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UAE satellite to carry Bahrain, Nepal payloads

Move is part of 'Access to Space for All Initiative' with UN

DUBAI

BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter

The UAE's Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (Unoosa announced on Thursday two winning payloads that will be carried to space on PHI-1 satellite, as part of the 'Access to Space for All' initiative.

The Payload Hosting Initiative (PHI) launched early this year is a joint initiative by MBRSC and UNOOSA to provide payload hosting to UN member states on MBRSC's satellite platform to demonstrate new technologies and build space science and technology in developing countries. Its end goal is to ensure that no one is left behind on the path to space exploration and sustainable development on Earth. It is also intended to advance the objectives of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The two payloads to be on board the first transport called PHI-1 are from Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA) and Nepal University's Antarikchya Pratisthan. PHI-1 will provide a 5U slot within the 12U modular setup of the satellite.

Developed by a Bahraini team, the 'Aman' payload will test an optimised Advanced Encryption Standard, which will ensure secure communication between satellite and ground station. Nepal's "Danfe Space Mission" will study the operation of PX4 Autopilot, a middleware for drones in space, with focus on the system's behaviour and operation.

According to MBRSC, "both payloads will provide practical experience, knowledge, and skills to the teams and will contribute to capacity-building in space technology.