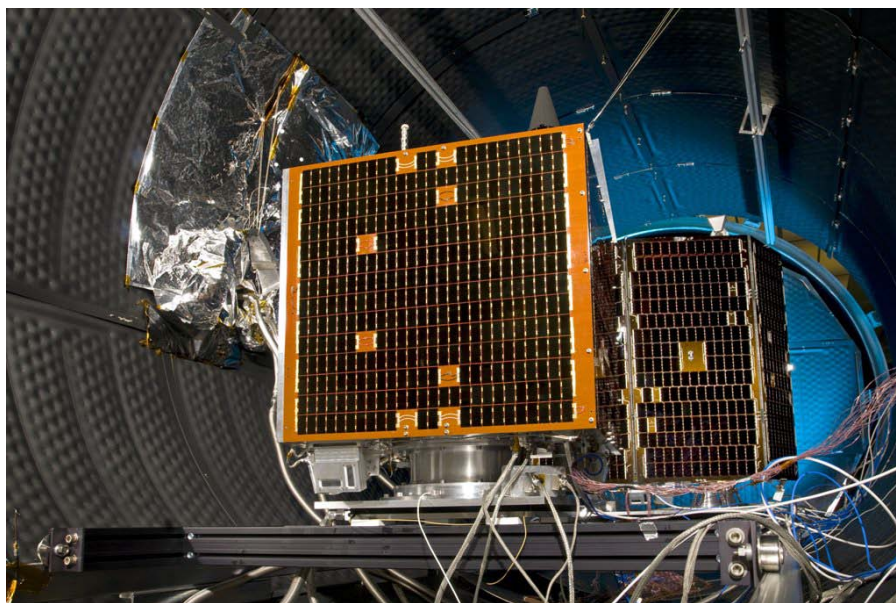


**Press Release**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Highly advanced NigeriaSat-2 small satellite launch date announced**

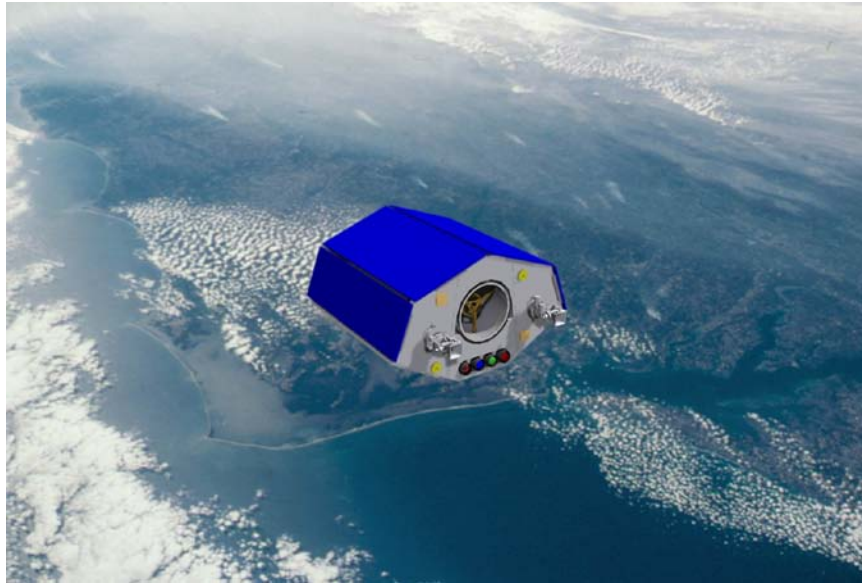
SSTL has today announced that it will launch the NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X satellites on behalf of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) by a Dnepr launch vehicle from Yasnny, Russia on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010. NigeriaSat-2 is the most advanced small satellite ever to be launched, defining new standards in Earth observation and avionics. The spacecraft, which is based upon SSTL's flagship SSTL-300i platform, will be used primarily for resource management and mapping of the Nigerian territory.



**NigeriaSat -2 and NigeriaSat-X under test**

Its mission objectives include providing high resolution maps of Nigeria every four months, monthly monitoring of Nigerian crops for food supply security, and supporting the development of the Nigerian national Geographical Information System (GIS) by providing high quality geospatial data.

The NigeriaSat-2 spacecraft utilises one of the most capable platforms in its class, which when combined with its two SSTL-built optical payloads provides highly capable and flexible multi-mode operation for spot imaging, strip imaging, area mode imaging and stereo mode imaging.



**Artists impression of NigeriaSat-2in orbit**

High resolution images are provided by SSTL's Very High Resolution Imager (VHRI). This sophisticated multispectral imaging payload was developed from the highly successful imager onboard Beijing-1. It provides 2.5m ground sample distance (GSD) panchromatic imagery and 5.0m GSD 4-band multi-spectral imagery at 20km swath widths. The satellite's wide area mapping capability comes from a 32m GSD 4 band Disaster Monitoring Constellation imager that has a very large 300km swath width and can capture up to 400 scenes per day.

The small satellite's imaging capability is further enhanced by the SSTL-300i satellite platform's avionics, allowing 45° roll/pitch off-pointing for high resolution spot imaging and also stereo mode imaging. Stereo mode imaging is an exciting new development that makes it possible to build digital terrain maps which include, for example, heights of buildings, hills and mountains - useful in the planning of wireless communications.

NigeriaSat-2 also features dual 105Mbps downlinks, which can also be operated as a 210 Mbps data connection for fast transfer of large images to either the SSTL or Nigerian groundstation. The new satellite can be controlled both directly from Nigeria and also from SSTL's groundstation to provide rapid imaging, with a typical 3-day turnaround from satellite tasking to GIS-ready images.



### **Nigerian trainee engineers work on NigeriaSat-NX**

The NigeriaSat-2 programme includes ground segment equipment and advanced training, and follows on from the successful NigeriaSat-1 programme to provide data continuity for end users.

NigeriaSat-X will be launched into the Disaster Monitoring Constellation, where it will assist with disaster relief and global environmental monitoring campaigns alongside satellites from other consortium members ASAL (Algeria), BLMIT (China), Deimos Space (Spain), and SSTL (UK).

Follow the launch progress on SSTL's Space Blog:

<http://blog.sstl.co.uk/plugin/tag/nigeriasat-2>

## **About SSTL**

Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) is the world's leading small satellite company, delivering operational space missions for a range of applications including Earth observation, science and communications. The Company designs, manufactures and operates high performance satellites and ground systems for a fraction of the price normally associated with space missions, with 300 staff working on turnkey satellite platforms, space-proven satellite subsystems and optical instruments.

Since 1981 SSTL has launched 34 satellites as well as providing training and development programmes, consultancy services, and mission studies for ESA, NASA and commercial customers, with its innovative approach that is changing the economics of space.

Based in Guildford, UK, SSTL is owned by EADS Astrium NV.

[www.sstl.co.uk](http://www.sstl.co.uk)

### **Notes to editor:**

This press release can be downloaded as a Word or Pdf document at the following url:

[http://www.sstl.co.uk/News\\_and\\_events/Latest\\_News](http://www.sstl.co.uk/News_and_events/Latest_News)

JPEG images available upon request:

- NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X under test
- Artists impression of NigeriaSat-2 in orbit
- Nigerian trainee engineers work on NigeriaSat-NX

A video animation showing the SSTL-300i platform operates is also available on the new SSTL YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/SSTLTV>

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