

# TubeSat and NEPTUNE 30 Orbital Rocket Programs

Personal Satellites Are GO!



**Interorbital Systems**

[www.interorbital.com](http://www.interorbital.com)



## About Interorbital



### Corporation

Founded in 1996 by Randa and Roderick Milliron, incorporated in 2001

Located at the Mojave Spaceport in Mojave, California

98.5% owned by R. and R. Milliron

1.5% owned by Eric Gullichsen

### Initial Starting Technology

Pressure-fed liquid rocket engines

### Initial Mission

Low-cost orbital and interplanetary launch vehicle development

### Facilities

6,000 square-foot research and development facility

Two rocket engine test sites at the Mojave Spaceport

Expert engineering and manufacturing team



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## Core Technical Team



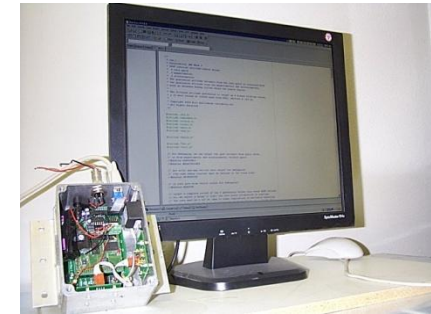
|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Roderick Milliron:       | Chief Designer                 |
| Lutz Kayser:             | Primary Technical Consultant   |
| Eric Gullichsen:         | Guidance and Control           |
| Gerard Auvray:           | Telecommunications Engineer    |
| Donald P. Bennett:       | Mechanical Engineer            |
| David Silsbee:           | Electronics Engineer           |
| Joel Kegel:              | Manufacturing/Engineering Tech |
| Jacqueline Wein:         | Manufacturing/Engineering Tech |
| Reinhold Ziegler:        | Space-Based Power Systems      |
| E. Mark Shusterman, M.D. | Medical Life Support           |
| Randa Milliron:          | High-Temperature Composites    |



**Propellant Tanks: Combining state-of-the-art composite technology with off-the-shelf aluminum liners**



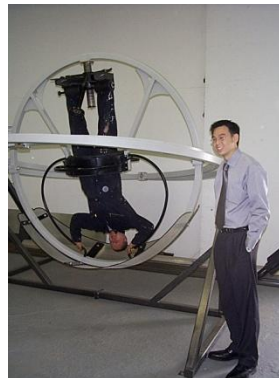
**Ablative Rocket Engines and Components**



**Advanced Guidance Hardware and Software**



**GPRE 0.5KNFA Rocket Engine Test**



**Manned Space Flight Training Systems**



**Rocket Injectors, Valves Systems, and Other Metal components**



## Pressure-Fed Rocket Engines

GPRE 2.5KLMA Liquid Oxygen/Methanol Engine: Thrust = 2,500 lbs.

GPRE 0.5KNFA WFNA/Furfuryl Alcohol (hypergolic): Thrust = 500 lbs.

GPRE 0.5KNHXA WFNA/Turpentine (hypergolic): Thrust = 500 lbs.

GPRE 3.0KNFA WFNA/Furfuryl Alcohol (hypergolic): Thrust = 3,000 lbs.

GPRE 10.0KNHXA WFNA/Turpentine (Hypergolic): Thrust = 10,000 lbs.

## Pressure-Fed Sounding Rockets

Neutrino: GPRE 0.5NFA Engine

Tachyon: GPRE 3.0KNHXA Engine

## Manned Systems

Dick Rutan's Global Hilton Project

Helium/Hot Air Balloon System Propane Tanks





### **NEPTUNE Modular Series Orbital Launch Vehicles**

NEPTUNE 30 (30 kg to LEO)

NEPTUNE 1000 (1000 kg to LEO)

NEPTUNE 4000 (4000 kg to LEO)

### **Orbital Spacecraft**

Orbital Expedition Crew Modules (6-person capacity)

Robotic Orbital Supply System (ROSS)

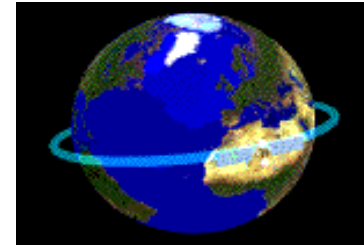
### **Interplanetary Spacecraft**

Google Lunar X PRIZE Lunar Lander

Robotic InterPlanetary Prospector Excavator Retriever (RIPPER)

### **Satellite Design and Manufacture**

TubeSat







## **Low-Cost Pico Satellite Kit – The TubeSat**

- Satellite casing and satellite ejection system are constructed from off-the-shelf aluminum tubing
- Manufacturing requires minimal machining
- Makes use of the latest developments in off-the-shelf electronics
- Makes use of highly efficient solar cells (26% efficiency)
- Simple satellite ejection system allows TubeSats to be launched one at a time or in groups of 32
- Each TubeSat never comes in contact with other TubeSats in a launch group

## **Low-Cost Dedicated Launch Vehicle – NEPTUNE 30**

- All TubeSats have primary payload status



## TubeSat Description



The new IOS TubeSat Personal Satellite Kit is a low-cost alternative to the CubeSat

It has three-quarters of the weight and volume of a CubeSat (weight = 0.75 kg or 1.65 lbs)

Still offers plenty of space for most experiments or applications

The price of the TubeSat Kit (\$8,000) includes the price of a launch into Low-Earth-Orbit on an IOS NEPTUNE 30 rocket

Since TubeSats are placed into self-decaying orbits (310 km), they do not contribute to the long-term buildup of orbital debris

After a few weeks of operation, they re-enter the atmosphere and burn-up

Launches are expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2010



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## General Description

Cylinder shaped  
Maximum weight: 0.75 kg  
Satellite bus or stand-alone satellite

## Power

Batteries: lithium ion 3.6 V  
Solar Cells: Spectrolab 2.52 V 31 mA (multiples)  
Power management board

## Transceiver Options:

Microhard n425, n920, or n2420  
Frequency range: 400 to 450 MHz 902 to 928 MHz or  
2.4000 to 2.4835 GHz  
Voltage: 3.3VDC  
Output: 100 mW to 1,000 mW Selectable

## Microcomputer Hardware

BasicX-24p  
Rogue Robotics uMMC serial Data Module

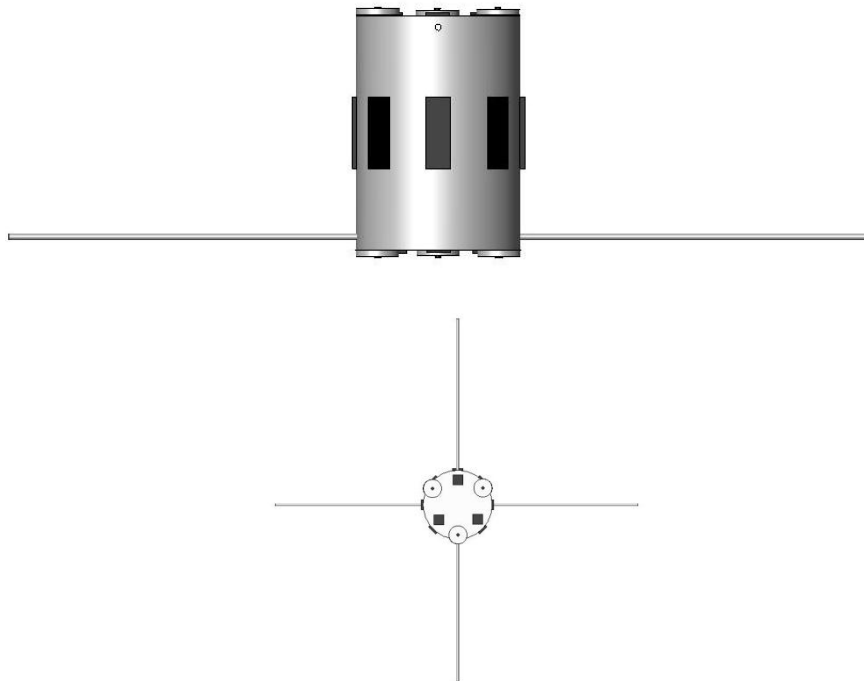
## Antennas

Dipole

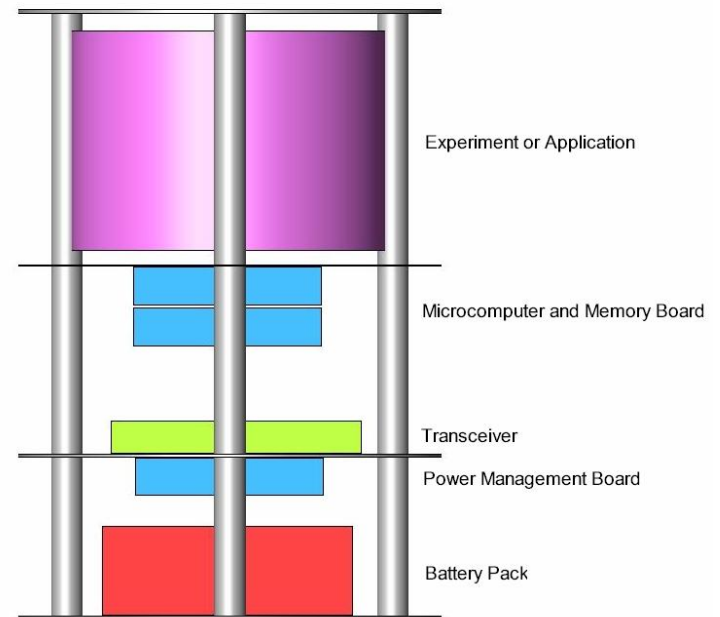




## Solar Cell and Antenna Placement

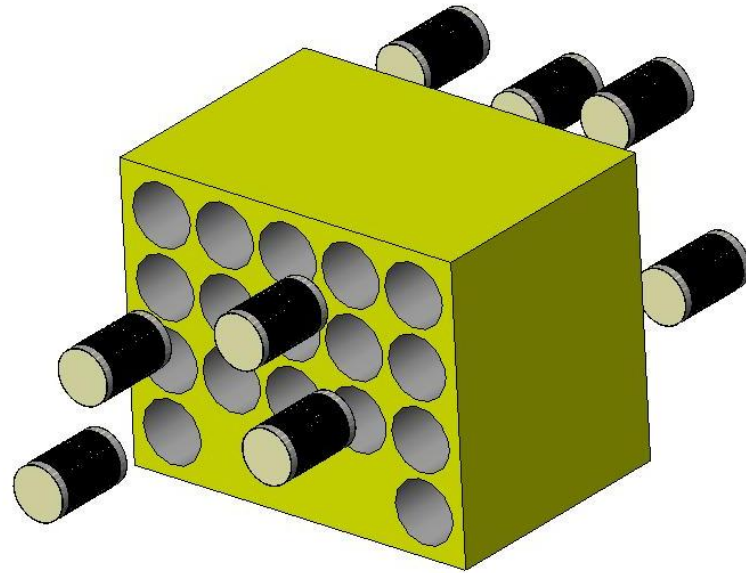


## TubeSat Component Rack





# TubeSat Deployment System





Earth-from-space video imaging

Earth magnetic field measurement

Satellite orientation detection (horizon sensor, gyros, accelerometers, etc.)

Amateur radio relay

Orbital environment measurements (temperature, pressure, radiation, etc.)

On-orbit hardware and software component testing (microprocessors, etc.)

Tracking migratory animals from orbit

Testing satellite stabilization methods

Biological experimentation

Automatic simple, repeating “message from orbit” transmission

Private e-mail

The builder can add any type of electronics or software application he or she wishes as long as it satisfies the volume and mass restrictions. These restrictions provide a unique intellectual challenge for the application designer.



**C**all-in or e-mail tech support (Interorbital and/or University partners)

**D**edicated support page at **[www.tubesat.org](http://www.tubesat.org)** (coming soon)

**O**n-line password-accessed users' forums

**C**onstantly updated FAQs

**Q**uarterly (or more frequent) user's workshops on-ground or on-line

**D**ocumentation: NEPTUNE 30 Rocket User's Manual  
TubeSat Kit User's Manual



# NEPTUNE 30: The TubeSat Launch Vehicle







## **Environmentally Safe, Storable, High-Density Hypergolic Propellants**

White Fuming Nitric Acid (WFNA) and Turpentine/Furfuryl Alcohol  
Instantaneous chemical ignition eliminates need for complex ignition system

## **Low-Cost Propellant Tank Technology**

Off-the-shelf aluminum tank liners and tank ends  
State-of-the-art composite tank reinforcement technology

## **Blowdown Propellant Feed**

Eliminates the need for turbopumps or a separate pressurant system

## **Unique Rocket Engine Injector**

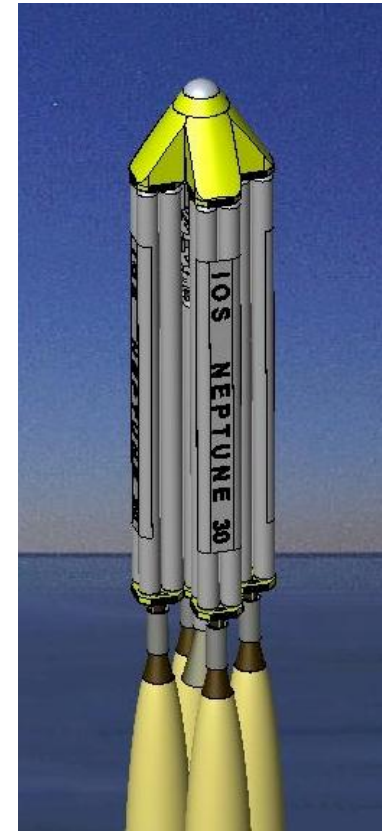
Automatically maintains propellant jet flow rate in blowdown mode  
Maximizes specific impulse over a wide pressure input range

## **Differential Throttling Rocket Steering Technology**

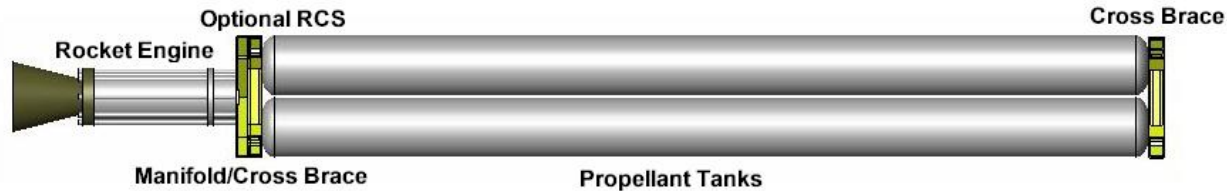
Allows all rocket engines to be fixed  
Eliminates complex gimbaling or fluid injection steering systems  
There are no steering penalties such as jet-vane drag loss  
Rockets with throttleable engines don't require hold downs

## **Modular Rocket System – The Common Propulsion Module (CPM)**

Only small rocket engines have to be developed  
Small rocket engines cost less to develop  
Small diameter tanks don't require slosh baffles  
Individual rocket modules can be flight tested at a very low cost  
Launch vehicle can be customized for any payload



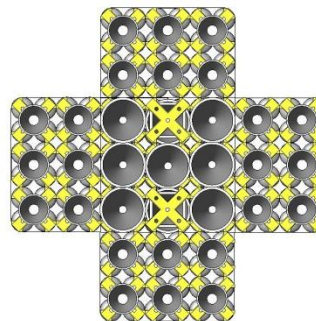
## COMMON PROPULSION MODULE



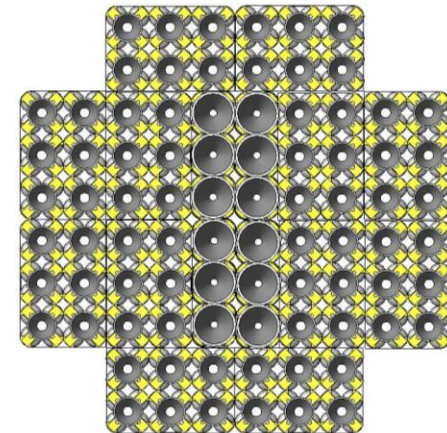
The Common Propulsion Module (CPM) is the Basic Building Block of all Neptune Modular Series Rockets. The CPMs can be clustered together in multiples for both small and large orbital and interplanetary payloads. Clustered engines have been in use since the beginning of the race for space. Below is an aft view of the Russian Soyuz rocket with a cluster of 32 engines. The Soyuz rocket is the most reliable rocket in the world.



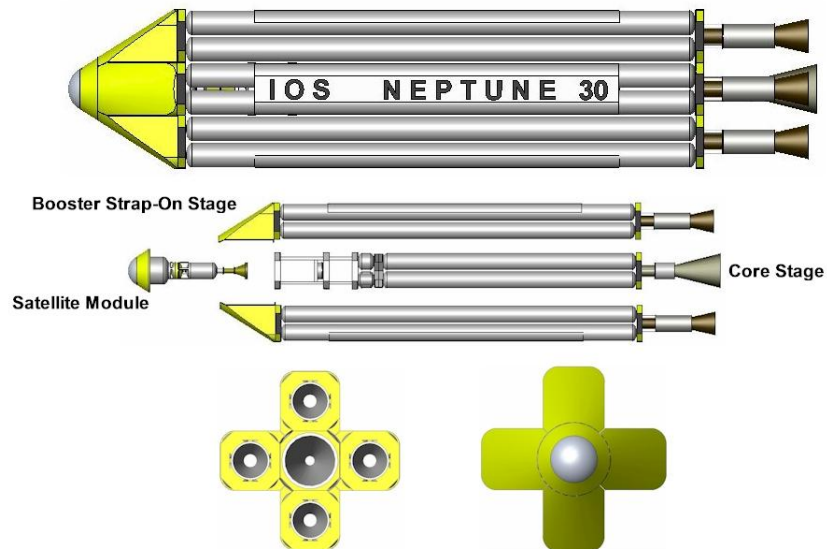
NEPTUNE 30



NEPTUNE 1000



NEPTUNE 4000



**3 stages**

**31 feet (9.4 m) in length with a maximum width of 6.2 feet (1.89 m)**

**The GLOW is 18,700 pounds (8,841 kg)**

**Five (5) Common Propulsion Modules**

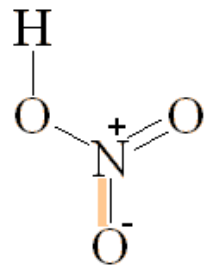
**Satellite Module has a solid kick motor (Thrust = 1,500 lbs.)**

**Booster Thrust = 4 X 10,000 lbs = 40,000 Lbs SL (177,920 n)**



Wernher von Braun: NASA, OTRAG

Lutz Kayser: OTRAG and Rod Milliron: Interorbital



Hypergolic



Lutz Kayser: OTRAG





## NEPTUNE 30: Pressure-Fed Propellants



Saphir with Emerald Booster Stage

High-density (1.51) storable oxidizer: White Fuming Nitric Acid (WFNA)

Storable fuels: Turpentine and Furfuryl Alcohol

WFNA is corrosive but non-flammable and non-toxic

Long-term Storage possible in the propellant tanks

Turpentine furfuryl alcohol are are denser than kerosene

Insulated storage tanks not required

Orbital launch vehicle history (Diamant A rocket)

Excerpt of a CPM Booster rocket engine test (expansion to ambient) at IOS Alpha Test Site



The pressure-fed Diamant A rocket succeeded in placing a satellite into orbit on its first try in November of 1965

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## NEPTUNE 30 Successes



**Rocket engine system components** have already been successfully tested

**Propellant tank components** have been successfully tested

**Guidance and Control System** has been successfully bench tested

**Test infrastructure** is already in place (vertical test stand and test site hardware)

**Propellant and COTS component suppliers** have been identified

**Launch site** secured on an island in the South Pacific Kingdom of Tonga

**Design and manufacturing team** is already in place

**No existing competition** at this price, value, launch frequency, or performance level



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## Ground Systems

- Ground transport system
- Launch platform
- Rocket lift system
- Propellant loading system
- Launch control system
- Ground communications system

## Rocket Communication Systems

- Transceivers
- Antennas

## General Launch Procedure

### Rocket Hardware

- Rocket engine/motor performance in flight
- Reaction control system
- Rocket engine throttling system
- Rocket structural characteristics in flight
- Rocket stability in flight
- Grid-fin effectiveness criteria in flight
- Payload ejection system
- Recovery system
- Rocket staging system
- Spin stabilization

### Guidance and Control

- Inertial measurement unit
- Guidance computer
- Guidance software

## Common Propulsion Module (CPM) Flight Tests

### Launch 1:

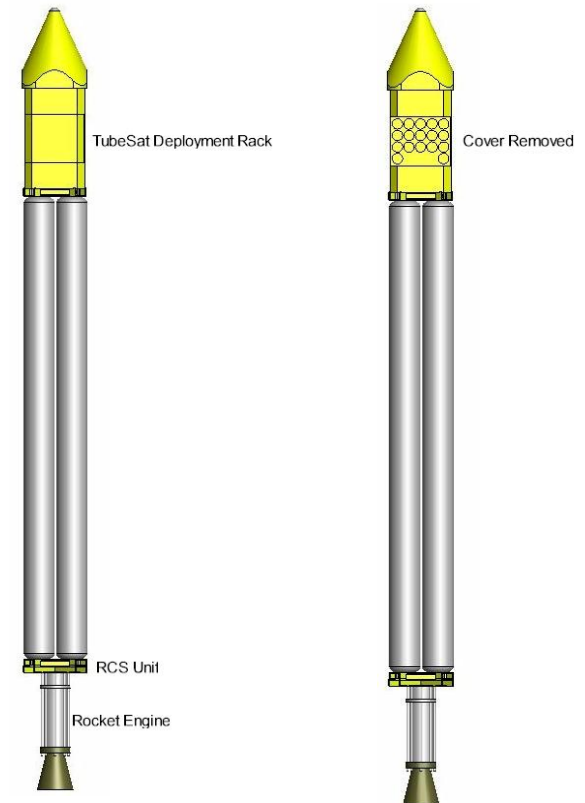
Location: Mojave Test Area  
 Rocket: Common Propulsion Module  
 Altitude: 50,000 feet (15.3 km)  
 Payload: TubeSats and TubeSat deployment system or other  
 Purpose: Test systems described under Neptune 30 Test Program  
 Time Frame: Jan/Feb 2010

### Launch 2:

Location: Mojave Test Area  
 Rocket: Common Propulsion Module  
 Altitude: 50,000 feet (15.3 km)  
 Payload: TubeSats and TubeSat deployment system or other  
 Purpose: Test systems described under Neptune 30 Test Program  
 with modifications if required  
 Time Frame: April/May 2010

### Launch 3:

Location: Mojave Test Area  
 Rocket: Satellite Module with solid rocket motor  
 Altitude: 20,000 feet (6.1 km)  
 Payload: TubeSats and TubeSat deployment system or other  
 Purpose: Test spin stabilization system  
 Time Frame: June 2010





## NEPTUNE 30 Flight Tests

### Launch 1:

Location: Mojave Test Area or Delamar Dry Lake  
Rocket: NEPTUNE 30 with dummy core stage and Satellite Module  
Altitude: 50,000 feet (15.3 km)  
Payload: TubeSats and TubeSat deployment system or other  
Purpose: Test systems described under Neptune 30 Test Program  
Test Satellite Module spin-up and deployment system (with recover)  
Test differential thrust steering system  
Test rocket stability at Mach 1 and at maximum dynamic pressure  
Test staging system  
Time Frame: August/September 2010

### Launch 2:

Location: Tonga Spaceport  
Rocket: NEPTUNE 30  
Altitude: 312 km (193.3 mi)  
Payload: 32 TubeSats and TubeSat deployment system or other  
Purpose: First orbital satellite launch  
Time Frame: November/December 2010



## Common Propulsion Module, Satellite Module, or Staging Test

Maximum Payload: 30 kg  
Payload Type: Up to 32 TubeSats  
Up to 15 CubeSats  
Single Payload

CPM test vehicle is recoverable

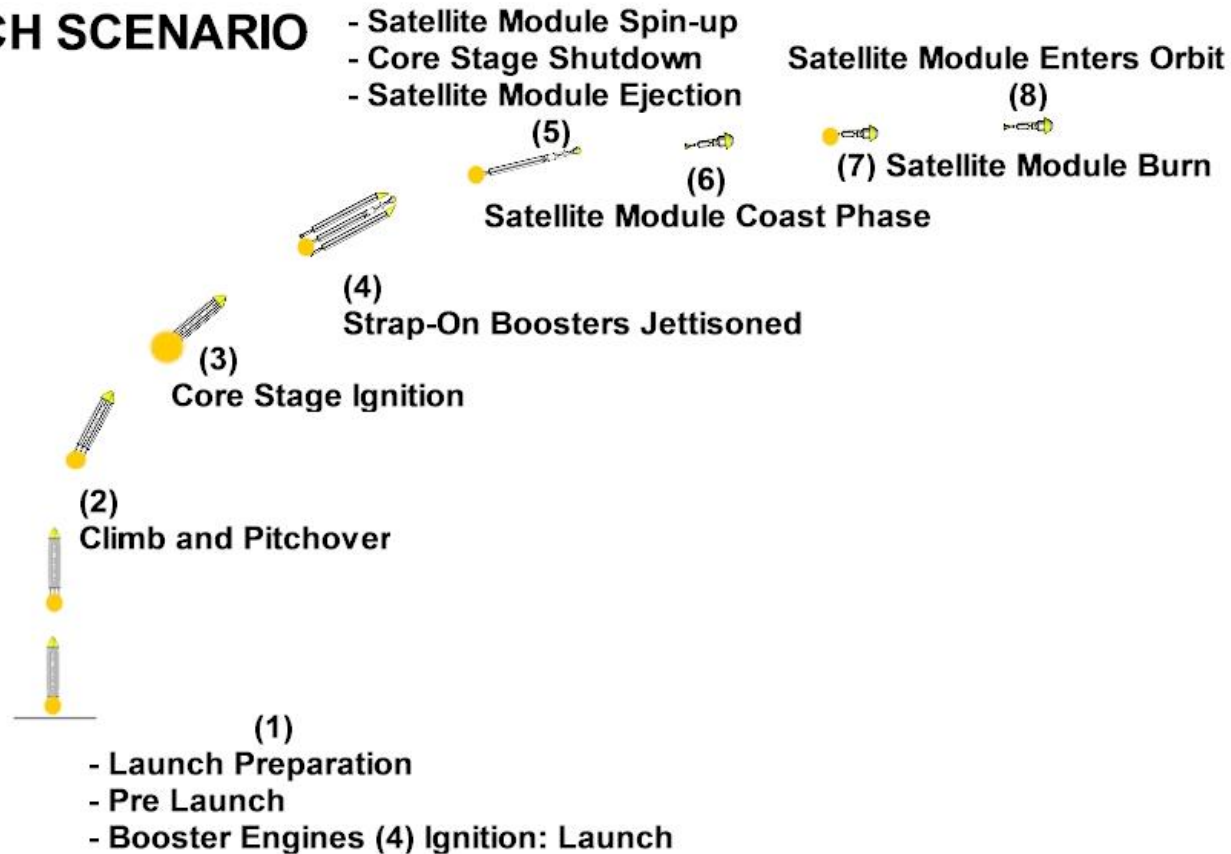
## Orbital Launch

Maximum Payload: 30 kg  
Payload Type: Up to 32 TubeSats  
Up to 15 CubeSats with 5 P-Pods  
Single satellite with deployment system





# LAUNCH SCENARIO





**FAA/AST launch license for orbital launches: in process**

IOS held one of the first Commercial Space Transportation Launch Licenses (LLS 00-054, October, 2000) for Tachyon sounding rocket

**Obtained:** Two active 365-day FAA waivers for pre-orbital flight tests to 50,000 ft. at Mojave Test Area, California, and at Delamar Dry Lake, Nevada





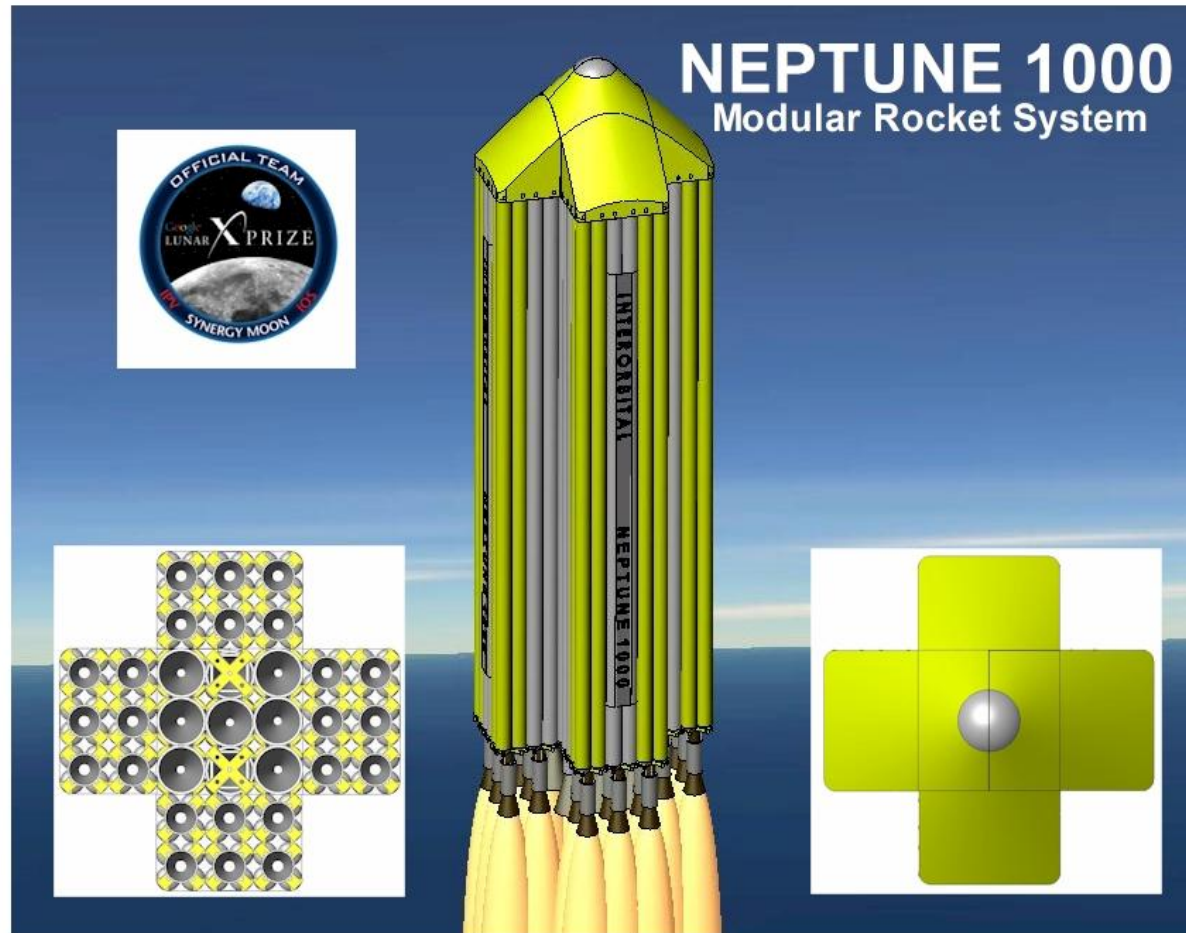
**Kingdom of Tonga**

Latitude: 21.45 degrees S

Longitude: 174.90 degrees W

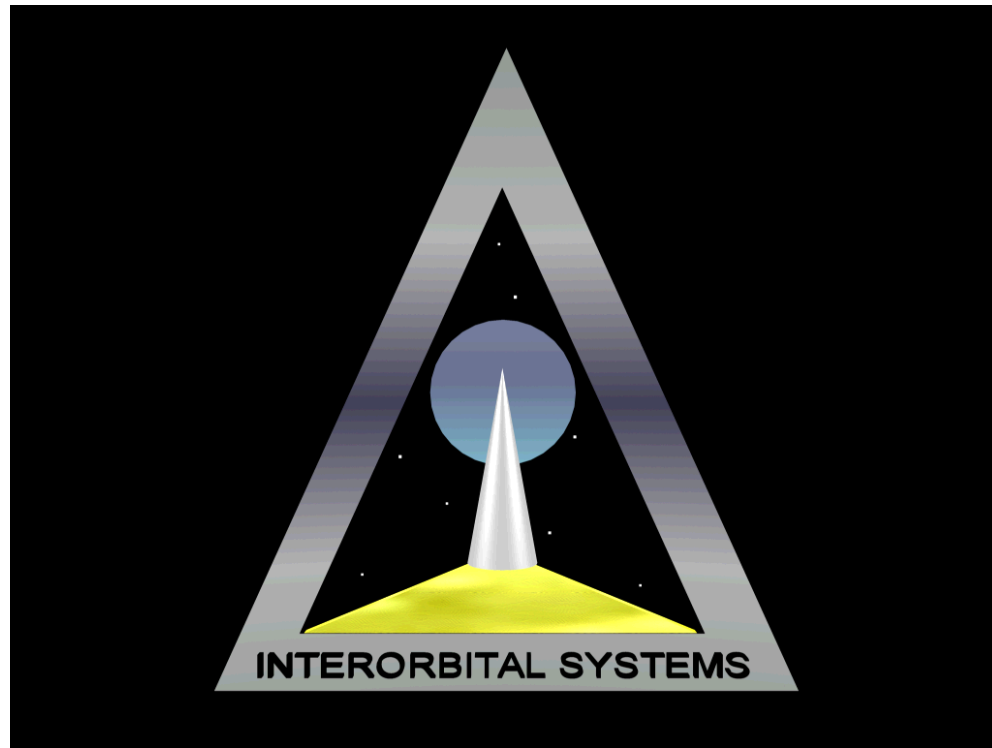


# NEPTUNE 1000: Moon Rocket



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