

# In a 1st for industry, HAL bags Isro's rocket tech in ₹511 cr deal

## Agreement to be signed among HAL, ISRO, NSIL, and IN-SPACE

**SHINE JACOB**

Chennai, 20 June

State-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has won a bid under which it will receive technology from the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) for the end-to-end commercial production of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), a first for the industry as India seeks to become a hub for small satellite manufacturing and launches.

"In this milestone, India's national ambition takes priority. We're looking forward to working closely under Isro and IN-SPACE's guidance to progress in phases and realise the end objectives. We're confident of steering a cohesive ecosystem that enables more small satellite launches from India's ports," said DK Sunil, chairman and managing director of HAL.

The Technology Transfer Agreement will be signed among HAL, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Isro, and IN-SPACE.

HAL won the ₹511 crore deal to manufacture the small rockets in a tight contest involving Adani's Alpha Design Technologies Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Ltd in the last round of the bidding — which initially had 20 players.

HAL, along with the launch vehicles of firms like Agnikul Cosmos and Skyroot Aerospace, may have three rockets launched from India every two weeks in a few years' time, said Goenka. HAL already has a contract with L&T for the production of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

"As India looks at realising the \$44 billion space economy earmarked for 2033, it is imperative to enable a robust public-private partnership model. Under this technology transfer agreement, HAL will have the capability to independently build, own, and commercialise SSLV launches," said Pawan Goenka, chairman of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) — a space regulator-cum promoter.

The agreement encompasses extensive training and handholding of HAL personnel by Isro teams, both at Isro and HAL facilities, for the realisation and launch of two SSLVs in the next two years.

"The launch vehicle system, being multidisciplinary in nature, would require the winning entity, HAL, to undergo rigorous handholding and training under Isro at both Isro's and the entity's facilities. This is aimed at realising the projected launch of two SSLVs from an Indian launch port," said Rajeev Jyoti, director, Technical Directorate, IN-SPACE. Radhakrishnan Durairaj, chairman and managing director, NSIL, said that India is expected to see around six to 12 launches a year of SSLVs in the coming years.

This development reinforces India's commitment to privatising and democratising access to space technology, empowering Indian industry to play a leading role in space manufacturing, said a government statement.



FILE: ISRO

## Space Odyssey

- HAL won over two other firms — Alpha Design Technologies and Bharat Dynamics
- Transfer part of efforts to develop a \$44 billion Indian space economy by 2033
- Isro to provide training and handholding to HAL personnel at both ISRO and HAL sites
- O. aims to launch two SSLVs in next two years from Indian spaceports
- Combined with private players, India may see a rocket launch every two weeks in future