Innovative Satellite Launch Program

enabling a healthy public, economy, and planet through an integrated, comprehensive, & sustained system of Earth observation, research & education

Brian Taylor, Dean, School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology

- Earth
  - understanding Earth systems

- Oceans
  - hydrosphere-biosphere-atmosphere interactions

- Atmosphere
  - tropical and global weather dynamics

- Space
  - exploring Earth, Moon, Mars, and beyond

- Energy
  - developing alternative energy resources
Due to High Mission-Related Costs, US Technology Lead in Space Dwindles.
Growing Interest in “Rapid, Low-Cost” Space

- **Change the economics: Smaller, Cheaper**
  - Current satellite & launch cost for “big” satellite ~$1B ($500M-$1500M)
  - Current small satellite & launch cost ~ $140M
  - Develop low-cost small satellites & satellite rideshare launches

- **Develop New Space Technology**
  - NRO, Boeing & Air Force investing in CubeSats
  - Operationally Responsive Space Office (DoD) & NASA (Ames & Office of Chief Technologist) promoting small satellite development.
    - Advance Tech Readiness Levels for critical technologies
    - Accept experimental missions for iterative R&D.
    - Return to 60’s mentality: failure is part of learning process

- **Rapid Response Launch Plan**
  - For Disaster Management & On-orbit Asset Replacement
  - Pre-stage, Modular, “Ship & Shoot”
  - Build redundancy with Constellations of small sats.

*Images of UH Kumu A‘o CubeSat and NASA’s PharmaSat.*
The mission of HSFL is to:

- promote innovative engineering & science research for terrestrial and planetary space missions
- develop, launch, and operate small spacecraft from the Hawaiian Islands to accelerate the validation of new space technologies
- provide workforce training in all aspects of unmanned space missions
- promote synergistic collaborations between educational, governmental, & corporate institutions interested in space exploration
Spacecraft
Instrument
Integrate & Test
Launch Vehicle
Launch Support
Ground Station
Operations
Data
First HSFL Program: LEONIDAS

- **Objectives:**
  - Conduct two demonstration space launches from the Navy’s Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii using a low cost launch system.
  - Create workforce training opportunities.
  - Increase access to space for DoD, NASA, and University payloads – including short-duration technology demonstration missions.

- Hawaii Congressionally directed program supported in the FY07-present Defense Appropriations Bills
  - LEONIDAS = Low Earth Orbiting Nanosatellite Integrated Defense Autonomous System
  - Funded through the Operationally Responsive Space Office
  - UH’s Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL) is the prime contractor
  - **SPARK** Launch Vehicle (Space-borne Payload Assist Rocket Kauai) based on redesigned Sandia National Lab’s Strypi ballistic rocket.
  - Scout rail launcher from VAFB rebuilt & extended
LEONIDAS Leverages Exceptional Expertise

DoD Office of Operationally Responsive Space (ORS)
   Government Contracting Agency
   Director – Dr. Peter Wegner
   LEONIDAS PMs – Dr. Mark Franz, Mr. Steven Buckley

University of Hawaii – Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL)
   Prime Contractor
   Program Manager – Dr. Luke Flynn

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL)
   HSFL’s Launch Systems Contractor
   Project Lead – Mr. Todd Criel

Aerojet, a GenCorp Inc. company
   SPARK Solid Rocket Motor Provider
   Managers – Mr. Mark Kaufman, Mr. John Napier

USN Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF)
   Launch Site & Range Safety
   Commander – Capt. Nicholas Mongillo

White Sands Missile Range (WSMR)
   Scout/SPARK Erector Modifications
   Project Lead – Mr. Sal Rodriguez

NASA Ames Research Center (ARC)
   Launch Vehicle Payload Adapter
   Program Manager – Mr. John Hines
SPARK Launch Vehicle

Redesign Sandia Strypi
- Three-stage solid propellant motor stack.
- Leverage heritage devices that have flown on other rockets.
- Fin & spin stabilized vehicle, with attitude control system.
- Payload objective: 250kg to 400km Sun-synchronous Orbit from Kauai. Higher payload mass can be achieved to lower inclination orbits.

Aerojet Corp. – Strategic Alliance Agreement signed with UH in October, 2010 to provide all 3 motor stages
- Optimized motor design: exceeds payload objectives.
- Maximize performance & minimize cost by simplifying design & manufacturing process.
- Meet quick response launch requirement

Designed to Reduce Cost, Simplify Launch & Increase Reliability
Launch Site: Pacific Missile Range Facility

- Pacific Missile Range Facility
  - Existing launch range on Kauai.
  - Partnering with UH and ORS
    - Provide Range Safety support
    - Professional execution & supervision of LEONIDAS launches

- SPARK Rail Launch System
  - Rail imparts stability & directional control for rocket launch.
  - Adjusting launcher trajectory allows multiple orbit tracks.
  - Launcher design enables economical deployment at complimentary sites.

- Polar & Sun-synchronous launch options from PMRF (Kauai)
Economic Growth & Workforce Development

- UH, Hawaii Space Flight Lab, has developed a complete small satellite workforce development program that provides the State a new pathway for economic growth.
- Niche companies will be spun-off in Hawaii.
  - UH & Aerojet will form a launch vehicle integration and launch services partnership.
  - UH & a future partner could spin-off a small satellite development company.
- Mission Support Tools will be maintained at UH to provide necessary infrastructure for UH and Hawaii commercial space research.
  - Clean room facilities for satellite integration.
  - Large thermal-vacuum chamber & vibration table for satellite testing.
  - Spin-balance table for payload integration and processing
- Unprecedented educational training opportunities in all aspects of space mission operations; engineering, science & technology development.
  - Kauai CC: program management & telemetry
  - Windward CC: education & outreach through aerospace center
  - UH Hilo: (future) software & automation
  - System-wide u/grad & high school Space Grant program

CC’s: technical Associate Degrees
4-yr: Bachelor’s & Graduate Degrees
Enablers: Mission Support Tools

Payload Integration, Test, Launch Prep

- Clean rooms to assemble satellites.
  - Systems integration
  - Thermal/vacuum test
  - Vibration/shock testing
- Payload Spin Balancer for integrating multiple rideshare small sats in a single mission

Ground Stations

- UH/HSFL maintains UHF/VHF receiving stations with Kauai CC
- Ground station provides command & control broadcast & data downlink capabilities.
- HSFL partnering with Alaska & European receiving stations for greater data downlink capability.

Mission Operations from UH Campus

- can track multiple small satellites.
- working on a NASA Ames project to develop a Mission Operations System to:
  - command & control multiple spacecraft.
  - run autonomously
  - be a standard adopted by NASA Ames and other Universities.
UH-Aerojet Partnership: Launch Services Provider

- 501(c)3 LLC being planned to benefit:
  - Aerojet: Increase solid rocket motor production, Hawaii “skunkworks” for new R&D
  - UH: Workforce training, Self-funded Science & Engineering Missions
  - Joint: Lower Overhead & Costs, Handle Risk Management, Hold Intellectual Property

Mark & Amber Kaufman
Aerojet Exec Dir Strategic Programs

Luke Flynn
HSFL Director
Kumu A’o CubeSat
- Purpose: Technology readiness level advancement of new flight components
- To be launched on 1st mission
- Built by CoE undergraduate students – mostly Hawaiian

HawaiiSat-1
- Purpose: Thermal and visible imaging payloads to study Earth
- To be launched on 2nd mission
- Built by CoE and SOEST faculty, and CoE Grad Students
- Partnership with NASA Ames
Thermal Hyperspectral Imager (THI)

- Measures the thermal energy emitted by Earth’s surface in 30 wavebands 7.5-13.5 microns

- Applications include:
  - monitoring active volcanoes, wildfires & urban heat islands
  - monitoring atmospheric trace gases (e.g. methane)
  - detecting groundwater discharges into coastal waters

Designed & built at the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics & Planetology, funded by NASA
Rideshare Payload Configurations

- Large fairing capacity for multiple small satellites
- NASA Ames Payload Adapter and Deployer (PAD)
  - PAD can carry 24 1-u Cubesats or a combination of 1-u, 3-u, 6-u, & 12-u Cubesats
### Small Sat Performance and Cost Models

#### 44 States currently build small satellites at over 80 Universities!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Spacecraft Size</th>
<th>Mass (kg)</th>
<th>S/C Volume (cm³)</th>
<th>Power (W)</th>
<th>Bus Cost ($K)</th>
<th>Launch Cost ($K)</th>
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<td>1-u</td>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>10 x 10 x 10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>40-60</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>10 x 10 x 30</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>250-300</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-u*</td>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>10 x 20 x 30</td>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>400-500</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-u*</td>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>20 x 20 x 30</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<td>HawaiiSat</td>
<td>60-80</td>
<td>60 x 60 x 70</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>larger</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>Up to 12000</td>
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- Goal: Future 3-u CubeSat could be built and launched within the budget of a NASA EPSCoR Research Award ($750K over 3 years).
- * 6-u and 12-u CubeSats have not flown in orbit.
Constellations of small satellites

Gravity from Altimetry

Monitoring Methane

Ocean Color

Coral Reef Health

Space Weather

Water Vapor from GPS
Innovative Satellite Launch Program

- HSFL - PMRF - Sandia NL - Aerojet - NASA-AMES working together are developing a game-changing satellite launch & deployment system:
  - High heritage, low risk
  - Capable of rapid response (< week)
  - Low-cost for small spacecraft
- Recurring launch costs at $10-12M (inclusive of range costs) are a fraction of current alternatives.
- This enables new paradigms of satellite development, cal/val, & deployment
  - (e.g., constellations of small satellites)
- “the sky is NOT the limit” - this promises a new economic driver & high-tech workforce for Hawaii
- Watch for 1st launch in 2012