



PSP SSPI

Tomorrow's satellites for today's toughest challenges

Overview

PSP SSPI is involved in the annual SEDS-SSPI satellite design competition. From 2016-2018, PSP SSPI has been one of the top three teams in the challenge, with its first two years receiving first place.

After a two-year hiatus, PSP SSPI returned to compete for the 2020 challenge. They have submitted their design report and are expected to present in the fall.

SEDS-SSPI is an annual design competition partnered by SEDS USA and SSPI (Society of Satellite Professionals International) that challenges SEDS chapters to design satellites for current issues in the space industry. The competition involves compiling a report of the chapter's proposed design and presenting it at the annual SEDS Spacevision conference.

2020 Challenge

Space debris is an issue of growing concern, with the potential to block access to space, as dramatically illustrated in the film Gravity. The Kessler Syndrome shown in the film was proposed by NASA scientist Donald Kessler in 1978: a scenario in which the density of objects in low earth orbit is high enough that collisions between objects could cause a cascade, where each collision generates space debris that increases the likelihood of further collisions. The distribution of the resulting debris could render space activities and the use of satellites unfeasible for many generations.

The challenges to cleaning up low earth orbit are part regulatory, part technical but very much about business model. What are the sources of space debris? What bright ideas exist for clearing it out?

Description provided by SEDS USA.

AT A GLANCE

- Started in 2016
- Participates in the SEDS-SSPI competition
- Has been a top three team in the competition
- Restarted in 2020 after two-year hiatus
- Completed design report, expected to present at Spacevision conference

CONTACT

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