Small Satellite Working Group (SmallSat WG)

PURPOSE:

The Small Satellite Working Group (SmallSat) is established to inform and educate the global GEOINT community on a common understanding of small (less than 500 kg) satellites systems and associated tasking, processing, exploitation and dissemination (TPED) systems to enhance communications regarding their value proposition throughout the relevant government, government contractor, and commercial communities.

OBJECTIVES:

The SmallSat Working Group will seek to build a community of interest by focusing on the following topics:

- National space policies regarding the need for resiliency in our space-based architecture
- Current and emerging mission needs of defense, intelligence, homeland, civil, and commercial users of space based imagery and data collection that may be satisfied by small satellites
- Current and emerging small satellite capabilities
- Technological shortfalls of small satellites that may need to be addressed to answer national policy and/or tactical government users needs’ end-to-end (i.e., from image request to receipt, launch platforms, and technology gaps for the size class)
- Coordination of IR&D where applicable to address gaps and shortfalls

The SmallSat Working Group will engage with appropriate groups to ensure there is clear understanding of any demands that small satellites will place on the services and applications layers of the DoD, military, IC, homeland, and other government civilian agencies’ information technology architectures. The SmallSat Working Group will also address standards related to government use of small satellites and will provide findings to appropriate government stakeholders.
The SmallSat Working Group will accomplish these goals through education, information, workshops, fora and other activities. The members of the SmallSat Working Group will develop and deliver position papers, standards/specifications requirements, educational flyers, training programs, discussion sessions, and other efforts as necessary.

The SmallSat Working Group will be disbanded at the discretion of USGIF leadership.

PRINCIPLES:

USGIF members in good standing shall be entitled to participate in SmallSat Working Group meetings and other activities and to exercise voting rights on any matters as appropriate, which are before the Working Group.

The Working Group may conduct both Working Group meetings and open meetings to carry out the purpose and objectives of the Working Group. Open meetings shall be announced through the USGIF and may be for general public attendance or may be limited to USGIF Members.

PRACTICES:

• Co-Chairs of the SmallSat Working Group will be designated by the USGIF. The Co-Chairs will serve a 2-year term, with alternative year terms. The first Co-Chairs will be from the initial member organizations of the SmallSat Working Group. Co-Chair nominations will be held annually. Co-Chairs may be elected to no more than 2 consecutive terms (maximum 4 years)
• Meetings will be held on an as needed basis at a mutually agreed to time and location
• All decisions of the working group shall be on a consensus basis unless the working group agrees to a different form of decision making
• SmallSat Working Group charter will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis
• Subgroups can be established to address specific topics that fall outside the scope of the SmallSat Working Group expertise at the discretion of the Co-Chairs
MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the SmallSat Working Group shall generally be open to any entity who is a member of the USGIF in good standing and who has an interest in the issue or event being addressed. USGIF may limit membership in Working Groups to those entities who have a mission or business function, which directly supports the Purpose and Objectives of the Working Group. In such cases an Associate membership category may be established to provide the opportunity for participation of and interaction with other USGIF Members, which have a related interest in the Working Group.

Requirements of Participation and How to Join:

Entities who wish to become SmallSat Working Group members shall submit a request to join to the Working Group Chair and Co-Chair. The Working Group Chair and Co-Chair will confirm USGIF membership standing with the USGIF and either confirm or disallow membership. Members are expected to actively participate in Working Group activities.

Funding of SmallSat Working Group Activities:

The USGIF will provide staff support and other logistical assistance to the Working Group. Costs for the operation of Working Groups established to address industry specific topics will be borne by the Working Group members either by payment to USGIF or by direct payment by member organizations. Costs for Working Group seminars, luncheons and other similar events shall be covered either by the Working Group members or sponsorship by USGIF members.

Oversight:

Working Groups are subject to oversight by the USGIF CEO and COO and Designated Staff and exist through the authority of the USGIF to initiate and promote programs, which serve and advance the purposes and objectives of the Foundation. The Working Group may disband by giving notice through the Working Group Chair and Co-Chair to the USGIF CEO and COO. The USGIF CEO retains the right to disband and terminate a Working Group at any time it is determined that it is no longer fulfilling its stated purpose or objectives.