

Spaceflight's SSO-A: SmallSat Express Mission

Spaceflight's SSO-A mission is the largest single rideshare mission from a U.S.-based launch vehicle to date. The company has contracted with 34 different organizations to launch 64 spacecraft from a SpaceX Falcon 9 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The mission, named SSO-A: SmallSat Express, signifies the company's first dedicated rideshare mission to a Sun-Synchronous Low Earth Orbit. It also represents the company's purchase of an entire Falcon 9 to

accommodate the growing number of domestic, international, government and commercial customers seeking affordable rideshare options to launch their spacecraft into orbit.

SSO-A includes 15 microsats and 49 cubesats from commercial and government entities including universities, startups, even a middle school. The payloads, which vary from technology demonstrations and imaging satellites to educational research endeavors, are from 17 countries including the U.S., Australia, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, UK, Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Poland, Canada, Brazil and India.



With the majority of the spacecraft being integrated in Spaceflight's Auburn, Wash.-facility, the stack is one of the most complex and intricate endeavors the company has undertaken. The smallsats will be integrated with a variety of dispensers and avionics to an upper free flyer and lower free flyer. Spaceflight is handling all the mission management planning, engineering, integration, mission assurance and system engineering processes, regulatory and policy procedures, contracting, and business development for the mission.

A few notable customers include University of North Carolina-Wilmington, NovaWurks, Ghalam, Helios Wire / Sirion Global, King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB), Astrocast, Honeywell Aerospace, HawkEye 360, Nevada Museum of Art, Fleet Space Technologies, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Audacy, Capella Space Corporation, BlackSky, University of Colorado Boulder Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, and many others.