


The Future for CubeSats Present and Coming Launch Opportunities

**18th Annual AIAA / USU Conference on Small Satellites
CubeSat Workshop**

Presented By: Armen Toorian
California Polytechnic State University
August 8th 2004





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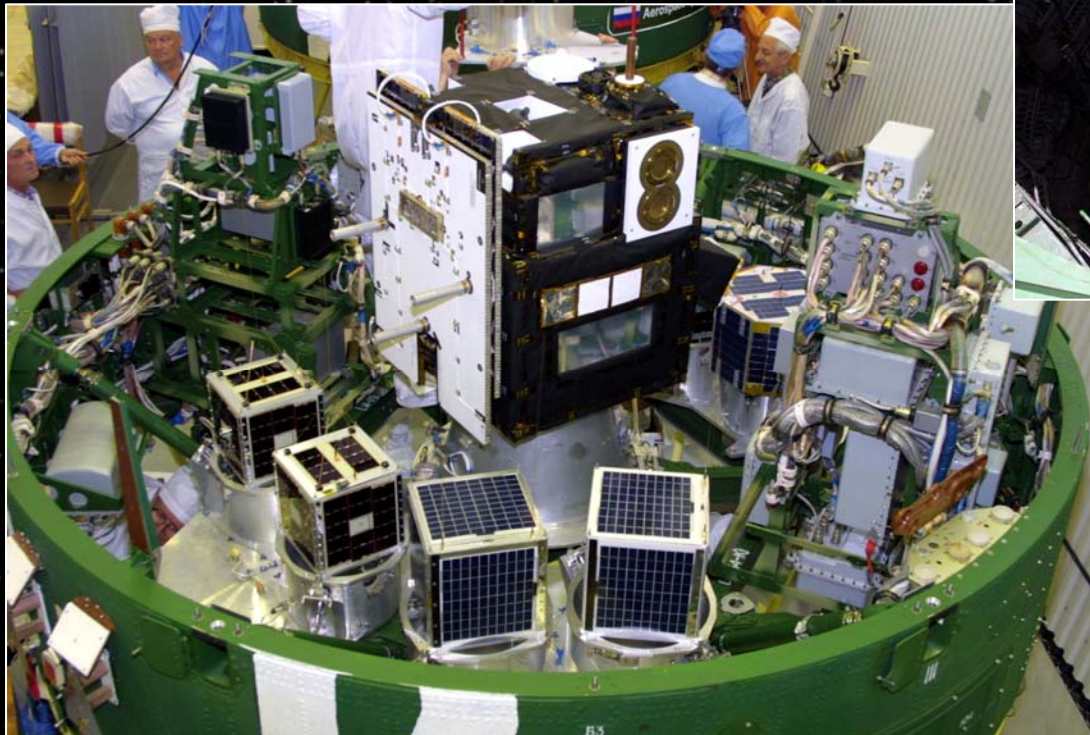
Current Activities

- DNEPR Launch
- Schedule
- Pre-Flight Operations
- Requirements from Developers

DNEPR Spring 2004 Launch



- 4th successful mission of converted SS-18.
- Cluster launch with 9 satellites.
- High accuracy orbit insertion.



DNEPR Fall 2004 Milestones



1. September 1st
Developer Documents due to Cal Poly
2. September 8th
Qualification Testing of Flight P-PODs
3. September 16th
Kosmotras Fit Check / Testing
4. October 1st
Beginning of Integration at Cal Poly
5. October 7th
Acceptance Testing of Flight P-PODs
6. October 14th
Delivery of P-PODs to Kosmotras

7.



October 30th

Fit Check with Kosmotras



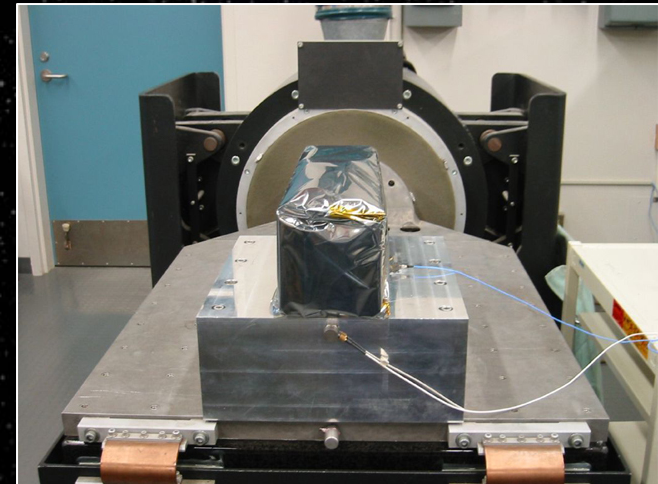
- Fit Check
 - All satellites mounted to LV together for first time.
 - Physical check of SHM layout.
- Vibration
 - Testing with fully integrated SHM.
 - P-POD mass models.
- Separation
 - Test deployment sequence and electronics.
 - Trajectory analysis.



Testing for the DNEPR Vehicle



- Qualification Requirements
 - Flight P-PODs qualified to DNEPR requirements.
 - 150% of launch levels.
 - Functional Testing and post-vibration inspection.
 - Developers must perform:
 - Vibration testing to 150% of launch levels.
 - Thermal Vacuum Bakeout.
 - **Qualification MUST be done with flight hardware!**
- Acceptance Testing
 - 100% of launch levels.
 - Vibration testing on integrated P-PODs.



DNEPR Fall 2004 Launch



- Developers can send 1 – 2 people to the launch.
- Trying to arrange a webcast of the launch.
- 14 CubeSats + 11 other satellites.

25 Satellites will be Deployed!




Expected Insertion Properties



- Altitude:
650 km +/- 500 m
- Inclination:
Within 0.01 degree
- Spin rates:
Maximum 3 deg/sec.
- Position:
Within 0.01 degree of ascending node.
- Redundant signals to P-POD.
- Redundant telemetry upon door opening.





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P-POD Status

- Manufacturing Complete
- Vibration Testing
- Functional Testing
- Future Testing

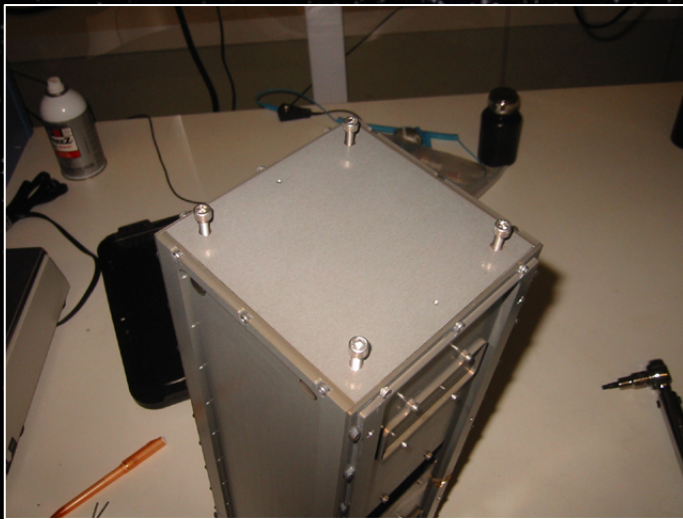
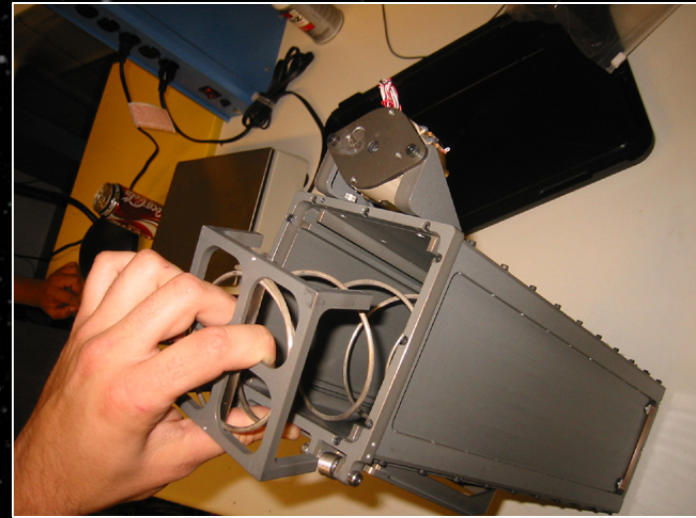
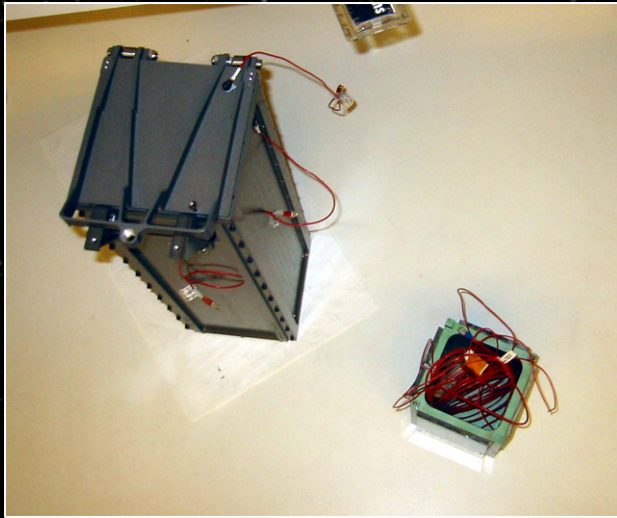
P-POD Redesign Qualification



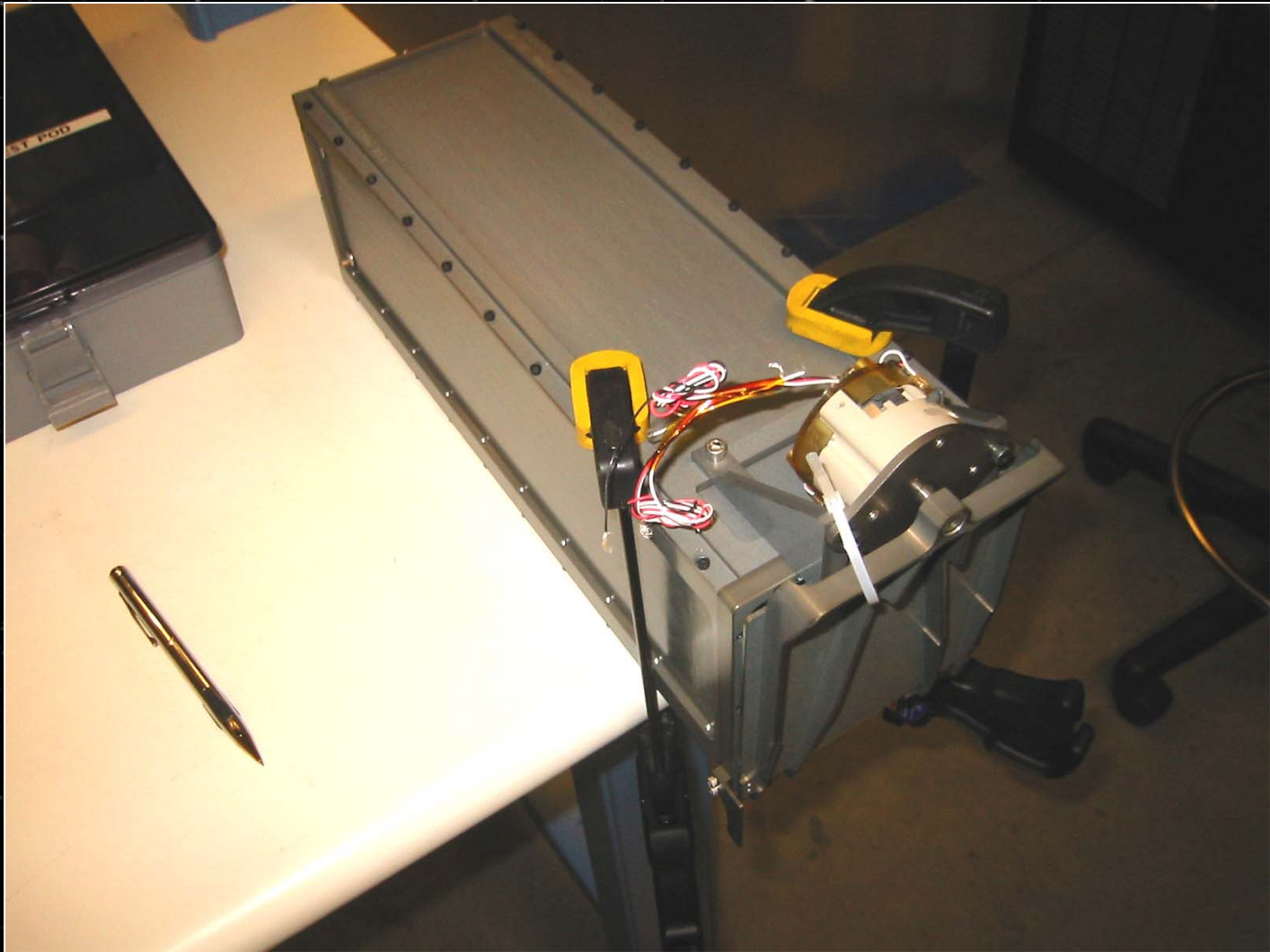
- Testing on Engineering Unit.
 - Verification of assembly procedure.
 - Vibration Testing in June 2004 at Raytheon Facility.
 - University of Hawaii
 - Montana State University
 - Pumpkin Inc.
 - Functional Testing.




Vibration Testing Pictures



P-POD Mk. II





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Future Plans

- Domestic Launch Capability
- Overseas Launches
- Overview of current work

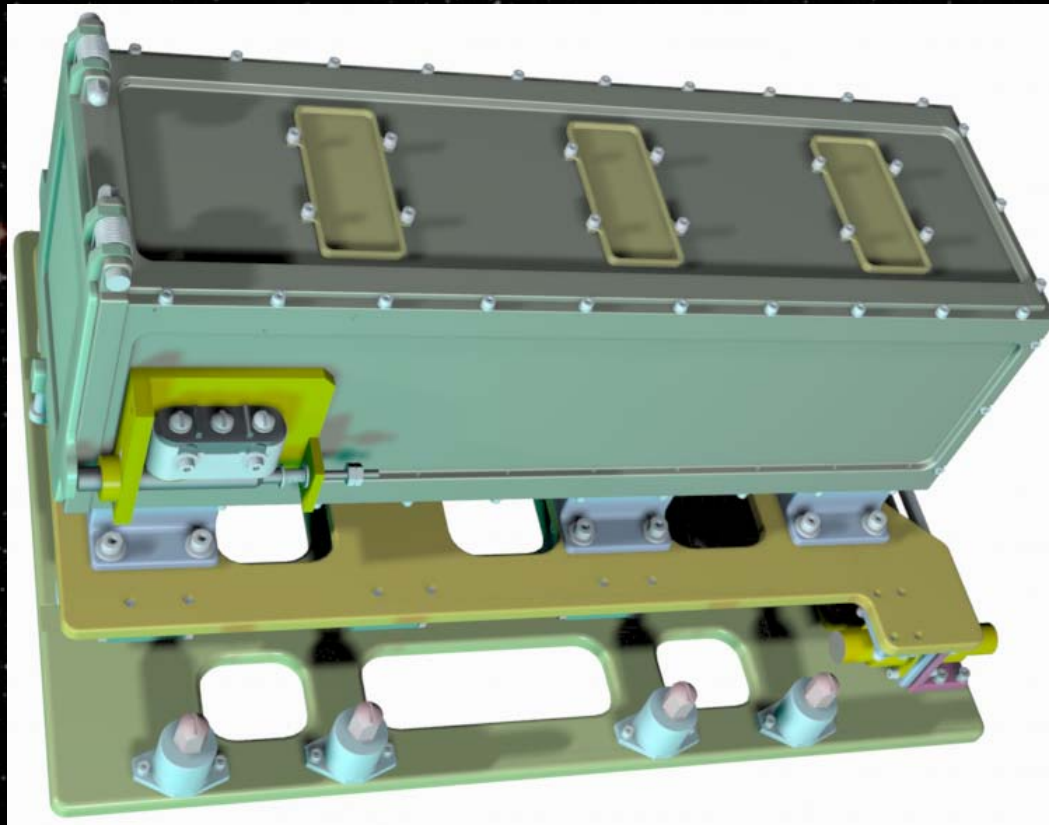
- Developing capability to launch on US vehicles.
 - Eliminate travel and export issues.
 - More students can be involved.
 - Great experience for graduating engineers.
 - Resistance from US Launch Providers / Payloads
 - Initial (NRE) Cost Barrier

- Will continue with DNEPR Launches for now.
 - Much lower cost (NRE *and* per kilogram).
 - Access to hardware up to 7 days before launch.
 - Baikonur's beautiful scenery.



Long term opportunities.

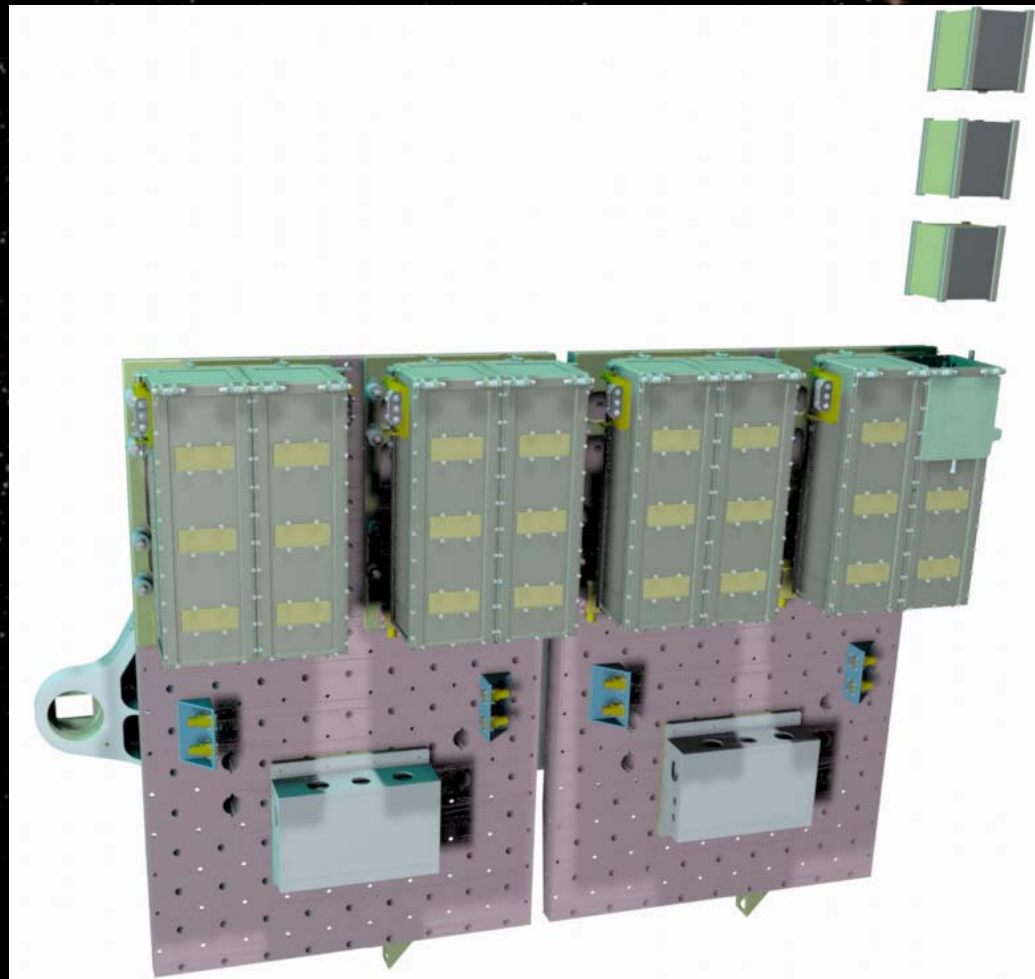
- Space Shuttle
 - NASA contracted Swales Aerospace to do a study.



Swales P-POD Study

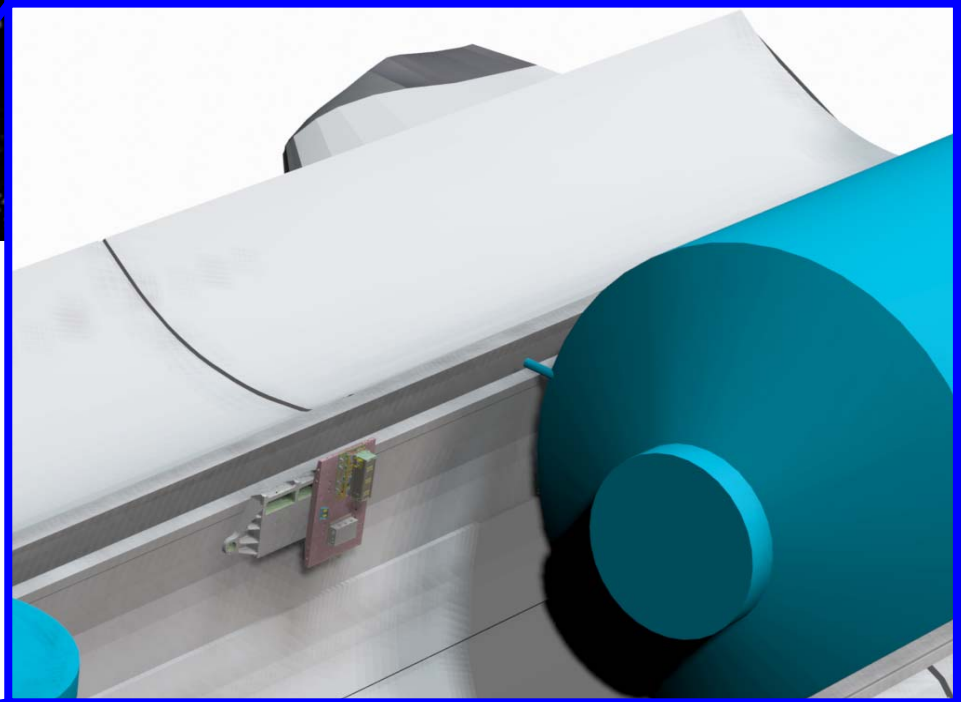
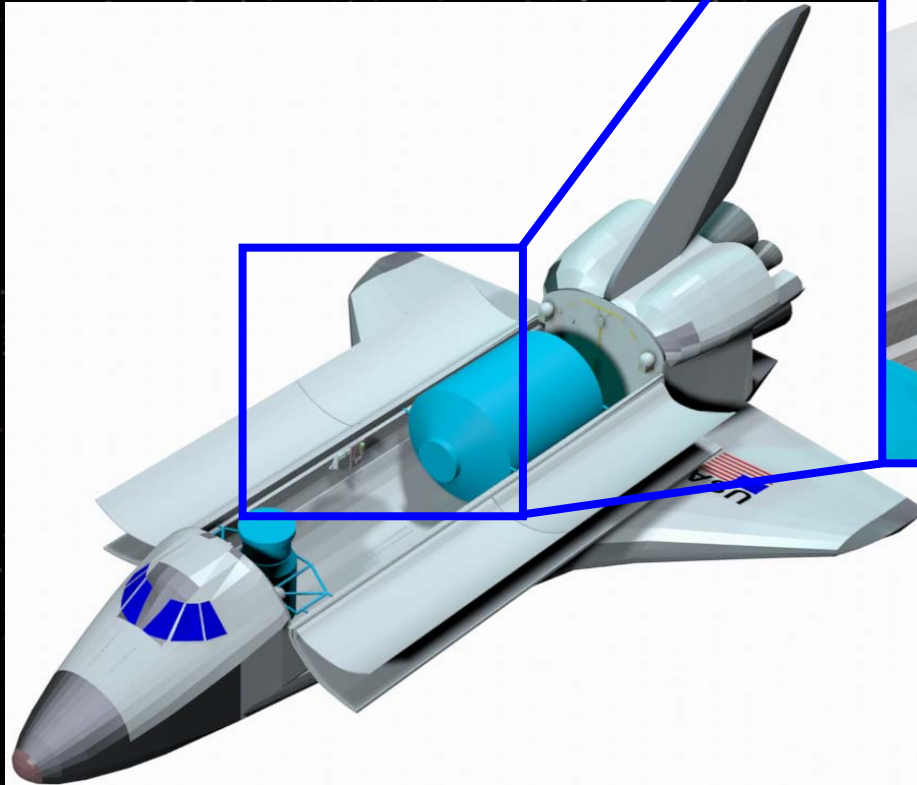


- Possible mounting scheme and payload capability.



Swales P-POD Study

Where did they go?!



Long Term Opportunities



- Orbital Sciences Pegasus
 - Good vehicle for small payloads.
 - “Dual Manifest”
 - Mostly NASA payloads.
 - Mostly NASA payloads!
 - Cost barrier.



Very Small Vehicles



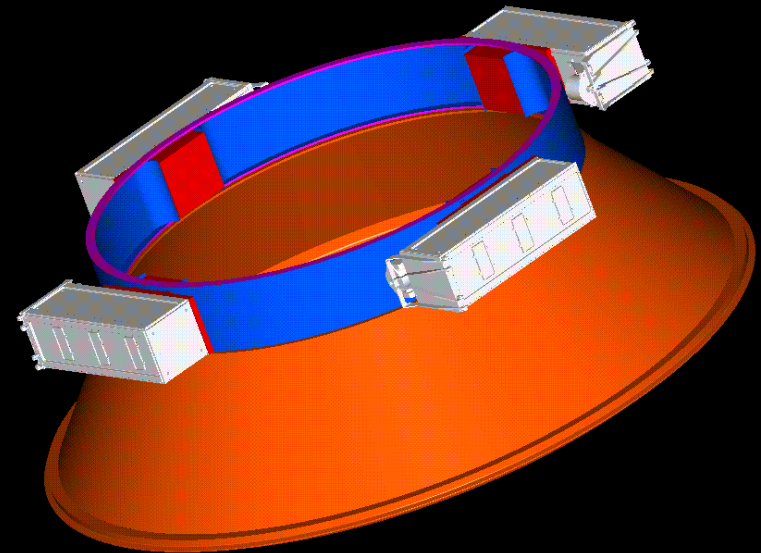
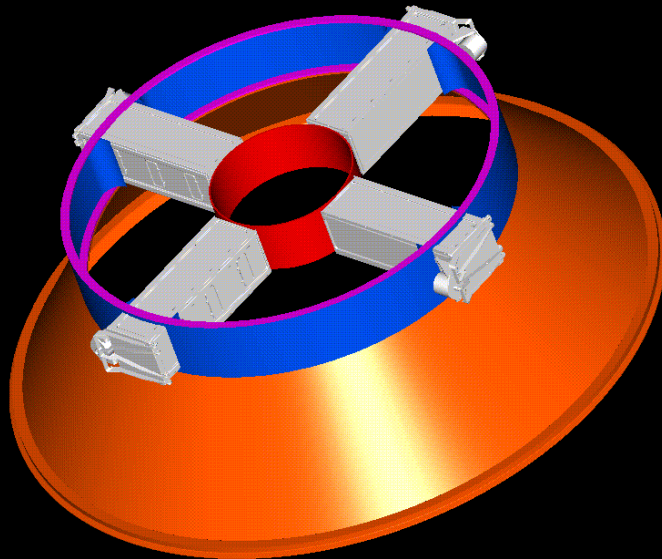
- Space Transport Company
 - Nanosatellite Launch Vehicle
 - SpaceDev
-
- Very receptive to small payloads.
 - P-POD cluster can be the primary.
 - Flexible with schedule / operations.
-
- Projects still in development phases.
 - Reliability not proven.



Space X Falcon I



- Working with Space X on an adapter design.
 - Four P-PODs fit on a Falcon I without infringing on primary payload volume.
 - P-POD mounts can be built into the payload adapter cone.

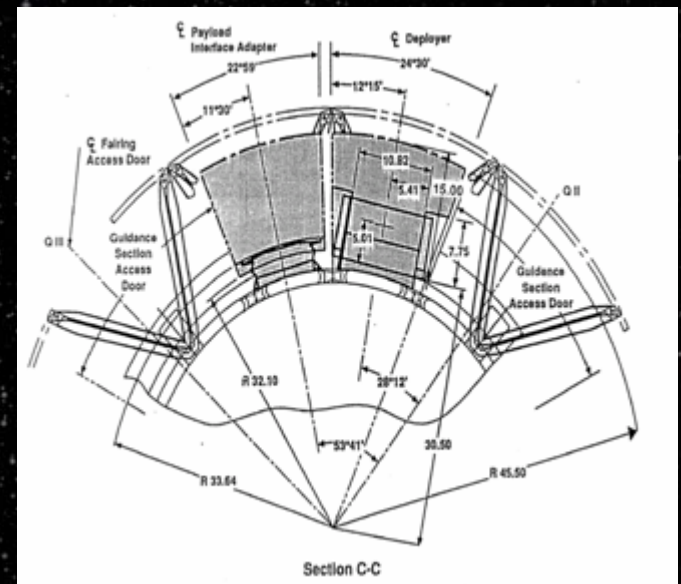
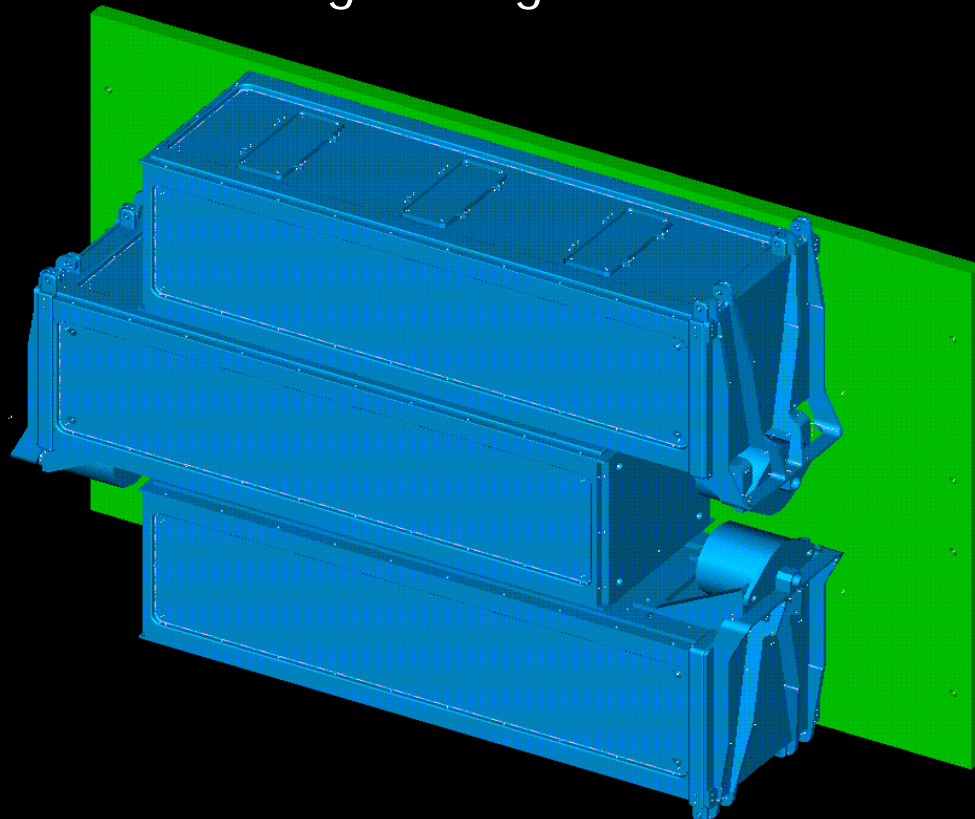


- First Space X launch scheduled for September 2004.

Boeing Delta II



- Standard Secondary Payload adapter available.
 - Have launched 26 secondary payloads to date.
 - Can fit 3 P-PODs in one secondary payload slot.
 - Target Integration time = 9 months.



Plus some interesting Delta II concepts in the works...

- Primary Objective: Find ways to launch CubeSats!
- Support organizations working to launch CubeSats.
 - Space Test Program
 - “the primary provider ... for DoD’s most innovative space experiments...”
 - Ecliptic Enterprises
 - CubeSat deployer based on Rocket-Cam.





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