

Micro Satellites Fostering Space Technology
Development with the focus on the Support for
Human Space Exploration

Kasia Wisniewska, SSTL 08.03.2016, San Jose, UN/Costa Rica Workshop on Human Space Technology



### SSTL- who we are

- Small satellite manufacturer form UK, 30 years on the commercial market
- Based in Guildford, UK with around 500 staff
- Spin-off from the University of Surrey with strong academic links
- 47 missions launched, including many EO, science, navigation, meteorology
- 18 know-how transfer and training programmes





# UoSAT1 - 1979



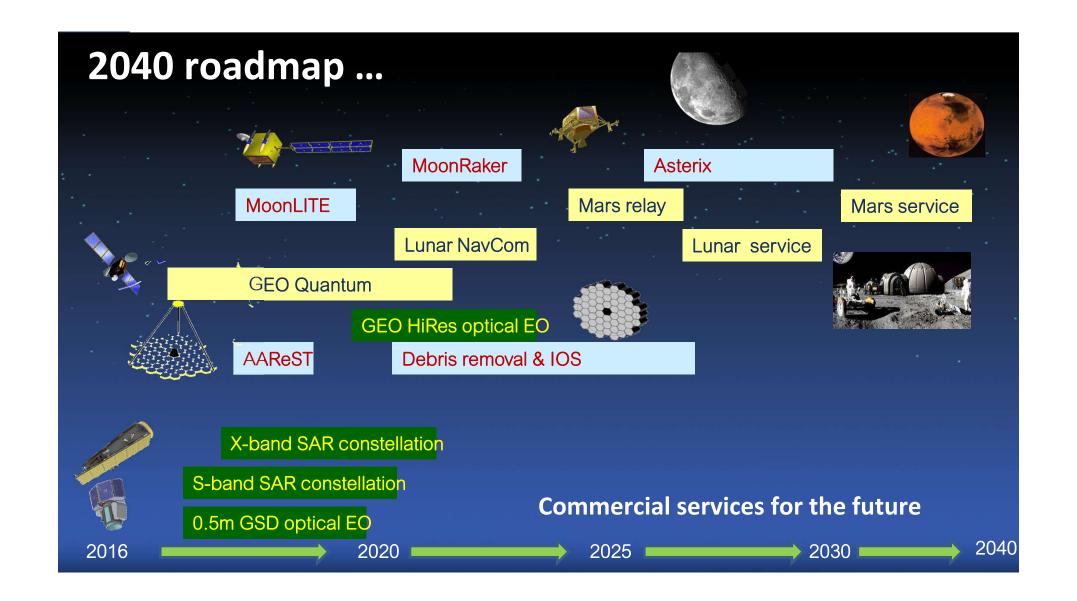


# 35 years later....



Sir Martin Sweeting







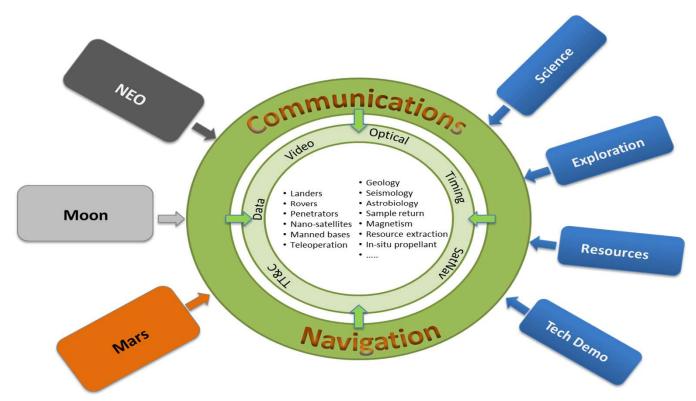
### Long Term Vision

- Provision of <u>support infrastructure for exploration</u>
  - Moon & Mars
    - · Communications and navigation services
  - NEO's
    - · Object characterisation, and impact threat assessments
- To service and enhance:
  - Commercial missions
    - E.g. Moon (GLXP, Shackleton), NEA (Planetary Resources)
  - Agency & national missions
- Offering frequent opportunities to enable space science & exploration with smaller budgets
  - Hosted payload opportunities
  - Serving the needs of emerging space nations (inc. know-how transfer) and help create the potential for UK bilateral opportunities
- We believe there is a significant market potential in being part of the supporting logistics of space exploration



### Long Term Vision

Communications and related services (e.g. navigation) will be the 'glue' that holds together all future exploration activities





### Lunar Orbiter- Pathfinder Concept

#### **Space Segment**

# Transfer to Cis-Lunar space from GTO (auxiliary launch)

- Lowest cost launch approach
- Provides numerous launch opportunities per year

#### **Highly Elliptical Lunar Orbit**

- Long duration visibility of the Lunar Southern Hemisphere (~10hrs)
- Short revisit time (2-3hrs)
- Long duration visibility of ground station
- Stable orbit



#### **Ground Segment**

#### **Goonhilly Earth Station**

- Goonhilly-6 32m antenna dish
- Being upgraded for use with the Orion Capsule for Cis-Lunar missions
- Will be visible ~8 hour per day

#### Internet based distribution

- Users will be able to command and receive data from their spacecraft via a web based interface
- Removes the need for users to acquire and maintain their own ground station



#### **User Segment**

#### **Passenger Payloads**

- Initially fleet of NanoSat users will be taken with the Lunar Comms spacecraft
- Can be placed into LLO
- Demonstration phase

#### Other users

- Once demonstrated the service can be user by other Institutional and Commercial missions
- Services will be as transparent to the user as possible



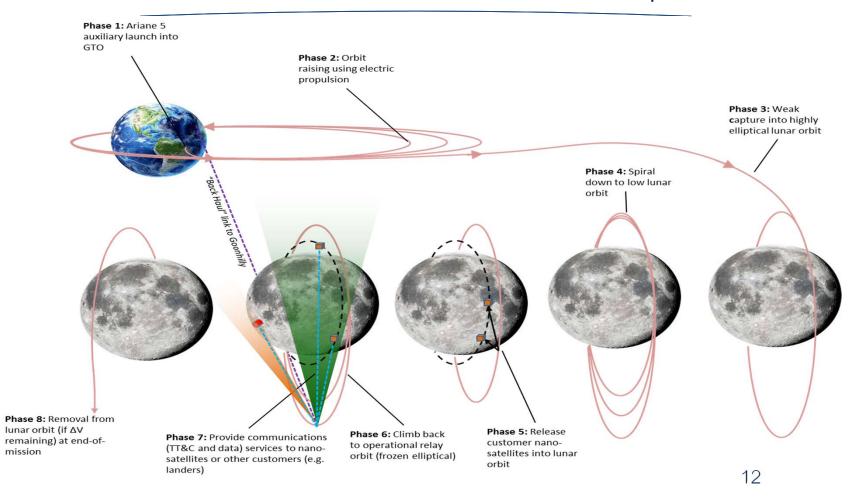


### Lunar Orbiter- Pathfinder Concept

- Our concept is novel and combines several aspects with exploitation potential:
- 1. Use of an "adapter-sat" communications spacecraft
  - Exploit un-used launch mass and volume on Ariane 5
  - Very low cost launch
  - Regular launches into GTO per year (good high-energy starting orbit for exploration)
  - Currently being studied under UK Government NSTP by SSTL
- 2. Use the spacecraft to transport customer payloads to the Moon
  - Currently no market at the Moon for communications
  - Transport <u>paying</u> customers (e.g. nano-satellites, hosted payloads, micro-landers) to the Moon via the main spacecraft
  - Act as a communications relay for these assets once at the Moon
- 3. Use existing deep-space compatible ground segment
  - Goonhilly is a significant UK asset and is currently being upgraded for forthcoming Orion flights
  - Cost of renting NASA or ESA DSN time is prohibitive and a barrier to low-cost exploration
  - Goonhilly is the first element of a future private commercial DSN which could support solar system exploration
- Put together, these elements will help to <u>create a new market</u> with all of the associated benefits in terms of growth, wealth, jobs etc.
  - Fulfilling as important aspect of the UK Innovation and Growth Strategy (IGS) and the general UK space sector strategy

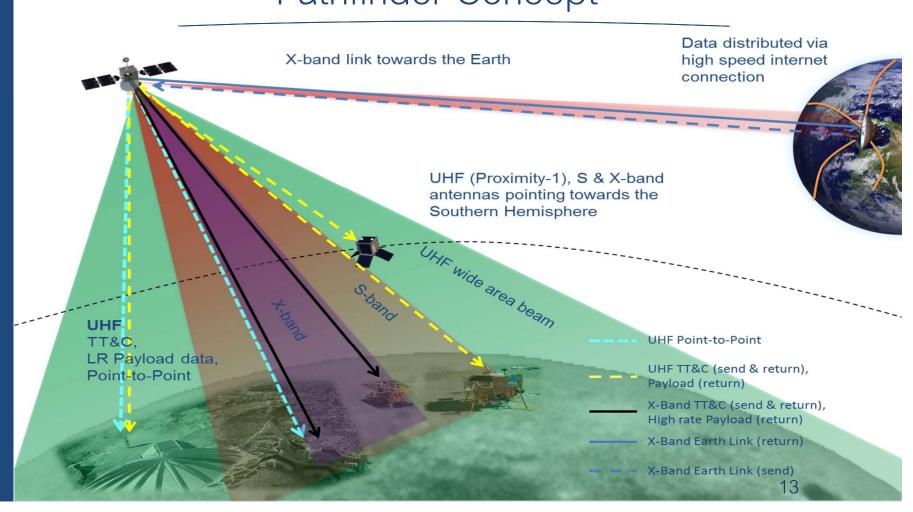


# Lunar Orbiter- Pathfinder Concept





### Pathfinder Concept





### Long Term Model

By providing a low-cost support infrastructure, we believe this will help to grow a new market at the Moon for both agencies and the private sector, not only for lunar-based activities but also for testing systems for elsewhere in the solar

system **Agencies** 

**Private Sector** 

# Near term (Lunar Based Market) Science

- Manned Missions
- Sample return
- Geology
- Seismology
- Tenuous Atmosphere
- Volatiles extraction
- Magnetic Fields
- Etc.

#### **Technology Demonstration:**

#### For Mars

- Rapid iterations of rover technologies
- Near real time control of rovers could be demonstrated
- Coordinated exploration with multiple assets

#### Airless bodies

- Test sensor technologies for asteroid prospecting against known datasets
- Simpler orbital dynamics than asteroids and will provide longer mission durations and simplified CONOPS

Long term (Lunar, Mars, NEO)











## SSTL's unique approach to know-how sharing

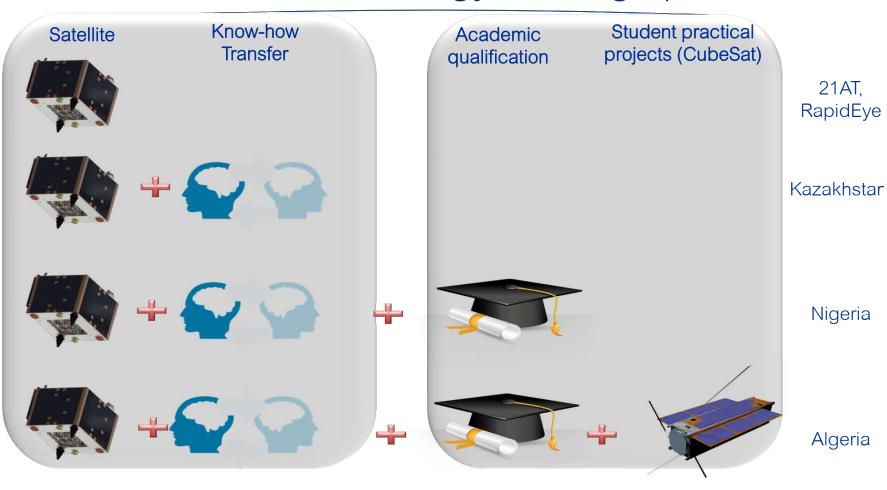


"Ability for the customer to reproduce the SSTL spacecraft product, and fly it with new or updated payloads".





# SSTL Technology Training options



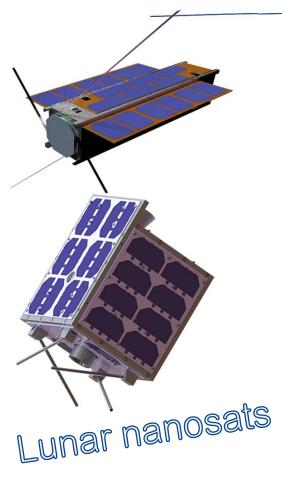


# Training programmes

Nation	Period	Team	Mission
Kazakhstan, Ghalam	2014-2016	14	KazSTSAT
Algeria, ASAL	2014-2016	14	AISAT-1B
Kazakhstan, KGS	2012-2013	24	KazEOSat-2
USA, NASA/MSU	2007-2008	3	Magnolia
Nigeria, NASRDA	2006-2009	26	NigeriaSat-2/NigeriaSat-X
Turkey, Bilten	2001-2003	12	Bilsat-1
Nigeria, NASRDA	2001-2003	12	NigeriaSat-1
Algeria, CNTS	2000-2002	12	AlSAT-1
China, Tsinghua University	1998-1999	12	Tsinghua-1
Malaysia, ATSB	1996-1998	9	TiungSat-1
Singapore.MTU	1995-1997	2	UoSAT-12 (payload)
Thailand, MU	1995-1997	12	Thai-Paht
Chile. FACH	1994-1998	8	FASAT-A&B
Japan, Fujitsu	1992-1994	3	(FjSAT)
Portugal	1992-1994	6	PoSAT-1
South Korea, KAIST	1989-1993	12	KITSAT
South Africa	1989-1992	2	UoSAT 3/4/5
Pakistan	1984-1988	10	BADR-1



## Looking for partners





Payloads



Landers

