

# The pioneering properties of UN/Japan PNST Fellowship Program and of Kyutech's BIRDS Program

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Presented on 15 February 2019, during STSC-COPUOS in Vienna, Austria



# Outline of this talk

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## ◆ Discussion of PNST

Post-graduate study on

Nano

Satellite

Technologies

In collaboration with



UNITED NATIONS

Office for Outer Space Affairs

## ◆ Discussion of the BIRDS Project



**PNST SYMPOSIUM  
OF 2017  
held on the Tobata  
Campus of Kyutech in  
Japan – many PNST  
graduates attended**

**PNST in the context of capacity building is significant because it is one of only two post-graduate engineering degree scholarships being offered through the United Nations.**

**For each year since 2013, PNST has provided six full scholarships  
– three for masters degree and three for Phd.**

**The purpose of PNST is to help non-space-faring nations become space-faring nations by developing human resources.**

# UNOOSA Programme Mandate and Activities

(United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs)

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## Mandate

- A. International Cooperation
- B. Capacity Building
- C. Dissemination of Information
- D. Technical Advisory Services

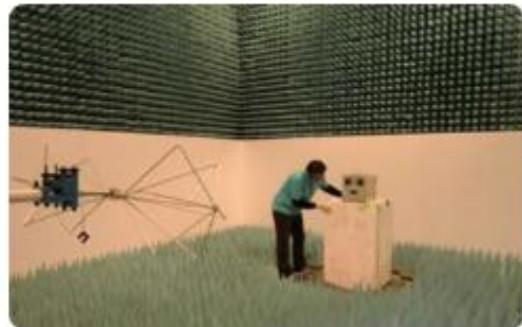


# UNOOSA Programme Mandate and Activities

## Fellowship Programmes

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/fellowships.html>

Today's  
talk is  
about  
this



UN/JAPAN LONG-TERM  
FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAMME ON NANO-  
SATELLITE  
TECHNOLOGIES

Kitakyushu, Japan



UN/ITALY LONG-TERM  
FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAMME ON GNSS  
AND RELATED  
APPLICATIONS

Torino, Italy



FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAMME FOR THE  
DROP TOWER  
EXPERIMENT SERIES  
(DROPTES)

Bremen, Germany

# Kyushu Institute of Technology (“Kyutech”)



Our logo



- **Founded in 1909**

- 4,400 Undergraduate students
- 1,700 Graduate students
- 370 Academic staff
- Engineering, Computer science, Life-sciences

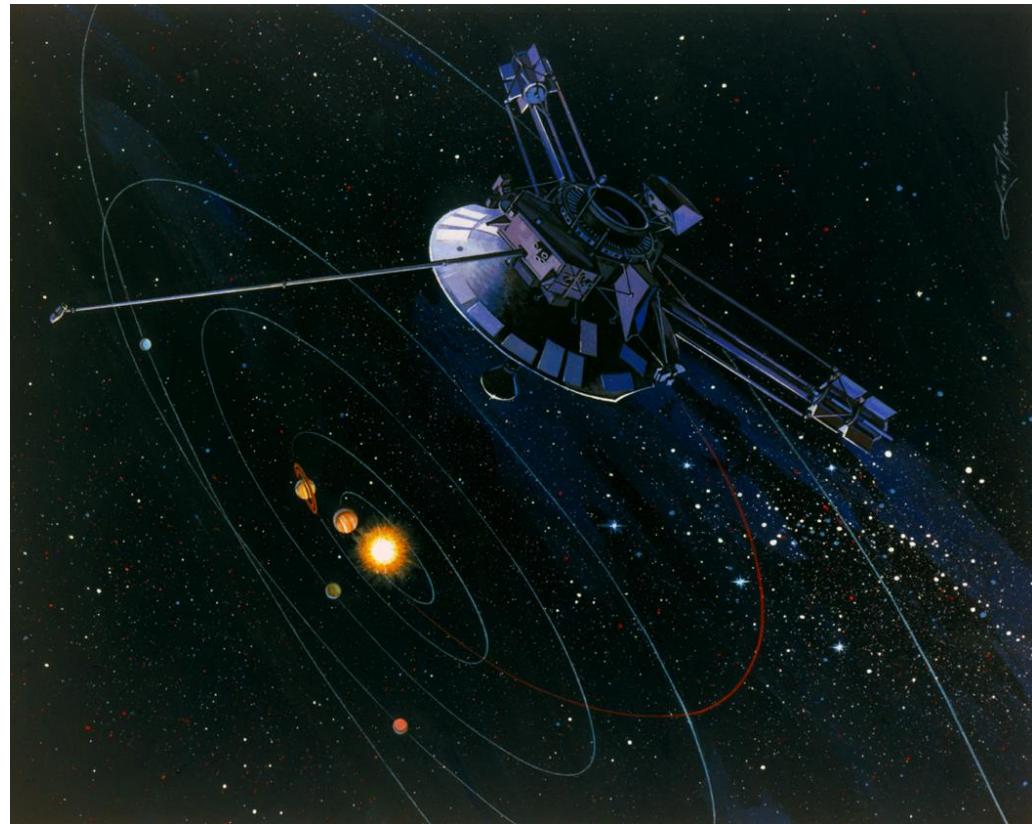


The Main Gate  
for the Tobata Campus



Our laboratory  
(LaSEINE) is in this building.

## Pioneer 10 exiting the solar system



[https://planetary.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/images/z\\_changeover/pioneer10\\_exiting\\_solar\\_system.jpg](https://planetary.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/images/z_changeover/pioneer10_exiting_solar_system.jpg)

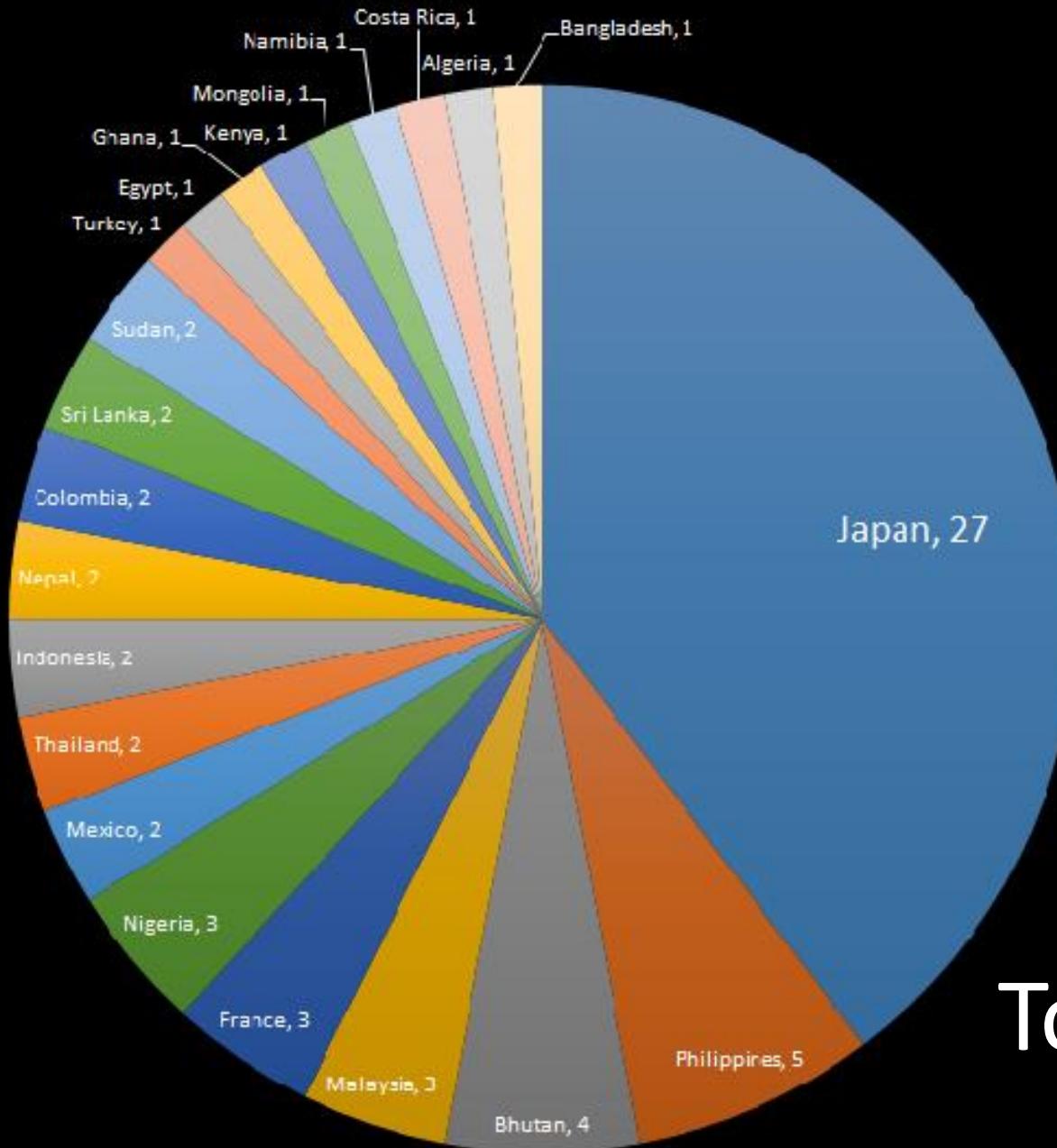
What is  
pioneering  
about  
**PNST ?**

# Our Motto

You cannot learn how to build a satellite by reading books. You must physically use your own hands to build one from A to Z. That is the only realistic way to master the necessary skills for this job.

PNST is pioneering because it seeks to help non-space-faring nations join the space age by teaching their engineers how to build satellites. Significantly, many PNST students build their nations' first satellites through the **BIRDS Project**, which will be discussed later.

PNST makes an impact because of its size. **Since 2013, PNST has been offered to six graduate students per year without exception.**

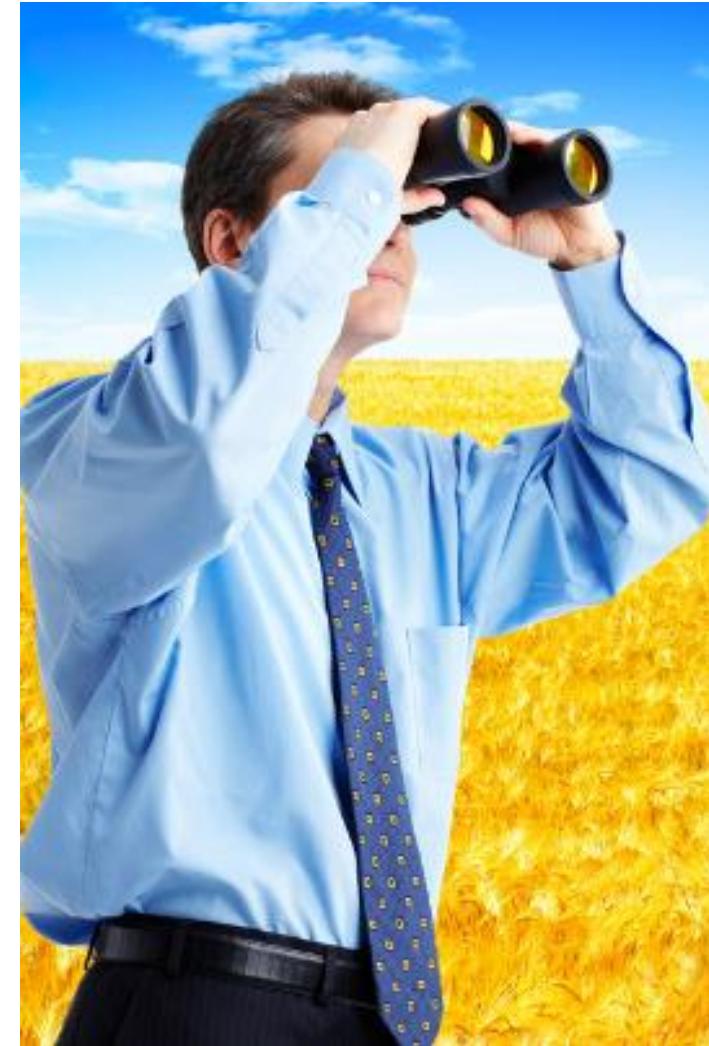


Our international  
make-up for the  
**Space Engineering  
International Course  
( SEIC ) as of today.**

Total: 68 students

**Any engineering student  
residing in a non-space-  
faring nation can apply for  
PNST.**

***How do  
we find them?***



[https://img.wikitut.com/img/38sb7654xla47m\\_-/jpeg/0/Searchng-for-something.jpeg](https://img.wikitut.com/img/38sb7654xla47m_-/jpeg/0/Searchng-for-something.jpeg)

# 1st, we make a call at the UNOOSA website:

The screenshot shows the UNOOSA website. At the top left is the UN logo. To its right, the text "UNITED NATIONS" and "Office for Outer Space Affairs" is displayed. On the far right are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and a speech bubble. Below this is a navigation bar with links: "About Us", "Our Work", "Benefits of Space", "Information for...", "Events", and "Space Object Registry". Under "Our Work", the path "Programme on Space Applications > Basic Space Technology Initiative (BSTI) > Fellowship Programme" is shown. The main title "Basic Space Technology Initiative Fellowship Programme" is prominently displayed. Below it, a green text box contains the information: "United Nations/Japan Long-term Fellowship Programme 2019 Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST) (Kitakyushu, Japan)".

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/bsti/fellowships.html>

*Generally,  
applications  
are taken  
from August  
to January –  
the call  
window is  
open for  
several  
months!*

**2nd, we make a data base of all the received applications. The data is analyzed. Twenty (20) persons are selected for interviewing.**



<https://mystaffingpro.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/look-beyond-keywords-when-reviewing-resumes.jpg?w=725>

**MAINLY WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG ENGINEERS  
WHO ARE *PASSIONATE ABOUT SPACE***

**3rd, on a single day  
(9:00 AM to 10:00 PM),  
all 20 are interviewed**

**via**



**From this half-a-year  
selection process, *6 PNST  
Fellows* are selected.**



**Interviewing 20 semi-finalists  
via Skype on 10 February 2016**

Since the start of the  
PNST program in 2013,  
**34** (thirty four)  
international students  
have enrolled in PNST  
at Kyutech.

Fiscal Year	PNST Enrolment
2013	5
2014	6
2015	6
2016	6
2017	6
2018	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>

# December 2017 PNST Symposium at Kyutech



## PNST in Conclusion

The 2019 intake of PNST applications has just ended. The “2019 PNST Interviews” of 20 candidates occurred on 12 February – just a few days ago.

Applications for 2020 PNST will be opened this year in August. To apply, visit the web site below at that time.

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/bsti/fellowships.html>



**The second half of this Technical Presentation  
is about Kyutech's BIRDS Projects**

Bangladesh



Nigeria



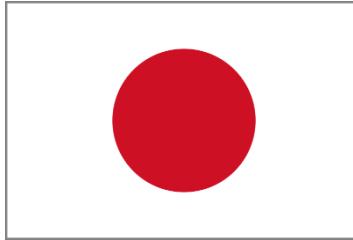
Mongolia



Ghana



Japan



# The BIRDS Projects

**The world's first constellation  
of  
multi-national university  
CubeSats**

**Main purpose:** To train engineering graduate students of non-space-faring nations to design, build, test, launch, and operate, the first space-borne satellites of their respective countries. Then, to build the second one at home.

<<<< The original BIRDS nations

# The BIRDS Projects – Key Traits

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- Kick-off to On-orbit operation must be under 2 years (to fit into the two-year program of a Master's degree)
- Very low-cost launch (via International Space Station)
- The students come up with a common design, which is confirmed at the project's **Critical Design Review**
- With the common design, each national team builds their own CubeSat
- Their respective home universities install and operate a BIRDS ground station

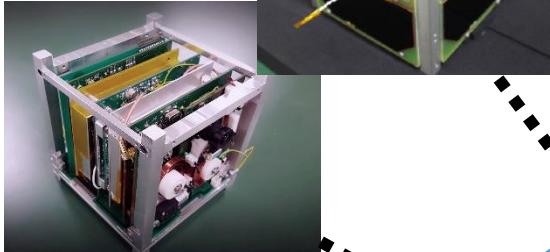
This is the essence: Learn the *entire* satellite development process from start to finish

Flight Model



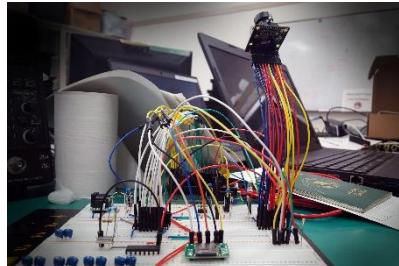
Deploy  
in space

Engineering  
Model



End

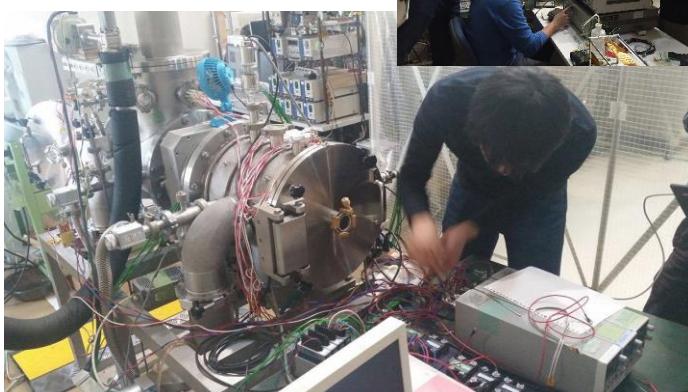
Breadboard



Design



Start



Extensive  
environmental  
testing

# Where BIRDS nations come from (up til now)

Project	Members with satellites	Kick Off	Satellite release	Color in map
BIRDS-1	Japan, <u>Ghana*</u> , <u>Bangladesh*</u> , Nigeria, <u>Mongolia*</u>	Fall of 2015	July 7, 2017	Red
BIRDS-2	<u>Bhutan*</u> , Malaysia, Philippines	Fall of 2016	August 10, 2018	Purple
BIRDS-3	Japan, <u>Nepal*</u> , <u>Sri Lank*</u>	Fall of 2017	Spring 2019	Green
BIRDS-4	Japan, <u>Paraguay*</u> , Philippines	Fall of 2018	Spring 2020	Yellow

The underlined nations did  
(or are doing) their first  
satellite by participating in  
BIRDS.

The nations involved  
in BIRDS



# Projects overlap by one year

BIRDS-1 (duration of 2 years)

Timeline diagram showing four projects (BIRDS-1 to BIRDS-4) as horizontal arrows. BIRDS-1 is finished, BIRDS-2 is nearly finished, BIRDS-3 will launch soon, and BIRDS-4 has just started.

Finished

BIRDS-2 (duration of 2 years)

Nearly finished

BIRDS-3 (duration of 2 years)

Will launch soon

Started Nov. of 2018

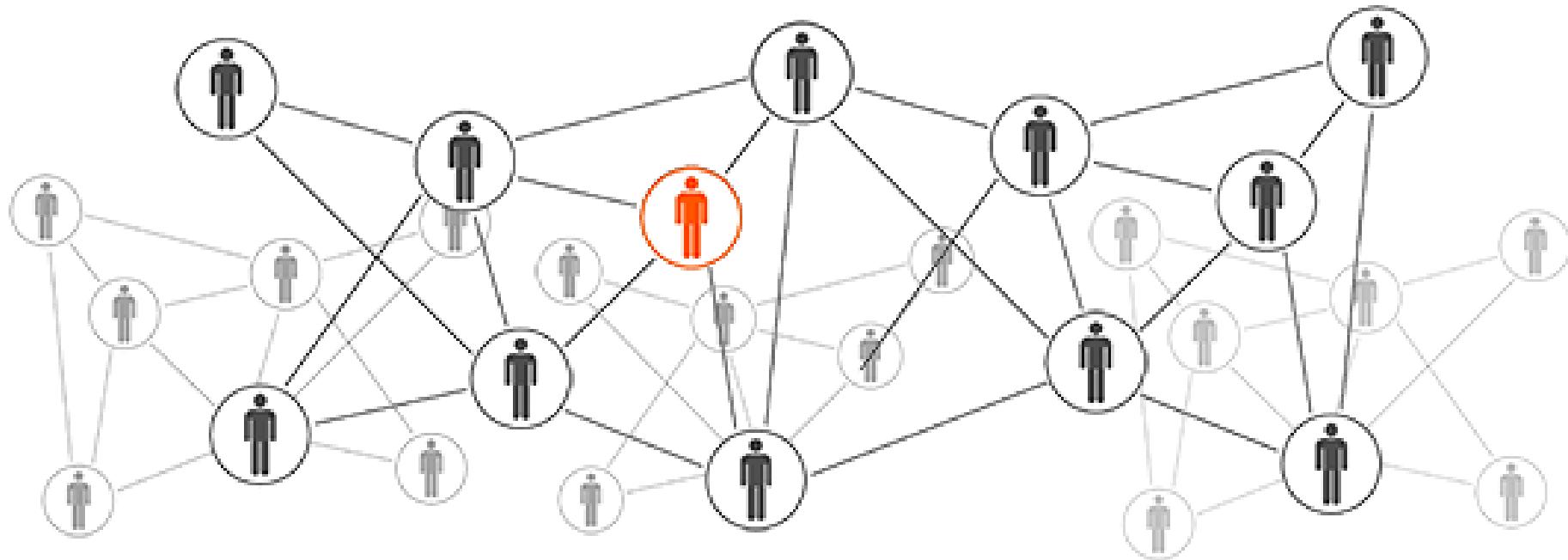
BIRDS-4 (duration of 2 years)

These are the multi-nation engineering students of the BIRDS Project ....



# **Building CubeSats and establishing ground stations are just part of the equation**

**– we also build alumni networks**



[https://askabiologist.asu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/plosable/Basketball\\_networks/human\\_network\\_540.gif](https://askabiologist.asu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/plosable/Basketball_networks/human_network_540.gif)

For example, each year, one BIRDS members hosts the Annual BIRDS International Workshop



**1BIW – First BIRDS International Workshop, 2016, Japan**



**2BIW – 2nd BIRDS International Workshop, 2017, Ghana**

**3BIW – 3rd BIRDS International Workshop, 2018, Mongolia**



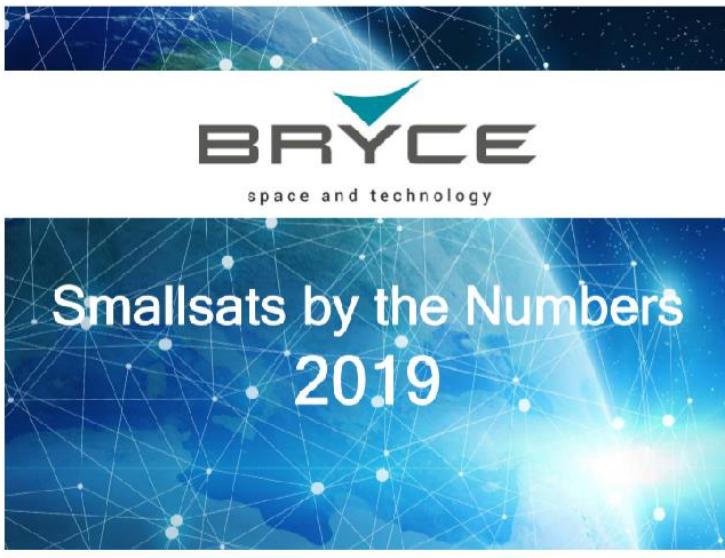
To be held in Bangladesh in November 2019

**4BIW – 4th BIRDS International Workshop**

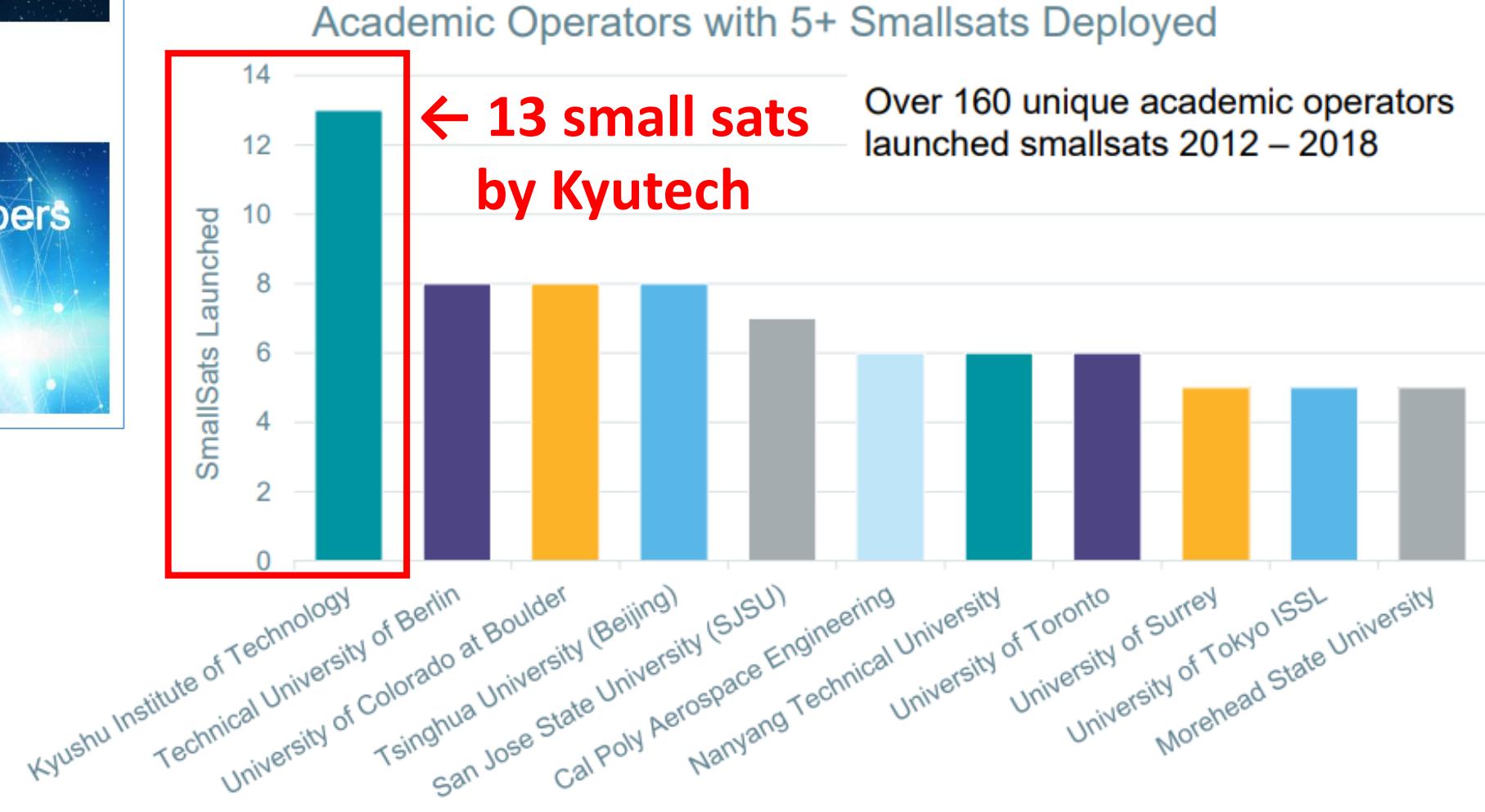
# GEDC Airbus Diversity Award



The **BIRDS Project** won the 2017 GEDC (Global Engineering Deans Council) Airbus Diversity Award out of 45 entries from 18 countries.



Thanks to BIRDS,  
Kyutech is today the  
leading academic  
operator of small  
satellites – according  
to **BRYCE SPACE AND**  
**TECHNOLOGY** in  
**2019.**



SmallSats by the Numbers 2019 | Bryce Space and Technology | DC Metro Chicago London

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[http://brycetech.com/downloads/Bryce\\_SmallSats\\_2019.pdf](http://brycetech.com/downloads/Bryce_SmallSats_2019.pdf)

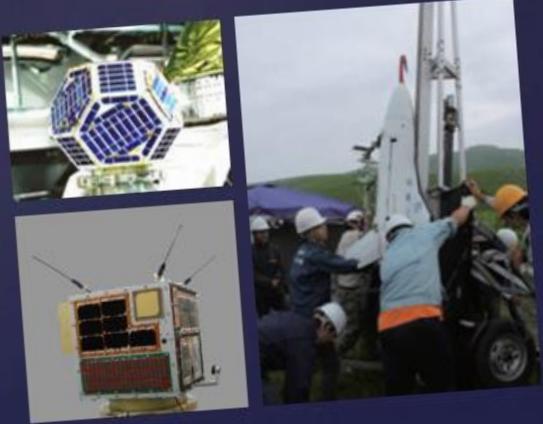
# Conclusion – what we hope to achieve

- Enable more nations to become space-faring nations – so that they can participate in the exciting world of space exploration and space exploitation
- The first essential step is **Capacity Building** (train their engineers)
- The next step is to support them when they return to their homelands
- One form of sustainable support is an *alumni network* – then, they can help each other



## Space Engineering International Course

Graduate School of Engineering  
Kyushu Institute of Technology



## Post-graduate study on Nano-Satellite Technologies (PNST)

United Nations/Japan Long-term  
Fellowship Programme  
on Nano-Satellite Technologies hosted by  
Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan



There is small  
stack of these two  
pamphlets on the  
back table.  
*Please take one.*

In addition, you can view all back issues of the  
**BIRDS Project Newsletter** at this link:  
<http://birds1.birds-project.com/newsletter.html>

Thank you for  
your attention  
from **PNST**  
**Fellows** and  
the **BIRDS**  
**Family**



**BIRDS -1 -2 -3 and -4**  
**Tobata Campus, Kyutech**