

NanoRacks announces Space Act Agreement with NASA for use of Space Station for low-cost industrial and educational research

NanoRacks (NR), the developer of the CubeLab™ Platform for 1 kilogram space research and development projects, is pleased to announce the completion of a Space Act Agreement (SAA) with NASA. The agreement covers the cooperation for use of the International Space Station's U.S. National Laboratory for the NanoRacks platform which is ideally designed for educational and low-cost microgravity research.

The Non-Reimbursable Space Act Agreement will provide NanoRacks with the opportunity to coordinate and conduct short and long-term space station research on behalf of industry and educational clients.

The NanoRacks Research System interfaces standard CubeSat modules into the International Space Station (ISS) Express Racks. Our CubeLab™ Platforms are small modules, designed for use within a pressurized space station environment in orbit with a nominal length, width, and height of 100 mm and a mass of no more than 1 kg (extended CubeLabs™ are possible.)

Up to 16 NanoRack Cubelab™ modules will be inserted into a NanoRack liner inside an Express Rack. Each plugs into a standard USB connector thus providing structural, electrical and data connectivity in one simple operation.

“Our business model seeks to encourage entry level space station research at affordable prices,” explained NanoRacks Managing Director Jeffrey Manber. “By adopting a known and widely used platform for industrial and educational space research, we expect to stimulate a new generation of space station users, just as Cubesats have done for microsatellites.” Adds Manber, “given advances in nanotechnology and minimization of electronics, the size and hence cost of ISS space research is no longer the impediment it was in the past.”

The NanoRacks venture includes Kentucky Space, a nonprofit enterprise which is recognized as a leader in Cubesat entrepreneurial and educational space platforms. Kentucky Space brings the combined resources and capacity of The University of Kentucky, Morehead State University, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, Murray State University, The Kentucky Community and Technical College System, The Kentucky Space Grant Consortium, and the managing partner Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation. Also a pioneering member of the team is the national engineering services firm Belcan.

The NanoRacks team also enjoys the expertise of Cubesat inventor Bob Twiggs and former head of The Stanford University Space and Systems Development Laboratory "Now experimenters and students can get thirty days of microgravity

using proven hardware that is already known to the space and educational communities, explained Twiggs., who is now a visiting professor at Morehead State University.

“All of us associated with NanoRacks takes seriously this unique opportunity to bring a new kind of fast-paced innovation and low-cost to the space station research" said Kris Kimel of Kentucky Space. “Through the university facilities we can offer seamless support for payload design, development and testing.”

NanoRacks expects to fly its platform to the ISS in mid 2010.

NanoRacks is a fast-paced enterprise focused on small entrepreneurial and educational space opportunities and markets. The company brings together entrepreneurs, scientists and engineers who have real-life experience and share a passion for entrepreneurial space including humanity’s utilization of low-earth orbit . Please visit: www.nanorackslc.com