

SpaceDev Awarded Nanosat Hybrid Propulsion Contract

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SpaceDev has been awarded approximately \$100,000 to begin developing a nanosat hybrid propulsion system under a new Phase I Small Business Innovation Research contract from the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base.

"Existing high performance propulsion systems do not easily scale to nano-class satellites because they either require a larger number of parts, or they are limited in the propulsive maneuvers available. This project extends good performance, simplicity, storability, and restart capability, all advantages of the hybrid propulsion system, to nano-satellites," said SpaceDev propulsion specialist Chris Grainger.

SpaceDev's latest project consists of three stages. The first stage will define the system parameters; perform trade studies and preliminary analysis of the feed, igniter system, and nozzle.

The second stage will define the key components of the complete nanosat propulsion unit.

The final stage involves preparing for a Small Business Innovation Research Phase II contract. Phase II, if awarded, would include design, fabrication and ground testing of the key components and the system as a whole.

Phase III, if fully funded, would progress to a launched, fully operational nanosat hybrid propulsion system for in-space testing and demonstration.

"This project fits perfectly with SpaceDev's corporate culture of developing simple, high performance, miniaturized space technologies for use in a wide variety of applications," said SpaceDev founding chairman and CEO Jim Benson.

"The successful development of this unique nano-propulsion system will add important new capabilities to our small satellites and to our growing base of intellectual property."

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