



Operationally Responsive Space

Assured Space Power Focused on Timely Satisfaction of Joint Force Commanders' Needs

A Very Busy Summer for ORS...

It's been a busy time in the ORS Office since my last Newsletter. The last two months have flown by in a whirl of activity. I'll update you all on those topics in future Newsletters; to include manning of the ORS Office, development of a Comprehensive ORS Investment Strategy, Completion of JFC Need #1 (UHF Comm) and JFC Need #2 (SSA), Development of Solution Concepts for JFC Need #3 I (ISR), partnering with industry thru the ORS BAA, execution of Tier-1 Experiments and collaboration with the service laboratories on the TacSat missions. However, I'd like to use the rest of this space to provide an update on the ORS JumpStart Mission.

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Trailblazer in Falcon-1 Fairing

ORS JumpStart Mission Update...

I'm sure most of you have heard by now that the Jumpstart Launch occurred Saturday night at 8:00 PM PDT. The bottom line is that the rocket failed during second stage separation and the first stage, second stage, and payload stack fell into the ocean somewhere near the predicted stage-1 impact point. I was in the Space-X Command Van and it was a great disappointment to watch a perfect stage-1 flight end in a catastrophic stage separation. There was great disappointment around the Space-X campus, but also great resolve to get things right on Falcon-1 Flight #4 in September.

... A Great Success for ORS!

However, this mission was a great success for ORS. Our objectives for this mission were to explore rapid call-up to launch processes. Here's how the numbers look:

Upcoming ORS Missions

ORS is working on several additional missions that will launch in the coming months. The first of these is the TacSat-3 spacecraft built by AFRL. It will carry a Hyperspectral Sensor and will launch from Wallops Island, VA in late October on a Minotaur-I launch vehicle. The TacSat-4 Spacecraft, built by NRL, will carry a UHF Communications Payload. It will launch September 09 on a Minotaur-IV launch vehicle from Kodiak Island, AK. We are also working on refining plans for TacSat-1a, TacSat-5, and ORS-1. We've got a lot to do in the next year!

SpaceDev's Trailblazer spacecraft was selected from among three potential spacecraft on 21 May and the spacecraft launched on 2 August.

The Trailblazer spacecraft was in the clean room on 27 July and launched on 2 August; roughly a six day call-up to launch! In fact the rocket was vertical and ready to launch almost two days earlier and I suspect we can easily get this process down to less than five days!

This is a huge and important step for ORS. We learned a lot about the analytical processes and integration procedures that are required to rapidly deploy space capabilities. This is one of the key "enablers" for ORS to meet its goal of developing a 6-day call-up to launch capability for rapid reconstitution and augmentation.

Thanks to all who made this mission successful for ORS. I'm looking forward to many more!

Very Respectfully,
Peter Wegner