

## **Seven Flight Units Ready for Launch**



**Engineering Qualification Unit** 



Six flight units for the constellation mission

LINCOLN LABORATORY MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



### Time-Resolved Observations of Precipitation Structure and Storm Intensity with a Constellation of Smallsats

#### MIT Lincoln Laboratory (lead organization)

William J. Blackwell, Principal Investigator. Scott Braun (NASA GSFC), Project Scientist



# **TROPICS Pathfinder Mission**

- The engineering qualification unit will be flown in advance of the constellation to reduce risk of all elements of the primary mission and expedite science returns.
- MIT LL is funding hardware readiness and operations, NASA is funding launch and some launch qualifications testing
- Launch is being provided by the NASA CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI), details on next slide



## **TROPICS Pathfinder Launch Awarded by NASA**

- Launch Date: June 2021
- Momentus Space "Vigoride"
- SpaceX Falcon 9 launch from Vandenberg

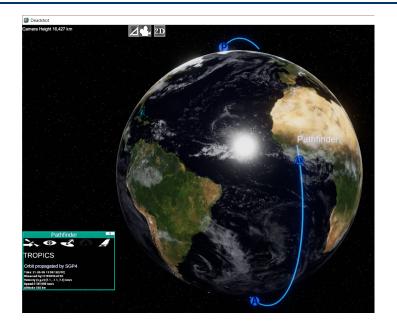


### VIGORIDE™

Satellites with masses up to 250 kg can be moved from ISS orbit all the way up to 2,000 km on Vigoride. Vigoride can be launched from an ESPA or ESPA Grande ring, from ISS airlocks, or from almost any small dedicated launcher or larger rideshare vehicle.

USER GUIDE | CAD

VIGORIDE WET MASS: 215 KG MAXIMUM PAYLOAD MASS: 500 KG TOTAL IMPULSE: 450,000 N-S MAXIMUM ΔV: 1.6 KM/S FOR 150 KG PAYLOAD



Orbit parameters: 550 km altitude, circular 98° inclination (sun-synchronous) 13:30 Local Time of Ascending Node (LTAN)

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