

Strategy of Space Development in Korea

Hae-Jin Choi

Korea Aerospace Research Institute

Space Development is driven in the view of national needs and technology development strategy. As a result, Ministry of Science and Technology takes the leading role in space development. Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) takes the major role in air and space developments activities in Korea, in co-operation with related research institutes as well as Korean industries. KARI is the government funded research institute established in 1989 based on the special law to promote the development in air and space. With its 400 engineers and scientists, KARI plays the central role in the air and space development. Space development proceeds based on the National Space Development Plan laid in 1995 until 2015. This space development plan is composed of three areas, i.e., rocket development, satellite development, and space science and application. The final goal is for Korea to become one of the top 10 space faring countries by 2015. To realize this goal, 500 ~ 1000Kg class satellite is planned to launch to LEO orbit using its own rocket by 2010. Korea also hopes to keep up with leading countries in the area of space science and application via international cooperation. The satellite development of Korea is composed of three programs i.e., experimental satellite KITSAT, communication satellite KOREASAT, and multipurpose earth observation satellite KOMPSAT. According to the National Space Development plan revised in 2000, the total 20 satellite will be developed by 2015 which includes 7 KITSAT, 5 GEO communication satellite and 8 KOMPSAT. KOMPSAT is the key program in our space development plan and intended to be the backbone of Korea Satellite technology development. KOMPSAT-1 was successfully launched in December 1999 and now sending valuable earth observation images to KARI ground station. KOMPSAT-2 is now under development and scheduled to launch in 2004.