

Commercial Platforms Allow Affordable Space Research



NASA Headquarters

NanoRacks LLC Houston, TX

NASA Technology

- ◆ The International Space Station (ISS) is a marvel of science, and a valuable resource for microgravity-based scientific investigation and research.
- ◆ In 2005 the NASA Authorization Act opened up an ISS compartment for utilization by other federal agencies as well as by the private sector.



Technology Transfer

- ◆ NanoRacks LLC was created to take advantage of the opportunity and developed the NanoLab—standardized software that can be used by the public and private sectors to gather data onboard the ISS.
- ◆ Nanolabs are four-inch cubes with USB ports for drawing power from the ISS and for transmitting near real-time data gathered from the experiment.

Benefits

- ◆ Standardized software forestalls companies from having to develop their own expensive models.
- ◆ High schools, universities, and companies have conducted studies on plant growth, pharmaceutical crystals, and nanomaterial.