



# University SmallSat Programs and Technical Issues



Space Science Center Morehead KY

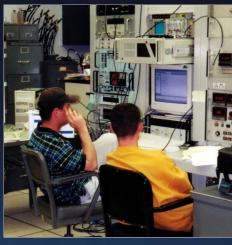






## Space Projects Create Opportunities for Students







- Undergraduate Research Experiences
- Instrumentation Experience
- Engineering Design
- Observational Astrophysics Research
- Ground Ops (TT&C)
- Project Management Experience
- Systems-level Engineering Experience



### CUBESATS NOW PRODUCING SCIENCE

- CUBESAT technology has now evolved to the point where valuable (if niche) science research is supported
  - RAX-2 (University of Michigan)
  - Dynamic Ionosphere CubeSat Experiment (DICE) is a scientific mission consisting of two cubesats flying in formation. Flew four Electric Field Probe sensors on telescopic booms, two DC Langmuir probes for detection of ions and a three-axis magnetometer for measuring magnetic fields(1.5 Mbit/s downlink)
  - E1-P (HRBE) (Montana State)
  - SwissCube,
- CXBN, CCSWE, STARE...
- Given current budget climate for fundamental research, it is inevitable that Smallsats will increasingly become major contributors as science platforms



KySat-1

Mission

Secondary on NASA's Glory

### Morehead SmallSat Missions



Microsat Subsystems

PocketQubs

**Ground Ops** 

Comms Experiments

GSE Development

Variety of Customers





KySat-2 Launches in October 2013



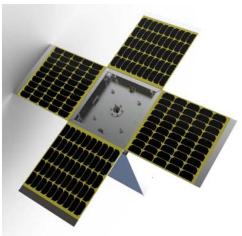
CXBN Launched in 2012



TechSat-1 In Development for SMDC (w/ Honeywell and Radiance)



Standard MSU 3-U Bus



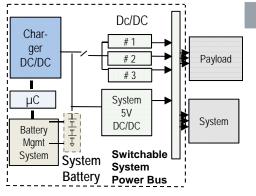
UniSat-5 w/ Univ. of Roma



### TechSat-1



- Power Mgmt & Distribution
- Systems Integration





- Nanosat Bus Development,
- Hardware Integration and Test
- SubSystems











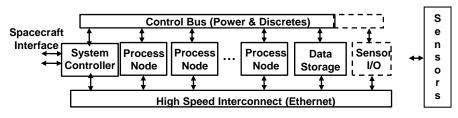
#### **Radiance Technologies**

Articulating Solar Array



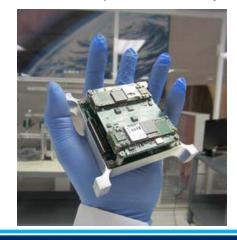


#### **Honeywell and Morehead**

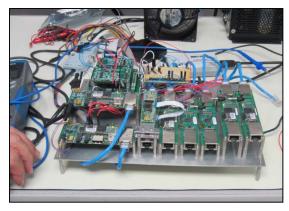


#### **Morehead State**

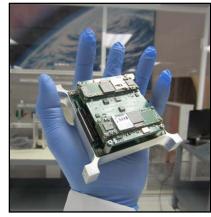
• Dependable Multiprocessor Payload



# DM Cube: Dependable Multiple Processor for Nanosat Applications





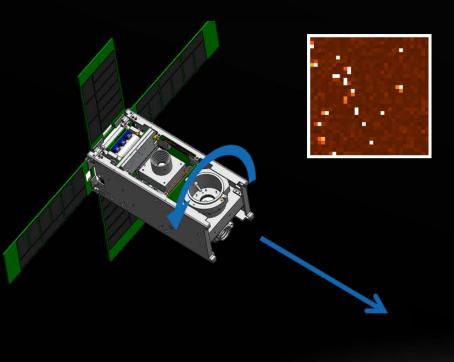


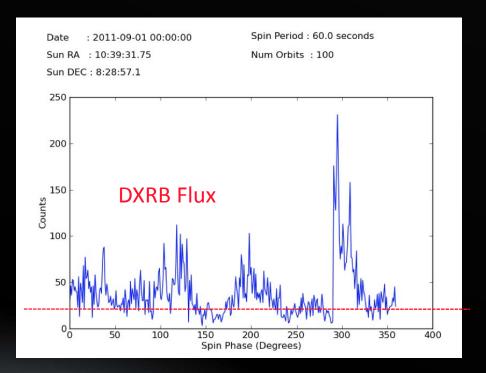
- •Developed by Morehead and Honeywell Space and Defense for the US SMDC
- •Based on small, light-weight, low-power, low-cost, Gumstix™ COM (Computer-On-Module)-based, for high-performance onboard payload processing
- •Leverages \$14M NASA NMP ST8 investment in the development of DM technology
- Scalable cluster of high (COTS) processors to >24
- •Peak throughput density of 300 million (MOPS)/watt
- •Fault tolerant DM Middleware (DMM) + 8 Processors mitigate high-current SEFIs and will be resilient to total radiation doses expected in the lunar environment
- •8 Processor version: mass = 0.24 U and weight =350 g

	Clock Rate	Memory	Usage	Types	Mode	Manufacturer
Cluster Nodes: ARM Cortex A8	161 /I (-H7	512 MB RAM 512 MB Flash	1.5 Watt	UART, I2C, USB, SPI, CAN, PHY	Network Node	Gumstix™
Cluster Backbone	24 MHz	1 MB	2.0 Watts	PHY, UART, SPI	Network Backbone & Management Interface	MSU

# CXBN ConOps MEASURING DXRB WITH CZT

 Spacecraft will spin about the sun pointing axis, allowing the detector to sweep out its Field of View (FOV) over 360 degrees with each rotation

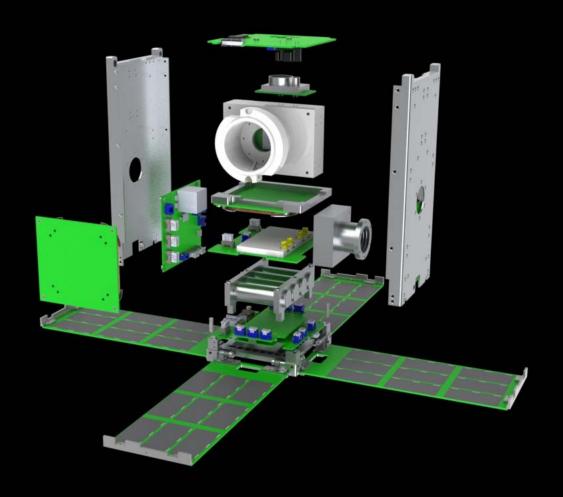






# CXBN- COMPARATIVELY SOPHISTICATED CUBESAT

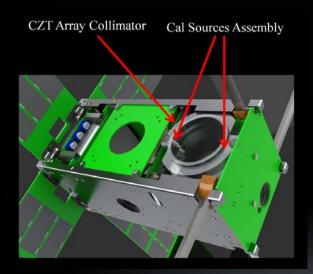
- ADCS
  - MEMS-Based Gyros
  - Tri-Axis Magnetometers
  - Dual Sun Sensor
  - Star Pipper
  - Magnetorquers
- Power Systems
  - Deployable Solar Panels (
  - 15 W Continous
  - Direct Energy Transfer
- Comms
- VHF and S-Band
- C&DH
  - Distributed MSP 430s
  - 40 MHz Clock Speed
  - RTC
  - Watchdog Timers



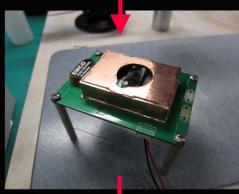


### **CZT ARRAY**

- Direct Bandgap Semiconductor
- 600x600 micron pixels and 1keV energy resolution at an energy of 60keV
- Extreme Sensitivity in the 10 100 KeV
   Range
- Calibrated with Am-241 Sources













#### Cosmic X-Ray Background Nanosatellite-2 Morehead State University and Kentucky Space





#### **Mission Description/Goal**

- •Increase the precision of measurements of the Cosmic X-Ray Background in the 30-50 keV range
- Constrain models that explain the relative contribution of cosmic X-Ray sources to the CXRB
- Produce data that will lend insight into the underlying physics of the Diffuse X-Ray Background
- •Provide flight heritage for innovative CubeSat technologies
- Provide flight heritage for CZT-based X-Ray-Gamma Ray Detector

#### **Major Milestones**

- Completion of requirements, design, and mission/flight readiness reviews
- Completion of fabrication benchmarks
- Completion of pre-flight testing
- Integration, Launch, and LEOP—contact established and subsystems operating nominally
- Science objectives:
  - 3 million seconds of data
  - ~1 year of operation
  - broadband S/N ~250
- End of mission de-orbit in 15 years

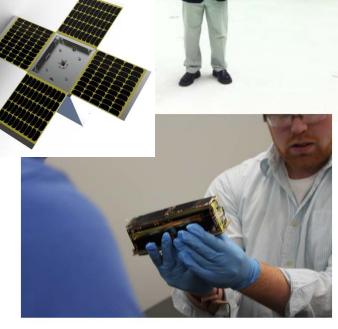
#### **Spacecraft Specifications**

- Spacecraft Developers: Morehead State University Space Science Center, Kentucky Space, Univ. of California Berkeley
- Integration & Test Location: Morehead State University Space Science Center (Kentucky USA)
- Mass: 2.6 kg
- Power: 15 W max generated; Regulated Power to Subsystems at 3.3VDC, 5VDC, 12VDC
- Size: 2U = 10 cm x 10 cm x 20 cm
- Dynamics: Sun Pointing, Rotation Rate = 1/6 Hz



- GAUSS Project with Morehead Collaboration
- 6 Ph.D. Students worked/working at MSU
- MSU Designed and Build FemtoSatellite Orbital Deployers
- EduSat and UniSat-1 -5
- Deploys CubeSats and PocketQubs (femtosats)
- To Be Launched by Kosmotras in 2013





# Ground Segment: University-Based Earth Stations



- •21 Meter at Morehead State: Full-Motion, High Precision Dish
- Designed and Built with NASA assistance
- Replaceable feeds including L-band, S-band,
   C-band, and Ku-band
- Provides Experimental and IOAG Compatible
   TT&C Services
- Operated Largely by Cost-effective
   Undergraduate Students
- •High Gain and Extreme Accuracy reduce comms link with small, low power, distant S/C
- •Station is ideal for LEO and lunar spacecraft experiments and operations



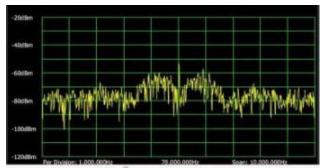


# 2012 Station Upgrade



TIMED Spacecraft FFT

- •Major Upgrade Supported by NASA HEOMD and Johns Hopkins APL, included:
  - •Full Remote Control of All Systems
  - •All equipment required to process spacecraft data
  - Timing and frequency references
  - Uplink capability implemented
  - SLE Compliance
  - NASA NEN Compatible
  - IOAG Compatible
  - Software-Defined TT&C Processor (SoftFEP)
  - •T400 Modem
  - High Data Rate Digitizer for Experimental Missions





## Benefits

- Cost-Effectiveness
- Launch Opportunities as Secondaries
- Greater Risk Tolerance
- Short Development Time
- Standardized Form Factor
- Standardized Acceptance Testing
- COTS Subsystems
- Flight Heritage
- Potential for Student Involvement

# Technical Challenges

- Mass: < 1.3 kg per U
- Volume  $< 10 \times 10 \times 10 \text{ cm per U}$
- Bus Requirements (function of science requirements)
  - 1 U- Bus needs 0.75 U
  - − 2 U − Bus needs 1.5 U
  - − 3 U − Bus needs 1.5-2 U
  - 6 U Lunar- Bus, Propulsion, ADCS, leaves 1-2 U payload
- Power
  - 1 U ≈ 1-1.5 W Continuous
  - $-2 U \approx 15 W$
  - $-3 \mathrm{U} \approx 40-70 + \mathrm{W}$
  - $-12 \mathrm{~U~} \approx 150 + \mathrm{W}$
- Propulsion/ADCS

# Student Research Supported Provide By







- NASA (GSFC, MSFC, WFF)
- KY NASA EPSCoR
- NSF
- DoD







- Kentucky Space Grants Consortium
- Kentucky Space
- Johns Hopkins APL





