A space project needs a big management to be successful. That's why all space projects are divided into various logical stages, called Phases. Each phase is designed to end with a major milestone in the development, such as proof of concept, equipment delivery, launch, etc.

'''''The text in bold and italics describes the phases specifics for CubeSats.'''''

Typically the phases are:

==Phase 0==

Phase 0 is sometime already ready but in a project like a [[What is a CubeSat ?|CubeSat ]] it needs to be done. So this includes focusing on the technical aspects of the project, the management plan, the group project agreement and building partner's interest.

'''''The Phase 0 is very important for [[What is a CubeSat ?|CubeSat]] Projects because everything needs to be thought from scratch. (Done in 2015-2016)'''''

== Phase A ==

Phase A is a relatively low cost paper exercise, designed to expand the basic idea and confirm that the project is feasible.

During Phase A, the Principal Investigators (PI) shall define the overall experiment plan. Co-Investigators (CoIs) may be necessary to avoid experiment duplication, share the work loads, or be responsible for the development of sub-systems, algorithm's, data interpretation packages etc.

'''''Includes: Technical Specifications, Coordination Board, Simple Simulations. (In process 2016-2017)'''''

== Phase B ==

The main purpose of Phase B is to convert the conceptual idea into a prototype model upon which further investigations can be performed to confirm the feasibility of the concept, before going to the expense of building space qualified hardware. The initial prototype models sometimes referred to as Engineering Models (EM), can use non-space qualified materials or procedures. They are not constrained by either weight or size restrictions, but they should prove the functionality of any special components or materials that would eventually be incorporated into a flight model. Following testing and acceptance of the hardware or software, the project is ready to move onto the next phase.

'''''Includes: Technical Modeling, Designing, Simulations, Low level Feasibility.'''''

== Phase C & D ==

Phases C and D are usually combined. The purpose of Phase C & D is to convert the outcome of Phase B into a fully space qualified model that would be suitable for either space activities on board the actual flight or as ground equipment or software to control a particular activity.

'''''Includes: Technical Specifications, Management Project, Technical Tests & Validations, Partners Financial investments.'''''

== Phases E & F ==

Phases E & F are associated with the launch campaign and the post launch activities, tests, preparation.

'''''Includes: Launch preparation, Ground Relay, Start of launch, Partners implications'''''

== Data Analysis Phase ==

The ultimate stage of a project is the analysis of the data to reach a scientific conclusion. Analysis of data may take place at any stage of the experiment, prior to flight, in-flight and post flight.

'''''The interesting part starts ! Will the mission be a success ?'''''

==Documents / References==

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[[File:PRODEX\_USERGUIDE\_V7\_may2011.pdf]] ''(PDF from PRODEX explaining Phases)''<br />

[[File:Management\_Plan\_ECE³SAT\_draft.pdf]] ''(Complete management project architecture developed)''<br />