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Dec.22, 2016 update:

The release of the TuPOD has been postponed, it is expected for around mid-January 2017.

More information will be provided later on.

TuPOD is ready for launch – Press Release – 5 December 2016

The **TuPOD**, a **3U CubeSat satellite** and at the same time a **deployer of TubeSat** (a type of small satellite), originates from an innovative project of the Company **G.A.U.S.S. Srl** (*Group of Astrodynamics for the Use of Space Systems*), specialized in the **development of satellites that are launcher platforms as well** (like the previous satellites **UniSat-5** and **UniSat-6**).

The **TuPOD** is a **CubeSat-type of satellite**, with dimensions of **10x10x30cm**, which will work itself as launch system for smaller satellites, the **TubeSats**.

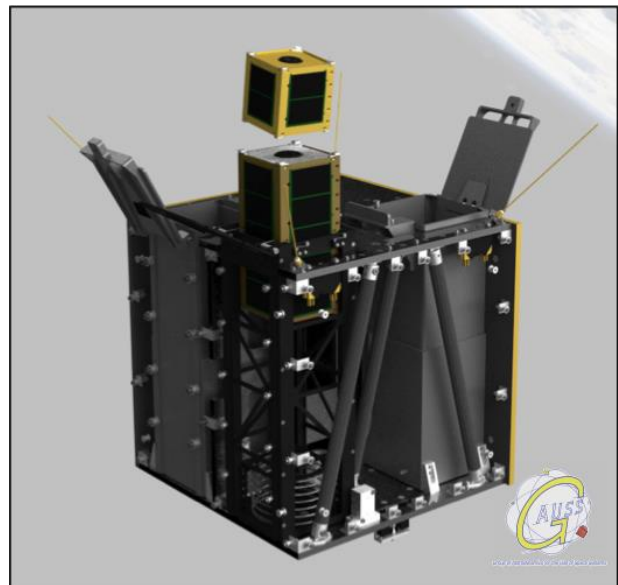
The **TubeSats** are a new type of **Nanosatellites**, cylindrically-shaped, not much bigger than an ordinary beverage can.

To date, there wasn't any launch possibility for this class of small satellites: with the **TuPOD project**, **GAUSS Srl** creates a **new and affordable launch opportunity for the users of this new type of satellite**.

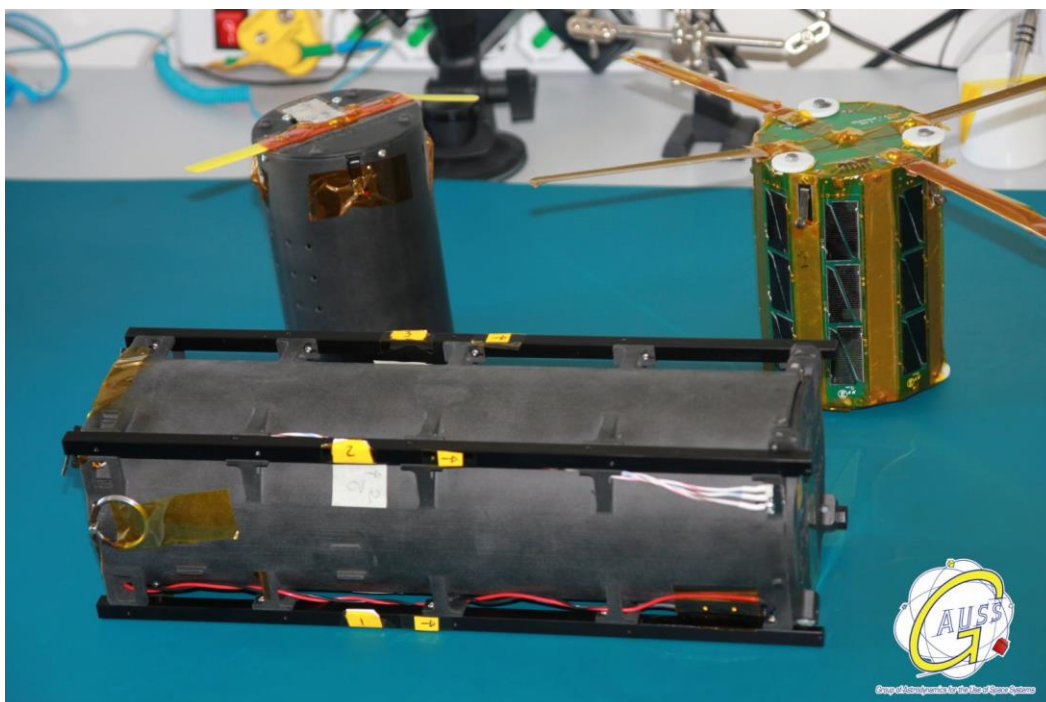
The **TuPOD** hosts two **TubeSats onboard**: **TANCREDO I** (*Brazil*) and **OSNSAT** (*USA*).

Thanks to this specific kind of deployer – designed and built by **GAUSS Srl** – a **couple of TubeSats are about to be released into Space for the first time ever**.

An important milestone for **GAUSS Srl** and for the whole **Italian Aerospace Community**.



UniSat-6 Platform



*The **TuPOD**, in the middle, satellite/deployer for **TubeSats** from GAUSS Srl.
On the right and on the left the TubeSats **OSNSAT** and **TANCREDO I**.*



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TANCREDO I is the first satellite created within the UbatubaSat Project, by Brazilian students of the public school “Escola Municipal Presidente Tancredo de Almeida Neves” (Ubatuba, São Paulo, Brazil), with the support of INPE (*Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa Espacial*) and of AEB (*Agência Espacial Brasileira*).

OSNSAT has been developed by the Californian Space Company *Open Space Network* for testing and research purposes.

Preparations for the satellite’s launch phase continue.

Following the integration phase of the two **TubeSats** inside the **TuPOD**, performed by GAUSS engineers last July at GAUSS headquarters in Rome, **the TuPOD has been brought to Japan for its integration into the CubeSat deployer J-SSOD** (*JEM Small Satellite Orbital Deployer*) at the *Tsukuba Space Center* of **JAXA** (**Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency**) in *Ibaraki Prefecture*, by a GAUSS and JAXA team.



J-SSOD deployers that will host the TuPOD

The deployer J-SSOD, therefore containing the TuPOD together with other 6 nanosatellites, **has been installed inside the autonomous spacecraft H-IIB**, named “**KOUNOTORI**”, for the **HTV-6** mission, whose purpose will be delivering supplies to the **International Space Station (ISS)**.

The Japanese transfer HTV-6 will be sent the next **9 December 2016**, at **1:26PM GMT**, headed to the **International Space Station (ISS)**, from the *Yoshinobu Launch Complex, Tanegashima Space Center*.



HTV-6 mission logo

The TuPOD will be then released, with the Japanese astronauts’ help, from the **ISS Japanese Experiment Module “KIBO”**.

The release into orbit of the TuPOD ranges from **19 to 26 December** according to the ISS’ launch operations scheduling, whilst **TANCREDO I and OSNSAT will be**, in their turn, released from the **TuPOD satellite/deployer about three days later**, as soon as the TuPOD is distant enough from the ISS.

Once in Space, the **TuPOD** itself and **TANCREDO I will transmit telemetry data**, which may be received and decoded by radio amateurs from all over the world.

More information can be found on the **GAUSS Srl** website, www.gaussteam.com .

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The Japanese vehicle H-IIB “Kounotori”