

SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND

Launch Media Release



SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND
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Space Systems Command launches EWS Cubesat technical demonstration

Summary: Space Systems Command's Electro-Optical/Infrared Weather Systems cubesat technical demonstration successfully launched onboard SpaceX's Transporter-10 smallsat rideshare mission. This one-year EWS cubesat technical demonstration will prove out emerging space-based EO/IR radiometric imaging technology, using a smaller sensor, to provide timely weather imagery data from low Earth orbit.

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – On March 4, Space Systems Command (SSC) launched its Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Weather Systems (EWS) cubesat technical demonstration onboard SpaceX's Transporter-10 smallsat rideshare mission from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

This one-year EWS cubesat technical demonstration will prove out emerging space-based EO/IR radiometric imaging technology, using a smaller sensor, to provide timely weather imagery data from low Earth orbit (LEO).

"The EWS cubesat technical demonstration effort represents SSC's continued commitment to working with non-traditional partners to broaden the competitive industrial base while fostering potential groundbreaking solutions," said Lt. Col. Joe Maguadog, EWS materiel leader and program manager. "If successful, this will provide an innovative option to deliver Space-Based Environmental Monitoring data that we are eager to evaluate and is critical to enabling our forces deployed around the world to plan and execute in-theater joint operations. This demonstration will inform our transition toward a more affordable, scalable, and resilient EO/IR weather constellation."

In June 2020, the EWS program competitively selected Orion Space Solutions (OSS), a non-traditional government contractor, to deliver the cubesat for this demonstration. This mission rapidly reconstituted the previous EWS cubesat technology demonstration prototype capability, which experienced an on-orbit separation anomaly January 2023. The United States Space Force (USSF), working closely with OSS, were able to award a new contract in less than 30 days, and developed another satellite in just 10 months.

“Our SSC and industry teams are structured to drive speed and resilience through collaboration,” Maguadog stated. “We have the ability to go beyond developing innovative engineering solutions; we are also finding novel acquisition approaches, especially when we experience unplanned events. This is one of our competitive advantages in the race to resilience.”

Space Systems Command is the U.S. Space Force’s field command responsible for acquiring, developing, and delivering resilient capabilities to protect our nation’s strategic advantage in, from, and to space. SSC manages a \$15.6 billion space acquisition budget for the Department of Defense and works in partnership with joint forces, industry, government agencies, academic and allied organizations to outpace emerging threats. Our actions today are making the world a better space for tomorrow.

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Media representatives can submit questions for response regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to SSCpa.media@spaceforce.mil



Space Systems Command’s Electro-Optical/Infrared Weather Systems cubesat and the EWS operational flow are displayed in an information graphic. This one-year EWS cubesat technical demonstration will prove out emerging space-based EO/IR radiometric imaging technology, using a smaller sensor, to provide timely weather imagery data from low Earth orbit. (U.S. Space Force graphic by Space Systems Command)