

The National Space Agency of Ukraine (NSAU)

The National Space Agency of Ukraine (NSAU) was established in 1992 after the breakdown of the USSR.

Two years after Ukraine became an independent nation, it adopted its first State space program covering years 1993 through 1997. Key elements of this program included:

- The inauguration in 1995 of a sweeping venture in close cooperation with Russian, U.S., and Norwegian partners. "SDO Yuzhnoye" and "Yuzhny Machine-Building Plant" are central figures in the internationally acclaimed Sea Launch project.
- The first Ukrainian satellite launch from the Plesetsk launch site. The "Sich-1" satellite was launched in 1995.
- The establishment in 1996 of a National Academy of Science of Ukraine-National Space Agency of Ukraine (NASU-NSAU) Space Research Institute
- Yevpatoria National Space Facilities Control And Test Center was established in 1996.
- The Law of Ukraine "On Space Activities" was adopted by the parliament in 1996.
- SDO "Yuzhnoye" and Russian partners embarked on the development of the "Dnepr" launch vehicle in 1997. The "Dnipro" is based on the intercontinental ballistic missile RS-20 (or SS-18 "Satan" by NATO classification).
- Leonid Kadenuk the first Ukrainian astronaut joined Columbia spacecraft Mission STS 87 in November 1997.



NSAU has continued to consolidate Space industry enterprises and establishments and in 1998 they were subordinated to National Space Agency in order to improve industry's performance.



Other recent NSAU achievements:

- First test launch of Zenit-3SL launch vehicle with a mockup satellite was carried out in March 1999. The payload for the demonstration launch was designed to simulate the mass properties of a 4,500 kg (9,900 lb) commercial spacecraft. DemoSat executed a precisely controlled flight profile and was one of the most highly instrumented test missions ever flown.



- The first commercial launch was in October, 1999 (American Direct TV-1R communication satellite). The 3,450 kg (7,600 lb) payload for the first commercial mission was the DIRECTV 1-R broadcast satellite, successfully launched successfully to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit - on time and on target.
- In April 1999 "Dnipro" launcher delivered a British Satellite (UoSAT) into orbit.
- A Zenit-2 carrier launched Okean-O, Ukrainian-Russian satellite, in July, 1999.
- In September 2000 "Dnipro" successfully delivered five small satellites into orbit: SaudiSat-1A, SaudiSat-1A (Saudi Arabia), UniSat, MegSat (Italy), TiungSat (Malaysia).



The recent successes of Sea Launch project include:

PanAmSat - July 28, 2000

The 3,659 kg (8,067-lb) PAS-9 communications satellite was launched successfully to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit and, less than two months later, supported the broadcast of the Summer 2000 Olympics.



Thuraya - October 20, 2000

The 5,108 kg (11,260 lb) Thuraya-1 communications satellite was the heaviest commercial payload ever launched. Now positioned in geosynchronous orbit, the satellite will provide regional mobile telecommunications services to 99 countries in the Middle East, Europe, India, Africa and central Asia.

XM-2/ROCK - March 18, 2001

The 4,666 kg (10,287 lb) XM-2/Rock satellite is the most powerful commercial communications satellite in orbit and one of two spacecraft that will transmit state-of-the-art digital audio radio programming directly to cars, homes and portable radios throughout the continental United States. Exceptional injection accuracy saved two days of flight time to final position in geostationary orbit.

XM-1/ROLL - May 8, 2001

The 4,672 kg (10,297 lb) twin spacecraft to "Rock," XM-1 was launched with outstanding accuracy and completed the "Rock" and "Roll" constellation for XM Satellite Radio.