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## **UAE's PHI-Demo satellite** successfully put into orbit

Launch marks first step of Payload Hosting Initiative

## DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) yesterday announced the successful launch of the first mission of the Payload Hosting Initiative (PHI), with the PHI-Demo satellite now in orbit.

The PHI-Demo satellite onboard a Sovuz-2 rocket lifted off from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome at 3.34pm UAE time. The project, the first of its kind in the Arab world, has all its mechanical components made in the UAE in collaboration with the private sector.

It will be positioned at an altitude of about 550km, and operated from MBRSC and the labs of partner universities - American University RAK and Khalifa University.

MBRSC has crafted the 'platform', the shell of the PHI-Demo satellite that hosts the payloads, with a 100 per cent Emirati team.

Salem Humaid Al Marri,

550km

altitude at which the PHI-Demo satellite carrying two payloads will be positioned

Director-General of MBRSC, said: "We remain guided by the spirit of innovation, and a firm determination to advance our nation's role in contributing to global space exploration and technological growth."

## Two payloads

The 12U modular satellite platform is carrying two partner technology payloads.

An advanced IoT communication payload developed by UAE start-up OQ Technology will enable data collection and transmission from IoT devices, utilising state-ofthe-art 5G technology.

The satellite is also carrying a revolutionary green propulsion subsystem developed by UK's SteamJet, using water as its primary propellant.

Scheduled for a one-year operation, the PHI-Demo satellite will contribute to evolving space technology.