

ISRO'S NEXT-GEN LV MAY ASSUME PSLV'S ROLE

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NGLV will feature semi-cryogenic propulsion (refined kerosene as fuel with liquid oxygen [LOX] as oxidiser) for the booster stages which is cheaper and efficient, Mr. Somanath said.

"We believe at least 10 tonne capability to GTO is needed. Correspondingly, the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) capability will be twice that. However, payload capability will be lower when the rocket is reusable," he said.

NGLV will feature a simple, robust design which allows bulk manufacturing, modularity in systems, sub-systems and stages and minimal turnaround time. Potential uses will be in the areas of launching communication satellites, deep space missions, future human spaceflight and cargo missions. On PSLV's future, Mr. Somanath said it will be operated as long as there is a commercial demand for it. Mr. Somanath said it is also important to develop a "business model" for NGLV so that it serves its aims. This will include launching commercial satellites and national missions as well as ensuring industry participation from the start. "With the backing of ISRO, it is possible for industries to support this rocket as a national asset," he said.

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