

HOW DO CUBESATS
GET INTO ORBIT?

1

00:00:03,480 --> 00:00:07,080

NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative gives CubeSats a free ride on

2

00:00:07,080 --> 00:00:09,950

rockets that have room and fuel to spare.

3

00:00:09,950 --> 00:00:13,211

It's like a ride-share program we're already going into space, so

4

00:00:13,211 --> 00:00:16,129

your CubeSat is welcome aboard!

5

00:00:16,129 --> 00:00:19,071

Once a CubeSat has a seat on a flight, it will be loaded into a

6

00:00:19,071 --> 00:00:21,160

launcher container on the rocket.

7

00:00:21,160 --> 00:00:22,340

These containers have a long

8

00:00:22,340 --> 00:00:26,330

technical name, but let's just call them "dispensers" for short.

9

00:00:26,330 --> 00:00:29,800

Each CubeSat is stacked into the dispenser like a pea in a pod,

10

00:00:29,800 --> 00:00:33,579

with its power turned off until the right time during the mission.

11

00:00:33,579 --> 00:00:36,890

After the launch, once the rocket is at just the right elevation, the

12
00:00:36,890 --> 00:00:40,260
main spacecraft separates and heads on its way.

13
00:00:40,260 --> 00:00:41,260
Then it's the

14
00:00:41,260 --> 00:00:42,260
CubeSats' turn.

15
00:00:42,260 --> 00:00:44,810
A few seconds later, the dispenser door springs

16
00:00:44,810 --> 00:00:48,980
open, and another spring inside pushes the CubeSats free!

17
00:00:48,980 --> 00:00:52,260
Each CubeSat's transmitters turn on, and its power and other

18
00:00:52,260 --> 00:00:53,870
tools will begin to work.