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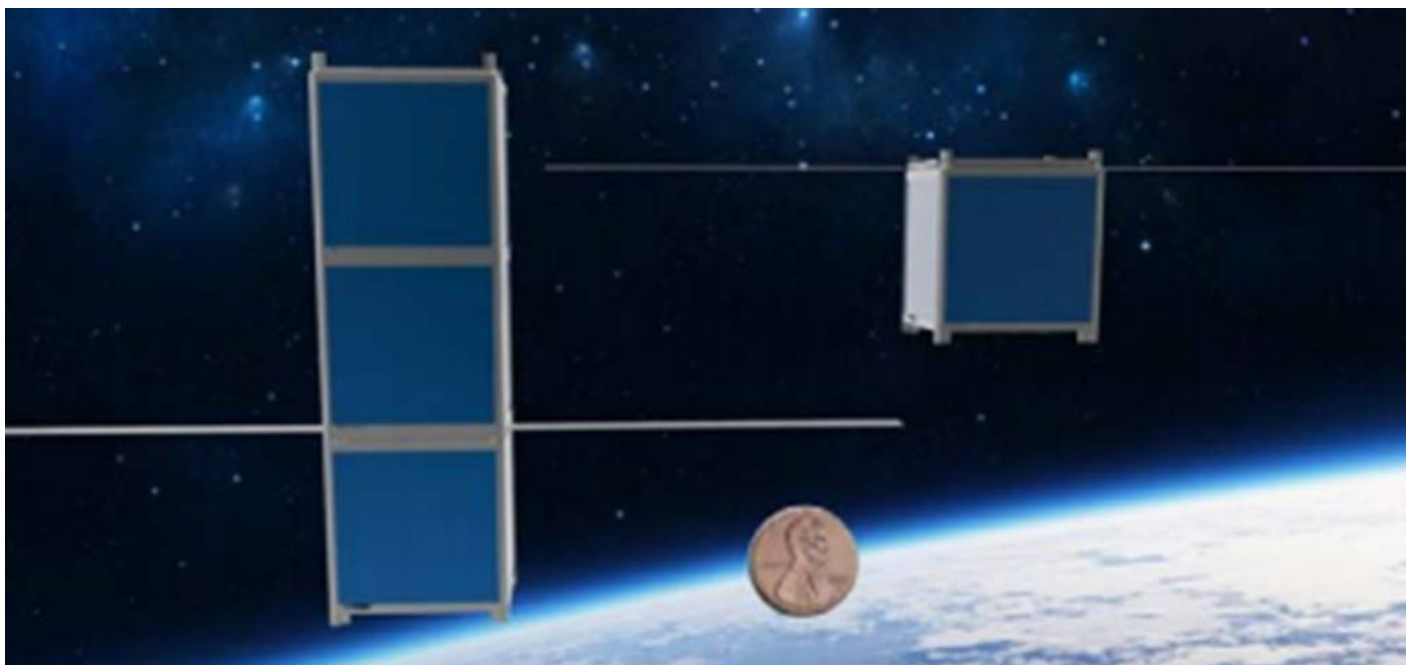
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Technology

# Anyone could send experiments into space with this tiny cube

By **EMILY REYNOLDS**

08 Apr 2016



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**If you've always wanted to send your own spacecraft into orbit, good news - it may now be within your reach. The [SunCube FemtoSat](#) is a tiny satellite developed at Arizona State University, and it could cut costs drastically.**

A typical launch costs around \$70,000 per kilo (£50,000), but the team behind the SunCube say that launch expenses will be closer to the \$1,000 (£700) mark, with parts costing hundreds rather than thousands of dollars. "Our major goal is space for everybody," said Jekan Thanga, who is leading the project. "That's how you invigorate a field, by getting more people into the technology, getting their hands on it."

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"With a spacecraft this size, any university can do it, any lab can do it, any hobbyist can do it."

The cube is just 3cm by 3cm, and weighs just 35g, and the team envisage it being used as part of a "constellation of spacecraft" wherein a "swarm of them could inspect damaged spacecraft".



### SunCube miniature satellites

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“We piggybacked on the wave of miniaturisation,” said Thanga. ““We’re interested in tackling the [space](#) access problem. What if we can have students send experiments into space? With something as small as this, you can make mistakes and send again.”

The team hope to send a prototype into space within the next year as part of a mission to examine how [asteroids](#) are formed.

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By **ANDY VANDERVELL AND MATT REYNOLDS**

TV | 15 May 2018

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