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HCT students to build payload for Dubai's earth observation satellite

The square-shaped nanosatellite will roughly be the size of a Rubik's cube

PLACE

BY ASHFAQ AHMED
Senior Assistant Editor

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) and the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) will develop an earth observation nanosatellite, which is expected to be launched by the end of 2024.

HCT-Sat 1 will be a CubeSat, a miniature, square-shaped satellite that is about the size of a Rubik's cube.

The payload for the satellite will be developed by the students of HCT, under the guidance of MBRSC.

'Instilling seeds of curiosity'

HCT-Sat 1 will be a compact satellite design of unit size 1U (10cm x 10cm x 10cm), with the team at MBRSC spearheading a broad range of operations, including assembly and integration to the stringent testing of the satellite as well as overseeing the payload launch and ensuring the seamless provision of all essential communication services.

The partnership between MBRSC and HCT also entails a comprehensive educational experience, empowering both students and faculty members with expert training, and delivering substantial support in the immersive CubeSat curriculum.

"Empowering students and instilling the seeds of curiosity, innovation, and a deep under-



■ HCT students will be guided by MBRSC in the satellite project.

Beyond satellite development, the MBRSC-HCT collaboration focuses on education, aiming to cultivate curiosity, innovation, and space technology understanding.

standing of space technologies is pivotal to ensuring a sustainable future for the UAE's space programme," said Salem Humaid AlMarri, director general, MBRSC.

Igniting passion for STEM

Collaborative projects such as the development of HCT-Sat 1 aims to integrate space technologies within educational programmes, catalysing a new era of innovation and learning in space science and exploration.

The initiative, designed to reach out to a broad spec-

trum of academic institutions, from universities to local high schools, is seeking to ignite a passion for STEM education among the youth within the UAE. Additionally, it ensures a unique opportunity for the students to be introduced to the world of miniaturised space technologies, simultaneously enhancing the depth of understanding of the budding talents in the field.

UAE accomplishing milestones

Dr Faisal Alayyan, president and CEO of HCT, said, "The UAE is currently making significant progress, accomplishing milestones, and leaving lasting marks in the field of outer space, highlighting that HCT, as a leading educational institution in applied education dedicated to cultivating specialised and professional competencies across various crucial domains, including the space sector, strives to attract students with a keen passion for studying disciplines that cater to this industry."