

Report: The SmallSat Symposium™ 2017

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Translated by R. Sato



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Summary

The SmallSat Symposium 2017 was held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Silicon Valley, California, USA from Monday, February 6th to Wednesday, February 9th. This was the second iteration of this event, the first was held last year. The scale of the symposium has expanded rapidly - from 200 participants last year, to about 600 in 2017. Compared to the SmallSat Conference held at Utah University last August, this event is more technology-centered, and is focused on business issues surrounding small satellites. Participants were mainly from the US, with some from Europe, and more than 30 from Japan.

The opening day of the symposium, Feb. 6th, was set up as a focused workshop with a limited number of attendees that were encouraged to engage in discussions

and exchange opinions with speakers. The plenary sessions on the 7th and the 8th were held in a round table format, centered around discussions amongst speakers, instead of one-way presentations. Questions were also accepted from the audience via Twitter and other web services, and moderators regularly engaged in discussions with speakers on the spot. Though small in scale, exhibitions were also provided by more than 30 companies.

Analysis

Over the three days of the event, I found that two points stood out most.

(1) The Role of Government

<Omitted below>



(2) The Role of Industry

<Omitted below>



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Main Discussions

<Omitted below>

Other
Miscellaneous
Comments



It rained constantly throughout my visit to California, and heavy rain continues to bombard the state. I was left wondering what had happened to California's typical blue skies. Record droughts over the past few years have resulted in forest fires, water shortages, and other massive problems. Floods and landslides are now occurring in northern parts of the state, and because it is typically dry, roads and slopes are not made to withstand such heavy rain. A number of water-related start-ups have arisen in Silicon Valley to respond to California's water shortages, but I wonder how this year's deluge will affect their business plans.

The Mercury News: Rain soaks Bay Area, one lane on Highway 17 reopens
<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/07/atmospheric-river-soaking-bay-area-flood-watch-in-effect-for-much-of-region/>

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