

Presumed payload of last T4B spotted

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2005-10/msg01149.html>

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 - *Date:* 29 Oct 2005 12:15:55 -0700
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Just to tidy up, observations from South Africa have allowed the orbit of an object associated with the 19 Oct 2005 T4B launch to be determined. Based on similarities to previous such launches, it would appear to be the electro-optical spysat payload.

>>From <http://satobs.org/seesat/Oct-2005/0272.html>

USA 186 15.0 3.0 0.0 5.3 v 261 X 1047 km
1 28888U 05042A 05301.82157479 .00009787 00000-0 10000-3 0 05
2 28888 97.8760 3.6534 0558690 154.6890 208.2851 14.71233989 03

Of s.s.policy interest, this is likely to be the last such payload launched unless EELV-H can be pressed into service until FIA-EO comes along.

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