

Thales Alenia Space UK Ltd; MicroLaunch

Executive Summary

MicroLaunch, a Thales Alenia Space UK concept, represents novel a development in microwave beamed launchers; an orbital launch system which generates thrust from wireless energy transmitted to it from a specialised ground station. This concept offers low cost (targeting <£5,000/kg) and short turnaround (1-2 days) access to polar orbits for nano and pico satellites (1 to 50kg). During the CEOI-ST funded study the critical elements of the ground station and launcher have been modelled and a development roadmap produced.