

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,

Scout Update

I recently published in this magazine a paper on the history of the Scout launch vehicle [1]. With the launch of the final Scout vehicle on 1994 May 9, it is appropriate to complete the Scout story. In August 1992 the LTV Corp. division that built the Scout became Loral Vought. Since that time there have been three further Scout G-1 launches for US military payloads. RADCAL, satellite P92-1 in the USAF Space Test Program, carried C-band radar transponders and Global Positioning System receivers to calibrate radars used for space and missile tracking. MSTI-1 and MSTI-2 were part of the Miniature Seeker Technology Integration project sponsored by the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO, formerly the Strategic Defence Initia-

tive) as part of the program to develop sensors for missile defense. The small satellites carried advanced infrared cameras. MSTI-1 was built by the jet Propulsion Laboratory and despite attitude control problems, returned good data. It reentered in July 1993. MSTI-2 turned out to be the final Scout mission; although Italian plans to develop an advanced Scout may still be resurrected in the future, it appears that after 34 years of launches the Scout story is finally complete.

J. McDOWELL
Massachusetts, USA

REFERENCE

1. McDowell, J.C., *JBIS*, 47, p. 99, (1994).

Vehicle	Type	Date	Site	Payload	Mass(kg)	Orbit (km x km x deg)
S210C	G-1	1992 Nov. 21	V SLC5	MSTI-1	157	331 x 443 x 96.8
S217C	G-1	1993 Jun. 25	V SLC5	RADCAL	87	758 x 888 x 89.6
S218C	G-1	1994 May 9	V SLC5	MSTI-2	161	360 x 461 x 96.8

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