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"S-band communications are used in all satellite systems for satellite telemetry and telecommand, as well as radio ranging (position determination). [abbreviated TT&C]
S-band is also used in some equatorial satellite communication systems to provide television in areas where the atmospheric attenuation due to rain is too great to use the more conventional frequencies. The "Big LEO"satellite constellations also use S-band communications to provide a global communications network using relatively small hand-held terminals.
The ADCS for these satellites is different depending on which one of these applications is used, although all of them use nadir pointing modes with the satellite maintaining pointing towards the sub-satellite

point. The required accuracy depends on the size of the communications beam, and is typically 0.1 degree in most applications, but in some applications can be less critical.

Depending on your definition of "small satellites", the majority of small satellites operating outside the radio amateur bands will use S-band for TT&C. SSTL builds S-band equipment for such missions and you can find datasheets for transmitters, receivers and antennas here (<http://www.sstl.co.uk/getdoc/4a2a88ad-3357-45c6-8d24-51fe63f0413f/Sub-system-Datasheets>). This page also includes typical Attitude control actuators and sensors which are used ion small satellites.

* For ground stations, pointing accuracy is usually determined by avoiding excessive losses - ie usually 0.1-1.0dB pointing losses.

* Typical BER for telemetry and telecommand is 10e-6, although some systems operate at much better BER if they do not employ Forward Error Correction or Automatic Request for Repeat (ARQ protocols).

Link budget design is covered well in books by Prof Evans of the University of Surrey (http://www.amazon.co.uk/Satellite-Communication-Systems-Telecommunications-PBTE0380/dp/085296899X/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1301396859&sr=1-3) [note that there are cheaper versions of this]".

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