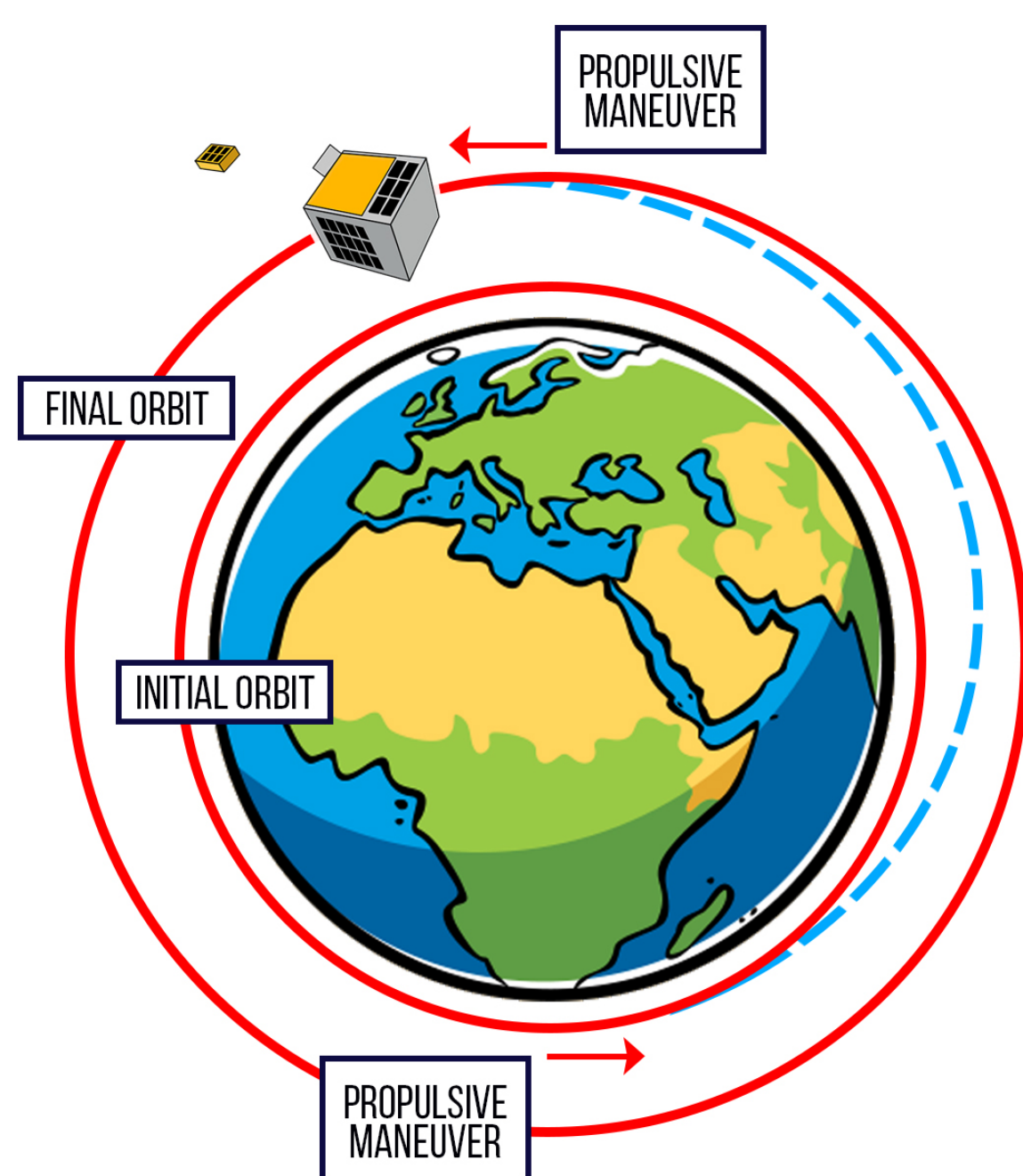
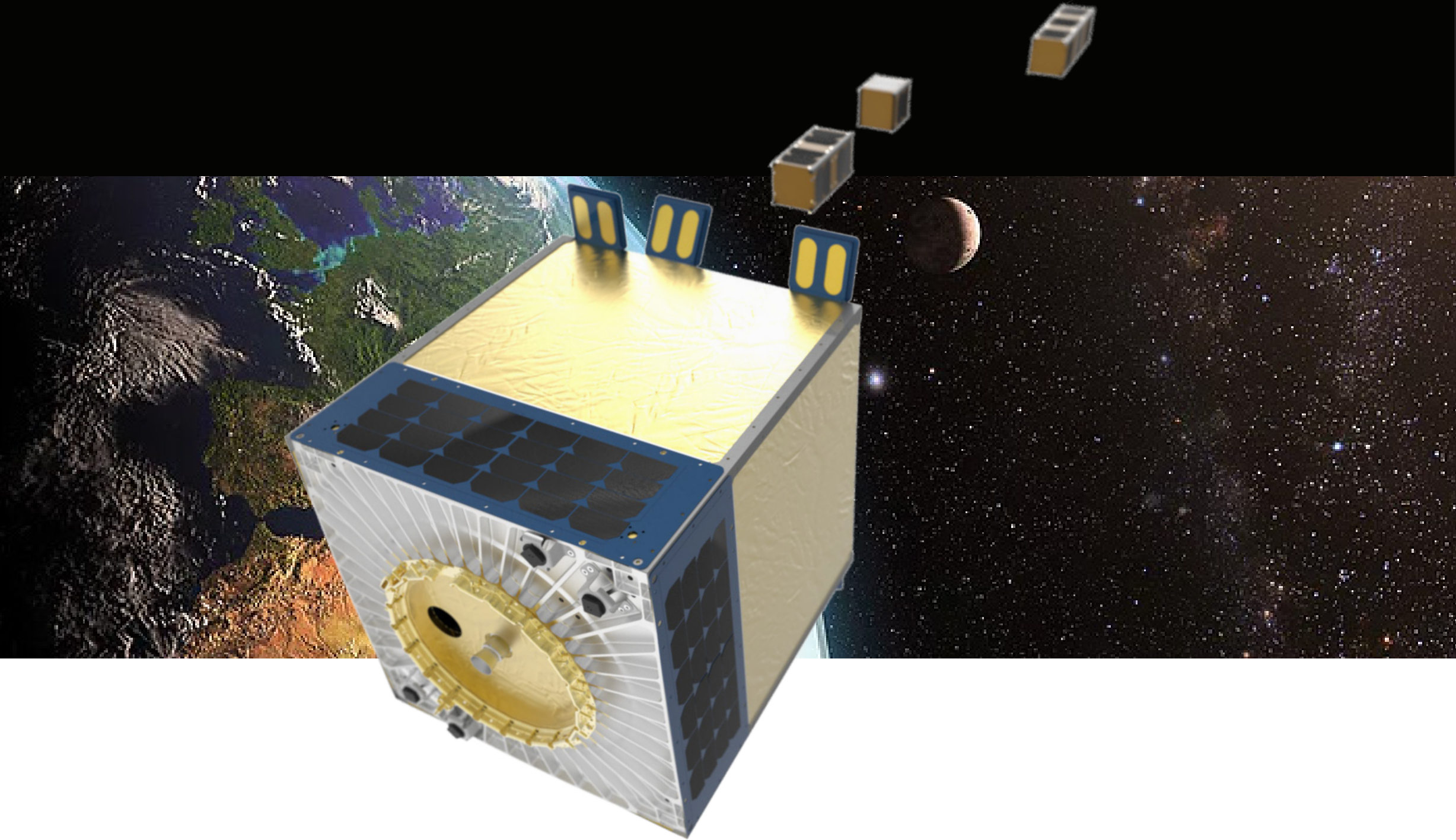


WHAT IS A SATELLITE CARRIER?

ION SCV LUCAS is the first of a brand new kind of space vehicle: a **satellite carrier**. ION is a space vehicle **designed to carry a batch of small satellites into space and deploy them individually** along an orbit, or even in different orbits.



The satellites are hosted inside DPODs, our proprietary launch tubes that offer protection from launch vibrations and ensure guaranteed deployment thanks to a fault tolerant release mechanism.

ION can compensate for the lack of propulsion of smaller satellites by changing its orbit and attitude before releasing each satellite, a feature we call Precision Deployment.

This strategy is particularly suited to the deployment of constellations, a group of satellites evenly distributed in one or more orbits to offer a global service. The satellites of a constellation are usually released into a parking orbit; from there they drift to their operational orbit by exploiting Earth's gravitational perturbations. This is an extremely slow process that can take months. Thanks to its internal propulsion, our satellite carrier can reduce this time by 90% using a strategy we call Fast Dispersion.

**STANDARD
RELEASE**



**FAST
DISPERSION**



In conclusion, a satellite carrier enables small satellite operators to enjoy the same kind of deployment service so far available only to larger satellites loaded on dedicated launchers, opening up new operational scenario for single satellites and significantly reducing the deployment of constellations.