



SET: The rocket before launch.

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6 S'pore satellites launched in India

Six Singapore-made satellites were successfully launched via an Indian rocket yesterday, marking Singapore's boldest leap into space.

Riding on a rocket owned by the Indian Space Research Organisation, the six satellites blasted off at 8.30pm Singapore time from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India.

The satellites will hover about 550km above ground.

They were built from scratch by teams from defence manufacturer Singapore Technologies Electronics, Singapore-based space technology firm Microspace Rapid, the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, reported The Straits Times Online.

SIZE

The biggest satellites is the 400kg TeLEOS-1, the first Singapore-made commercial earth observation satellite to orbit in space. It carries a camera that can take pictures at ground resolution of up to a metre and can conduct surveillance missions for maritime and border security.

The TeLEOS-1 is expected to last up to five years.

The smaller satellites, built by NUS, NTU and Microspace Rapid, will last between six months and three years.

Yesterday's launch comes four years after Singapore put its first home-grown micro-satellite X-Sat in space. Smaller ones have subsequently been launched by NTU.