No Satellite Experience? No Problem. Put a CubeSat in Space!

Andrew E. Kalman, Ph.D.

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Historically Speaking

- Space race driven by superpowers.
- Lots of know-how and money required.
- Eventually other countries joined in, often as a matter of national prestige.
- Science & exploration from early on.
- Communications satellites primary early commercial driver.
- With weather, mapping, etc., line is blurred between commercial and scientific endeavors.
- Now, some of the fruits are free e.g. Google Earth.



Current Situation

- A new space race is on, with many governments playing, often as teams.
- Science & exploration missions continue, but with a new emphasis on efficiency. No longer "succeed at all costs."
- Some space systems in dire need of replacement.
- After a long lull, there is now a sense of urgency. We are playing catch-up
- Seem more willing to accept disruptive technologies by using the latest "new thing" – trying to keep up with the rapid pace of technology.
- No longer an isolated industry lots of new players (Virgin Galactic, SpaceX, Rutan, etc.) in new markets.
- Tangible personal connection to space.



Who Uses Space?

- The usual suspects
 - Military
 - Commercial
 - Science & exploration
- The new kids on the block
 - Tourists
 - Prize seekers
 - "New Pioneers"
 - Educators
 - Data gatherers
 - The usual suspects, trying to invigorate their people, processes, profile, etc.
 - Advertisers



Fundamental Changes?

- Large, expensive satellites won't disappear any time soon.
- For small satellites, access to space is increasingly a matter of simply showing up at the right time with the right amount of money. The door is open, and you have many doors to chose from.
- The "FedEx satellite" has become a reality.
- For small satellites, space is definitely open for business. And science, too. And education. And ...



Why CubeSats?

- Level of technology entirely manageable.
- "Arrive and orbit" means no previous experience required.
- Timelines, success rates, costs incurred, data collected, etc. from previous missions all point to manageable projects with results in 2-5 years.
- Highly interdisciplinary:
 - Electrical, mechanical, computer & systems engineering
 - Communications
 - Program management
 - And more …
- Low per-mission costs.
- Regional / global communities.
- Failure is not catastrophic.

What Usually Happens?

- Someone gets excited about an idea.
- Idea turns into a CubeSat mission proposal.
- Choose launch opportunity. This sets the timeline.
- Realize all the different aspects of a successful mission program. Recruit friends from academia & industry. Offer students pizza.
- Obtain funding (the hard part). Beg, borrow, steal.
- Move through PDR, CDR, etc. to complete the CubeSat.
- Deliver CubeSat for integration.
- Cross fingers on launch date.
- Celebrate!



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And the Benefits Are?

- Project
 - Academic / educational.
 - Cooperation between academia, government & industry.
 - Workforce development.
 - New departments, companies & industries.
 - Confidence to do bigger / better satellites.
- Mission
 - Improve scientific understanding.
 - New companies & markets.
 - Exposure on a global scale.



<u>Colombia</u>

- Libertad-1
 - Universidad Sergio Arboleda, Bogota
 - No previous space experience
 - Infected with initial idea by Stanford's Prof. Bob Twiggs in 2004

strong

- Small team
- Low budget
- Purchased first CubeSat Kit components March 2005
- Launched April 17, 2007
- Success!
- A 21st-century Sputnik
- Colombia-1, Cubesat-UD
 - Universidad Distrital





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Q&A Session

Thank you for attending!

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<u>Appendix</u>

Speaker information

 Dr. Kalman is Pumpkin's president and chief technology architect. He entered the embedded programming world in the mid-1980's. After co-founding Euphonix, Inc – the pioneering Silicon Valley high-tech pro-audio company – he founded Pumpkin, Inc. to explore the feasibility of applying high-level programming paradigms to severely memory-constrained embedded architectures. He is the creator of the Salvo RTOS and the CubeSat Kit. He holds two United States patents and is a consulting professor in the Aero & Astro department at Stanford University. Contact Dr. Kalman at aek@pumpkininc.com.

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- Pumpkin's Salvo and CubeSat Kit customers, whose real-world experience with our products helps us improve and innovate.

Salvo, CubeSat Kit and CubeSat information

 More information on Pumpkin's Salvo RTOS and Pumpkin's CubeSat Kit can be found at <u>http://www.pumpkininc.com/</u> and <u>http://www.cubesatkit.com/</u>, respectively.

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