

Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS)



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The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has introduced a new initiative named Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS). This initiative aims to encourage private companies in India to design and develop satellite-bus platforms. The goal is to reduce import dependence and encourage innovation within the Indian space sector. It will help make India a global service provider for small satellite-bus and hosted-payload services.

What is a Satellite Bus?

A satellite bus is the modular structure that forms the core of a satellite. It supports essential systems required for the satellite's operation. The payload, which includes various instruments and technologies, is attached to this bus. This standardised design allows for versatility in satellite missions.

Objectives of the SBaaS Initiative

- Promote innovation among Indian Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).
- Reduce reliance on imported satellite technology.
- Facilitate the development of small satellite-bus platforms for diverse applications.
- Support the growth of India's private space sector.

Implementation Phases

- **Phase I:** Up to four NGEs will be shortlisted based on their technical capabilities. These entities will develop a modular, multi-mission satellite-bus system.
- **Phase II:** IN-SPACe will back up to two hosted-payload missions to validate the utility of the developed platforms.

Application Process

Eligible Indian NGEs are invited to apply for this initiative. They must register by May 15 to access the announcement document. Proposals must be submitted by June 23. The process aims to streamline collaboration between payload developers and satellite platform manufacturers.

Benefits of SBaaS

The SBaaS initiative is designed to:

- Bridge the gap between payload developers and satellite platforms.
- Provide a cost-effective solution for in-orbit validation of diverse payloads.
- Accelerate the development cycle for emerging technologies.
- Enhance India's capabilities in offering comprehensive space solutions.

Role of IN-SPACe

IN-SPACe functions as an autonomous agency within the Department of Space. Established in June 2020, it promotes private sector participation in space activities. The agency is responsible for authorising and supervising various space projects, including satellite and launch vehicle development.