

Smallsats, a new opportunity for research

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Space research has usually been based on big missions. Their development times (~decades) and associated budgets (~100M€) require a strong commitment, implying that only a small number of research missions are finally implemented.

In the last decades, the Smallsats, and specifically the Cubesats have changed the situation. The usage of consumer technologies allows to make research with state of the art instrumentation, a budget < 1M€ and development times of years. The limiting factors in this case are: volume < 10l, power consumption (<10W), and quantity of data transmitted.

We will explain the experience with big and small missions, including the Catalan NewSpace strategy.

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