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ON THE COVER

On 27 February 2015, Planet Labs released two CubeSats from the International Space Station, adding to its swarm of Earth-observing satellites, which are no larger than a loaf of bread. Each CubeSat can discern features as small as trees and trucks. But the real power comes from having dozens, even hundreds, in space; the company plans to image the entire Earth every day. See page 172. Photo: NASA