



United States Navy

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command
Office of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications
Contact: Steven A. Davis / steven.a.davis@navy.mil
Desk: 619.524.3432
Mobile: 619.942.9552

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PEO Space Systems Supports Nano Satellite Initiative

SAN DIEGO – The Navy's Program Executive Office Space Systems is participating in a nano satellite launch mission designed to provide rapid delivery, low cost and quick response capability for emerging space requirements.

Led by the [Joint Operationally Responsive Space \(ORS\) Office](#), the nano satellites, sometimes referred to as CubeSats, is scheduled to be launched Nov. 19 on the [ORS-3 mission](#) from NASA's [Wallops Flight Facility](#) at Wallops Island, Va. The mission will demonstrate launch and range improvements and will include numerous CubeSats on an integrated payload stack. Based on their modular design and limited scope, CubeSats reduce the development time and resources required to operate and maintain them.

NanoSats weigh between two and 22 pounds and are approximately the size of a loaf of bread. They can be produced and launched in less than 12 months from start to finish, based on their purpose and complexity.

"CubeSats are a great way to not only explore new capabilities and concepts, but also grow the next generation of Naval Space Cadre professionals," said Rear Adm. C. D. Becker, Program Executive Officer Space Systems. "In partnership with academia and our research institutions, notably the Naval Postgraduate School, the Naval Research Lab and APL, we can build on our Navy's strong tradition of delivering space-based capabilities critical to global naval operations."

[PEO Space Systems](#) coordinates all Department of the Navy space research, development and acquisition, including the Mobile User Objective System (MUOS.)

"Like most DoD space programs, MUOS is incredibly complex. It requires waveform development, terminals and radios, ground systems and, of course, the development and launch of the satellites themselves," explained Austin Mroczek, the PEO Space Systems lead for science and technology. "While not as powerful, nano satellites can be launched in relatively short timelines in order to address a quickly evolving operational need."

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The multi-mission satellites and payloads were designed and developed by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory to meet specific requirements for the Vector Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) project. Personnel from Space and Naval Warfare Systems Centers Atlantic and Pacific provided space mission systems engineering, space segment engineering, and ground segment systems engineering support and oversight for the project. Funding was provided by various government organizations including the JCTD Office under the [Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rapid Fielding](#).

PEO Space Systems is developing plans to transition the nano satellite technology. New payloads for the multi-mission bus are being designed with Navy Small Business Innovative Research project N122-146.

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