

||||| 特集：小型衛星の開発動向と微小重力実験 |||||  
(解説)

## 小型衛星の開発動向と微小重力実験の利用

中須賀 真一

### **Current Status of Small Satellites Development and Utilization of Micro Gravity Experiment**

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#### **Abstract**

Japanese universities recently began to develop small satellites for educational purpose. These activities are primary for education; i.e. to provide students with opportunities to experience the whole cycle of space projects including mission conceptualization, design, fabrication, test, launch, operation and analysis of the results. However, they are also aiming for the “university type” contribution to the actual space development, by, for example, providing quick and cheap space demonstration opportunities with university small satellites or finding new seeds for future space technologies. Micro gravity experiment has provided a unique and effective opportunity to evaluate the onboard equipment on ground or verify the feasibility of experiments to be done on small satellites. This paper reviews the current status of small satellite development activities in Japan and micro gravity experiments utilized for them, and then discuss the requirements on micro gravity environment from the satellite developers’ side.