

ASTRIX: a qualified FOG technology for space application

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European FOG technology is now qualified and exhibit excellent performances. It has demonstrated outstanding performances. Nevertheless, this technology is strongly depending on few key opto-electronics (Pump diod and Pin-FET) and EEE components (DAC, ADC, switches, AOP). As any other space equipment, it has to deal with component obsolescences and its higher potential is limited by the performances of EEE parts available at space quality level. Some area of improvements are identified. Procurement approach evolution from PRIME and system requirements flow-down (with lack of harmonisation from one application to the other) put an increasing responsibility and effort on equipment suppliers; it do not contributes to development and an attractive cost of European products. A change in the relation between PRIME and SUPPLIER will definitively help. Furthermore European market (even if a systematic European product buy approach will help) is not sufficient to ensure competitiveness of the product. Some ways forward that are susceptible to improve the product competitiveness will be discussed. The future of the product will depend also on market evolution and the interest or not of the AOCS team to take full benefit of the potentiality of the FOG technologies (particularly vs inertial performances and life time).