



AAC Clyde Space succeeds with laser communication terminal in space

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AAC Clyde Space with its partner TNO, have successfully transferred data from a compact laser satellite communications terminal, called SmallCAT, onboard a spacecraft in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to Earth, thereby demonstrating that the laser satellite communication technology works under spaceflight conditions. AAC has contributed electronics and firmware to the laser communication terminal.

"This is a milestone in our aim to remain in the forefront of space tech development. The demand for direct laser communication between satellites and Earth is growing rapidly catering to the needs of customers in several sectors. This achievement points towards the future of space-based communication," says AAC Clyde Space CEO Luis Gomes.

The satellite communication terminal is developed by a TNO-led consortium with AAC Hyperion, the AAC Group's subsidiary in the Netherlands specialised in optical communications, for the onboard electronics, drivers as well as software, and Gooch & Housego for the laser transmitter. The development was financed by the Netherlands Space Office (NSO) through the ESA ARTES ScyLight Programme program and the Dutch Ministry of Defense's innovation budget. TNO also contributed in co-funding this program.

The project also includes delivery of AAC Hyperion's gigabit detector the GD200 for the optical ground station in the Hague which successfully detected signal from the terminal which is carried by the Norwegian NORSAT-TD satellite launched in April 2023.

A commercial version of the laser communication terminal, CubeCAT, is being commercialised by AAC Hyperion with its Dutch partner FSO Instruments. Measuring 10 x 10 x 10 cm and weighing 1.3 kg, the terminal is ideally suited for use on nano satellites.

As commercial and government data demands continue to grow, the need for high-quality, timely data from space is growing rapidly. Laser communication technologies are being increasingly used to send data generated on satellites directly to earth, as an alternative to traditional radio-frequency communication. By transmitting through the infra-red wavelength band, the limitations of standard radio frequency communication technologies are avoided, thereby increasing transmission capabilities of satellites by factors of 10 to 100. Moreover, laser communication links are seen as more secure and laser communication systems have the potential of lower size, weight, and power, which is important in the space domain.

For more information:

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ABOUT AAC CLYDE SPACE

AAC Clyde Space specialises in small satellite technologies and services that enable businesses, governments together three divisions:

Space Data as a Service (SDaaS) – delivering data from space directly to customers

Space missions – turnkey solutions that empower customers to streamline their space missions

Space products and components – a full range of off-the-shelf and tailor-made subsystems, components and sensors

AAC Clyde Space aims to become a world leader in commercial small satellites and services from space, applying advances in its technology to tackle global challenges and improve our life on Earth.

The Group's main operations are located in Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Africa and the USA, with partner networks in Japan and South Korea.

AAC Clyde Space's shares are traded on Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market. Carnegie Investment Bank AB is the Certified Adviser. The share is also traded on the US OTCQX- market under the symbol ACCMF.