

The Changing Cast of Space Actors:

Internationalization, Commercialization and Democratization

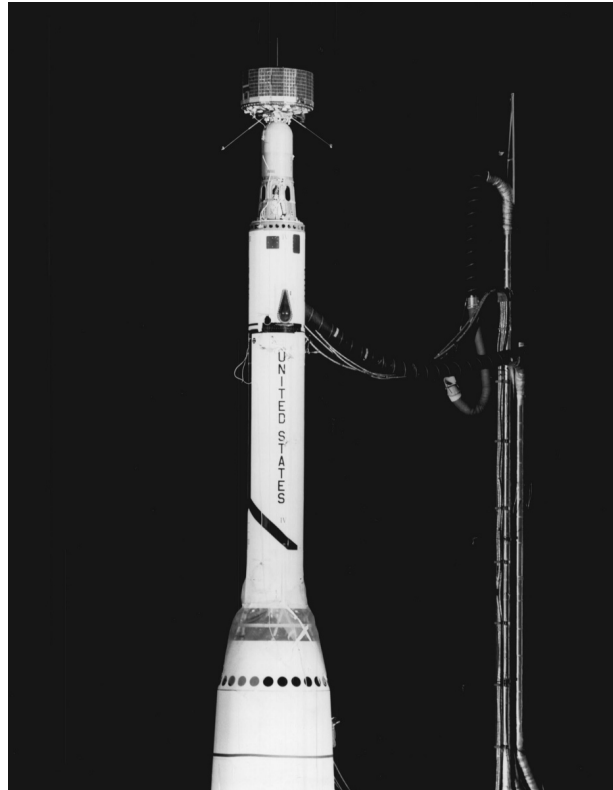
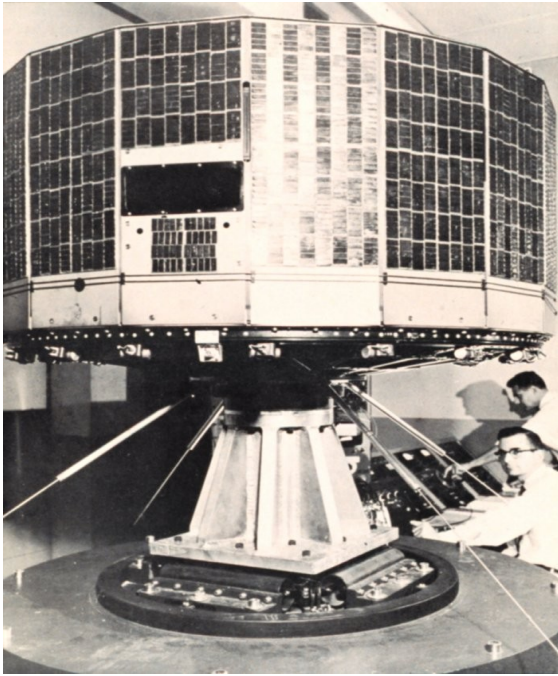
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Internationalization

# The 1960s – the superpower era in space



New Jersey-built satellite on California-built rocket orbited from Florida launch pad, mission control in Maryland



Tiros 1 - 1960

How things have changed..

Azersky satellite (2014)

Built in Stevenage (UK) and  
Toulouse (France)

Launch procured by French  
company on Indian rocket

Launch from Indian spaceport in  
Andhra Pradesh

Resold in orbit to Azerbaijan



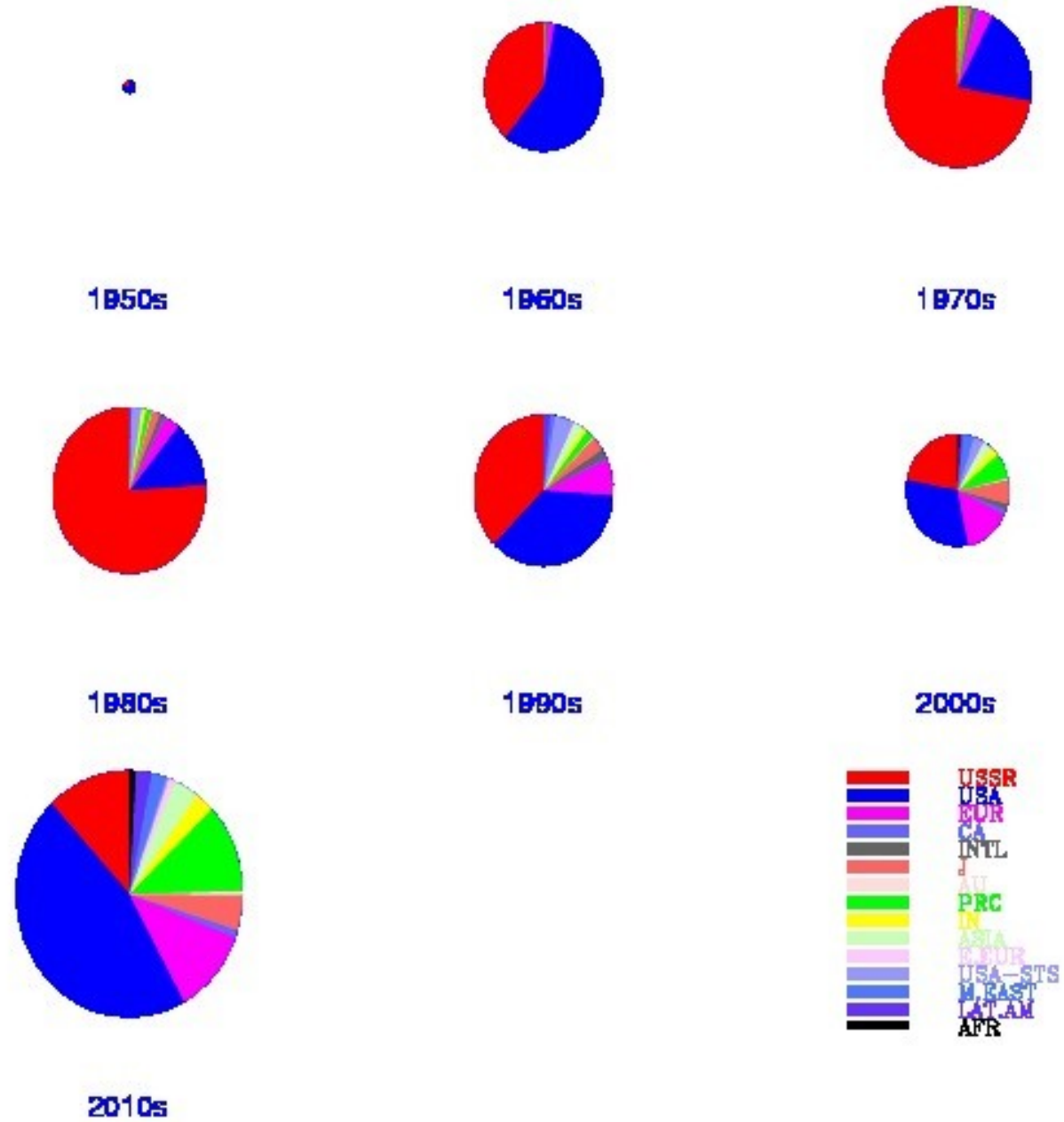
Steady increase in internationalization over the decades

Size of circles proportional to total number of sats launched

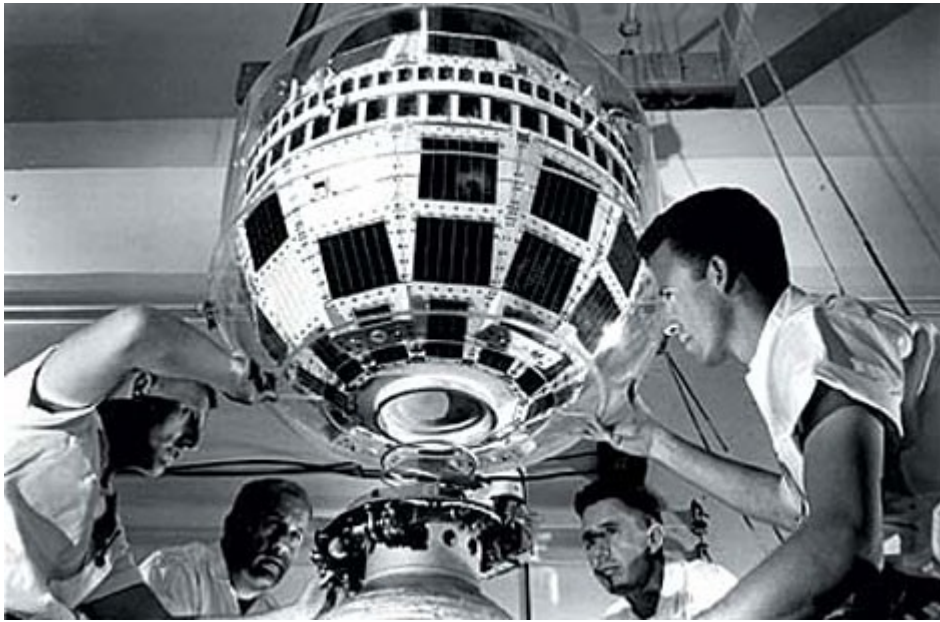
USSR dominated number in 1970s-1980s with lots of short lived sats, US had fewer long lived ones

US dominates now, partly due to lots of cubesats

### Satellite Owners



## Commercialization and globalization

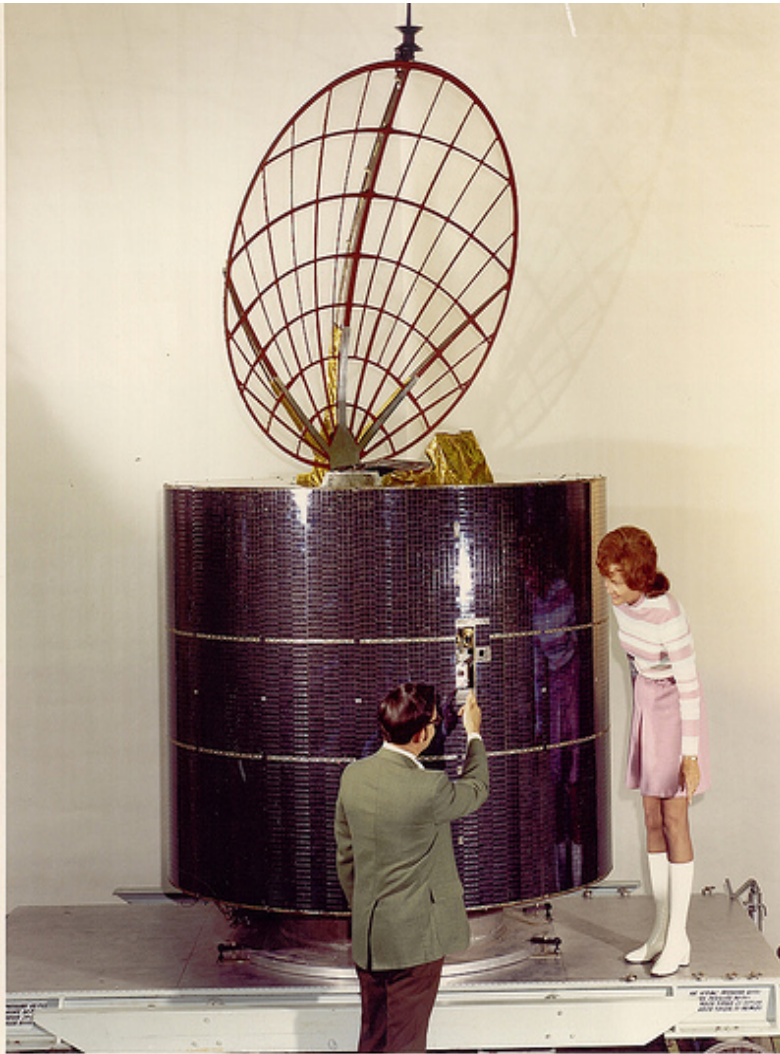


1939

1962-1963

Telstar 1 and 2 – AT&T funded the first commercial communications satellites and paid NASA to launch them

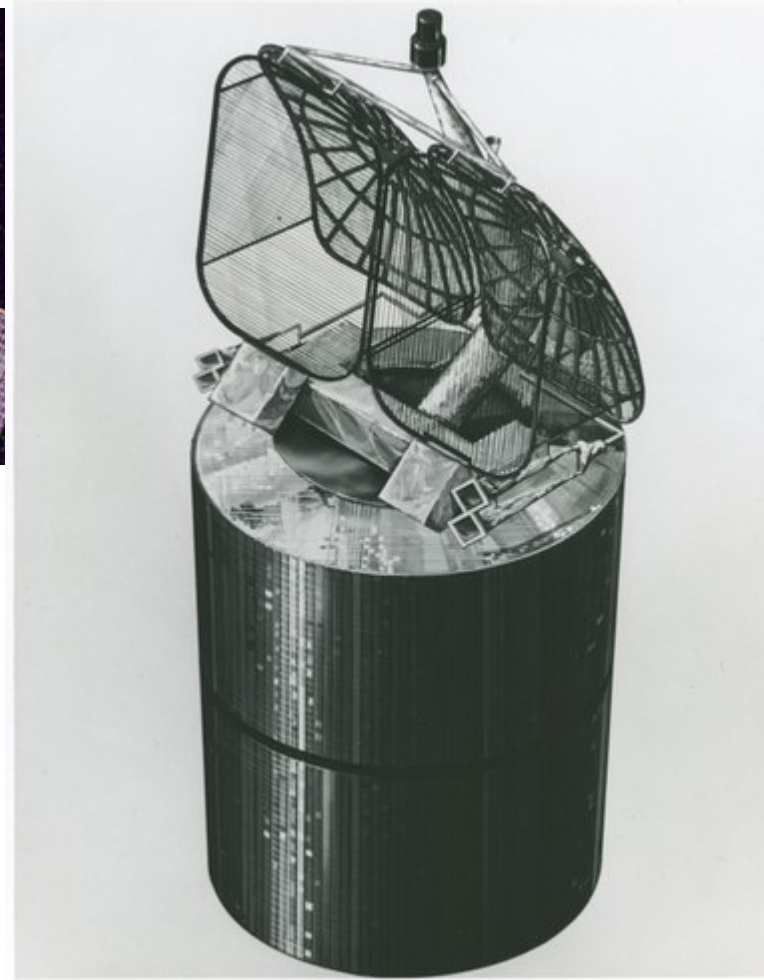
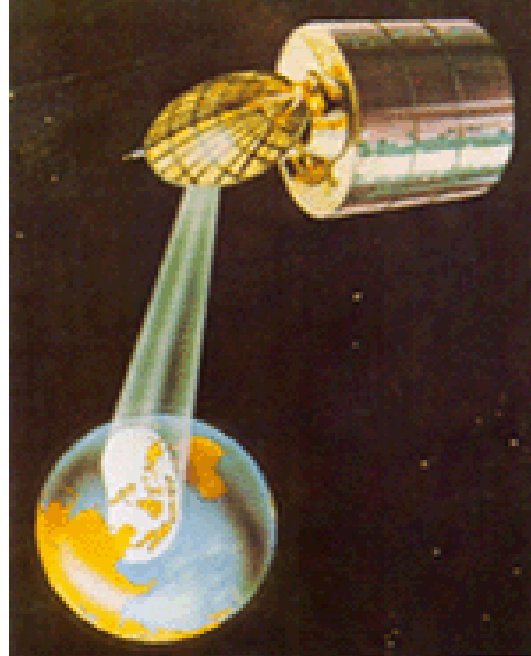
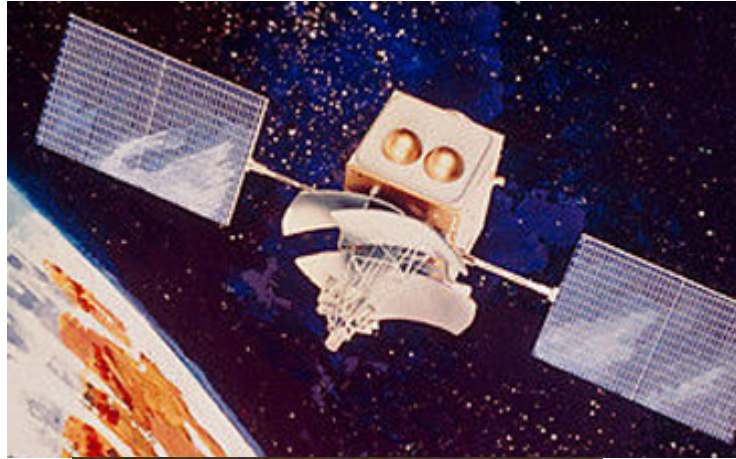
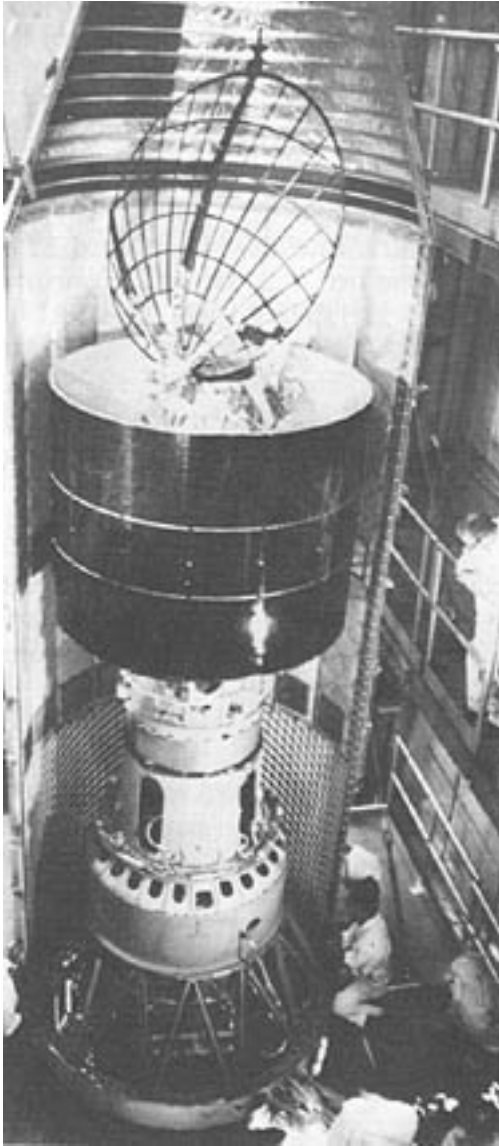




Telstar was not followed up – the next commercial satellite system had to wait for geostationary satellites to be mature.

In 1972 the Canadian company Telesat was established as a commercial enterprise by the Canadian government  
The `Anik' system was the first of a rush of first-generation commercial communications satellites built by Hughes and RCA





- 1974: Western Union's Westar
- 1975: RCA Globcom's Satcom
- 1976: Comsat General's Marisat and Comstar
- 1976: Perumtel of Indonesia's Palapa

Government precursors transition to fully commercial operations:

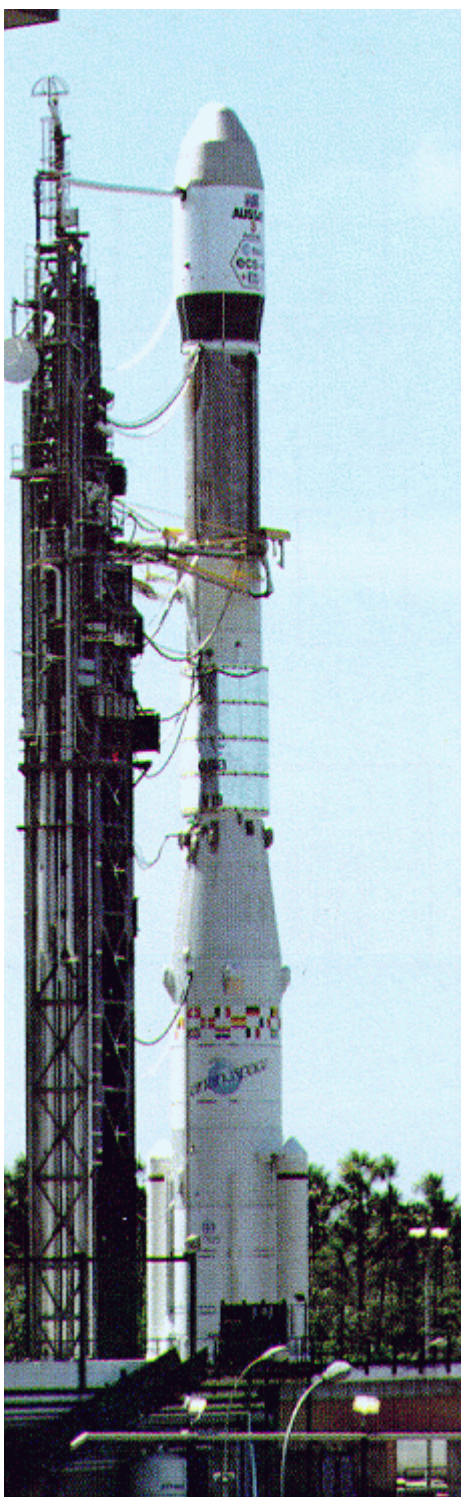
Communications satellites: 1970s to 1980s

Launch vehicles: 1980s to 1990s

Imaging satellites: 2000s

Microgravity satellites: 1990s, largely failed

Space station cargo delivery: 2010s, govt. only customer

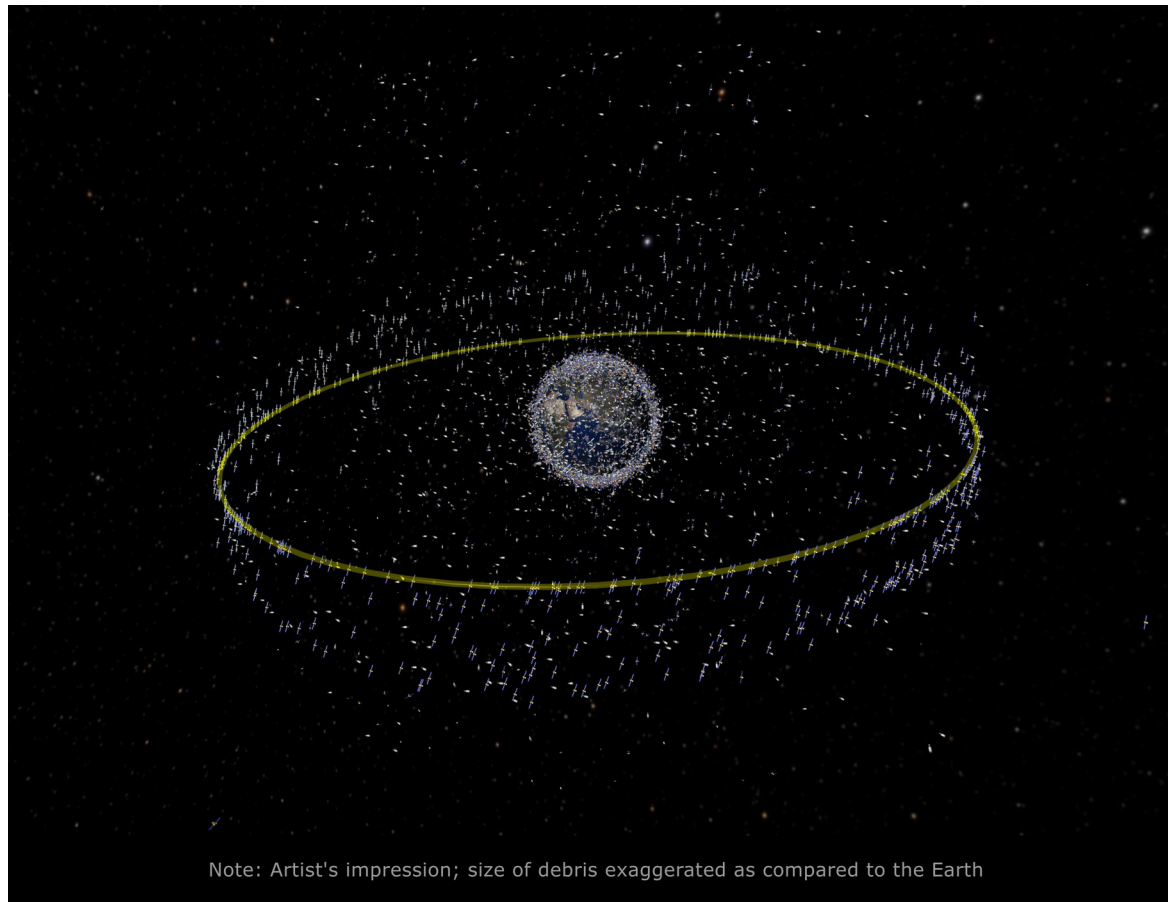


As of Sep 2018:

538 active geostationary satellites

307 (57%) of these are owned by commercial companies

A few big operators (44 Intelsat, 39 SES )



# With the globalization of corporations, space commercialization becomes space globalization

SES (Societe Europeene des Satellites)

- Based Luxembourg, 1985 (first satellite 1988)
- Absorbed RCA Americom (New Jersey) 2001  
(Absorbed GTE Spacenet 1994)
- Absorbed GE Capital (Gibraltar) 2001
- Absorbed Nordic Satellite (Stockholm) 2005
- Absorbed New Skies (The Hague) 2006  
(spun off from INTELSAT in 1998)
- Stake in Nahuelsat (Argentina), Quetzsat (Mexico)
- Former stake in Asiasat (Hong Kong) and Star One (Brazil), etc.

**As of 2018, 39 SES SATELLITES OPERATING IN GEO** – 7% of total

Activities in many countries; satellite control centers in US and Lux.

Which country do the SES satellites belong to?



**SES**  **ASTRA**  
An SES GLOBAL Company

Another effect of globalization and mergers:  
buying and selling satellites in space

1985: Satellite Business Systems sells 4 sats to MCI Corp

1992: BSkyB sells its two satellites to Telenor (Norway) and Sirius (Sweden)

– more sales here and there in 1990s, but in 2000s see whole in-orbit  
fleets change hands

2004 - 4 Loral Telstars become Intelsats

2006-2007 – 21 Panamsat satellites (PAS and Galaxy) sold to Intelsat

2006 - New Skies fleet sold to SES

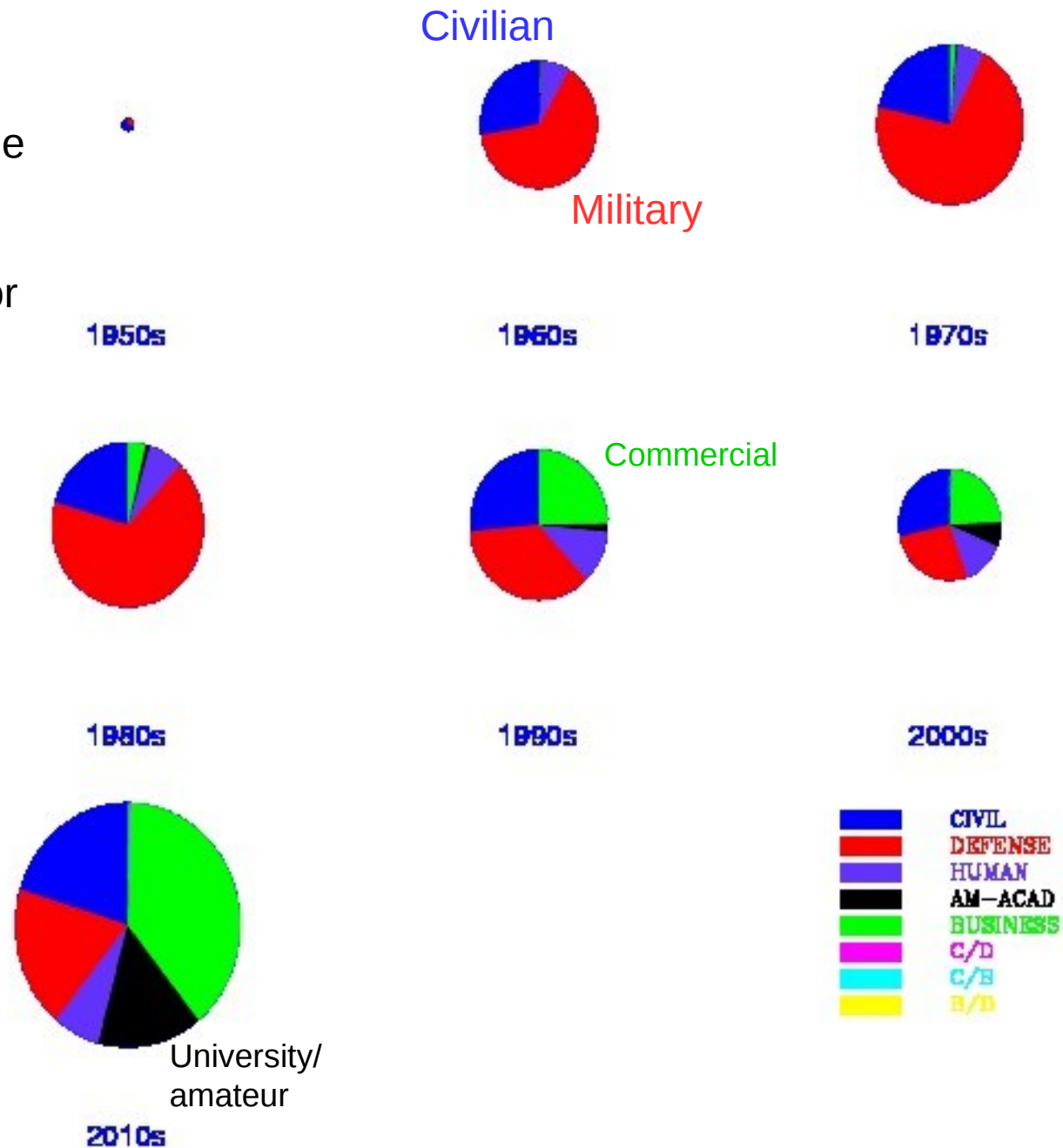


The defense sector (red) shrunk after the cold war

Commercial sector became important in 1990s

Non-profit sector is a factor starting in 2010s

### Satellite Classes



Democratization

# Surrey Satellite (1990s): Space for developing nations



Alsat (Algeria) 2002

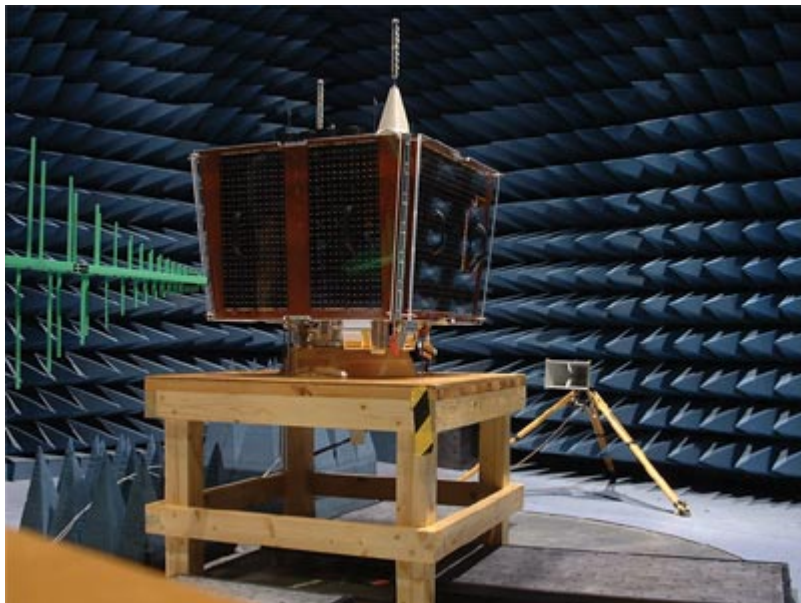


Tiungsat (Malaysia) 2000

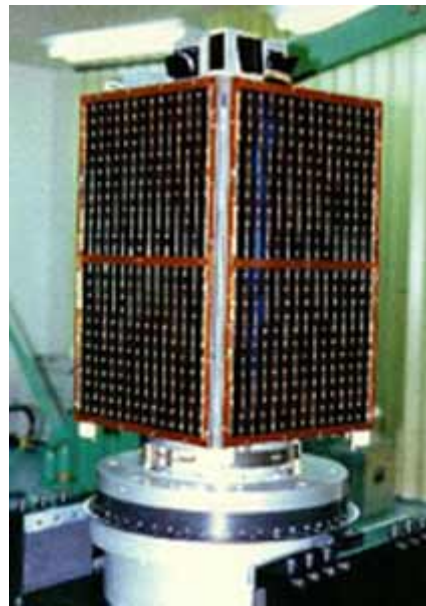


Fasat (Chile) 1998

Posat  
(Portugal)  
1993



Bilsat (Turkey) 2003



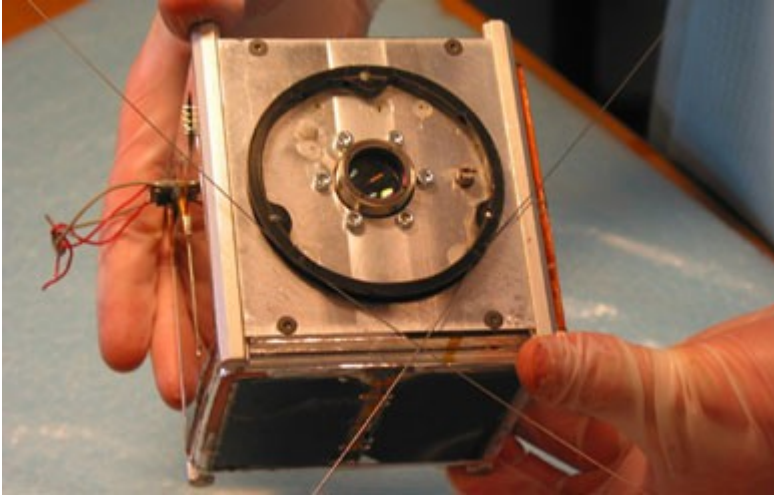
Uribyol  
S Korea 1992



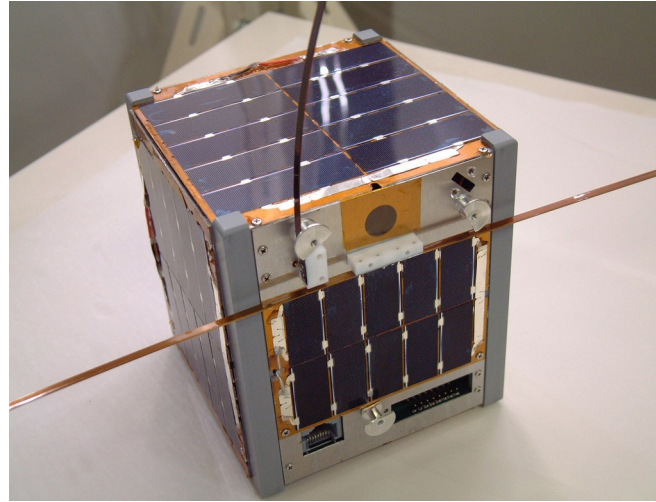
Nigeriasat-2 2011



Cubesats: 1 kg, 10 cm (2 lb, 4 in for the metric impaired)  
Standard kit for universities to make students build sats in engineering courses  
Can also make '3U' cuboids 30 x 10 cm  
97 Cubesats launched 2003-Feb 2013 by 66 organizations in 20 countries



Aalborg U. 2003



Univ. of Tokyo, 2003



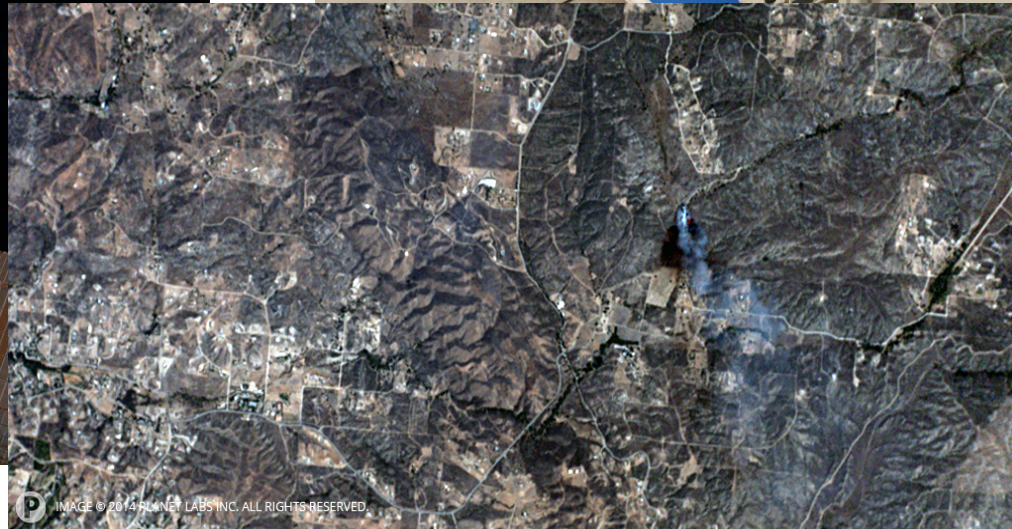
Cubesat deploy from ISS,  
2012



Triple-cube Quakesat, Stanford  
2003

## 2013: CUBESAT EXPLOSION!

99 Cubesats launched Jun 2003-Feb 2013 by 63 organizations in 20 countries  
120 Cubesats launched Mar 2013 – Feb 2014 by 57 organizations in 18 countries  
(Cumulative: 219 Cubesats by 108 orgs in 28 countries)

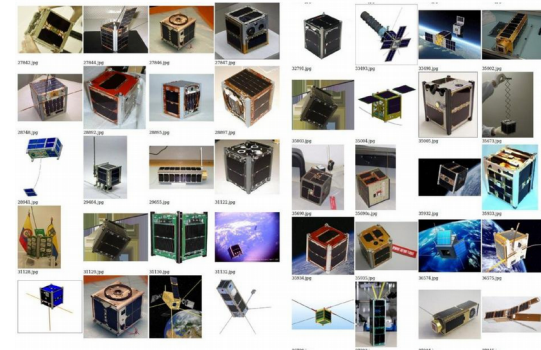
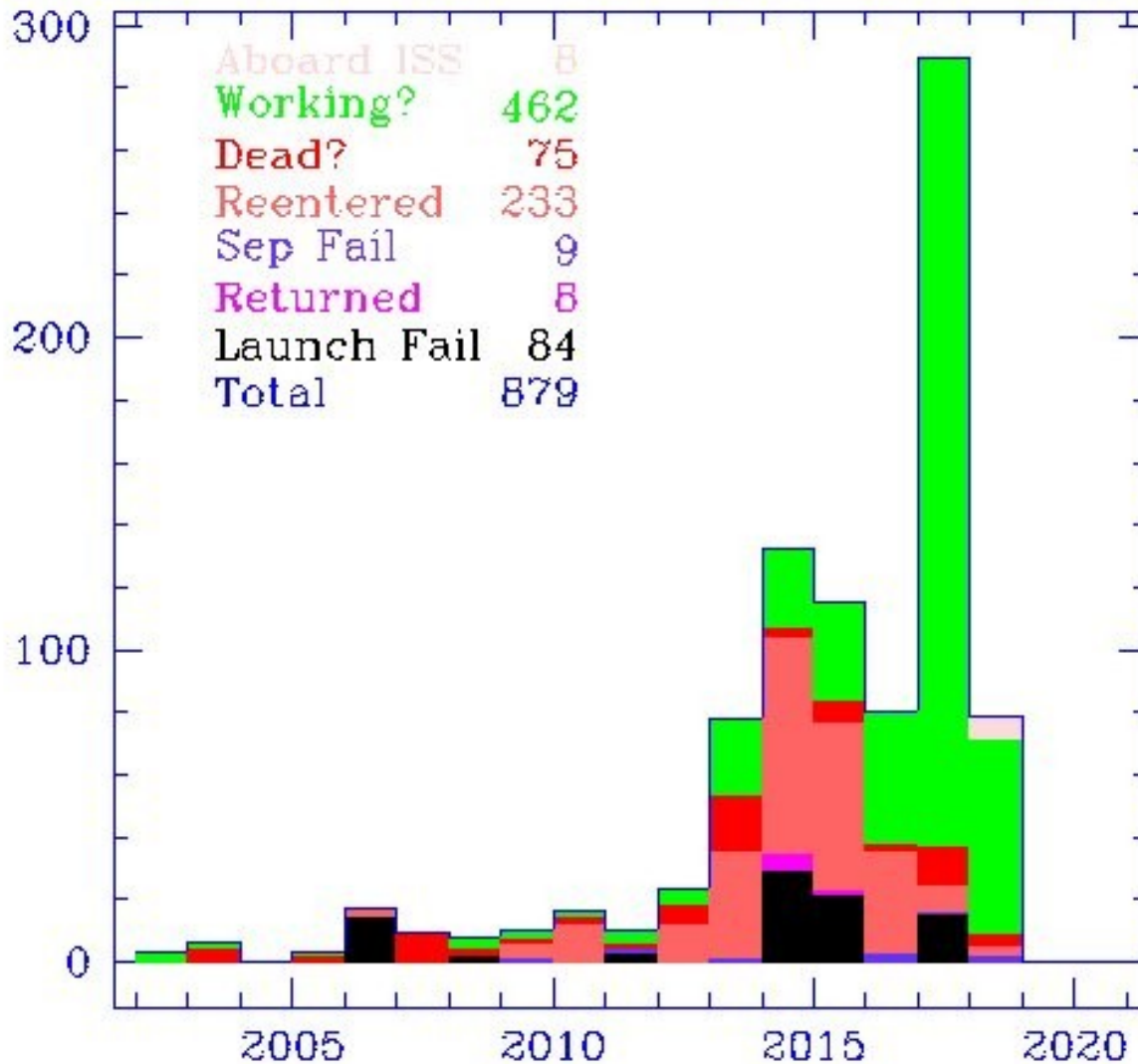


Chris, Will and Robbie left NASA to found PlanetLabs in a San Fran office building – 71 satellites launched since 2013, first big Cubesat constellation

# The Cubesat Explosion

<http://planet4589.org>

Cubesat statistics 2018 Sep



## TOTAL 57 COUNTRIES:

- USA 652
- Japan 32
- China 21
- Germany 14
- S Korea, Russia 13
- Denmark 11
- UK 10
- Italy, Singapore 7
- Canada 6
- Netherlands, Spain, France, Turkey 5
- Belgium, India, Australia, Israel 4
- Brazil, Norway, Peru, Lithuania, S Africa 3
- Switzerland, Vietnam, Ukraine, Ecuador, Argentina, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Greece, Sweden 2
- Kazakhstan, Emirates, Uruguay, UAE, Algeria, Poland, Pakistan, Colombia, Romania, Hungary, Estonia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Bhutan, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Phillipines, Pakistan, Poland, Slovakia, Taiwan 1

Includes 33 startup commercial companies