



Press Release

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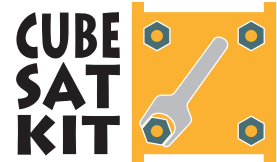
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Pumpkin, Inc. Announces 4th-Generation CubeSat Kit™ Architecture



Logan, UT - Pumpkin, Inc., the makers of CubeSat Kit, have announced the release of the 4th-generation pluggable processor architecture for CubeSat Kit nanosatellites. Speaking at the 5th Annual CubeSat Developers Workshop, Pumpkin's Andrew Kalman emphasized the significant upgrade in capability versus the current offering. The new architecture can accommodate a wide range of on-board processors, from 8-, 16- and 32-bit devices to FPGAs, ASICs and rad-hard processors.

“Pumpkin has delivered to customers over 100 CubeSat Kits based on TI's 16-bit MSP430 RISC processor,” states Andrew Kalman, CEO. “The MSP430 has performed well in space. Yet we recognize that there are many CubeSat efforts that have substantial hardware and software IP invested in other processor families. Re-coding and redesigning for the MSP430 is just not a viable option for them. So, we decoupled the processor from the rest of the CubeSat Kit and put it on a pluggable module that goes into a socket on the new Flight Motherboard (FMB).”

“The new architecture opens up the CubeSat Kit to run any processor over a wide range of operating voltages, and with a variety of flight processor module (FPM) packaging options. Since FPM specifications are public, anyone can design their own FPM for use in this new open standard. Users have complete flexibility in choosing their processor, package and support circuitry, as well as in defining the connectivity between their chosen processor(s) on their FPM and the standardized CubeSat Kit Bus. Existing designs can be ported over to the CubeSat Kit in a manner of days through the relatively easy task of designing a new FPM.”

This upgrade is in line with Pumpkin's established path of continuing to further develop the CubeSat Kit platform, and is backwards-compatible with all previous CubeSat Kit generations. The 4th-generation FPM-centric architecture is available immediately from Pumpkin, Inc as part of its CubeSat Kit product offering.

In addition to his duties as Pumpkin's CEO and CTO, Dr. Kalman is a Consulting Professor in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University. This fall, he will assume the leadership role at Stanford's Space and Systems Development Laboratory (SSDL), previously led by professors Bob Twiggs and James Cutler. Pumpkin, Inc. is the largest supplier of CubeSat standard components. The company's CubeSat Kit product line allows aerospace engineers to use space-proven subassemblies, saving time and expense and reducing risk.

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For further information, or to schedule an interview with Dr. Kalman, please contact Robert Call at 415 385-4370. Additional information is also available at www.cubesatkit.com.