

# The 14<sup>th</sup> CanSat / CubeSat Leader Training Program (CLTP14) – *Mission Design*

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Nihon University

The 60<sup>th</sup> Virtual UNISEC Global  
Meeting  
20/09/2025



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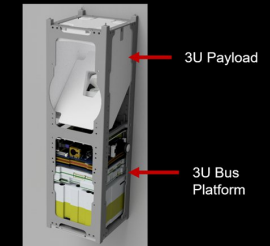
1. Background
2. Introduction
3. Mission Design
4. Lessons Learned
5. End

# 1. Background

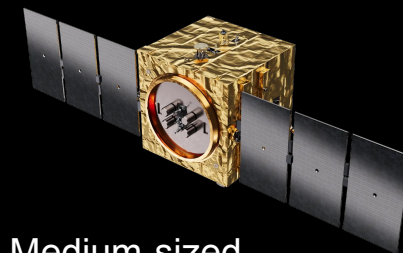
- **Bio:**  
Derrick Tebusweke  
Space Systems Engineering Researcher  
Uganda
- **Education:**  
Msc. Electrical and Space Systems Engineering | Kyutech | Japan | BIRDS5 Project  
Bsc. Electrical Engineering | Makerere University | Uganda
- **Position:**  
2025 – Research Associate in CubeSats | Northumbria University | UK | ALIGN Mission  
2022 – Power System Engineer | Astroscale Limited | UK | ELSA-M Mission
- **Research Interests:**  
Nanosatellites, Spacecraft Power Systems, Attitude Determination & Control and Space Environmental Testing



1U (Two) and 2U  
© BIRDS5 Project



6U (Two)  
© NU

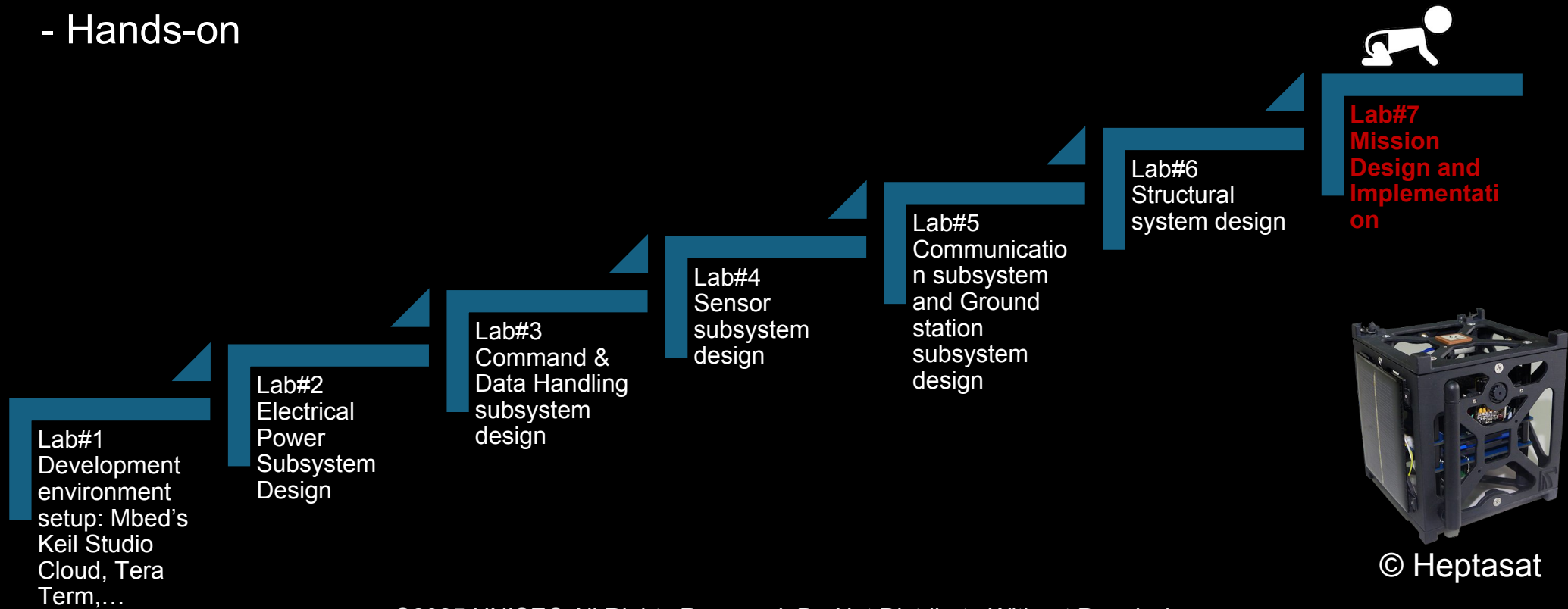


Medium-sized  
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## 2. Introduction

- CLTP Overview:

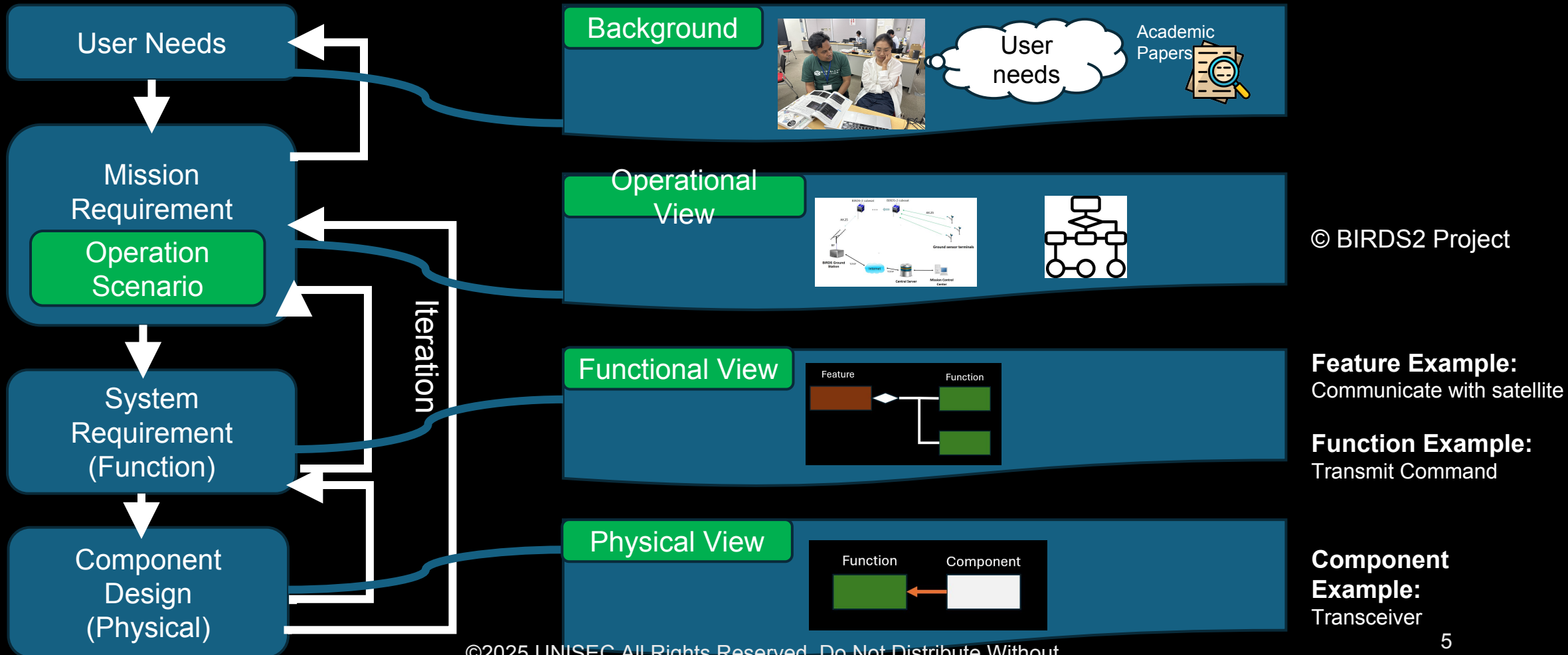
- Full cycle satellite development training: initial design – launch and operation - utilizing a HeptaSat kit
- Hands-on





# 3. Mission Design

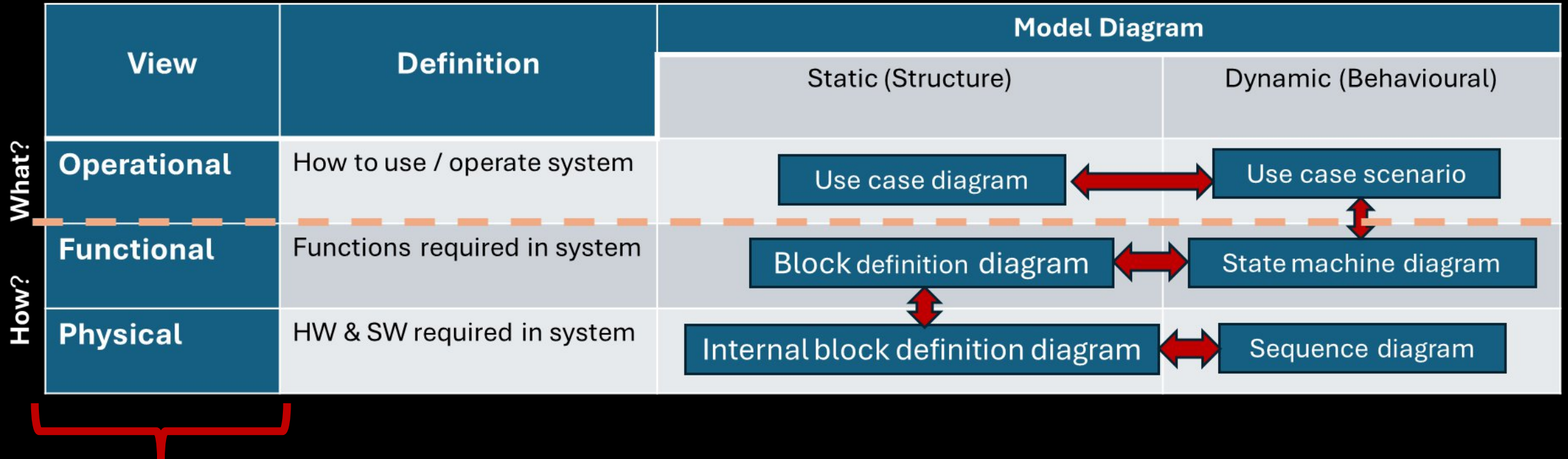
## 3.0 Step 0: Overview of Systems Design



# 3. Mission Design

## 3.0 Step 0: Overview of Systems Design

### Model-Based System Engineering Design



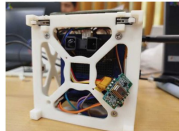

### 3 Important Views In Mission Design

# 2. Mission Design


## 2.1 Step 1: Requirement Development Example

Example of our group project mission idea

### 1 Obtain User Needs



**Climate Change Monitoring (CCM) CubeSat Mission**



#### 1. User Needs/Background



- Urban areas are increasingly affected by climate change, experiencing health hazards from smog, flash floods, and droughts.
- Currently, limited data is available to mitigate and to provide effective early-warning and risk management for these hazards.



User needs:

- Crude and obscure

# 3. Mission Design

## 3.1 Step 1: Requirement Development Example...



How can we achieve such a mission?

**A**

Use ground sensors and terrestrial networks for monitoring?

**B**

Launch satellite, get data and send it back?

**C**

Launch a drone, get data and send it back?

# 3. Mission Design

## 3.1 Step 1: Requirement Development

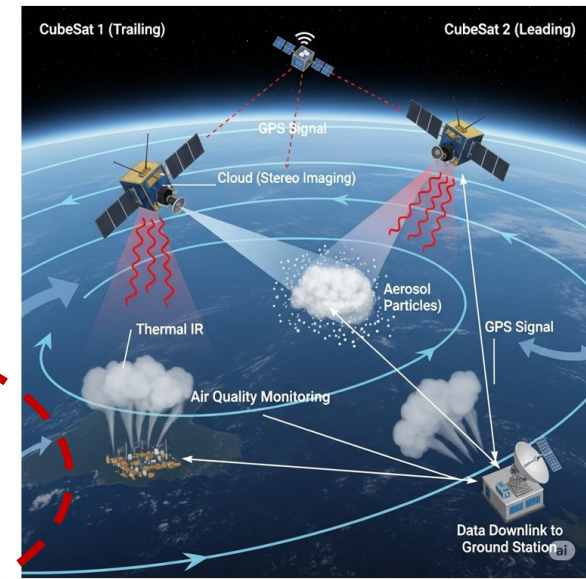
### 2 Conduct an Operation Scenario tradeoff

- A: Terrestrial networks are costly in terms of internet data  
→ X
- B: Satellite orbit is very high, cloud mapping possible, higher resolution, many revisit times  
→ ✓
- C: Limited coverage  
→ X

Note the functional and physical elements (HW , SW) needed

The CCM mission is a coordinated 2-satellite CubeSat mission designed to provide valuable atmospheric and environmental observations, with a focus on urban smog, cloud formation (especially cloud bursts), and flood-related weather events.

Each 1U CubeSat carries sensors chosen to measure key parameters for smog and extreme weather, enabling classification and early-warning capabilities:





# 3. Mission Design

## 3.2 Step 2: System Design from Operational View

### 3 Create Mission Goal / Objective

#### Mission Goal Statement Template

[MG-1] To \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Using \_\_\_\_\_

- To: [Overall intent statement]
- By: [Process statement]
- Using [Methodology statement]

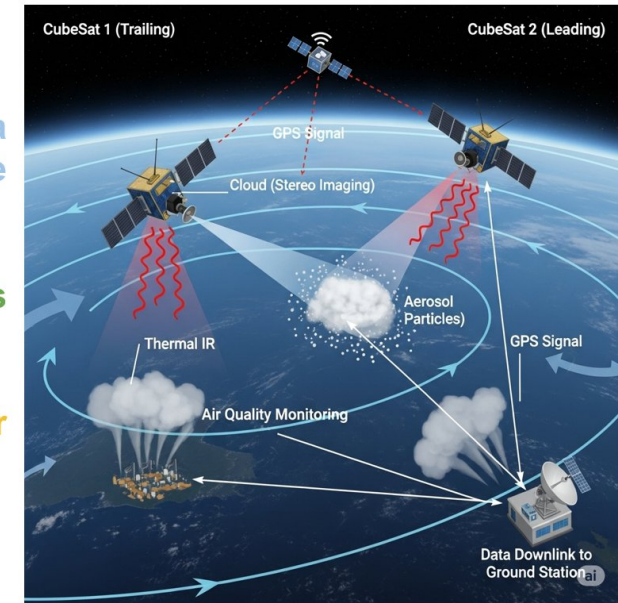
To keep traceability

### Example: CCM CubeSat Mission

#### 2.1 Mission Goal/Objective



- MG1. Demonstrate multisensor fusion in a CubeSat for climate monitoring
- MG2. Measure temperature of clouds and urban surfaces
- MG3. Demonstrate Intersatellite link for integrated sensing.

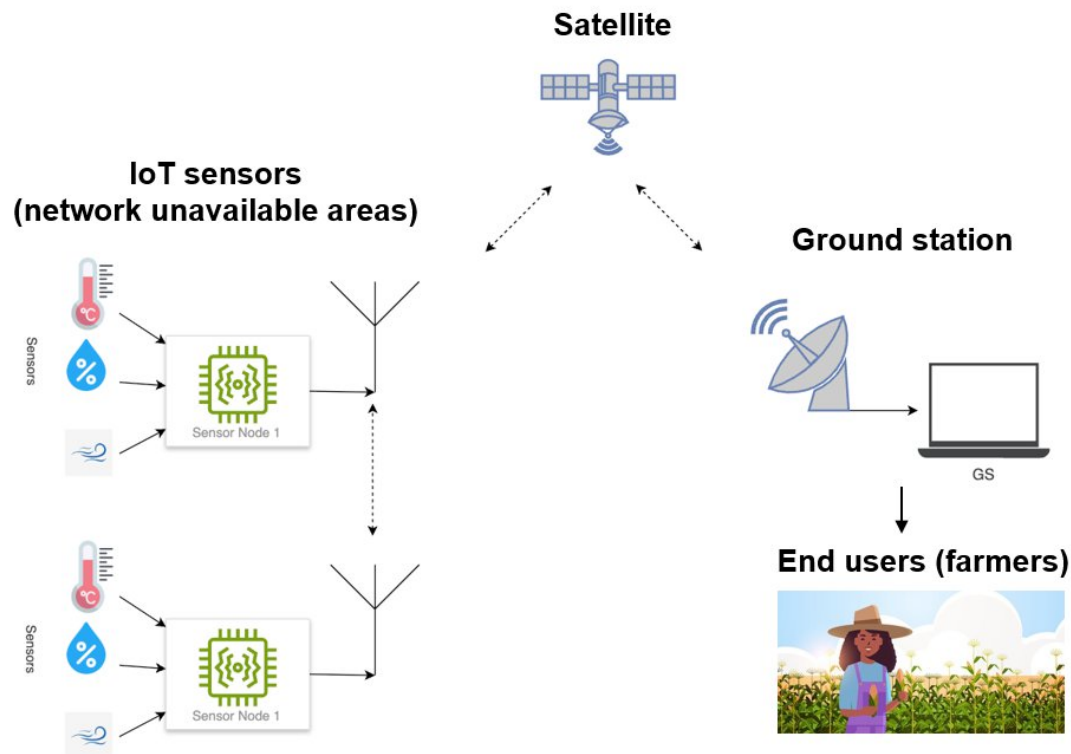


# 3. Mission Design

## 3.2 Step 2: System Design from Operational View

### 4 Create A Concept Sketch:

MIZU Mission (Monitoring of Irrigation Zones Using satellites & IoT)



### Purpose:

- Shows interrelationships between the systems:
  - Launcher, satellite, ground station, operator, etc
- Derives necessary functions:
  - E.g Data uplink/downlink

# 3. Mission Design

## 3.2 Step 2: System Design from Operational View

### 5 Create Success Criteria:

Example: CCM CubeSat Mission

3. Success Criteria			
HEPTA-SAT TRAINING			
Success Level	No.	Mission Success Criteria	Verification Method
Minimum Success	MG-1	Successfully connect the sensors	Compare satellite data to ground sensors and existing satellite platforms.
	MG-2	Measure temperature of clouds and urban surfaces	
	MG-3	Measure distance between fixed satellites	
Full Success	MG-1	Gather data for distance and thermal sensors	Compare satellite data to ground sensors and existing satellite platforms.
	MG-2	Classify smog vs. dense cloud	
	MG-3	Measure relative distance between CubeSats	
Advanced Success	MG-1	Demonstrate data fusion from both satellites	Compare satellite data to ground sensors and existing satellite platforms.
	MG-2	Detect extreme cloud events (cloud bursts)	
	MG-3	Cross-validate measurements from both satellites	

### Key:

- **Minimum Success:** must achieve condition to admit mission success
- **Full Success:** condition you can admit the mission is success
- **Advanced Success:** condition which you want to do but might be difficult due to cost, time, skill, etc
- **Verification Method:** How to verify mission success

To keep traceability

# 3. Mission Design

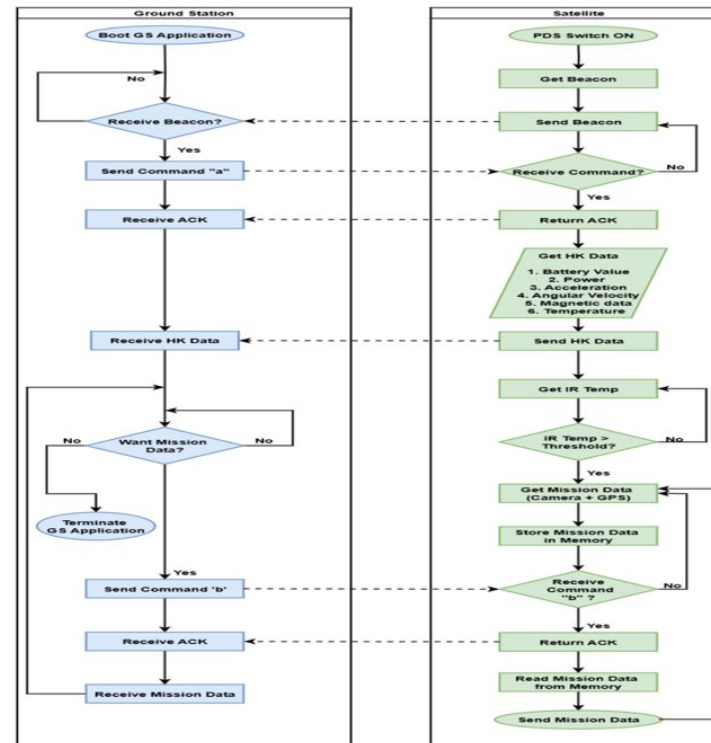
## 3.2 Step 2: System Design from Operational View

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**Create A Flowchart / Sequence Diagram of The Sequence Between Satellite and Ground Station:**

Example: GCM CubeSat Mission

- Get HK Data (Health, battery, temperature).
- Acquire IR Distance from sensor.
- Get IR Thermal Image from sensor.
- Get Camera and GPS data.
- Downlink Mission Data via Xbee (2.4 GHz, 250 kbps)



**Sensor Description:**

- IR Distance Sensor:
  - Detects thick clouds
- IR Thermal Imager Sensor:
  - Cloud temperature
- Camera and GPS:
  - Visual and geotagging

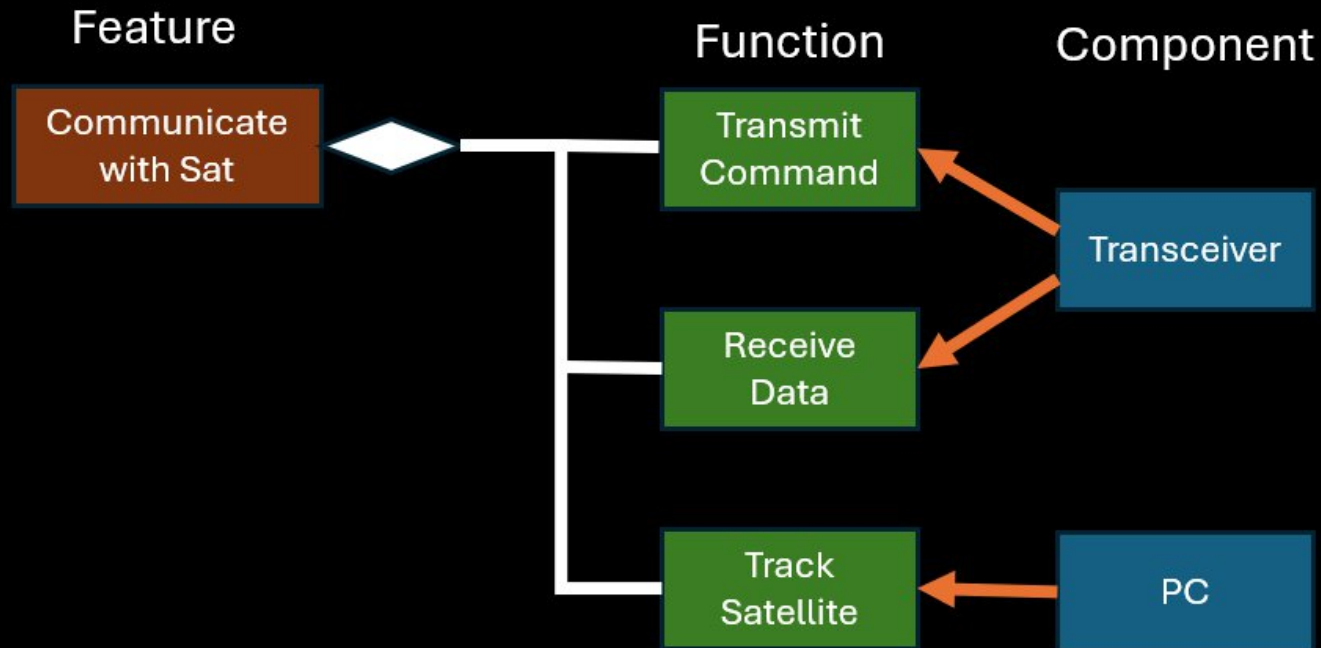


# 3. Mission Design

## 3.3 Step 3: System Design from Functional View

### 7 Create A Function Decomposition Diagram:

### Purpose:



- Identifies functions and components from features.
  - Operational Requirement -> Feature
  - System Requirements -> Function, Component
- Easy to understand relationship between features, functions and components.



# 3. Mission Design

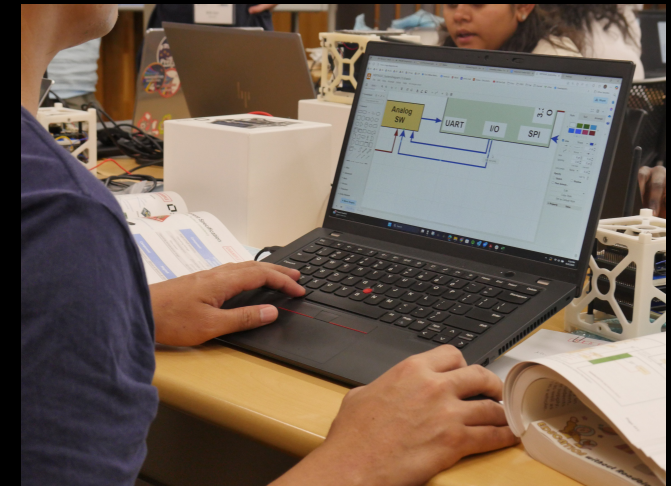
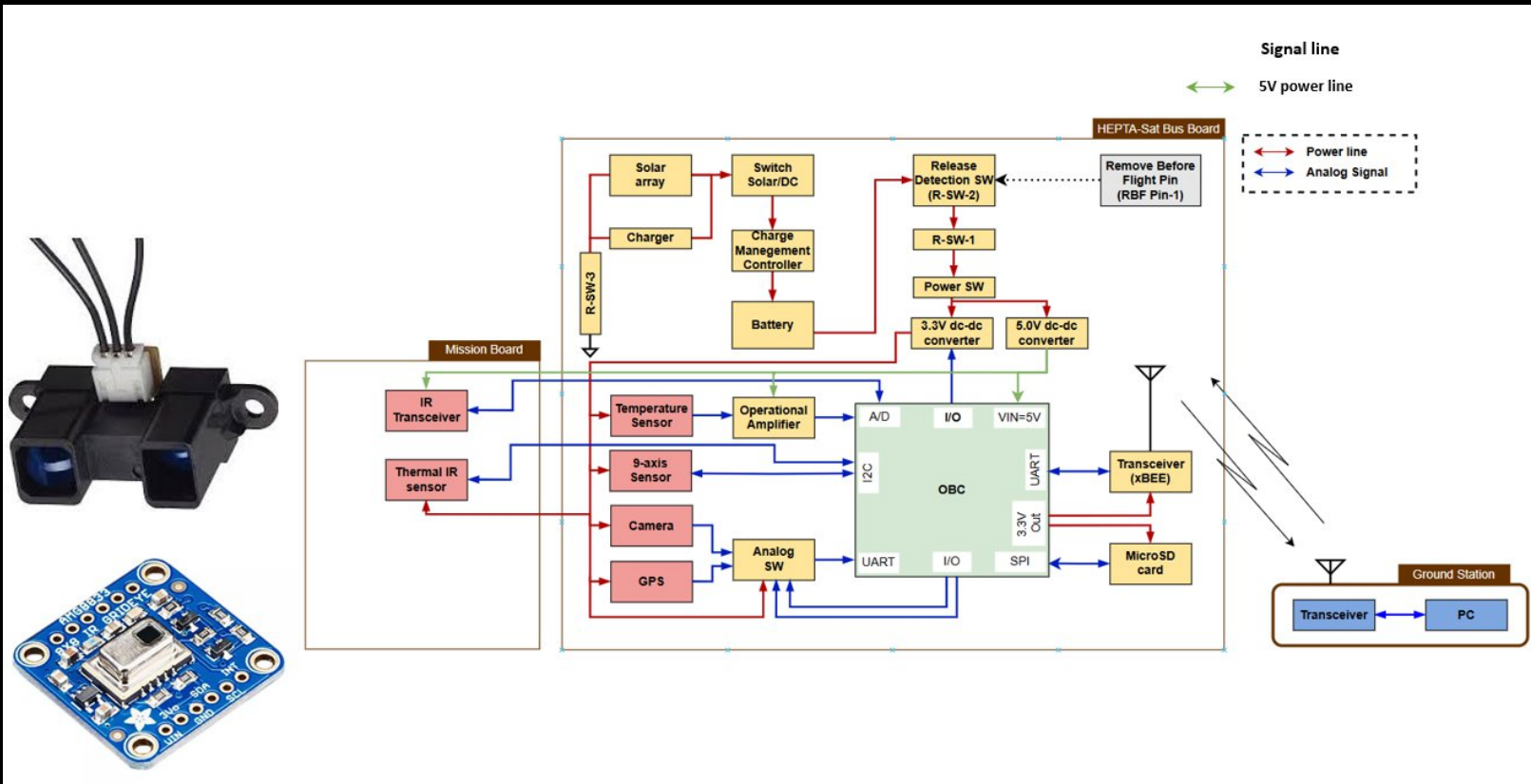
## 3.4 Step 4: System Design from Physical View

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**Create A Block System Diagram:**  
Example: CCM CubeSat Mission

**Purpose:**

- Represent how components are connected to each other and with other interfaces in a model diagram

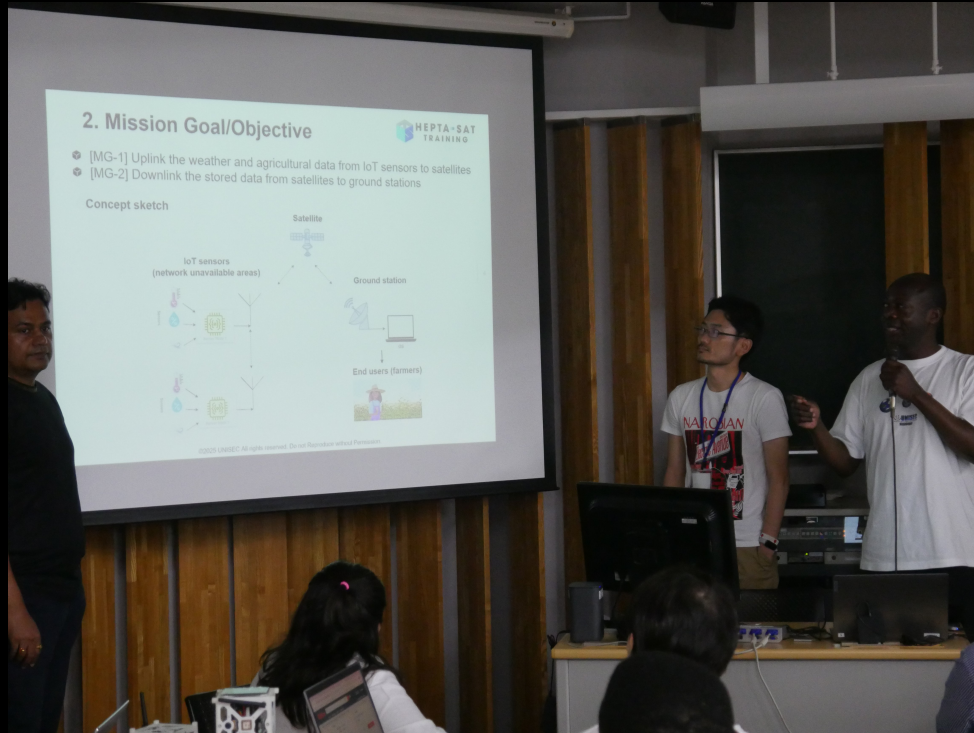


# 3. Mission Design

## 3.5 Step 5: Mission Design Review (MDR)

9

### Presentation of Mission Feasibility



# 3. Mission Design

## 3.6 Step 6: Component Selection

1  
0

### Create a Components List:

Example: CCM CubeSat Mission Components List

### Key parameters from Components Datasheets:

No.	Components	Model	URL	Where to Get	Qty	Unit Price	Total
1	IR Thermal Sensor	AMG8833	<a href="https://akizukidenshi.com/catalog/g/g116737/">https://akizukidenshi.com/catalog/g/g116737/</a>	Akihabara Market	1	3980	¥ 3,980.0
2	IR Distance Sensor	GP2Y0A02YK	<a href="https://akizukidenshi.com/catalog/g/g103158/">https://akizukidenshi.com/catalog/g/g103158/</a>	Akihabara Market	1	980	¥ 980.0
3	Air Humidifier	GB/T23332-2009		Akihabara Market	1	2980	¥ 2,980.0
4	Jumper Wires				1	0	¥ -
	TOTAL (JPY)						¥ 7,940.0

Level	No.	Parameter	Point
Selection	1	Operating Voltage	Voltage input range
	2	Interface	Communication interface
	3	Power Consumption	Power draw
	4	Circuit	Elements necessary for operation
Implementation	5	Circuit & Pin arrangement	Pin Interface
	6	Package	Parts size



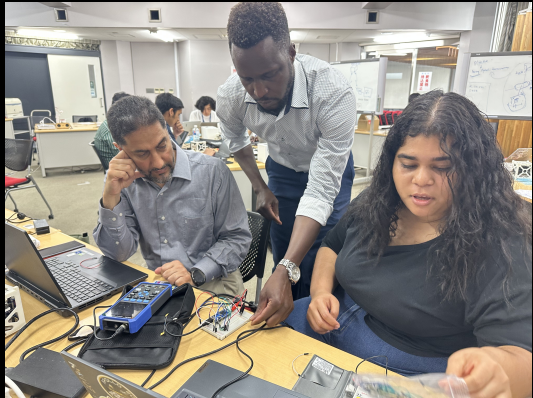
# 3. Mission Design

## 3.7 Step 7: Experimental Setup / Breadboarding

1  
1

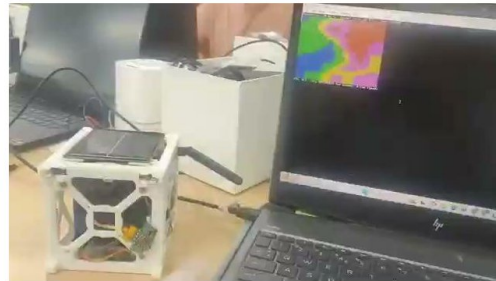
**Connect procured components to achieve the mission:**

Example: CCM CubeSat Mission IR Thermal Sensor Integration Test



Example: TerraQuak  
CubeSat Mission  
Breadboarding

**IR Thermal Sensor** →  
Configured for thermal infrared  
imaging, captured on an 8×8 pixel  
grid to demonstrate cloud/smog  
detection concept.

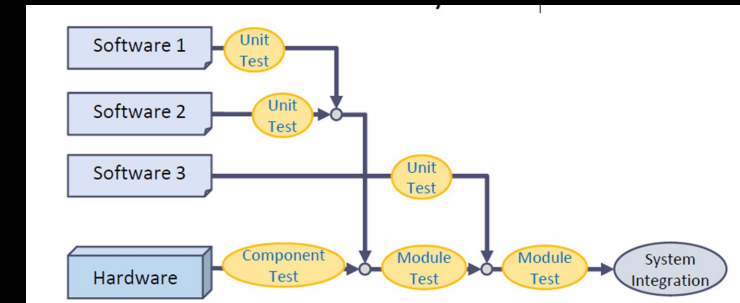


Example: CCM CubeSat Mission IR Thermal Sensor  
Integration Test



**Integration Methodology:**

- **Keep and add components systematically.**



# 3. Mission Design

## 3.8 Step 8: Experimental Source Code

1  
2

Use version control software like GitHub

**Integration Methodology:**

- Keep and test software systematically.

```
int main() {
    sat.printf("From Sat : Nominal Operation\n");
    com.printf("From Sat : Nominal Operation\n");
    wait_ms(100);

    int flag = 0; //condition flag
    float bt,ax,ay,az;
    float batvol, temp; //voltage, temperature
    float gx,gz; // angular velocity
    int cmd=0,cmdflag=0; //command variable
    satime.start();
    eps.turn_on_regulator(); //turn on 3.3V converter
    for(int i = 0; i < 30; i++) {
        com.receive(&cmd,&cmdflag); //interrupting by ground station command

        //satellite condition led
        condition = !condition;

        //sampling HK data(dummy data)
        eps.vol(&batvol);
        sensor.temp_sense(&temp);

        //Transmitting HK data to Ground Station(GS)
        com.printf("HEPATASAT condition = %d, Time = %2f s, battery voltage = %2f V, Temperature = %2f C\n",flag,satime.read(),batvol,temp);
        sat.printf("HEPATASAT condition = %d, Time = %2f s, battery voltage = %2f V, Temperature = %2f C\n",flag,satime.read(),batvol,temp);
        wait_ms(3000);

        //Power Saving Mode
        if(batvol < 3.5) || (temp > 35.0){
            eps.shutdown_regulator();
            com.printf("Power saving mode ON\n");
            flag = 1;
        } else if((flag == 1) & (batvol > 3.7) & (temp < 25.0)) {
            eps.turn_on_regulator();
            com.printf("Power saving mode OFF\n");
            flag = 0;
        }
    }
}
```

IR Distance Sensor

```
main.cpp x
lab4-04_detect_AMG8833_Thermal_I2C copy > @ main.cpp > @ main

104 int main() {
105     pc.printf("\n[3][2]"); // clear once
106     pc.printf("AMG8833 real-time COLOR heatmap (upsample x8) @ %d baud\n",
107             UPSCALE, (long)BAUD);
108     if (flag_init()) {
109         pc.printf("init failed (I2C NACK). Try 0x68/0x69 and check wiring.\n");
110         while (1) wait_ms(1000);
111     }
112     const int N = 8 * UPSCALE; // output width/height (e.g., 24)
113     static float T[N][N];
114     static float Tout[(8*UPSCALE)*(8*UPSCALE)];
115     Timer fps; fps.start();
116     uint32_t frames = 0;
117     while (1) {
118         // --- Thermistor (lightweight header) ---
119         send(0) = (char)REG_TTH;
120         if (i2c.write(AMG, send, 1, true) || i2c.read(AMG, (char*)th, 2)) {
121             home_cursor_only(); pc.printf("Thermistor read error\n"); wait_ms(50); continue;
122         }
123         float thc = therm_to_celsius(th[0], th[1]);
124         // --- Read all 64 pixels (burst) ---
125         send(0) = (char)REG_PIX_BASE;
126         if (i2c.write(AMG, send, 1, true) || i2c.read(AMG, (char*)pix, sizeof(pix))) {
127             home_cursor_only(); pc.printf("Pixel block read error\n"); wait_ms(50); continue;
128         }
129     }
}
```

IR Thermal Sensor



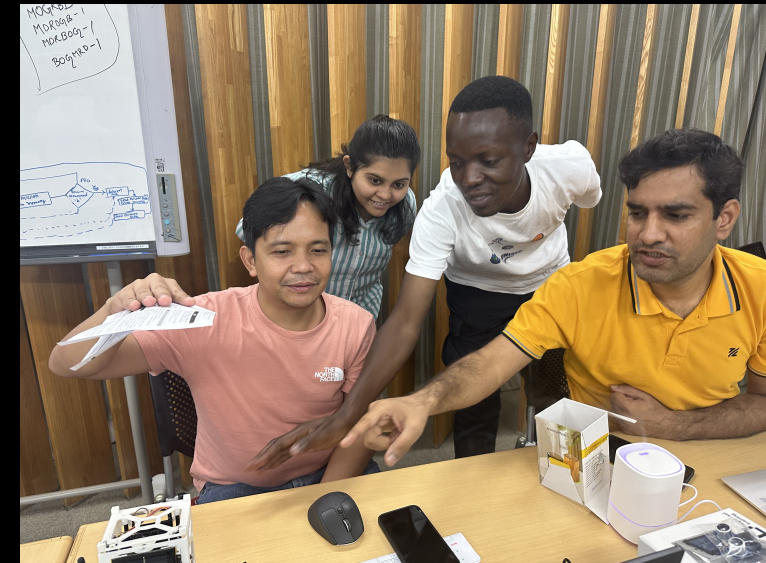
# 3. Mission Design

## 3.9 Step 9: Preliminary Design Review (PDR)

1  
3

Final Project Presentation and Graduation to Teaching Assistants (Green T-shirt) Purpose:

- Validate the system-level design against requirements.



Example: CCM CubeSat Mission IR Distance Sensor Integration Test

# 3. Mission Design

## 3.10 Step 10: Schedule Management

1  
4

### Create a Schedule:

Example: CCM CubeSat Mission Scedule

Action Item	Person in charge	22/08/2025				26/08/2025			
		9	12	15	18	9	12	15	18
Mission Feasibility	All								
Sensor Selection	Derrick, Bansi								
System Modeling	Marloun, Derrick								
System integration	All								
System verification	Rizwan								
Prepare final presentation	All								

### Important:

- Should be a living document drafted at the project start

# 3. Mission Design

## 3.11 Final Projects Overview

No.	Mission	Mission Overview	Members	Teaching Assistants
1	AtmoHEPTA	In-Situ Atmospheric Mass Density Detection	<b>Mohammed, Essien, Yang</b>	Nan, Yuto, Nagisa
2	Climate Change Monitoring (CCM) CubeSat Mission	To provide valuable atmospheric and environmental observations, with a focus on urban smog, cloud formation, and flood-related weather events.	<b>Rizwan, Marloun, Bansi, Derrick</b>	Aki, Yusuke
3	MIZU	Monitoring of Irrigation Zones Using satellites & IoT)	<b>Phanish, Ojas, Shohei, Joseph</b>	Debrupa, Yuzuki
4	TerraQuak	To detect post-earthquake affected buildings susceptible to collapsing due to structural damage using satellite IoT technology.	<b>Samir, Bonny, Marian, Selma</b>	Nicki Leon Broichhausen
<b>Teaching Practice</b>				
1	Heat stroke alert System - Sat	To save people from heat strokes	Shinichi, Hiroshi. Akiko and Shizuka	<b>Selma, Joseph, Ojas</b>
2	Thermal - Sat	Surface Thermal Environment Mapping Satellite	Ito, Sakai , Tsukuda, Kyue	<b>Yang, Shohei, Marloun, Marian</b>
3	Bare Naked Bear - Sat	Bear monitoring	Mayu, Kazuma, Yuya, Tmoaki	<b>Bonny, Rizwan, Derrick</b>
4	Flood - Sat	Water level measurement to Flood detection	Emily, Sakura, Makiko, Iwasaki, Mizusaki	<b>Essien, Samir, Bansi, Phanish, Mohammed</b>

## 4. Lessons Learned

- During breadboarding, ensure component pins are fully inserted in breadboard.
- Easy to learn with an extra mission
- Have a dedicated mission board to handle missions.

**Thank You!**  
**Any Question?**