PM200 – High thrust propulsion for CubeSats

2017 Clean Space Industry Days





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Hyperion Technologies

- Delft (NL) based, founded in 2013
- Development of subsystems and components for small satellites
- Best-in-class performance
- Use of COTS components where available and possible
- Beside propulsion currently available:
 - Star Trackers, Reaction Wheels, Magnetorquers, integrated ADCS units, Sun Sensors, Imagers, Payload processors, OBC, GNSS module, Data acquisition units, ...



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Propulsion Development

Needs for small satellite / CubeSat missions:

- Low barrier to entry (=> low cost!)
- Quick maneuvres
 - Immediate feedback
 - Responsive avoidance maneuvres
 - Low impact on payload utilization
 - "Time is money"
- High delta V
- Low power

0.5 N thrust

230 m/s (3U sat) < 6 W



PM200 Propulsion Module

- 90% 3D printed
- Intended for 3 -12U satellites
- IU total volume
- 0.5 N Bipropellant thruster
- 315 g propellant storage
- Spark ignition
- Regenerative cooling





N₂O / Propene propellants

- Bi-propellant combustion
- High Isp: > 285 s
- Self pressurizing

- (=> 1.5x Hydrazine monopr.)
 (=> low complexity system)
- Abundant and inexpensive
- Absolutely non-toxic
- No storage life limitations
- Simple and safe operations (=> low barrier to entry)
- Double as cold gas propellants for lower impulse bits

Scalability

- Scaling components are additively manufactured
- Up to 8U-size modules manufacturable in monolithic structure
- Increased effective storage density with scaled up systems



1U propulsion on 3U satellite: 230 m/s

2U propulsion on 6U satellite: 300 m/s



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Orbit Control System

- Flight proven heritage components
- Orbit determination and maneuver controller built in
- Direct maneuver feedback
- Closed loop TVC heading-hold during firing



Performance Example

- Orbit transfers:
 - from 400 km circular to 830km circular*
- Lifetime extension*:



Mission life is extended by a factor of 13x, COSPAR atmospheric model, Launch in 2017 *4kg satellite with 1U PM200 propulsion module included

Space Debris Mitigation

- 1. No new debris:
 - End-of-life deorbit maneuvre
 - Particle free exhaust
 - Enabler for long lifetime mission at very low altitudes
- 2. Debris avoidance:
 - Responsive maneuvre capability
- 3. Debris removal
 - Enabler for active debris removal / inspection mission on small satellites



Project Status

- Fully internally funded
- Hardware functionality demonstrated
- Full environmental qualification imminent
- Basic software functionality
 - Constant updates in development
- Seeking partnership for in-orbit validation



Static firing





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Other Mission applications

- Orbit transfers
 - from 400 km circular to 830km circular*
- Extend mission life at low altitude by a factor of 10-15*
- On demand low dV, high thrust for Geostationary platforms (de-tumble maneuvers etc)
- Rapid deployment of constellation, including plane changes
- Constellation maintenance
- End-of-life maneuvres

*For a 4kg satellite (propulsion included)



Thrust rating:

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Thrust varies with module temperature due to self-pressurizing nature of propellants. See slide 'Results – temperature variation



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