

Russia To Build New Rocket For Small Sats

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At the World Satellite Business Week September 9-11 in Paris, 2019 [Glavkosmos](#) CEO Alexander Serkin announced that, in collaboration with Roscosmos, the company is building a new modification of the Soyuz rocket that will allow to cut small sat launch costs.

Serkin says that **Soyuz** launch costs have been going down lately, and the tendency is likely to persist.

He explains that now, a **Soyuz-2.1b**-based modification of **Soyuz-2M** is being developed. With the launch not involving the **Fregat** module, its cost will be brought down to \$30 million. **Soyuz-2M** will have the capacity to take 2-3 tonnes of payload into the sun-sync orbit.

Serkin didn't name any possible dates the new rocket will appear on the market.

During discussions held at the **World Satellite Business Week**, representatives of companies providing dedicated, as well as rideshare smallsat launch services, agreed that the defining factor

for their customers has always been, and will continue to be, the price, saying that, given the ongoing competition on the market, they had to find ways to cut costs.

Glavkosmos, a **Roscosmos** entity founded in 1985, implements projects, and markets the services of the Russian space industry. Since 2012, the company launched over 20 small satellites, and plans to launch at least 100 more with a total of 15 partners from **Russia** and other countries in 2019. **Glavkosmos** has 120 international contracts signed to date.

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