

AGENCY

Good vibrations for the 3Cat-4 CubeSat team on their preparation for launch

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In brief

3Cat-4 ("cube-cat-four") is a student CubeSat mission participating in the second cycle of ESA Education's Fly Your Satellite! programme. From 17 to 21 October 2022, students from the team took the proto-flight model of their nano-satellite to ESA Academy's CubeSat Support Facility in ESEC-Galaxia for the system vibration test campaign.

In-depth

3Cat-4 is a 1U CubeSat equipped with a Flexible Microwave payload. It will conduct Earth Observation, using GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) Reflectometry and L-band microwave radiometry, and it will also carry a receiver of AIS (Automatic Identification Services) messages used by vessel traffic services. The student team is part of the Nanosat Lab, an initiative from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya.

— 3Cat-4 team performing a visual inspection of the CubeSat between runs of the vibration test

The purpose of the vibration tests was to simulate the intense shaking that the satellite will experience during launch, and is a mandatory step on the preparation for flight.