

# Space Physics Seminar Thursday, October 8, 2015

## BU Rocket Propulsion Group and the Evolving Rocket Launch Market

### Boston University Rocket Propulsion Group (BURPG)

*Joe Beaupre: Director — Tom Halstead: Vice Director  
Jeremy Pedro: Treasurer — Robert Palladino: Secretary*

#### Abstract:

The Boston University Rocket Propulsion Group (BURPG) is a student run and staffed launch vehicle development group housed within BU's College of Engineering, focusing on next generation launch vehicles and the supplemental hands-on education of its members. With the privatization of the rocket launch market and the emerging prevalence of small and micro-satellite technology, the demand is emerging for new low-cost launch technology and creative, talented engineers. BURPG's current project, Starscraper, is a test bed for creative solutions to lower the cost of space access. A commercial quality launch vehicle developed entirely by students, Starscraper has also offered an unparalleled outlet for BURPG's members to apply concepts learned in the classroom and better their abilities as engineers. BURPG has already had breakthrough accomplishments, such as the first launch of an actively stabilized high power rocket by an amateur group. These firsts are critical studies for the feasibility of cutting edge amateur aerospace, and open the doors for future research by other groups. In this lecture, members of BURPG will cover the Starscraper project, speak to how their work fits into the bigger picture of the evolving rocket launch market, and the importance of supporting such programs to continue the push towards easier access to space for research and education.

**3:30 pm**

Refreshments  
CAS Room 500

**4:00 pm**

Seminar  
CAS Room 502

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
The Post Seminar  
Reception this  
week will be held  
in CAS 502, not  
the BU Pub

#### Next Week

- Brian Walsh  
*Boston University*
- The Solar Wind-  
Magnetosphere-  
Ionosphere Link  
Explorer (SMILE): A  
system view of the  
Earth's magnetosphere



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