



Planetary Systems Corp (Rocket Lab)

United States · founded 1998 · rocketlabcorp.com/space-systems/separation-systems

3

PRODUCTS

5

SERVICES

3

WITH DATASHEETS

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as of 20 August 2026



Planetary Systems Corp (Rocket Lab)

Planetary Systems Corporation (PSC) was founded in 1998 in Silver Spring, Maryland by Walter Holemans, who served as founder and chief engineer, with the mission to manufacture innovative, cost-effective, test-verified spacecraft mechanisms for the aerospace industry. Over more than two decades as an independent company, PSC became one of the most trusted names in spacecraft separation hardware, building a flight heritage of 100% mission success across more than 100 on-orbit separations. PSC's signature product line is the Lightband — a patented, commercial-off-the-shelf mechanical separation system consisting of twin metal rings clamped together by an inner ring; a release mechanism contracts the clamp ring, freeing a set of springs that push the spacecraft and launch vehicle apart with low shock and low tip-off rates. The Mark II Motorized Lightband is offered across bolt-circle diameters from 8 to 38 inches and supports payloads up to 1,200 lb, while the Advanced Lightband is a lighter-weight next-generation variant offered from 8 to 24 inches. The company also developed the Canisterized Satellite Dispenser (CSD), a non-pyrotechnic, fully encapsulated small-satellite deployer available in 3U, 6U, and 12U sizes, widely used to launch CubeSats and other secondary and tertiary payloads. Rocket Lab USA announced its agreement to acquire PSC on November 15, 2021, and closed the transaction on December 1, 2021, for \$42 million in cash plus 1,720,841 shares of Rocket Lab common stock, with the potential for up to 956,023 additional earn-out shares tied to PSC's 2022–2023 financial performance. The acquisition — Rocket Lab's second in two months, following Advanced Solutions Inc. — added spacecraft separation and satellite-dispenser hardware to Rocket Lab's vertically inte

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SERVICES

Services

Build-to-Spec Solar Panels

We provide both rigid and flexible build-to-spec solar panels, fully tested and ready for integration into solar array assemblies.

Constellation Production

Our dedicated production line uses automated processes to manufacture solar panels quickly and cost-effectively for large satellite constellations.

Custom Sizes for Solar Cells

We offer custom sizes for solar cells to meet specific mission requirements, ensuring optimal performance for various spacecraft.

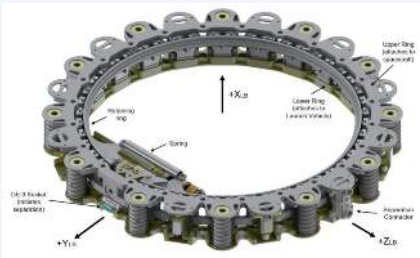
Customizable Solar Array Solutions

We provide modular and customizable solar array solutions to meet the diverse power needs of satellites in any orbital condition.

SmallSat and CubeSat Support

We offer a range of solar panel sizes and power options for CubeSats and SmallSats, using efficient space-grade solar cells.

Product catalogue



PLANETARY SYSTEMS CORP (ROCKET LAB)

Advanced Lightband (ALB)

Lightweight next-generation spacecraft separation system, one-third the weight and half the height of a typical clamp band.

Bolt circle diameters available	8.000", 11.732", 13.000", 15.000", 18.250", 19.848", 23.250", 24.000" (in)
Fastener counts by size	12 to 36 fasteners depending on diameter
Tip-off rate	Tunable to < 1 deg/sec
Separation delta-V	Tunable to < 1.0 in/sec
Integration time	< 30 minutes
Flight heritage	100% on-orbit separation success; thousands of qualification tests

price on request [datasheet](#)



PLANETARY SYSTEMS CORP (ROCKET LAB)

Canisterized Satellite Dispenser (CSD)

Non-pyrotechnic, fully encapsulated CubeSat/small-satellite dispenser available in 3U, 6U, and 12U sizes with 100% mission success.

Sizes available	3U, 6U, 12U
Mass capability	~2 kg per U
Deployment mechanism	Non-pyrotechnic, fully encapsulated canister
Mounting	Array of mount points, mountable to any face
Flight heritage	100% mission success across flight history

price on request [datasheet](#)



PLANETARY SYSTEMS CORP (ROCKET LAB)

Mark II Motorized Lightband (MLB)

Motorized spacecraft/launch-vehicle separation ring with 100+ on-orbit separations and a 100% flight success record.

Bolt circle diameters available	8.000", 11.732", 13.000", 15.000", 18.250", 19.848", 23.250", 24.000", 31.600", 38.810" (i
Fastener counts by size	12 to 60 fasteners depending on diameter
Max payload capacity	1,200 lb
Release mechanism	Dual-redundant electric release motor, non- pyrotechnic, pyro-pulse compatible
Material	Aluminum alloys
Flight heritage	100+ on-orbit separations, 100% mission success

price on request [datasheet](#)

Contact Planetary Systems Corp (Rocket Lab)

Open the company profile on NewSpace Market to see full specifications and datasheets, and to send a request for quotation that reaches the manufacturer directly.

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