

AGENCY

AcubeSAT successfully passes Critical Design Review

01/09/2021 1465 VIEWS 29 LIKES

ESA / Education / CubeSats - Fly Your Satellite!

AcubeSAT, a project by student team SpaceDot from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in Greece, has successfully passed the Critical Design Review and can now move on to the next phase of the Fly Your Satellite! programme.

— ACubeSAT exploded view

factory, producing useful pharmaceutical substances, biofuels, and even food!

Participating in the third cycle of ESA Education's Fly Your Satellite! programme, AcubeSAT – along with two other teams – undertook a Critical Design Review (CDR) in March 2021. A CDR is an important step in the development of a space mission, during which a panel of experts evaluate the satellite design to ascertain whether it meets all the set requirements. For the Fly Your Satellite! programme, each student team had to deliver a comprehensive data package that was scrutinised by the expert panel who evaluated and challenged the designs.

The SpaceDot team performed sterling work, and the experts were impressed with their plans for AcubeSAT. A significant number of actions that had previously been flagged were

— SpaceDot virtual team meeting

closed, and large parts of the CubeSat design had been consolidated in a satisfactory manner. There were some remaining issues that led to continued discussions and support between the students and various ESA specialists, resulting in further design iterations and improvements. These remaining actions have now been addressed, meaning that the review objectives have been achieved and AcubeSAT has officially passed its CDR!

"We grasped this once in lifetime chance," says one team member. "Let's build towards the once in a lifetime launch."