National Aeronautics and Space Administration



SMALL SPACECRAFT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

ROGER HUNTER PROGRAM MANAGER

Recently Completed and On-going U-Class Technology Demonstration Missions





Pathfinder Technology Demonstrator -1 Launched January 24, 2021

Demonstrated the Hydros-C propulsion system with a water-based propellant developed through a public-private partnership with Tethers Unlimited, Inc. (TUI)

Status: TUI Hydros-C demonstration is complete. Results to be announced. Tyvak bus is in extended operations.



V-R3x Launched January 24, 2021

Demonstrated low-power, low-cost spacecraft ranging, topology recovery, and coordinated measurement technology demonstration utilizing three 1U spacecraft for future spacecraft swarm systems

Status: Mission is complete. Results to be announced.



PACE-1 Launched June 30, 2021

Demonstrate avionics system platform (ADP) technologies; demonstrate a switching capability that allows multiple GPS and radio communications systems to "take turns" areceiving signals

Status: On-going. Results to be announced.

Upcoming U-Class Exploration Precursor Missions





Lunar Flashlight Manifested on Artemis-1

Characterize lunar *in-situ* resource utilization potential. Measure quantity and distribution of surface ice deposits in lunar South Pole cold traps with a compact laser spectrometer.

CAPSTONE Launch Timeframe: Late 2021

Demonstrate how to enter and function in a near rectilinear halo orbit around the Moon and demonstrate spacecraft-to-spacecraft navigation.

Upcoming U-Class Technology Demonstration Missions – 2021 & 2022







CubeSat Laser Intersatellite Crosslink (CLICK-A) Launch: Late 2021

Risk reduction mission that will test elements of the optical communications system via communication between a single 3U spacecraft and a portable ground station telescope CubeSat Proximity Operations Demonstration (CPOD) Launch: Late 2021

Demonstrate rendezvous, proximity operations and docking using two 3U CubeSats PACE-2 Launch: Early 2022

Demonstrate upgrades to the PACE avionics system as well as a camera and image processing payload

Upcoming U-Class Technology Demonstration Missions – 2022





Starling Distributed Spacecraft Mission Launch: Mid-2022

Demonstrate swarm maneuver planning and execution, communications networking, relative navigation, and autonomous coordination been four 6U CubeSats.



Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3) Launch: Second half of 2022

Demonstrate deployment of the composite boom solar sail in low-Earth orbit. The unfurled solar sail will measure approximately 81 m² CubeSat Laser Infrared CrosslinK (CLICK B/C) Launch: Late-2022

Demonstrate optical crosslink and precision ranging between two 3U CubeSats at a data rate of 20 Mbps and range up to 580 km.



Pathfinder Technology Demonstrator PTD-2, PTD-3, and PTD-4 Launch: 2022

PTD-2: Demonstrate the Hyper-XACT attitude control system (BCT).

PTD-3: Demonstrate TBIRD, technologies for high-bandwidth laser communications (MIT/Lincoln Lab & NASA SCaN funding).

PTD-4: Demonstrate LISA-T, a high-power, low-volume deployable solar array with an integrated antenna (NASA MSFC). 5