRIX ISRO ISRO

PSLV-C14

BEESAT SwissCube ITUpSAT1 UWE-2



Preliminary mission planning



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Launch ceremony

The launch of SwissCube will be a big event for EPFL and its partners. A ceremony is being organized by the EPFL Communication Office as well as by HE-ARC in St Imier/Le Locle, HE-Fribourg, HEIG-VD in Yverdon and FHNW in Brugg. You will be able to attend the ceremony



Indian PSLV launch vehicle

from any of these sites. More on this to come as soon as we know the exact launch date.

Brand new Ground Station at EPFL

The ground station was hoisted on the roof of the Electricity building at EPFL on March 19. Since then, electromagnetic emissions have been measured and proven to be harmless to the people working in the building. The station has also been tested with radio-Amateur satellites and other CubeSats to prove its functionality.



New EPFL ground station: big ears for a small sat

French speaking Radio-Amateurs get a debrief

On April 4, about 40 Radio-Amateurs from the Vaud canton and from Isère, France, participated in a special presentation about SwissCube. The purpose was to provide the radio-amateurs with the information they need to be able to listen to the satellite and decode the data stream. All the documentation for Radio-Amateurs will be published shortly and posted on our website.



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French and Swiss Romande radio-amateur participating in the meeting

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