

## Canadian Stratospheric Balloon Program Overview

HEMERA Workshop 4-6 July 2022

Ian Lau, Director Alfred Ng, Deputy Director Engineering and Capability Demonstration Canadian Space Agency (CSA)







# **CSA's Stratospheric Balloon Program**

## Advance Science and Technology

### **Training and Education**





## **Ballooning in Canada**

#### **Historical**

- Involved since the 1950's
- 1998–2004: balloon missions to study stratospheric composition

#### **Current**

- 2012-today: STRATOS CSA's Stratospheric Balloon Program
- Long-standing CSA-CNES collaboration agreement
- Canadian Balloon Base in Timmins, Ontario
- Flying payloads in Canada and abroad
- Committed HEMERA Partner!



















## **Campaigns and International Collaboration in Canada**

• <u>Campaigns</u>: 5 (2014 | 2015 | 2018 | 2019 | 2022)

• ZPB launches: 28

• <u>Instruments flown</u>: 70

• Participants: 700+ (scientists & students)

• Largest envelope: 800,000 m<sup>3</sup>

Heaviest payload: 1,100 kg

• Longest flight: 33 hrs

No flights ever scrubbed

Track record: 100%



# **Canadian Balloon Launch Base** (1/4)

#### Mid Latitude (700km north of Toronto)

Latitude: 48° 34′ 11″ N
Longitude: 81° 22′ 36″ W



#### **Base infrastructure**

- Flight Control Centre / Flight Chain Preparation
- Payload Lab / Integration Hall
- Garage

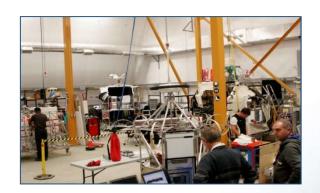


# **Canadian Balloon Launch Base** (2/4)

#### **Future Outlook**

- Continue medium duration flights (30+ hrs)
- More short duration flights (1/2-day)
- Support transatlantic flights (thru payload recovery)
- · An additional payload integration hall
  - \* Leverage use of Stratospheric Expandable Balloon (SEB)

	<b>Existing</b> Integration Hall 1	<b>2023 Addition</b> Integration Hall 2
Floor Area	320 m <sup>2</sup>	320 m <sup>2</sup>
Crane	<b>2t</b> overhead <b>1t</b> jib	4t overhead
Power	<b>110V</b> (North American)	110V (North American) 220V (European)





# **Canadian Balloon Launch Base** (3/4)

- Leave no payload/envelope behind
- All for one and one for all we recover it all
- Payloads returned to you in great shape

No payload ever not recovered Track record: 100%



# **Canadian Balloon Launch Base** (4/4)

<u>Science</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Years Flown</u>	Payload (# of times flown)
Atmospheric Science	U. Saskatchewan	2014, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022	ALI <sub>(4)</sub> ; LIFE <sub>(1)</sub> ; OSIRIS <sub>(1)</sub>
	U. Toronto	2014, 2015, 2019, 2022	PARABLE(2); CALASET(2); CALASET NG(1)
	York U.	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2022	PARABLE <sub>(2)</sub> ; SHOW <sub>(1)</sub> ; RSOnar <sub>(1)</sub> ; Imaging FP-Spectrometer <sub>(1)</sub>
	U. Saskatchewan ABB; CSA	2022	iFTS <sub>(1)</sub>
Imaging	DEEP Inc.	2015	DEEP (immersive)(1)
	DRDC Valcartier	2021, 2022	HIPTA <sub>(2)</sub>
	Sherbrooke cégep	2019, 2022	HABLAN(1); HABLAN-II(1)
Astronomy	U. Toronto	2014, 2015, 2019	BIT <sub>(2)</sub> ; SuperBIT <sub>(1)</sub>
	U. Laval	2018	HiCIBaS <sub>(1)</sub>
<b>Solar-Terrestrial</b>	U. Alberta	2014	CABARET <sub>(1)</sub>
Novel Technology	Stratodynamics	2019	Hidron <sub>(1)</sub>























# 2022 Strato-Science Campaign in Canada

• <u>Date</u>: August 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

• Flights: 4 ZPB flights (one HEMERA flight) and 6 SEB flights

• Payloads: 18

• Participants: 160+ (78 Europeans and 85 Canadians)



## **Stratospheric Expandable Balloons (SEB)**

#### **Canadian Payloads**

Mass
110 kg
70 kg
60 kg
40 kg
36 kg
7 kg
3 kg



#### **SEB Advantages**

- Payloads up to 6.5kg (possibly up to 10kg)
  3-hrs flight duration
- Low cost, simple logistics, fast mobilization
- Complements ZPB for increased science output
- Controlled termination possible

#### **HEMERA Payloads**

Instrument	Mass
GLORIA	125 kg
CorMag	106 kg
FIRMOS	85 kg
TotalBRO	37 kg
GRASS II	9 kg
ECAPS	4 kg
AIRE	2 kg

## The Stratodynamics Success Story!

- The Payload: HiDRON is a semi-autonomous glider that carries instruments for atmospheric data collection at high altitude.
- The Success Story: With the successful demo flight released from a stratospheric balloon in August 2019, the company received their first contract from NASA in November 2019.



# Canadian Space Agency



Agence spatiale canadienne