



## Advances in CubeSats for Earth Observation

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Since the creation of the standard in 1999, CubeSats have represented a valid instrument for engineers and researchers to experiment and implement space missions. Contrarily to the so called "traditional" satellites, which with the advancement of technology tend to become smaller and yet more performant, CubeSats from their birth had to deal with the challenges of miniaturization, growing from the 1U form factor (i.e., a  $10 \times 10 \times 10$  cm cube), which was widely used in the early times of this standard, to a 3U form factor very common up to a few years ago where nowadays the most used are 6U, 8U, 12U and even 16U. This rapid growth shows the maturity potential which has led CubeSats to evolve from being an instrument for educational purposes, typical of the 1U factor at the early stage of this standard, to more advanced applications, capable of de-risking technologies for larger spacecraft or delivering high value data products.

Papers related to CubeSat advances in Earth Observation instrument technology, enabling technologies, new remote sensing techniques, and advances in applications in remote sensing are welcome.





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