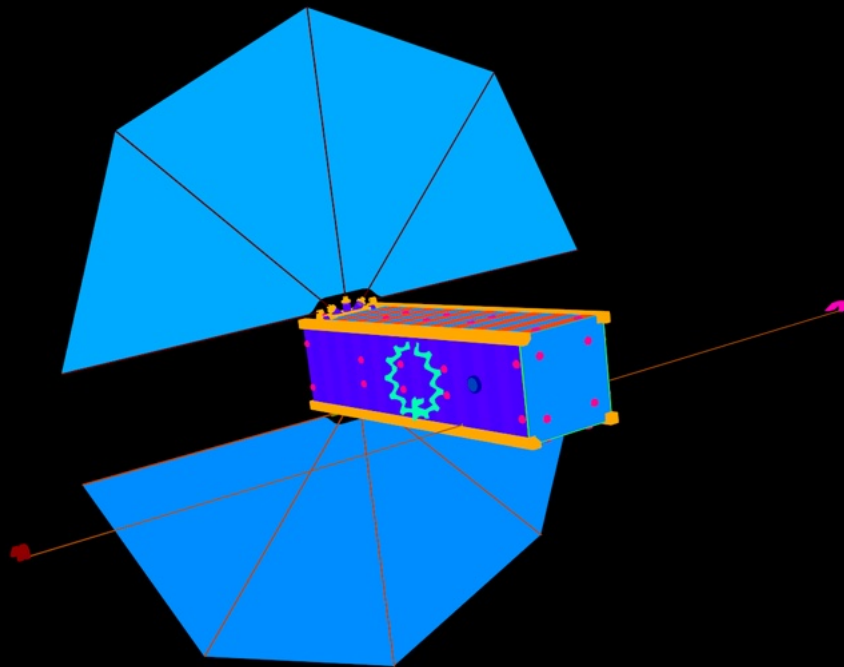


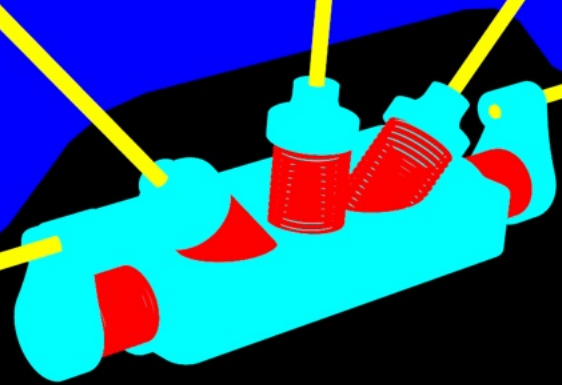
\$3UDNIC

A 3U cubesat built on a budget, in a year



Generously supported by NASA Rhode Island Space Grant, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche di Italia, and Brown University

Build a 3U satellite from less than \$10k USD of off-the-shelf parts in as little time as possible. It should transmit images from polar orbit and it should be able to de-orbit itself in less than a year.

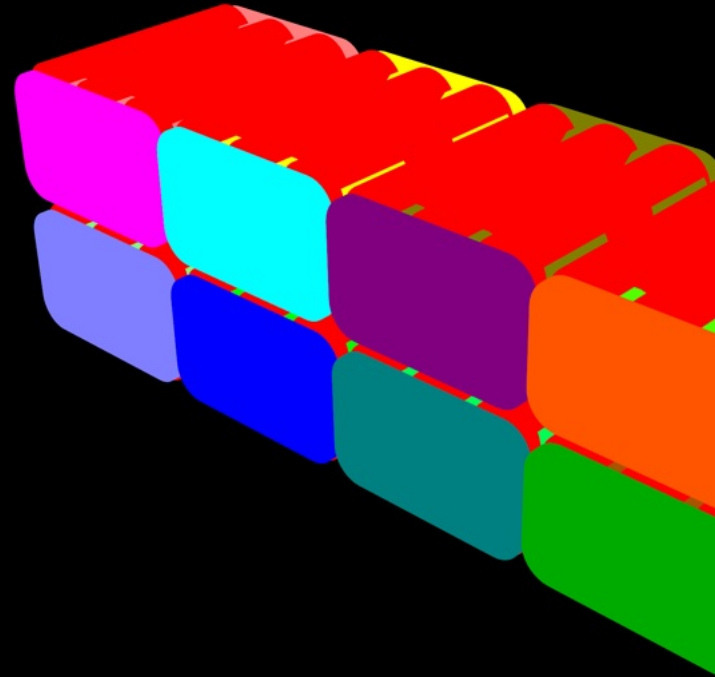


SBUDNIC's team is entirely composed of and led by undergraduate and Master's degree students from Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design.

The project began in an advanced engineering class, "ENGN1760: Design of Space Systems", taught by Dr. Rick Fleeter.

Our academic concentrations range from sculpture to theoretical physics.

We are diverse by design.

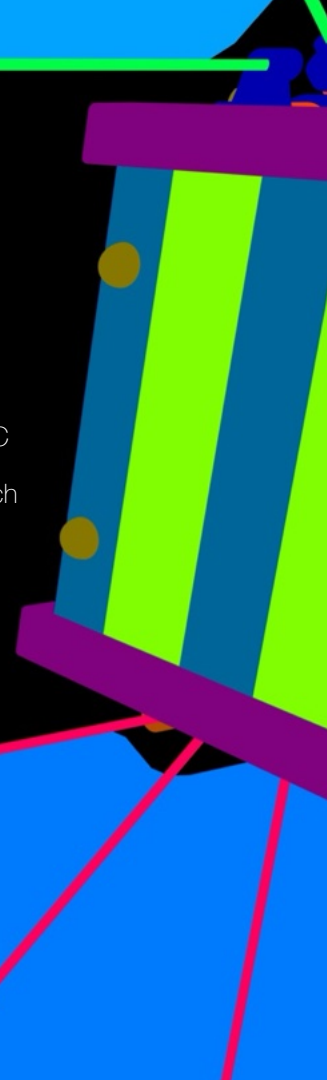
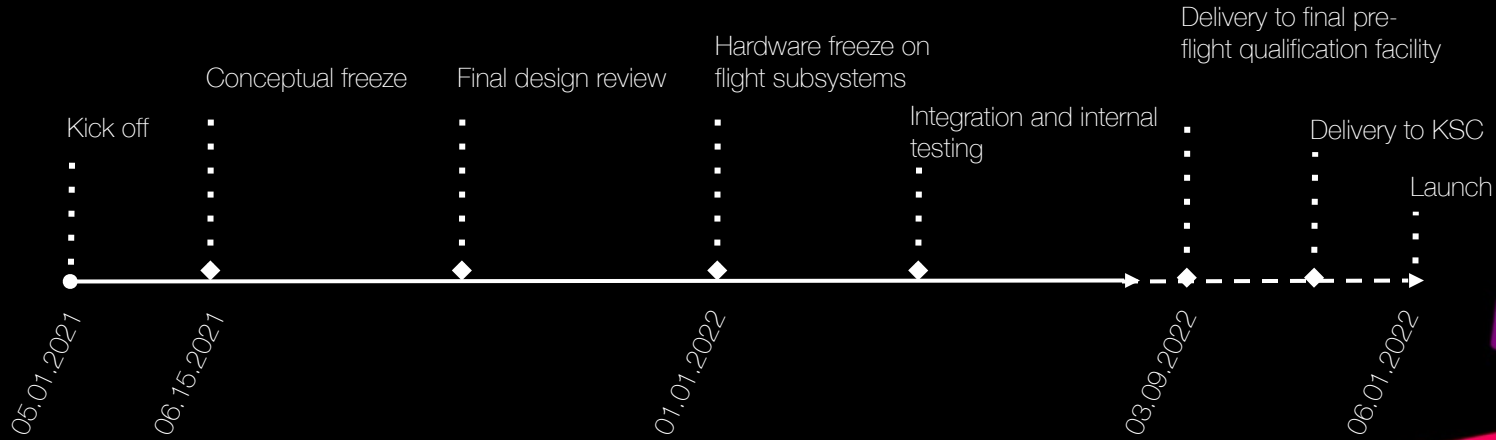




Planning

Building

Delivery + Mission



Program Funding Totals

NASA RISG	\$12,000
CNR	\$13,000
Brown UFB	\$10,000 travel allocation
D-Orbit	In-kind launch

Projected Final Costs

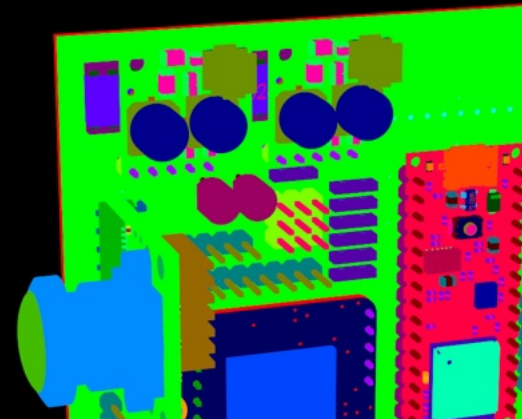
Projected Final Flight Hardware Cost	\$6,210
Projected Final R&D/Program Cost	\$10,100

Breakdown: Flight Hardware

Custom chassis	\$4,000
Onboard computer	\$150
Radio and telemetry	\$50
Thermal panelling	\$225
Attitude control system	\$140
Core	\$500
Assorted structural hardware	\$375
Power system	\$770

Breakdown: Projected R&D/Program Spend

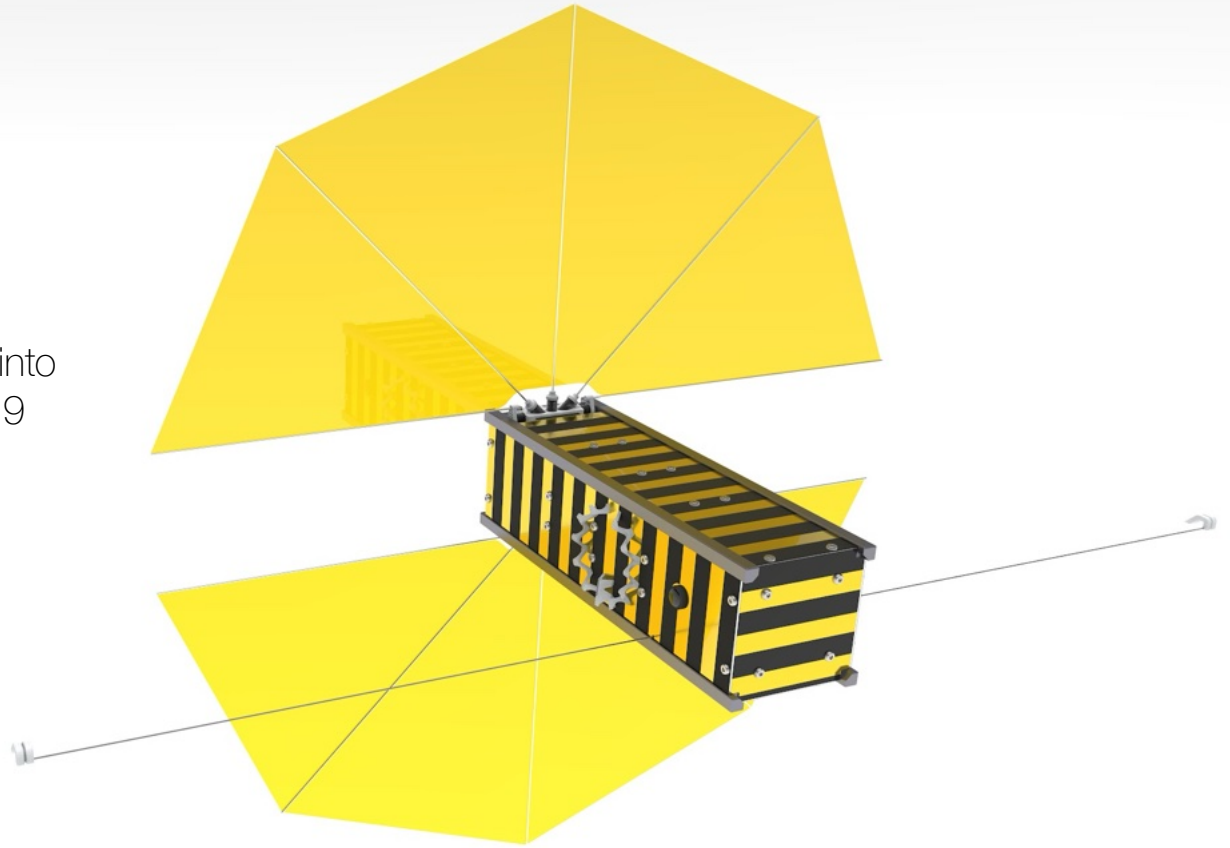
Hardware	\$5,000
Raw materials	\$1,275
Logistics	\$325
Marketing	\$750
Ground station	\$2,750



* all figures quoted in USD

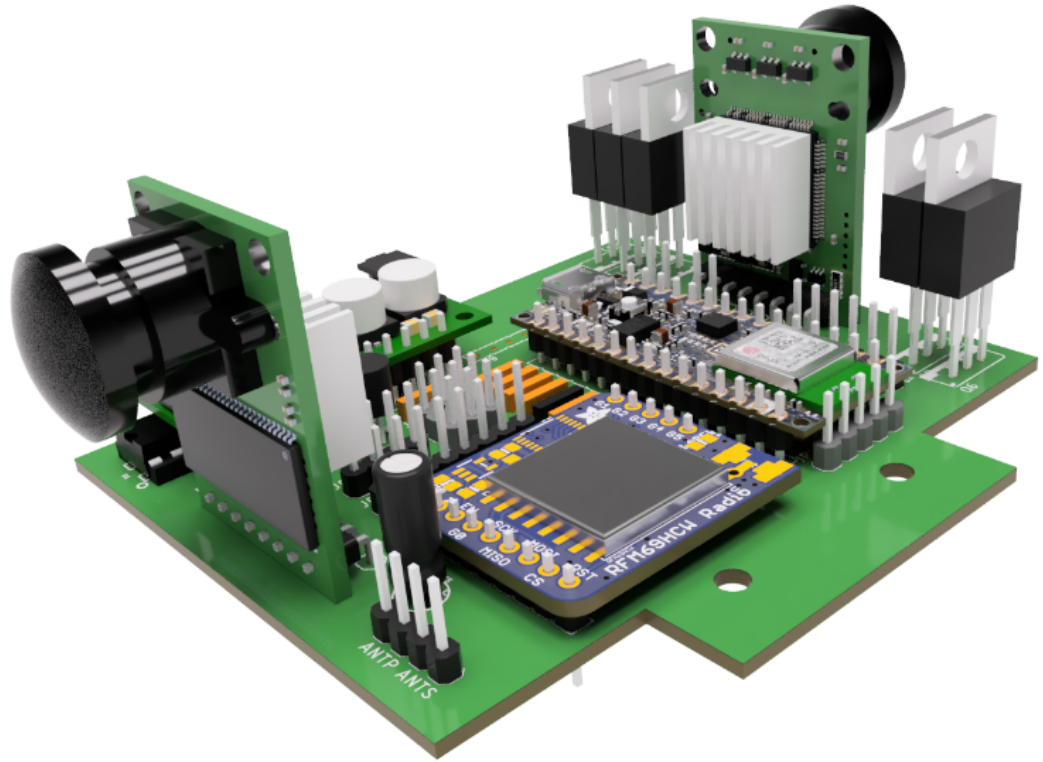
** more money spend on miscellaneous items, travel, and incidentals

This is SBUDNIC. It was shot into space aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 in late May of 2021 aboard the Transporter 5 mission to a **550 kilometer polar orbit.**



Our software is written using several **open source** Arduino libraries. A **watchdog timer** adds radiation safety.

The custom PCB utilizes a stock **Arduino Nano 33 BLE**, an **RFM96 ham radio transceiver** broadcasting at 435 MHz, and two **ArduCAM fisheye cameras**.



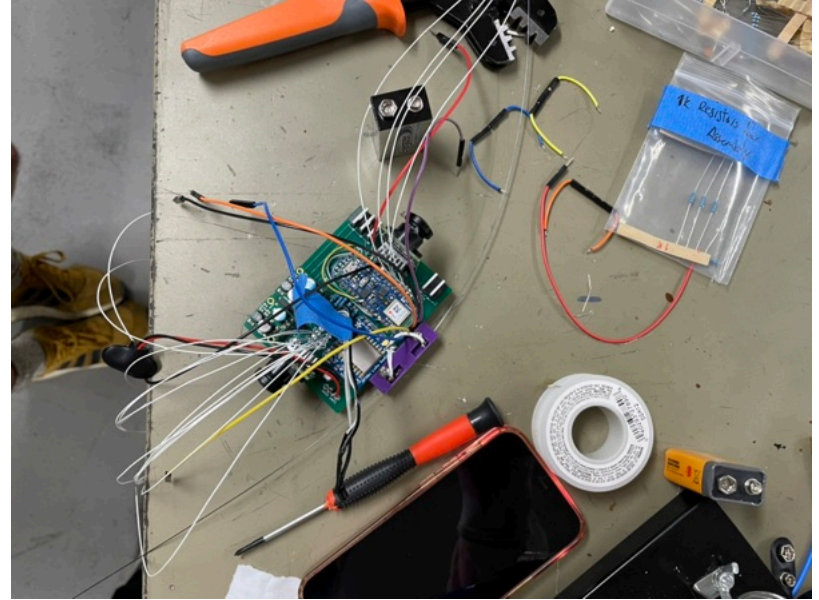
The RFM96 broadcasts a **1.2 kbps bitstream at 100 mW/20 dBm** using **LoRa and AFSK protocols**.

LoRa is a **low-power chirp spread spectrum** modulation technique that is widely supported by **TinyGS**, which is a distributed open-source ground station network.

SBUDNIC's LoRa implementation operates within a **125 kHz bandwidth** with a **spreading factor of 9**.

SBUDNIC's AFSK implementation has a **frequency deviation of 5 kHz**, a **receiver bandwidth of 125 kHz**, and a **16-bit preamble**.



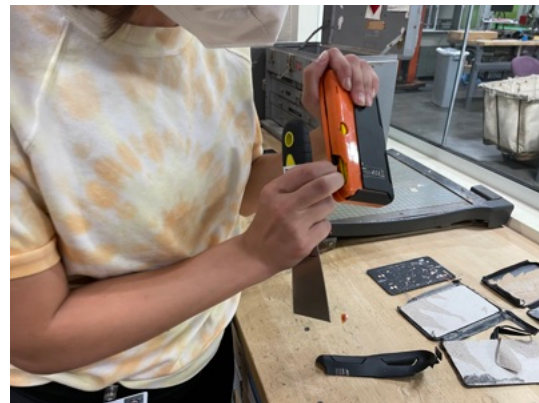
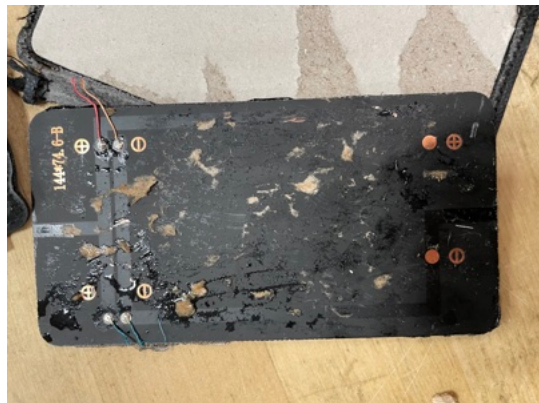




To avoid the complexity and expense of space-grade solar cells, SBUDNIC is powered by **48 Energizer AA lithium primary cell batteries** arranged in a series-parallel array. The array generates 9 volts and is then down-regulated before powering the Arduino and other components.

This pack results in an active mission life of **6-7 months**.



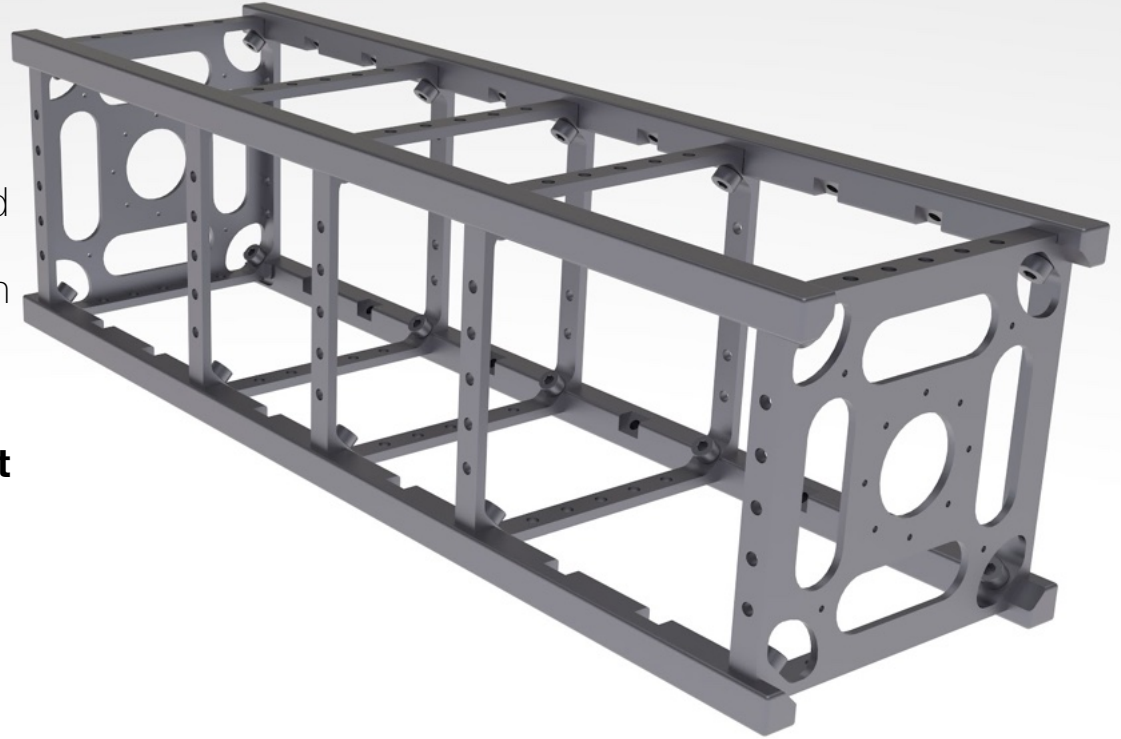


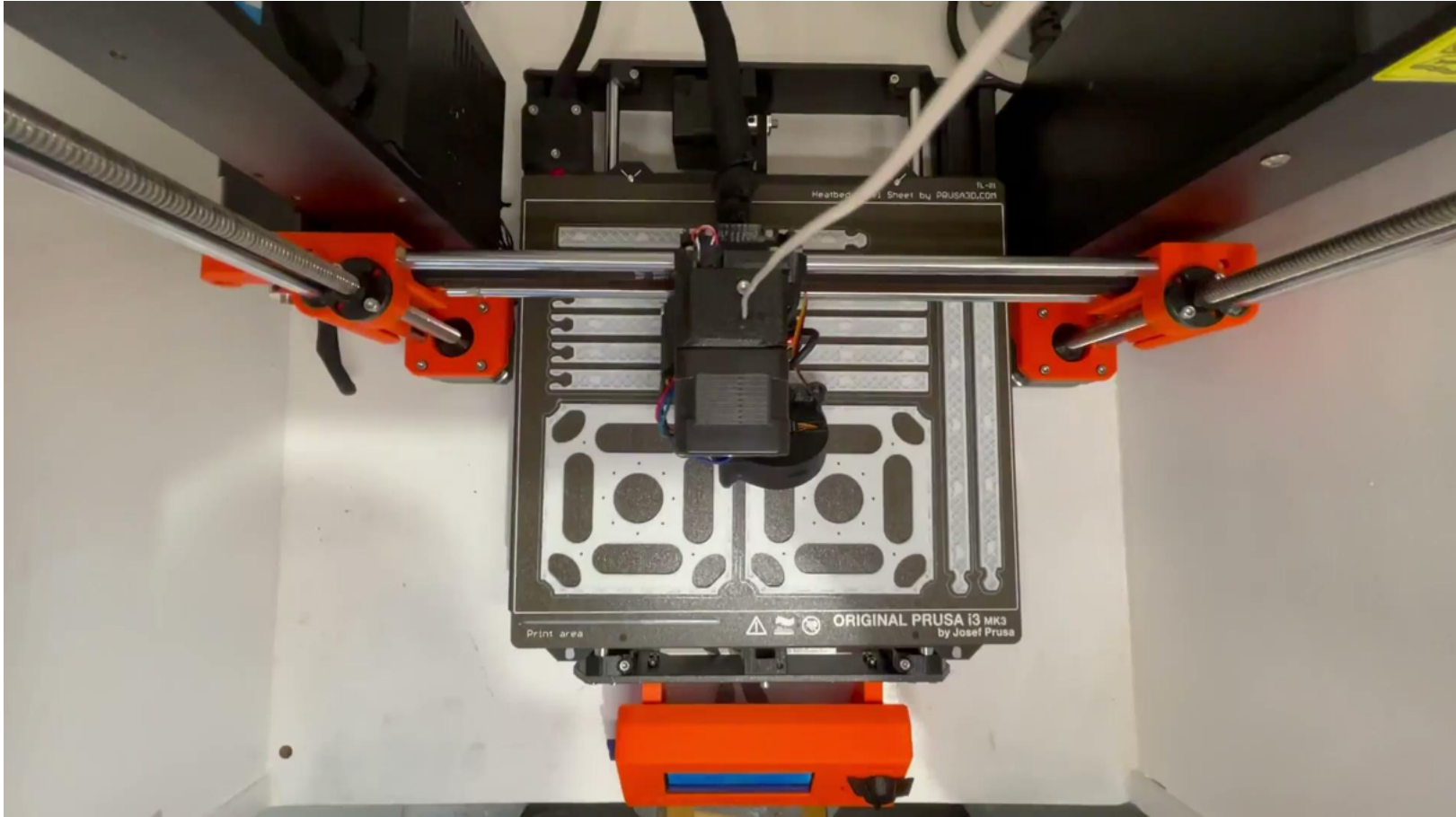
Haley and Cameron with the EPS-side of the core, prior to potting.



Our modular 3U chassis is **custom designed** and machined out of Al-7075 to a **tolerance of +/- .1 millimeters** over the length of the hard anodized rail.

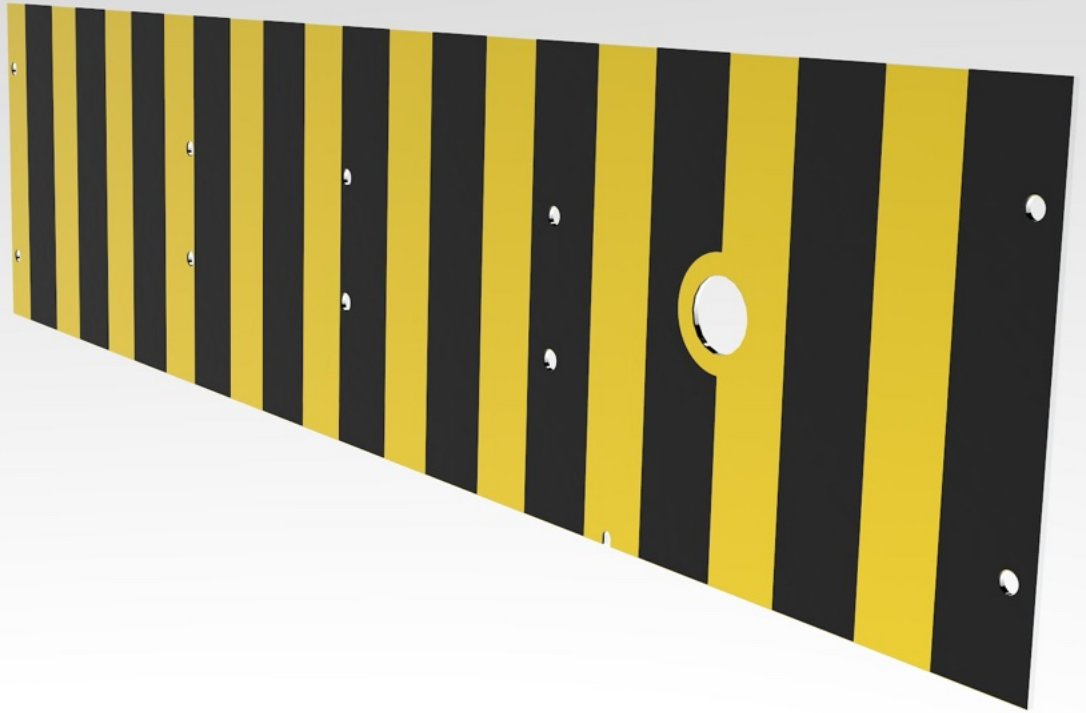
The chassis has been subjected to both **extensive finite element analysis and physical testing**. Like all of SBUDNIC's engineering, the chassis design will be published publicly after launch.







SBUDNIC operates as a **single thermal unit**. The satellite's panels are coated in **alternating stripes of highly emissive Kapton and highly absorptive epoxy**. The Kapton-to-epoxy ratio is precisely calculated to achieve optimal thermoregulation and an **equilibrium of 40 degrees Celcius**.



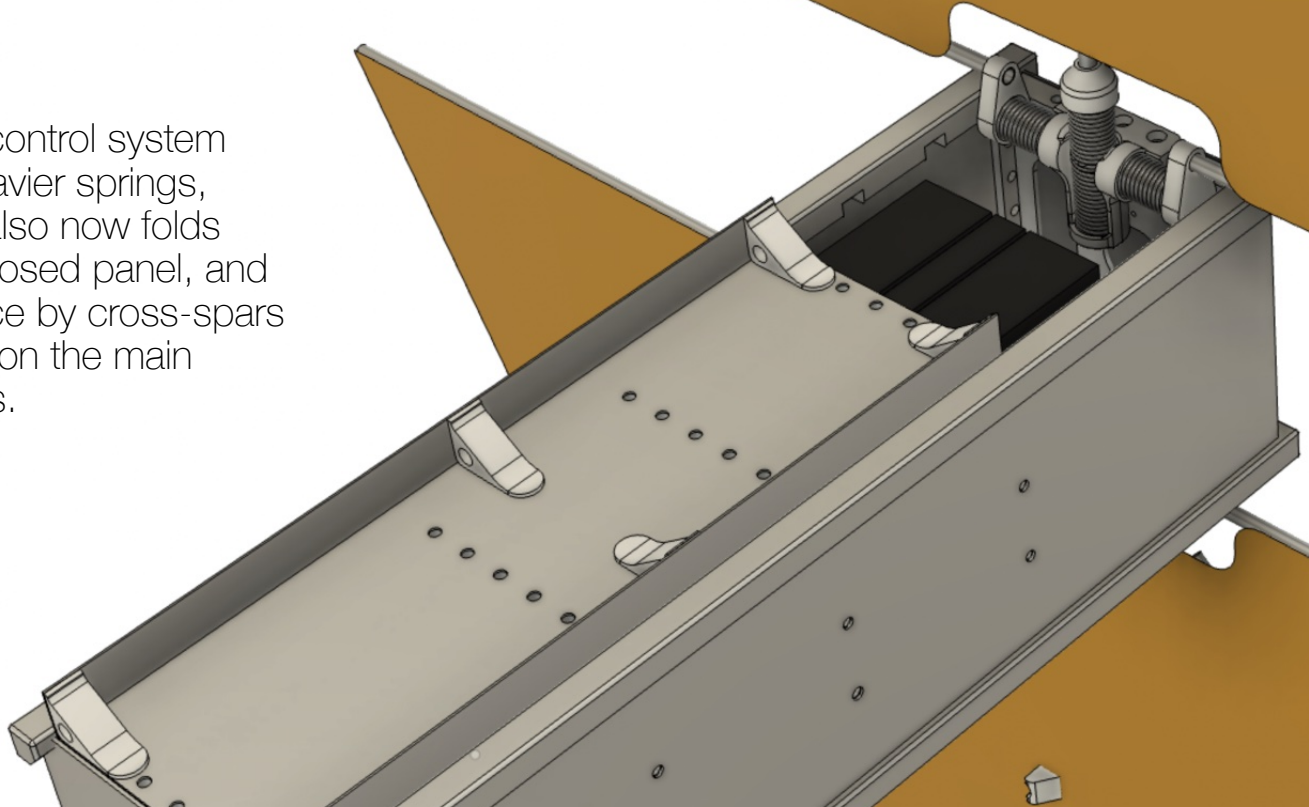




The attitude control system is composed of two Kapton sails mounted on spring-loaded aluminum spars. The sails serve to stabilize the satellite, and to provide enough drag to **pull the satellite out of orbit after approximately 6.5 years.** This decay is **66% faster than a comparable mass** at the same altitude with no drag system.



The final attitude control system relies on three heavier springs, instead of five. It also now folds down into an enclosed panel, and is pinned into place by cross-spars that are mounted on the main aluminum uprights.





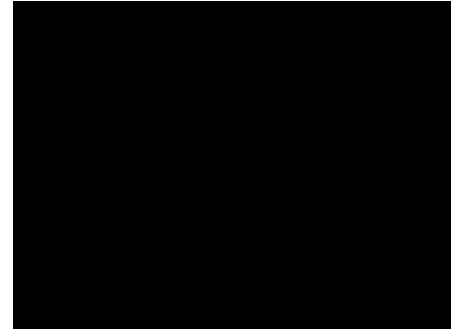
An initial prototype of the drag device, using hard panels.



A midstage prototype, using a Mylar sail.

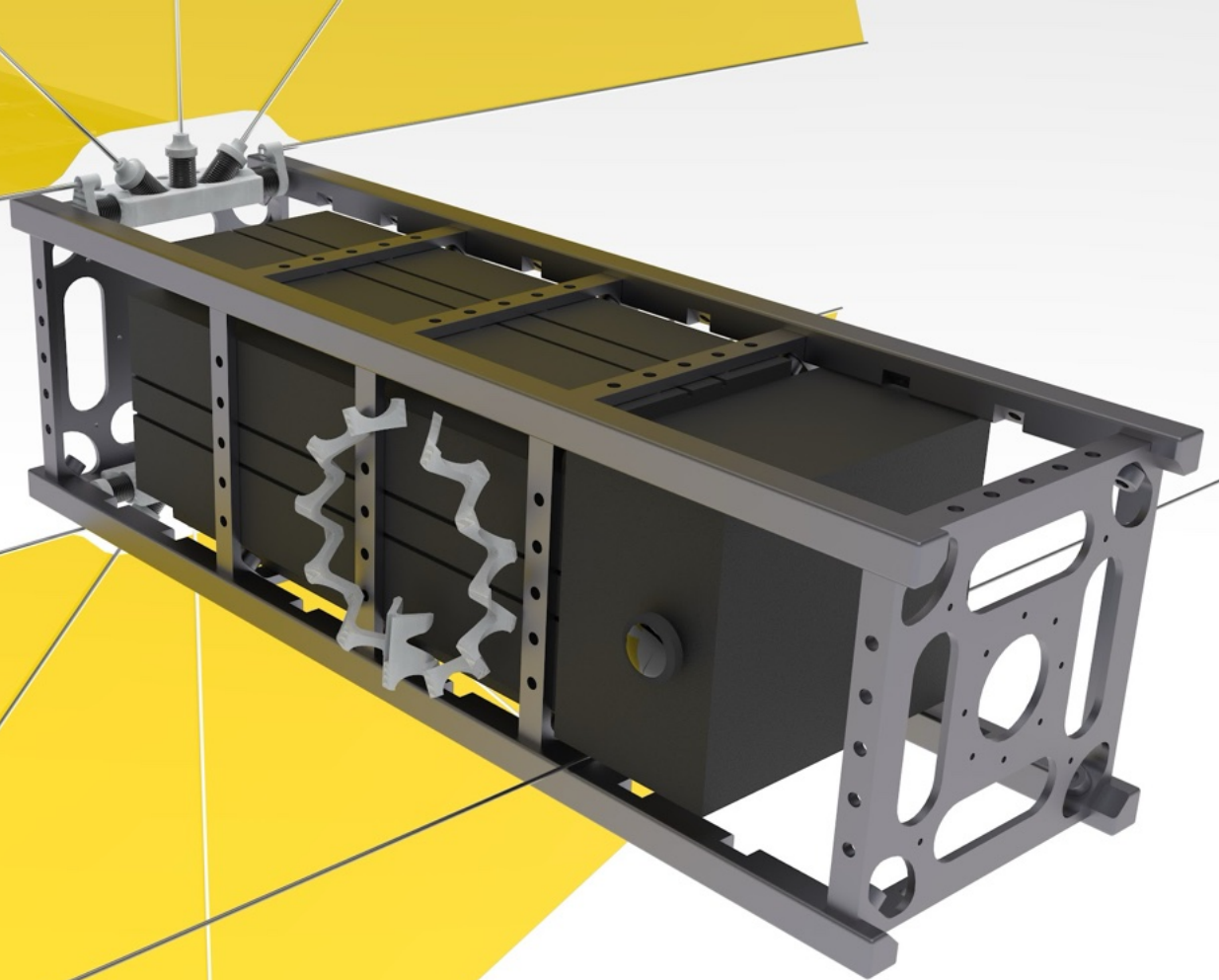


A near-final late stage prototype using a Kapton sail.

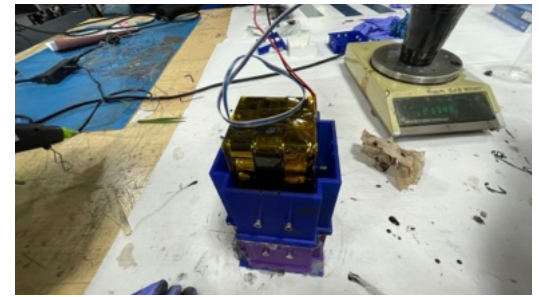


Our attitude control system and antenna are both spring loaded, and **deployed after orbital insertion by a nichrome/monofilament release system.**

The core of the satellite is **composed of an outgas-safe, thermally conductive epoxy** which protects the off-the-shelf components that power SBUDNIC from the space environment.



The first core (of five iterative copies we produced) undergoing potting.

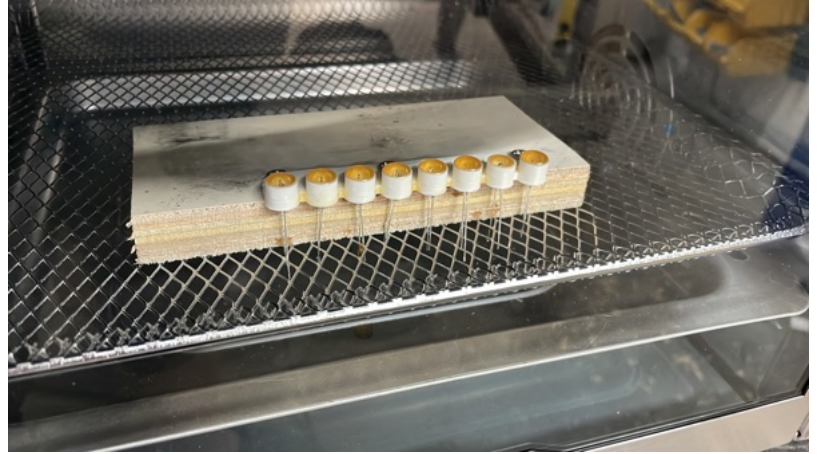
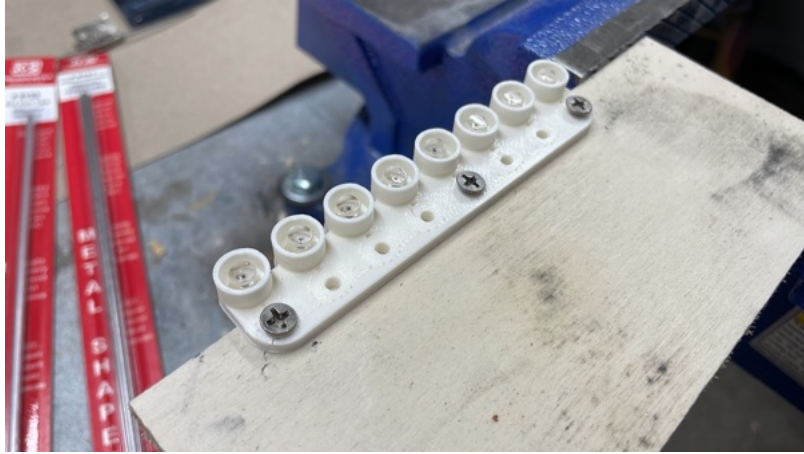


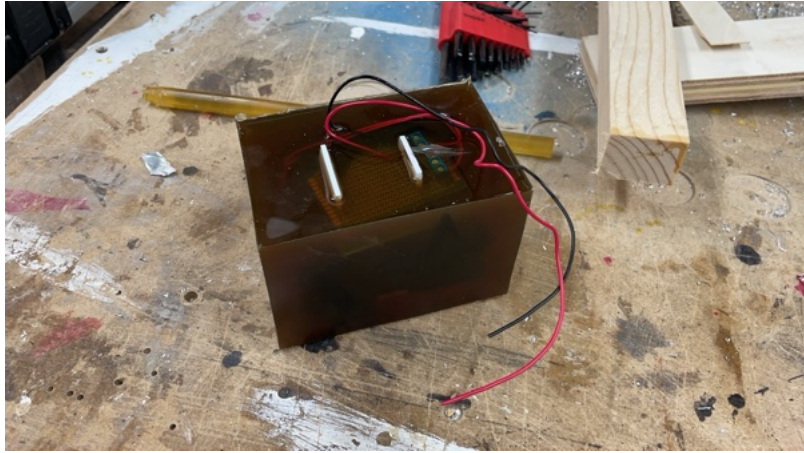
Finding a potting-compound-compatible adhesive sealant was actually more difficult than completing the actual potting procedure. We encountered this issue for the remainder of the program.



An early power test on the nichrome monofilament release system.





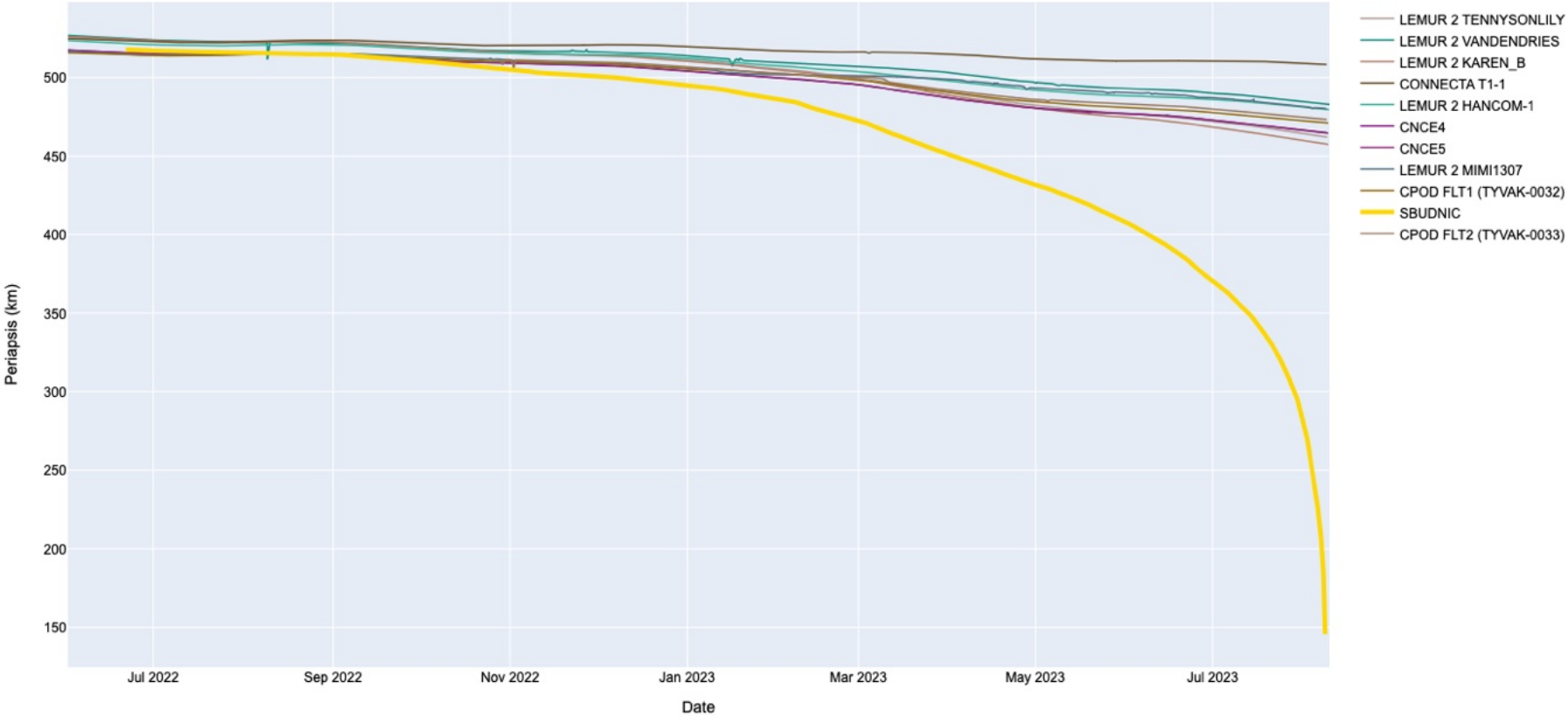








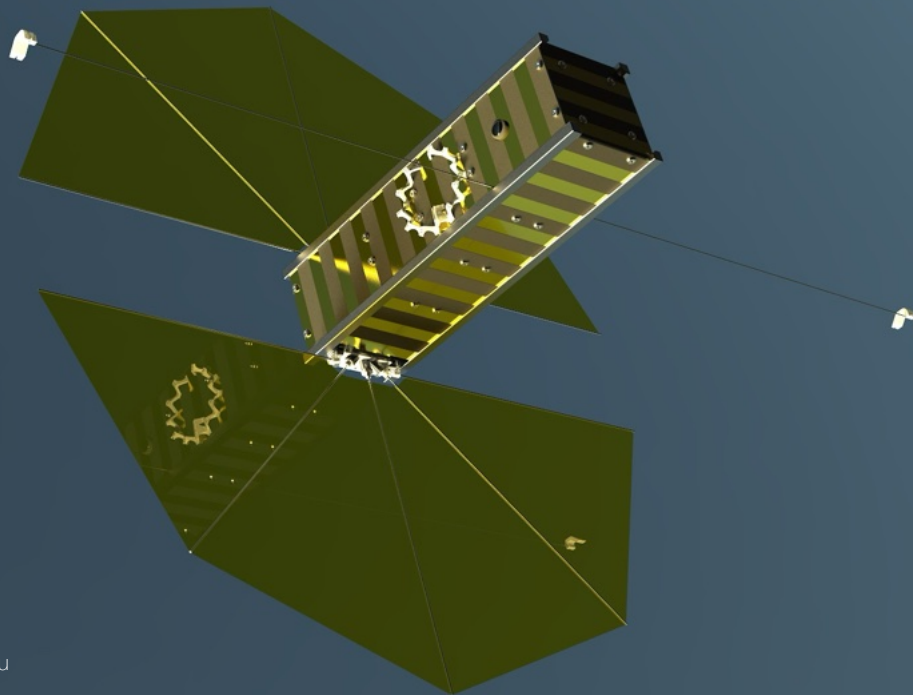
Transporter 5 3U Satellite Periapasis vs. Time



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