

WHAT IS A
CUBESAT?

1
00:00:00,390 --> 00:00:01,689

What Is A CubeSat?

2
00:00:01,689 --> 00:00:04,840

CubeSats are very small spacecraft that orbit Earth.

3
00:00:04,840 --> 00:00:07,960

As you might guess, a CubeSat is shaped like a cube about four

4
00:00:07,960 --> 00:00:10,100

inches wide, long and deep.

5
00:00:10,100 --> 00:00:14,550

That's called one unit, or "1U" small enough to hold in your hand,

6
00:00:14,550 --> 00:00:16,710

and very light: around three pounds.

7
00:00:16,710 --> 00:00:20,029

And like building blocks, units can be combined to make bigger

8
00:00:20,029 --> 00:00:24,550

CubeSats, by stacking them into two, three, or even six units.

9
00:00:24,550 --> 00:00:28,099

Once in space, CubeSats can open up all kinds of tools: solar

10
00:00:28,099 --> 00:00:30,390

panels for power, communications antennas, telescopes, and

11
00:00:30,390 --> 00:00:31,390

more!

12
00:00:31,390 --> 00:00:35,800
CubeSats are great, because they let schools,
universities and

13
00:00:35,800 --> 00:00:38,809
other teams launch their very own missions
and who knows what

14
00:00:38,809 --> 00:00:40,280
they'll discover!

15
00:00:40,280 --> 00:00:43,219
CubeSats are also made from standard, low-cost
parts that are

16
00:00:43,219 --> 00:00:46,140
easy to get, and tested for launch safety.

17
00:00:46,140 --> 00:00:48,780
Some NASA launches carry spacecraft that don't
take up all the

18
00:00:48,780 --> 00:00:51,829
space on their rockets which leaves plenty
of room for tiny

19
00:00:51,829 --> 00:00:52,829
CubeSats.