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Kentucky Space Confirms Successful Operation of Tiny Experimental Spacecraft

Eagle-1, a PocketQube class satellite that measures 5cmx5cmx15cm and weighing just 430grams (just under one pound), was launched on November 21, 2013 on a DNEPR-1 rocket from Dombrovsky Cosmodrome at Yasny, Russia.

This extremely small experimental satellite (which is one of, if not, the smallest functional spacecraft ever placed in orbit) was deployed in orbit by a larger satellite Unisat-1 developed in a partnership between Kentucky Space (KS), Morehead State University (MSU) and the University of Rome La Sapienza Aerospace Engineering School and a commercial spin-off called the Group of Astrodynamics for the Use of Space Systems (GAUSS, Inc.). Since the November launch KS ground ops has confirmed that Eagle-1 is functioning normally with all systems performing as expected.

This class of satellite, which was originally proposed by MSU Professor Robert Twiggs, further demonstrates the power and potential of new micro technologies in space. Eagle-1 was designed and built by Twiggs, KS and MSU students along with the involvement of Dr. Garrett Jernigan and students at Sonoma State University in California.

The PocketQube class satellite is envisioned to have a wide range of applications including: space network nodes, sensor platforms, inexpensive test-beds and novel satellite constellations that are inexpensive, redundant and spatially organized.

Kentucky Space is a private nonprofit enterprise focused on entrepreneurial, educational and commercial space solutions. For additional information relating to the launch contact Kris Kimel at kkimel@kentuckyspace.com or 859-229-6161 or Dr. Benjamin K. Malphrus at b.malphrus@moreheadstate.edu or 606-776-2390. For information on the program please visit kentuckyspace.com.

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