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Mauritius Research Council

WORKSHOP

***Introducing
MIR-SAT1***

The first Mauritian Infrared Satellite

DRAFT PROGRAMME

*Venue: Conference Hall Level 1
Atul Bihari Vajpayee Tower
(CyberTower 1)
Cybercity Ebène 72201*

Date: Friday, 1st March 2019

Time: 09:00 hrs

*Introducing the - MIR-SAT1
The first Mauritian Infrared Satellite*

BACKGROUND

Satellite technology has come a long way since the launch of Sputnik 1 in 1957. Since then, advances in technology have made satellites much more accessible, leading to thousands of artificial satellites orbiting the earth today. Satellites have become an important part of our everyday life, facilitating telecommunications, weather forecasting, oceanographic explorations, among others. Furthermore, Satellite/space Technology has led to major advancements in a number of fields including astronomy and surveillance amongst others. Mauritius, as a SIDS, currently benefits from numerous services provided by satellites.

In an attempt to start a 'Mauritian led' initiative in space technology, a team led by the Mauritius Research Council (MRC) submitted a proposal entitled the MIR-SAT 1 under the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) KiboCUBE Programme 2018. The UNOOSA/JAXA KiboCube Program provides developing countries opportunities to embark into space activities with an ultimate objective to build national capacity in space technology.

The MIR-SAT 1 proposal was selected by the JAXA/UNOOSA as the best submission from a developing country in 2018 and consequently Mauritius will be offered the opportunity, for the first time in its history, to build and deploy into Space a Mauritian NanoSatellite from the International Space Station (ISS) Japanese Experiment Module (Kibo) "KiboCUBE". The MRC also benefited from the collaboration of AAC-Clyde (UK), expert in nanosatellite technologies. The MIR-SAT1 will collect images of Mauritius and surrounding regions using longwave infrared (LWIR) thermal camera, demonstrate technology of S-band high speed data transmission. The data from the satellite will be collected by a main ground station to be built in Mauritius. Secondary ground stations are planned to be built by university students at later stages. Data collected from the satellite will be used for capacity building, advanced research and innovation in areas pertinent to national problems. The expected deployment in space for the first Mauritian CubeSat is around December 2019. This will be done by JAXA via the KIBO arm of the International Space Station. It is envisaged that this first of its kind initiative will pave the way to future developments in space related activities in Mauritius in the coming years.

09:00 – 09:30

09:30 – 09:35

09:35-09:40

09:40 – 09:45

09:45 – 10:00

10:00 – 10:15

10:15 – 10:45

10:45 – 12:00

12:00 – 12:40

12:40 – 13:25

13:25 – 14:05

14:05 – 14:20

14:20 – 14:30

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Registration of Participants

Welcome Address

*Dr A Suddhoo, Executive Director
Mauritius Research Council*

Address

*Dr M. Atchia, Chairman
Mauritius Research Council*

Address

*His Excellency MrYoshiharu Kato
Embassy of Japan in Mauritius*

Address

*The Hon Y Sawmynaden
Minister of Technology, Communication and
Innovation*

TEA BREAK

Presentation

*Mr F Shamutally and Mr Z Soreefan
Mauritius Research Council*

Presentation

*Mr Hiroki Akagi
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)*

LUNCH BREAK

Presentation (To be confirmed)

Representative of AAC Clyde

Presentation

*Mr Jean Marc Momplé
Mauritius Amateur Radio Society*

Questions & Answers

Concluding Remarks