# RocketPod<sup>™</sup> Update

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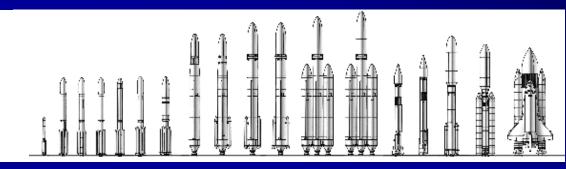
2006 April 27-29

CubeSat Workshop

**Cal Poly SLO** 

# Flagship Product: RocketCam<sup>™</sup>





RocketCam<sup>™</sup> is Qualified for These Systems, Plus Several Spacecraft and Other Platforms



# **RocketCam Space Heritage**

#### Launched on 40 projects since 1997

- 29 rockets to orbit (61 cameras)
- 10 suborbital launches (20)
- 1 spacecraft (1)
- All relatively simple integrations
- All relatively low cost
- All successful
- Many more to come









# **RocketPod™ Objectives**



- Leverage RocketCam interfaces and experience
- Create cost-effective nanosat launch program
- Address selected responsive space objectives
  - U.S. ELVs (multiple families and models)
  - Predictable and reliable launch opportunities
  - <<1-year integration time (<1 week for selected payloads?)</p>
  - Multiple launch opportunities on a single launch
- Enable multi-mission capability
  - Tech demo and operational
  - Deployable and attached payloads
  - Varied orbits (or suborbital)
- Migration path to spacecraft host platforms

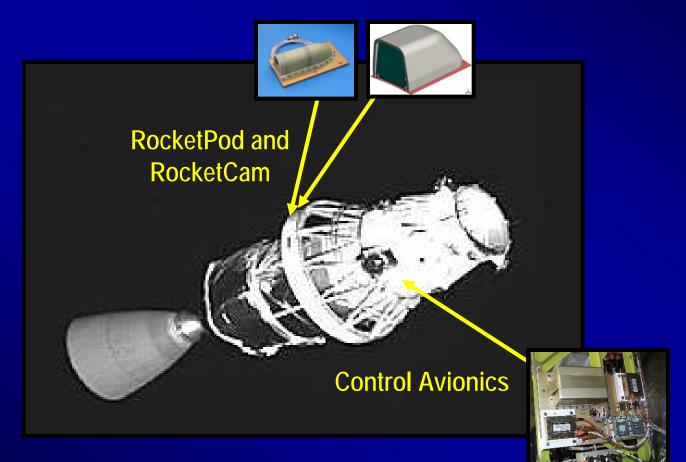
#### RocketCam to RocketPod (Delta II example)





#### RocketPod Integration (Delta II example)





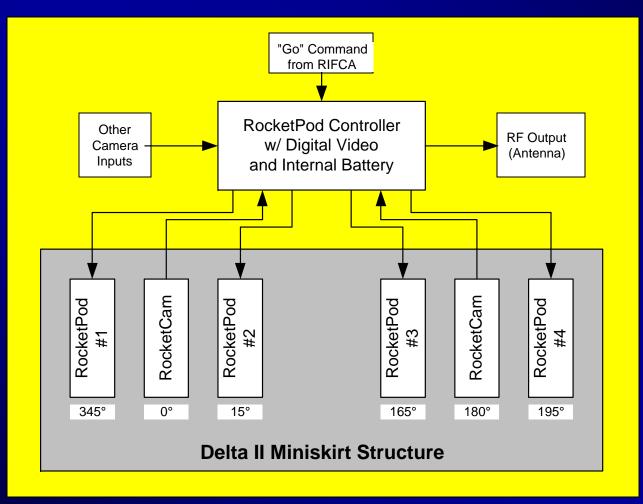
### **RocketPod Key Features**



- Sized to hold one CubeSat
- Sized to fit on Delta II miniskirt structure
- Provides more payload mass and volume than CubeSat
- Payload is kinematically restrained during launch
- Release behavior is independent of payload mass
- Fault-tolerant with respect to premature release
- Payload final integration is completed before shipping
- Environmental closeout protects payload after integration
- Electrical access to payload until mounting to host
- Nitrogen purge option

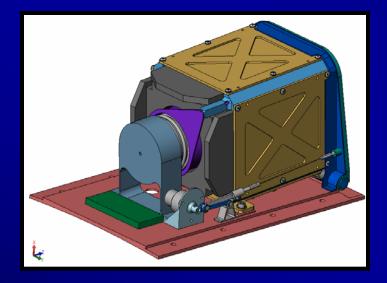
# **Baseline Delta II Configuration**

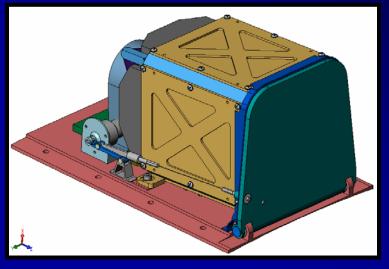


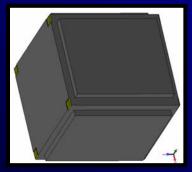


#### **RocketPod Internal View**



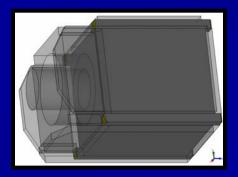






Sep velocities:

- 2.6 m/s for 0.6 kg payload
- 2.0 m/s for 1.0 kg
- 1.4 m/s for 2.0 kg



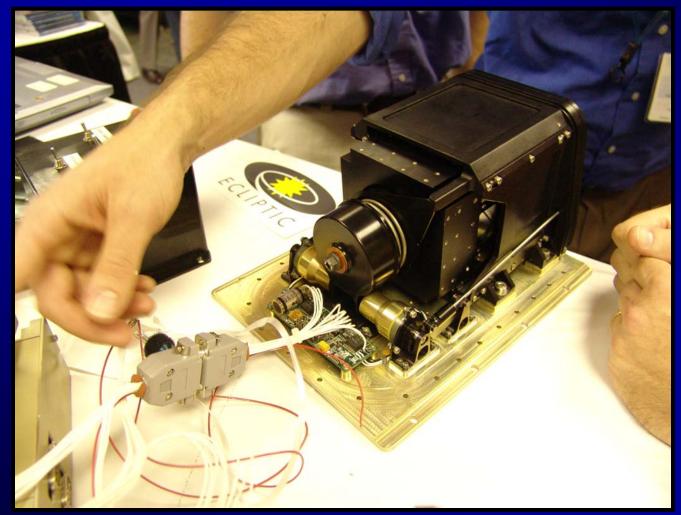
# What Makes RocketPod<sup>™</sup> Attractive?



	Traditional Secondary Payload Model		RocketPod™ Seco Payload Mode	
	Unique payload design	$\implies$	Standard payload des	sign
	Single payload per launch	$\longrightarrow$	Multiple payloads per	launch
Mission-specific interfaces> Standard interfaces				
Mission-specific analyses> Enveloping analyses				
Mission-specific trajectory> Standard deployment options				
Mission-specific safety requirements> Standard safety requirements				
Unique launch-site processing> Standard launch-site processing				
Standardization enables lower recurring launch cost and a low-cost secondary launch <u>program;</u> can be key component of Responsive Space for kg-class systems				

# Launchable Hardware





# **Zero-G Tests**





# **Fit Check and Deployment Tests**





### **Current Near-Term Activities**



- Currently assessing integration issues for other U.S. ELVs besides Delta II, plus on spacecraft
  – E.g., Delta IV, Atlas 5, Minotaur, Taurus, SpaceX Falcons
- On contract to provide flight system for suborbital launch in about a year
- Working several ways to take advantage of two possible launch opportunities late this year
  - One suborbital
  - One orbital
- Working w/SAT to assess launch option for Falcon launch next year (Malaysians)

# **Longer-Term Efforts**



- Discussing CubeSat payload opportunities with several interested parties
  - U.S. government
  - Commercial
- Discussing business case for recurring RocketPod launch program with one U.S. ELV supplier
- Pursuing RocketPod improvements via IRAD
  - Concept and design details
  - Integration and test process

Making progress!