

# SFL NANDSATELLITE MISSIONS & NANDSATELLITE LAUNCH SERVICE

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## OVERVIEW

- The Space Flight Laboratory (SFL) at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS)
- Current and Future Mission Horizon
  - CanX-2, CanX-4/-5, BRITE Constellation, AISSat-1
- Nanosatellite Launch Service (NLS)
  - XPOD Separation System
  - NLS-4 Launch in Oct-Nov 2007
  - Upcoming Launch Opportunities





# UTIAS SPACE FLIGHT LAB

- Part of University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies
  - M.A.Sc. curriculum: spacecraft system/subsystem design from concept to operational
  - Ph.D. curriculum: research on spacecraft system/subsystem
  - Full-time experienced staff to support students
  - 15 students and 9 staff





# UTIAS/SFL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Canadian Advanced Nanospace eXperiment (CanX) Program: State-of-the-art research with nanosatellites (<10kg)</li>
- Nanosatellite Launch Service (NLS): Regular launches for CanX spacecraft (and others)
- Radiation Test Program
- Microsatellite Projects (<100kg) to use proven technologies







## CANX MISSIONS

Canadian Advanced Nanospace eXperiment (CanX) program was established in 2001 for two purposes:



- *Train students* in building real spacecraft:
- *Cost-effective, rapid, regular access to space* for miniature payloads, technologies, experiments:
  - Aggressive experimentation, manage moderate risks, the "X" ٠ in CanX – mixture of microspace and X-plane philosophies.
- Service to all Canadians and international partners. 30 cm 3.5 kg

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- Five funded missions currently underway:
  - Formation Flight: CanX-2, CanX-4/-5
  - Asteroseismology: BRITE Constellation (CanX-3a, 3b)
  - Ship Tracking from Space: AISSat-1

Other Nanosatellite Missions Under Study: Lunette



## CANX-2 MISSION

- 3.6 kg, 10x10x34 cm
- Mission Objectives
  - Evaluate new systems needed for Formation Flight
  - Perform scientific investigations
    - Atmospheric Spectrometry
    - GPS Occultation Studies
    - Atomic Oxygen Coating Characterization
- Launch: NLS-4 / PLSV Oct/Nov 2007



Propulsion System



S-Band Transmitter



Sinclair-SFL Reaction Wheel





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#### CANX-3 BRIGHT TARGET EXPLORER (BRITE)

- Asteroseismology:
  - Internal pressure waves and gravity waves cause a star's brightness to oscillate.
  - Use long duration photometric time series to extract frequencies of oscillation.
  - Use frequencies of oscillation to deduce core composition, size, age, internal structure.
- CDR 19 April 2007
- Target Launch in 2008-Q3/4



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FFG Ontario Centres of Excellence

Ced Nant

6 cm

Université 👘

Sinclair

Interplanetary



# **CANX-4 AND CANX-5** FORMATION FLYING MISSION

- Demonstrate precise formation flying in space
  - cm-level relative position determination with GPS (Cannon, U Calgary)
  - Sub-meter accurate position control (Damaren, UTIAS)
- Each <7 kg, 20 x 20 x 20 cm
- Nanosat Propulsion

   22 m/s, SF6, 40s Isp, 5 mN
- Inter-satellite communications
- Three-axis attitude control
- CDR 12 April 2007
- Target launch in 2009-Q1/2







100m

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# AISSAT-1 MISSION

- AIS: Automatic Identification System
  - Required by the International Maritime Organization on all vessels over 300 tonnes, and all passenger vessels
  - Currently estimated to be >40,000 vessels worldwide equipped with AIS
- AIS messages broadcasted on 2 maritime VHF channels (~162 MHz)
- Goal is to demonstrate the reception of AIS signals from space, primarily in the regions of interest to Norway
- AISSat-1 is a project funded by the Norwegian government (FFI)



Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt





#### LUNARY FAR-SIDE GRAVITY MAPPING NANDSATELLITE

- Nanosatellite to improve knowledge of lunar far-side gravity
  - Radio-tracking from a parent spacecraft to measure differential accelerations
  - Fly in formation at 100 km at initial lunar orbit, then lowers perilune for high-res mapping
- 10-20 mGal resolution
- GNB-based design with enhancements

   Warm gas propulsion system
- Primary Science Mission aboard SSETI ESMO – 2011 launch
- Phase A underway





### NANDSATELLITE LAUNCH SERVICE

- Primary Objective:
  - Access to regularly scheduled launch in support of the CanX program and UTIAS/SFL education curriculum
- Secondary Objectives:
  - Cost sharing with launch partners through launching a small group (4-5) of spacecraft
  - Small number of participants simplifies LV integration, launch campaign logistics, post launch operations, schedule risks, therefore reducing the overall risk to all participants
- Nanosatellite Separation Systems
  - Flight-proven XPOD separation systems











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# XPOD DEPLOYMENT

# System

- Fully-enclosed design
- Clamp-type mechanism
- Spacecraft damper
- Deployment sensors
- Fail-safe, single failure tolerant
- Full s/c deployment test in 1-g
- Compatible with Cubesat Specification
- Scalable for spacecraft with arbitrary dimensions, up to 5 kg







## XPOD GNB & DUO

- Characteristics
  - Open-concept design, permitting fixed appendages
  - Clamp-type mechanism
  - Spacecraft damper and lock-system
  - Deployment sensors
  - Fail-safe, single failure tolerant
  - Full s/c deployment test in 1-g
- GNB: 20 x 20 x 20 cm, 7 kg spacecraft customizable
- DUO: 20 x 20 x 40 cm, 14 kg spacecraft customizable







### **NLS-4** INTEGRATION



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# UPCOMING LAUNCH OPPORTUNITIES

- NLS-5: 2008 Q3/4
  - UNIBRITE and partners
  - 600 km, Sun Synchronous Orbit, 0930 LTDN
- NLS-6: 2009 Q1/2
  - CanX-4 and CanX-5, and partners
  - 800 km, Sun Synchronous Orbit, 0930 LTDN
- NLS-7: 2009 Q3/4
  - AISSAT-1 and partners
  - Sun Synchronous Orbit, parameters TBC
- May be a launch opportunity in 2008-Q2 TBA
- Additional launch partners are welcome
  - Choice of XPOD Single, Double, Triple, GNB, or DUO
  - Can accommodate customizations
  - Each spacecraft to have its own dedicated s separation system









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