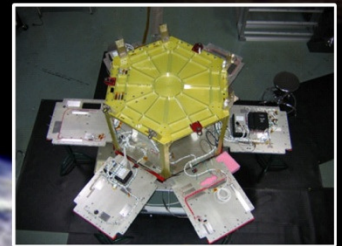
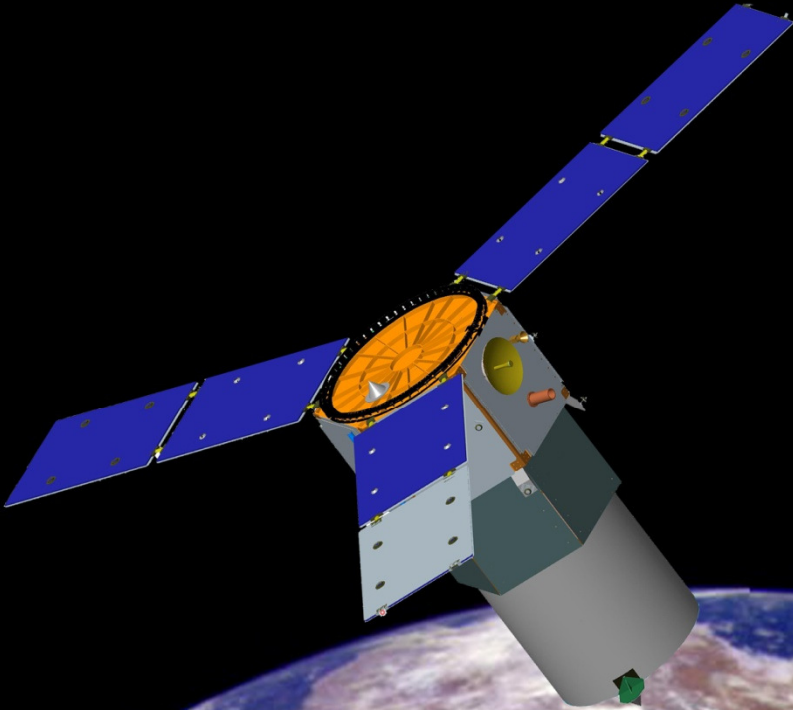


# Tactical Satellite 3 (TacSat-3)



## Description

Tactical Satellite-3 spacecraft features an onboard processor, which provides near real-time data (within 10 minutes of its collection) to the combatant commander in the theater of interest. TacSat-3 project partners include the Air Force Research Laboratory's Space Vehicles Directorate, Army Space and Missile Defense Command, the Department of Defense's Operationally Responsive Space Office, the Office of Naval Research and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

TacSat-3 originated in 2004 as part of the Responsive Space Initiative addressing the military's need for responsive, flexible, and affordable systems operating in low earth orbit. The spacecraft consists of three distinct payloads: 1) the advanced responsive tactically effective military imaging spectrometer hyperspectral imager, 2) the Office of Naval Research's satellite communications package, and 3) the space avionics experiment.

ATK developed and designed the responsive space modular bus, solar arrays and onboard data handling systems. The ATK spacecraft bus was built in record time and is a pioneer in the emerging Operationally Responsive Space arena.

The spacecraft launched in May 2009 and recently marked two years on-orbit. Originally designed for six month of operation with a one-year goal, the spacecraft has successfully transitioned from experimental to operational status.