Development of a universal ontology for the global space supply chain



























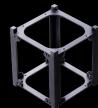














24th June, 2019

Space System Ontology - Brainstorming Workshop
ESA/ESTEC, Noordwijk

Kartik Kumar Co-founder & CEO kartik@satsearch.co +31 6 14634697



Space engineers face hard questions ...

What is the standby power of Aerojet's MR-103G thruster?

How do the RW-0.03 and RWA-05 reaction wheels compare?

How many satellites have been delivered to orbit in the last quarter?

Which on-board computer is recommended for my payload suite?

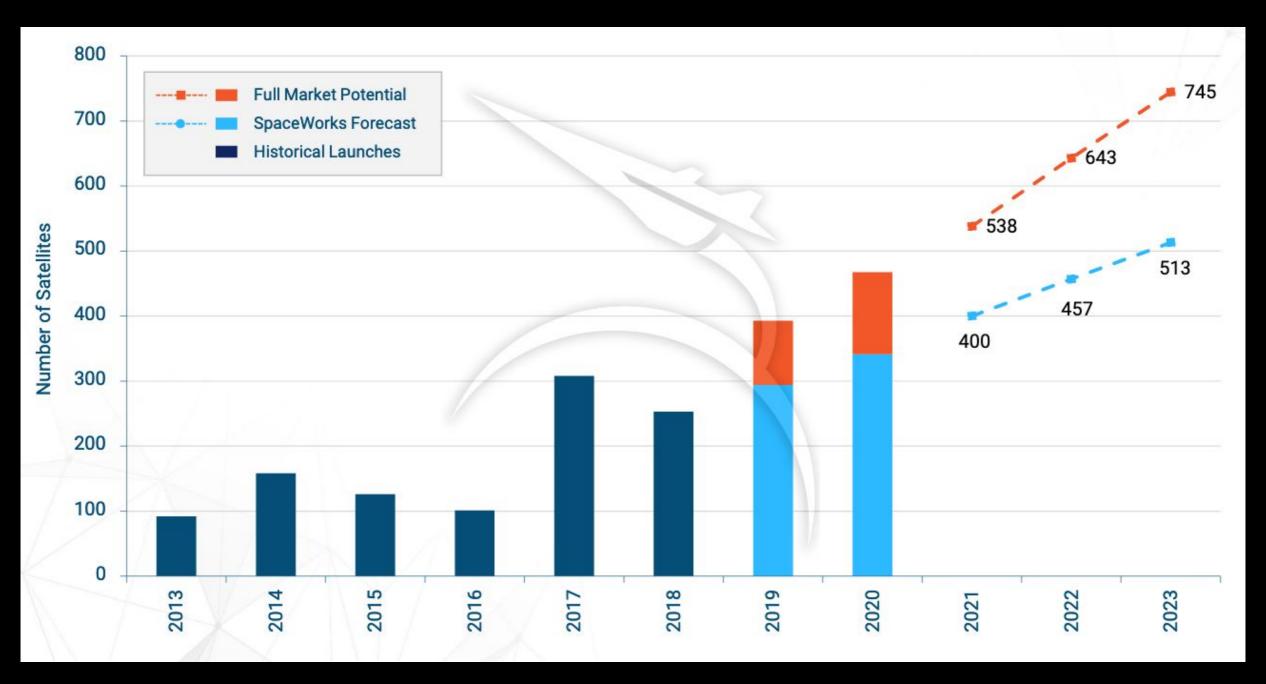
Are satellites getting bigger or smaller?

How reliable is my supply chain and where are the key risks?

Who produces Cubesat batteries with flight heritage?



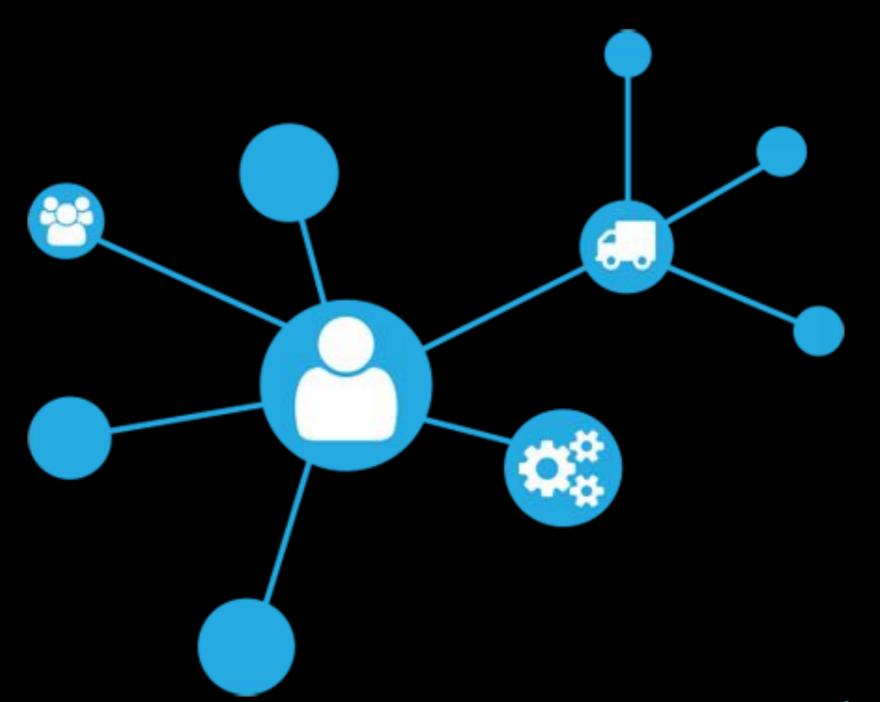
Industry growth is making this much harder



(SpaceWorks, 2018)

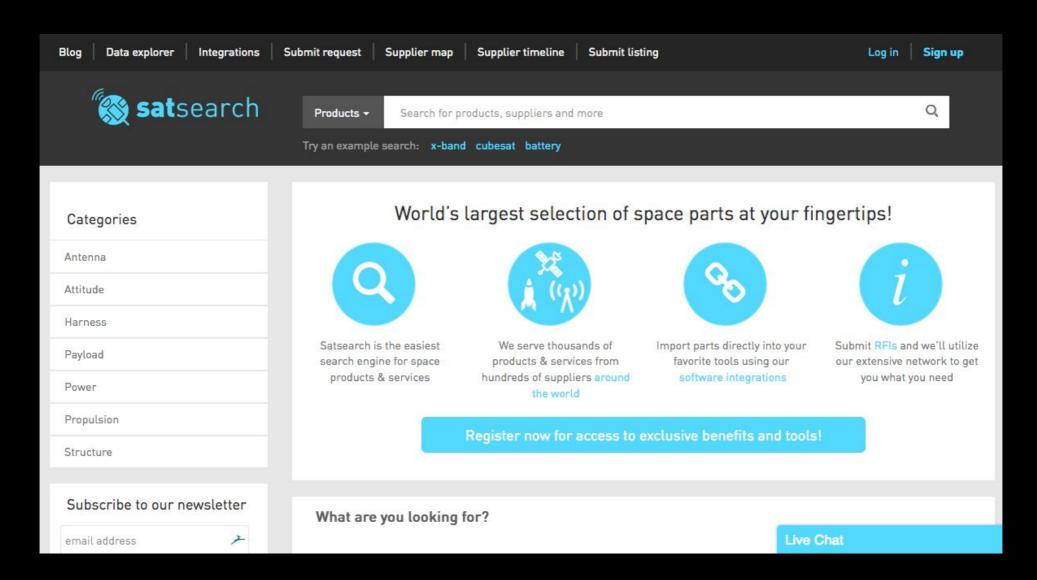


Open supply chain is necessary for commercialization





A **B2B** marketplace that indexes the global space supply chain



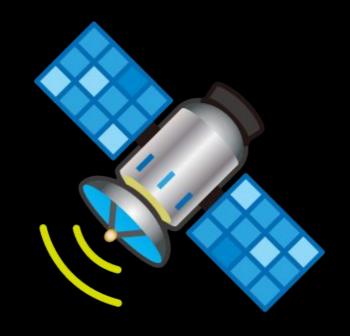
satsearch.co



Our platform is growing



> 1,100 suppliers



> 5,200 products & services



>1,500 users/month

€10M+ qualified lead volume in 2019



Our users want to ...



Search



Filter



Sort



Compare



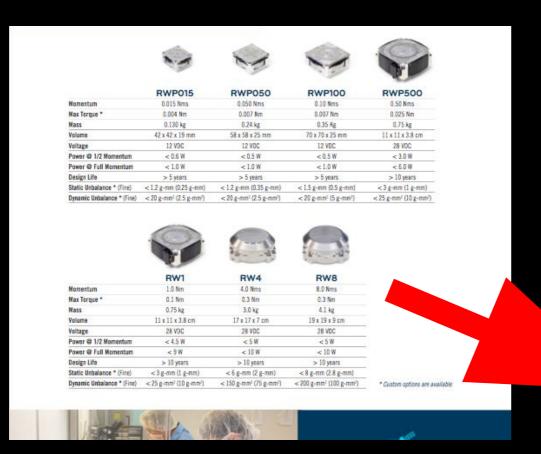
Information is locked in "messy" documents



Unlocking this knowledge is essential to deep searching, filtering, sorting, comparing of products & services



Solution: Structured docs from source data



```
"attributeClassUuid": "1f8bf2f8-ff20-4f47-ab19-2732a83be1de",
"description": "",
"maximumValue": ""
"measurementUnit": "N m s",
"minimumValue": "",
"name": "angular-momentum-storage",
"productConfiguration": "base",
productUuid": "b79236dc-407a-59bb-9215-8bda084cc317",
  id": "3e8755c0-c8f8-4293-912f-51026089bee3",
     ": "0.015"
"attributeClassUuid": "a992c4ca-7889-464f-a3b5-f5bba4d7a26e",
"description": "Annotated in datasheet: 'Custom options are available'.",
"maximumValue": "",
"measurementUnit": "N m",
"minimumValue": "",
"name": "maximum-torque",
"productConfiguration": "base",
"productUuid": "b79236dc-407a-59bb-9215-8bda084cc317",
"uuid": "dfba18ef-e9c0-43bd-abe4-c45ada956ede",
"value": "0.004"
```

A common, universal language describing space systems is necessary



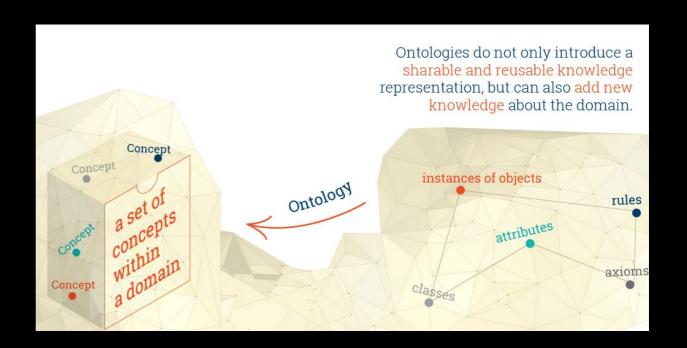
What do we understand as an ontology?

"a set of representational primitives with which to model a domain of knowledge or discourse"

(Gruber, 2009)

Fundamental ingredients

- Classes (or sets)
- Attributes (or properties)
- Relationships (or relations among class members)



(ontotext, 2019)

A universal ontology for the space industry can help reduce cost, lead time, and failures



What problems do we observe?

- Inconsistent nomenclature
- Inconsistent use of units
- Varied use of precise values and (open/closed) ranges
- "Random" symbols: ~, ±
- Complex values, e.g., interdependencies
- Inconsistent notation for uncertainty
- Graphical data
- Data incompleteness
- ...

Result We're all talking different "dialects"



Developing a universal space systems ontology

- 1. Top-down
 - a. "Design by committee"
 - b. Requires stakeholders to be active in discussions
- 2. Bottom-up
 - a. "Design by data"
 - b. Requires stakeholders to actively provide source data

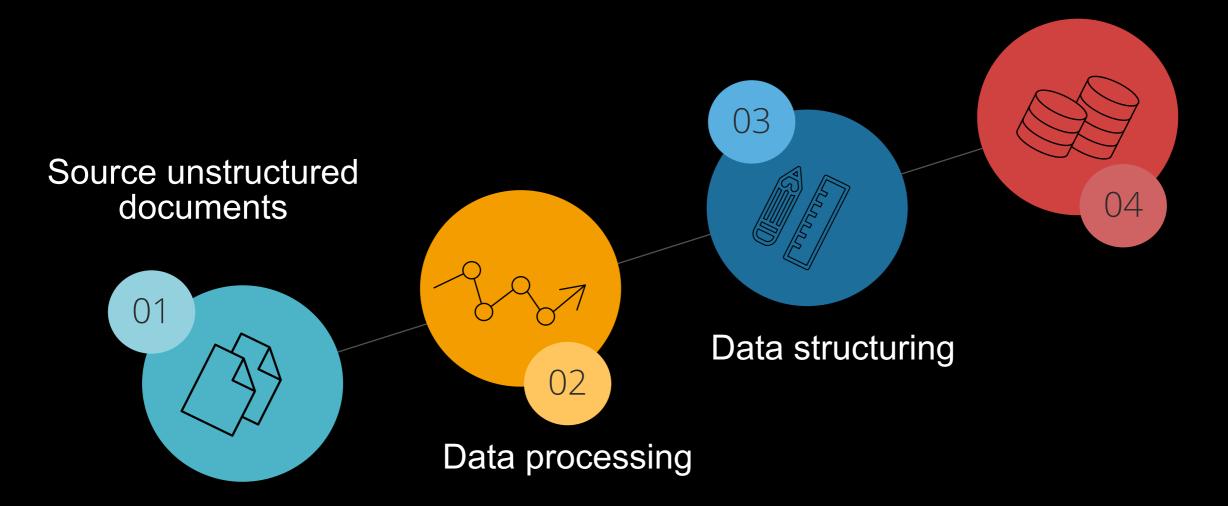
Ideal solution

Hybrid top-down and bottom-up approach



A software pipeline to generate an ontology

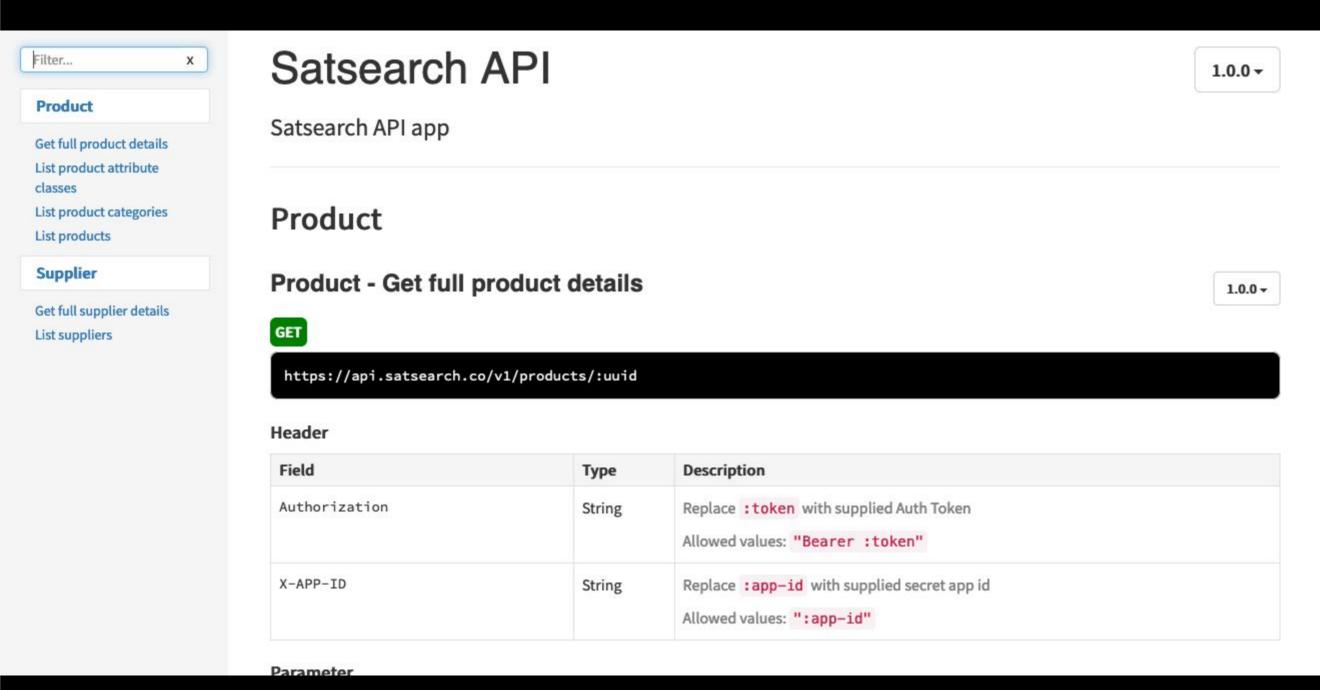
Data storage & tooling



A learning system would enable rapid development of a flexible, comprehensive, and reliable ontology



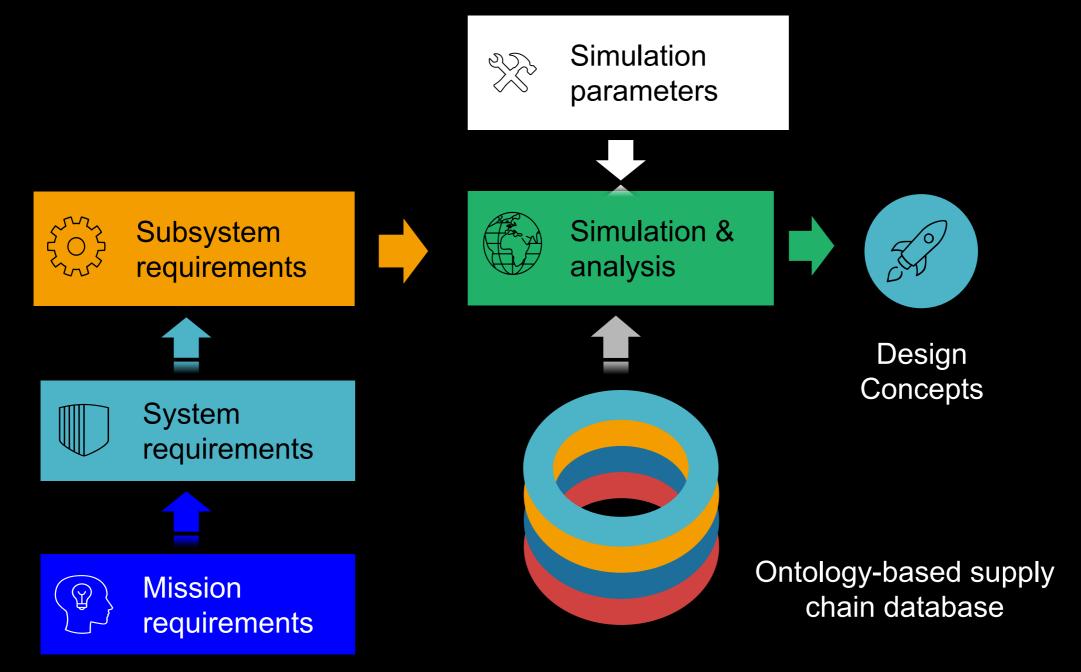
We serve structured data through our API



api.satsearch.co



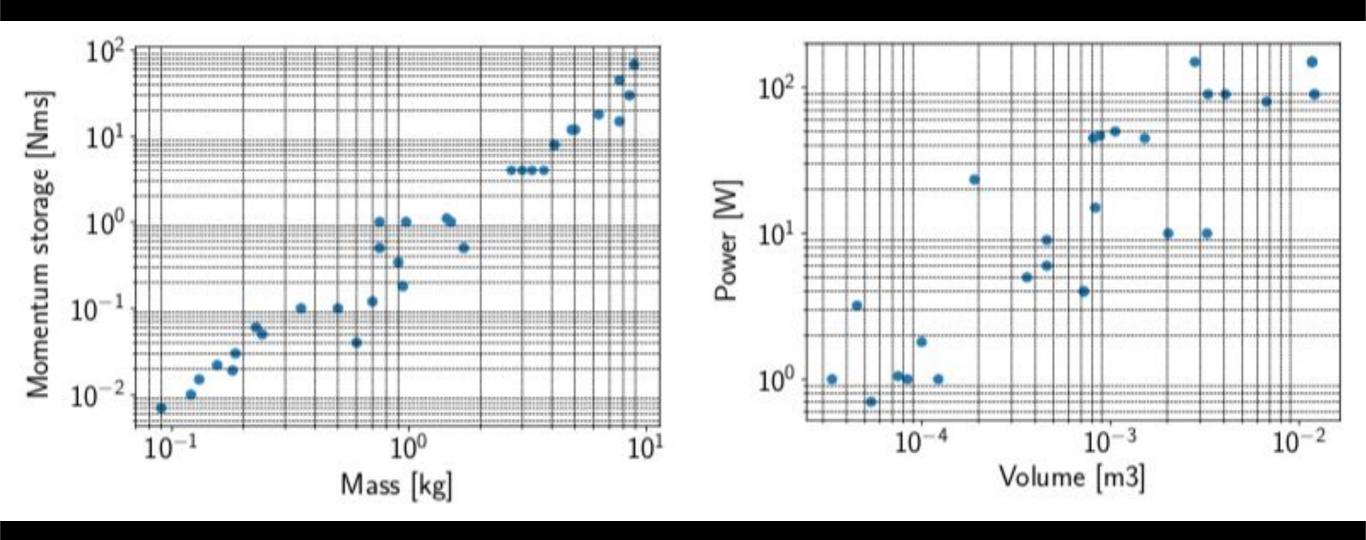
Application: Integrated Mission Design



Connecting an ontology-based supply chain database to mission design process enables intelligent automation

satsearch

Application: Business Intelligence

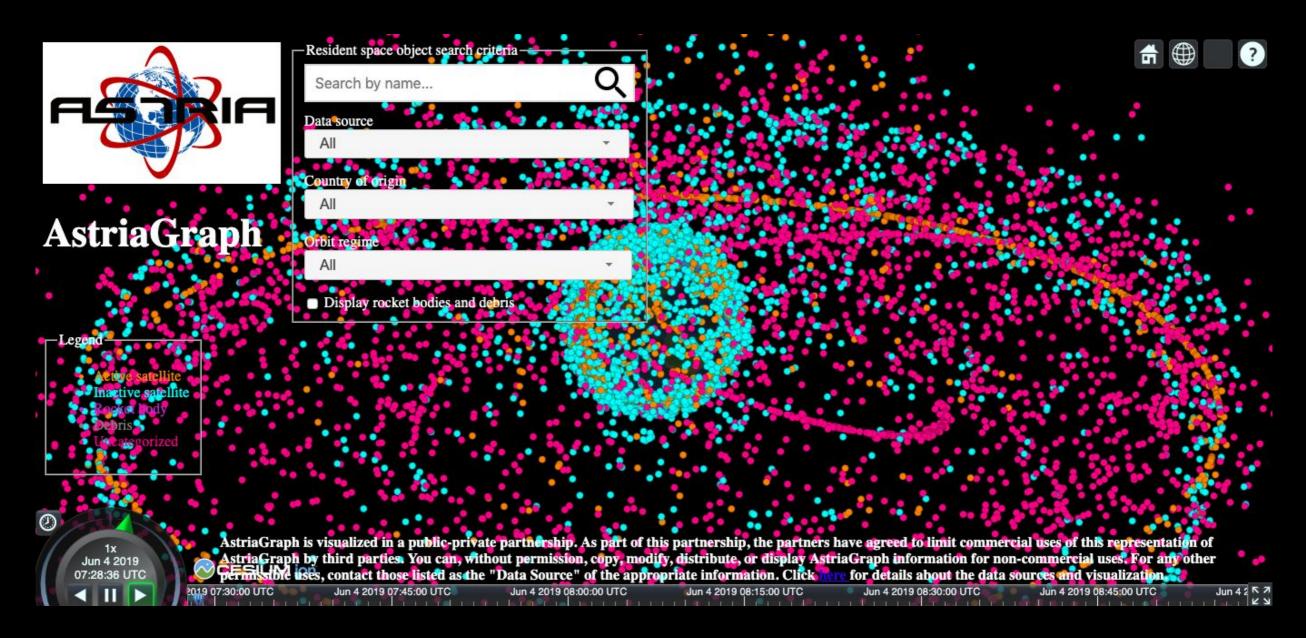


(Cherukuri, 2019)

Connecting an ontology-based supply chain database to BI tooling enables deep insights into the state of the market



Application: Space debris risk analysis



Connecting an ontology-based supply chain database to space debris knowledge base enables deep risk insights



The biggest challenges for the future

- Gathering comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date source data
- Building robust tooling to enable increasibly automatic generation of electronic datasheets
- Developing strong (economic) incentives to accelerate rate of stakeholder adoption globally
- Enabling interoperability through open interfaces to avoid fragmentation & duplication



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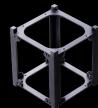














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