



## Micro Propulsion System Summary



***33 Systems Under Contract To-Date***

***Flight Proven on Nano ACE***

***Two MarCO MiPS on Route to Mars***

**Smart & Versatile w/Health Monitoring**

**CubeSat & Small Sat MiPS for Delta-V, ACS or Both:**

High Performance Cold Gas MiPS

Warm Gas MiPS

Green Monopropellant / Cold Gas Hybrid MiPS

Green Monopropellant MiPS

Xenon & Iodine EP Feed Systems

**Small Satellite Integrated Propulsion Systems (IPS):**

Bolt-On Green Monopropellant Propulsion Modules

Green Monopropellant Propulsion Systems

**Various Propellants:**

R236fa, R134a, Isobutane, SO<sub>2</sub>

LMP-103S, LMP-103S/LT, AF315E, Xenon & Iodine

**Materials of Construction:**

Titanium, Aluminum, CRES or Inconel



## VACCO Propulsion System Overview

<u>VACCO Product</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total # Valves</u>	<u># of Systems</u>	<u>TRL</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>CPOD Micro Propulsion System</b>	<b>(8) 10mN Cold Gas Thrusters</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Launched July 2017, <u>mission complete</u>.</b>
<b>MarCO Micro Propulsion System</b>	<b>(8) 25mN Cold Gas RCS Thrusters (4) Delta-V, (4) RCS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>MarCO-A &amp; MarCO-B, <u>launched May 2018</u>.</b>
AFRL Propulsion Unit for CubeSats (PUC)	(1) Axial 5.4mN Warm Gas Thruster	18	9	7	Delivered 2014, flight status unknown.
NASA CPOD Micro Propulsion System	(8) 10mN Cold Gas RCS Thrusters	20	2	7	Delivered November 2015, launch expected in 2019.
Omotenashi Micro Propulsion System	(8) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters (4) Delta-V/Pitch/Yaw, (4) Roll	12	1	7	Delivered September 2018, launch on SLS in 2020.
SwRI CuSP Micro Propulsion System	(4) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	5	1	6	Flight unit in acceptance testing.
LunIR Cold Gas Generator	Cold Gas Generator (1) Outlet Port to Remote Thrusters	2	1	6	Flight unit in acceptance testing.
NASA Lunar Flashlight Micro Propulsion System	(4) 100mN LMP-103S/LT Thrusters (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	8	1	5	Flight unit in final assembly. Qualification Leak Before Burst test complete.
NASA Near Earth Asteroid Scout Micro Propulsion	(6) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters ((2) Delta-V, (4) RCS)	9	1	5	Flight unit in final assembly.
Argotec ArgoMoon Micro Propulsion System	(1) 100mN LMP-103S/LT DV Thruster (4) 25mN Cold Gas RCS Thrusters	10	1	5	Flight unit in final assembly.
Broadhead Delta-V Micro Propulsion System	(1) 100mN LMP-103S/LT Delta-V Thruster	5	1	5	Flight unit in fabrication.
Broadhead RCS Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	(4) 25mN Cold Gas RCS Thrusters	5	1	5	Flight unit in fabrication.
LINUS RCS Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	(8) 10mN Cold Gas Thrusters (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	12	2	5	Flight unit in fabrication.
KASSI SNIPE Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	(4) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	20	4	5	Flight units in fabrication.
Small Satellite Integrated Propulsion System	(4) 1N LMP-103S Thrusters (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	24	3	4	Flight units in design.
NASA Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	(5) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters, (Combined Delta-V / RCS)	28	2	4	Flight units in design.
<b>Total:</b>		<b>206</b>	<b>33</b>		

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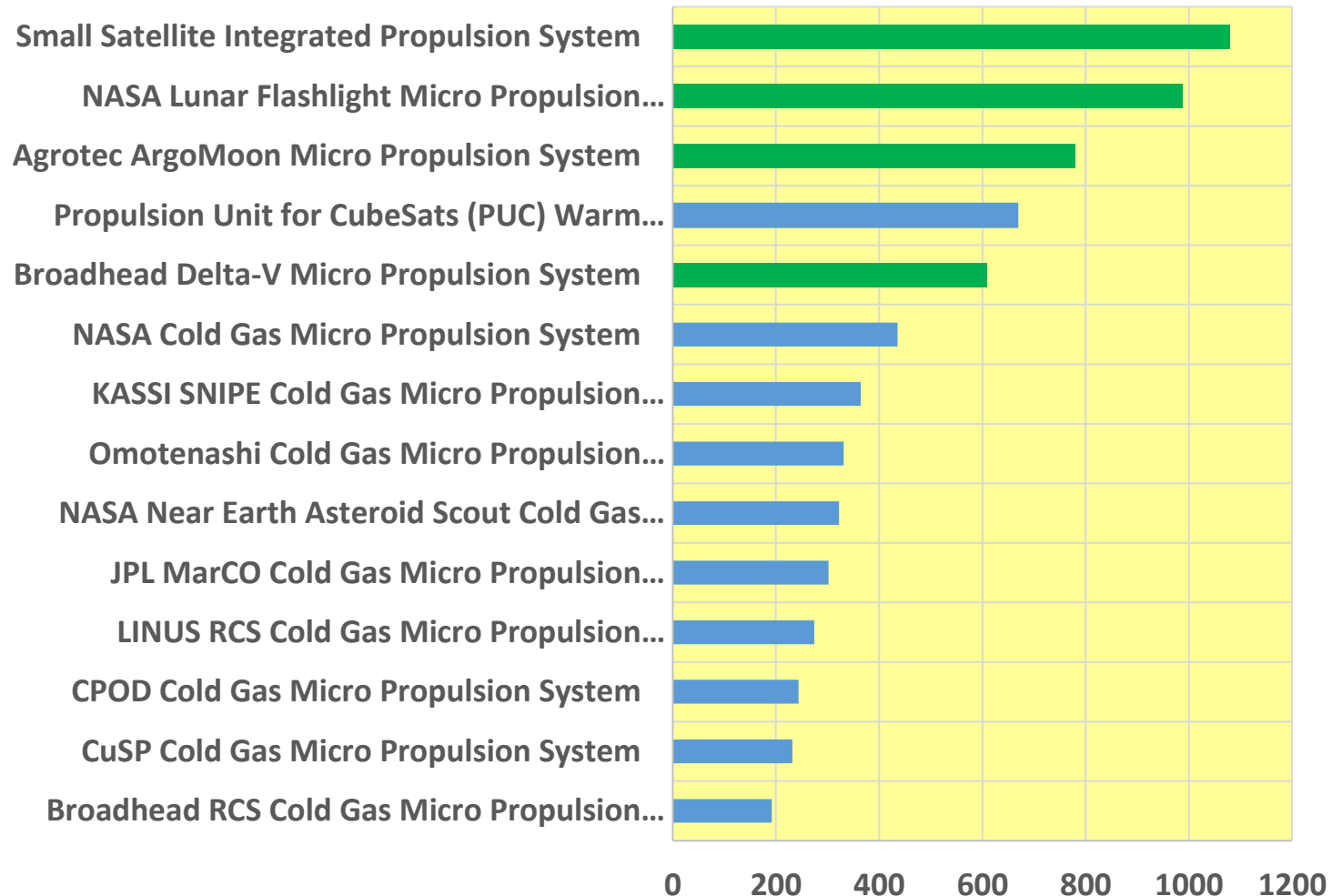
## VACCO Propulsion System Overview

<u>VACCO Product</u>	<u>Total Impulse (N-sec)</u>	<u>Delta-V Thrust (mN)</u>	<u>Delta-V (m/s)</u>	<u>Dry Mass (Kg)</u>	<u>Volume (liters or U)</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Impulse Density (N-sec/U)</u>
Broadhead RCS Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	87	50	10	0.738	0.454		192
CuSP Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	69.4	99.6	5	0.50	0.299		232
<b>CPOD Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.713</b>		244
LINUS RCS Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	931	23	75	2.52	3.397	RCS System not designed for delta-V.	274
<b>JPL MarCO Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>2.500</b>		302
NASA Near Earth Asteroid Scout Cold Gas MiPS	500	50	38	1.26	1.553		322
Omotenashi Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	584	100	42	1.62	1.763	Total for tandem systems.	331
KASSI SNIPE Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	502	99.6	44	1.05	1.377		365
NASA Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System	1969	25	92	1.91	4.52		436
Broadhead Delta-V Micro Propulsion System	474	100	20	1.69	0.778	Does not include volume of Adaptor.	609
Propulsion Unit for CubeSats (PUC) Warm Gas MiPS	183	5.4	48	0.43	0.274		668
Agrotec ArgoMoon Micro Propulsion System	783	100	57	1.47	1.004	Not counting ACS Thrusters.	780
NASA Lunar Flashlight Micro Propulsion System	3220	391	248	3.00	3.261		987
Small Satellite Integrated Propulsion System	13400	3,470	287	5.3	12.42		1079



# VACCO Propulsion System Impulse Density

Impulse Density (N-sec/U)



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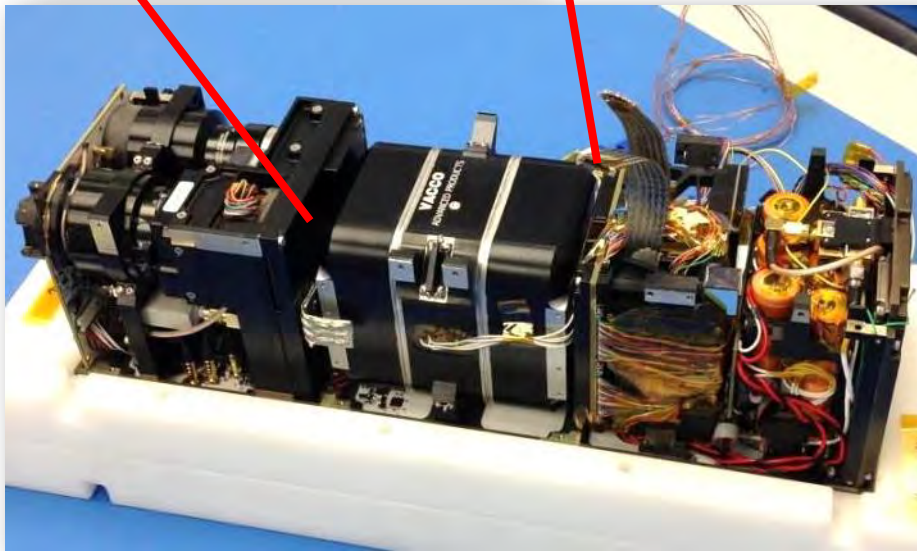
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## NASA/Tyvak CPOD/NanoACE Micro Propulsion System



- *Flight proven on NanoACE (Launched 7 July 2017)*
- Contract with Tyvak Nano-Satellite Systems LLC
- CPOD: NASA Cubesat Proximity Operations Demonstration
- (3) Flight Systems Delivered
- Occupies Center 1U of 3U Cubesat
- Provides Attitude Control, Divert & Delta-V



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## CPOD/NanoACE MiPS Overview

### System Overview

All-Welded Aluminum Alloy Construction

Eight 10mN Cold Gas Thrusters

**174 N-S Total Impulse, 31 M/S Delta-V**

0.10 mN-S Minimum Impulse Bit

1U Center Manifold, Clamshell Configuration

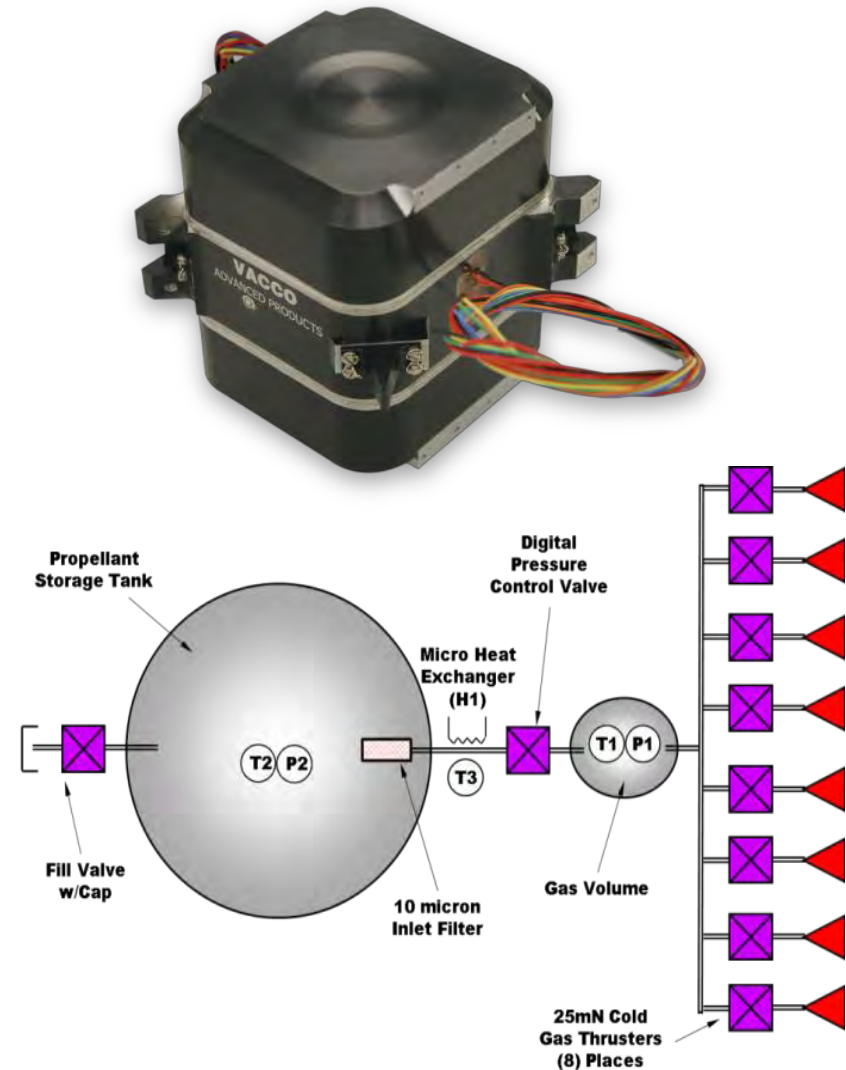
510 grams Self-Pressurizing R236fa Green Propellant

Smart System with Integral Microcontroller

RS422 Digital Interface

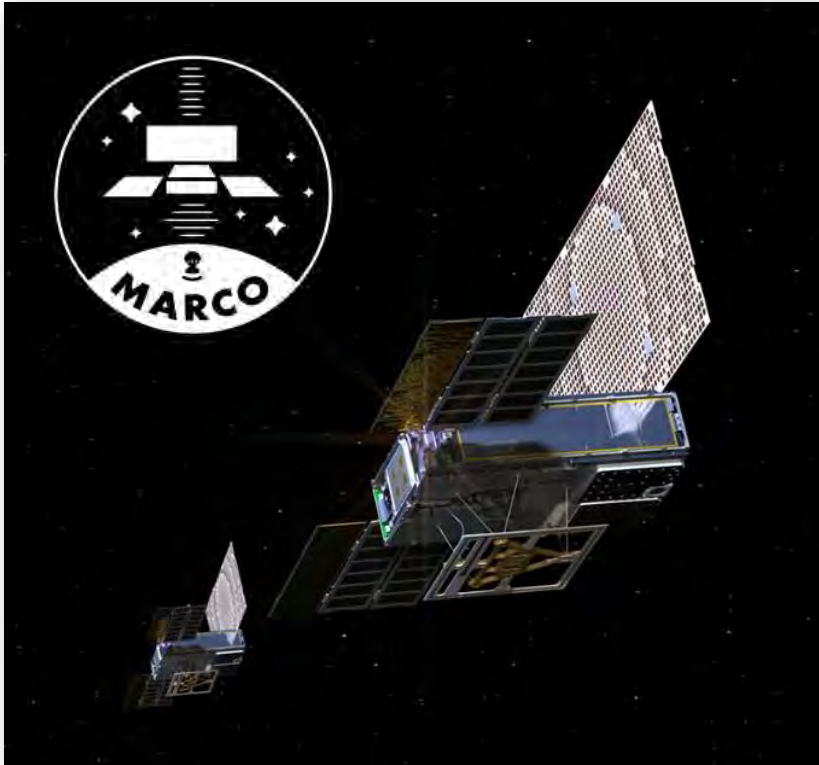
Integral Sensor Suite

Total "Wet" Mass: 1270 grams

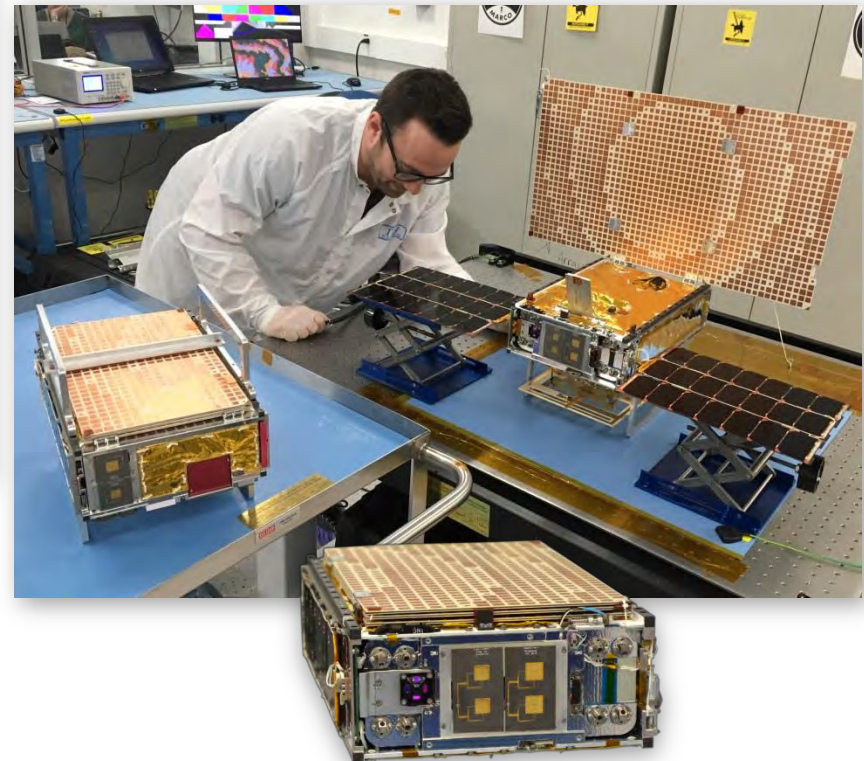


## JPL Mars Cube One (MarCO) Mission

*9-month program to design,  
build, test and deliver two  
flight systems.*

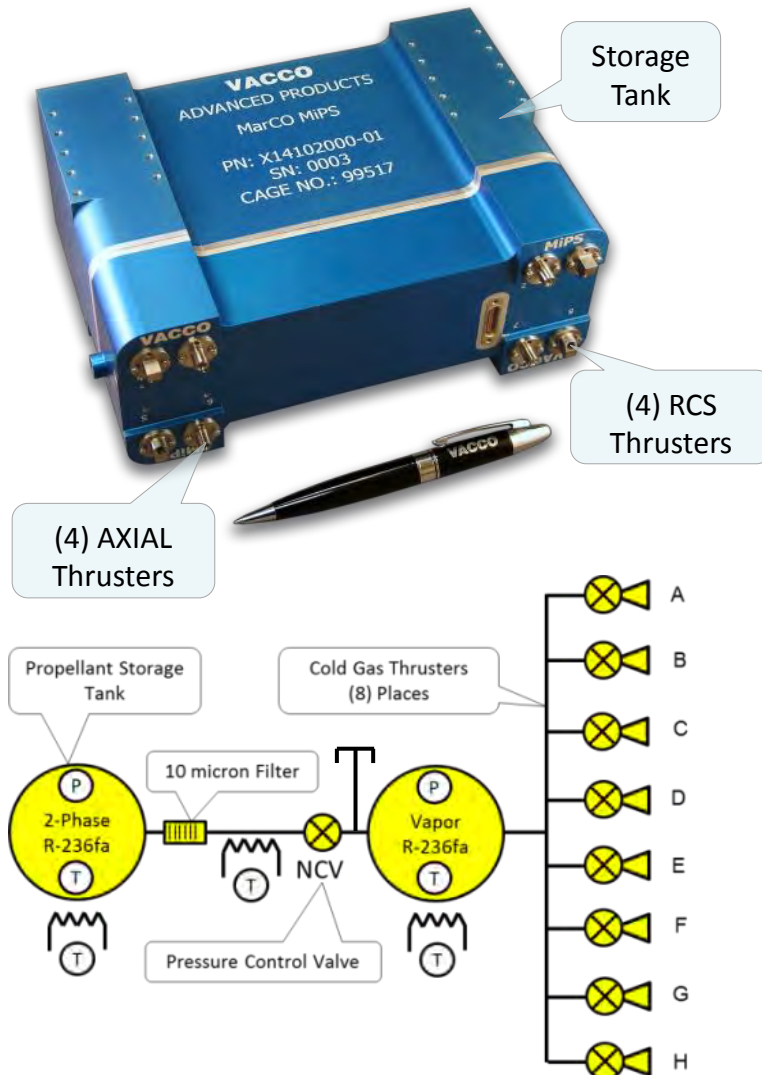


*Two Units Launched toward  
Mars with the InSight Mission  
May 5, 2018*





## JPL MarCO Micro Propulsion System



### First Interplanetary Cubesat

**Launch with InSight Lander, May 2018**

### Smart, Self-Contained Propulsion System:

- ⊕ Contract for (2) Flight Systems
- ⊕ **755 N-Sec Total Impulse**
- ⊕ 1650 gram Dry Mass

### System-in-a-Tank Design Including:

- ⊕ Propellant Storage & Feed System
- ⊕ (4) Axial & (4) RCS 25mN Thrusters
- ⊕ Controller & Sensor Suite

### Two Seals Against Leakage

**Low Power Continuous Power (<15 watts)**

**All-Welded Aluminum Alloy Construction**

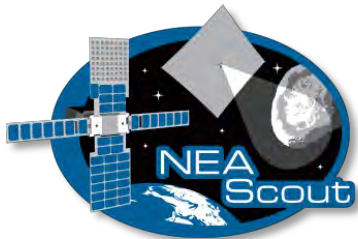
### Microcontroller Driven:

- ⊕ RS422 Digital Interface
- ⊕ Controls Burn Type & Duration
- ⊕ Closed-Loop, Variable Thrust Control
- ⊕ (3) Settable Thermal Control Zones
- ⊕ (3) Power Supplies, (9) Valve Drivers





## JPL/MSFC Near Earth Asteroid Scout Mission



### Mission Objectives:

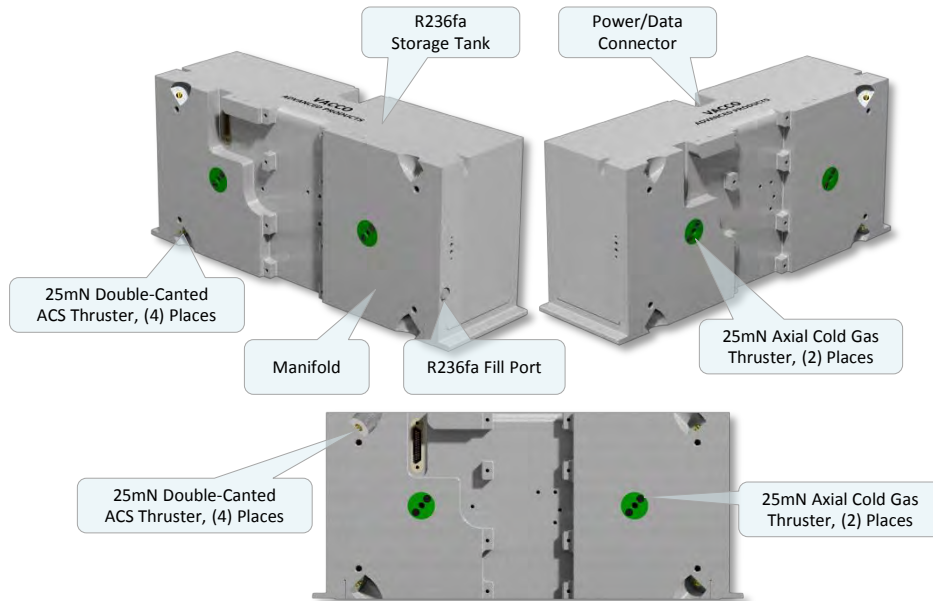
- Detect, rendezvous with and flyby a Near Earth Asteroid (NEA) target
- Characterize physical properties: volume, spectral type, spin mode and orbit
- $\geq 80\%$  coverage imaging at  $\leq 50$  cm/px
- $\geq 30\%$  coverage imaging at  $\leq 10$  cm/px

Main Propulsion:  $\sim 80\text{m}^2$  Solar Sail





## NEA Scout Micro Propulsion System



### Smart, Self-Contained Cold Gas Propulsion System based on MarCO:

- ⊕ Contract for (1) Flight System
- ⊕ **500 N-Sec Total Impulse**
- ⊕ 2600 gram Wet Mass

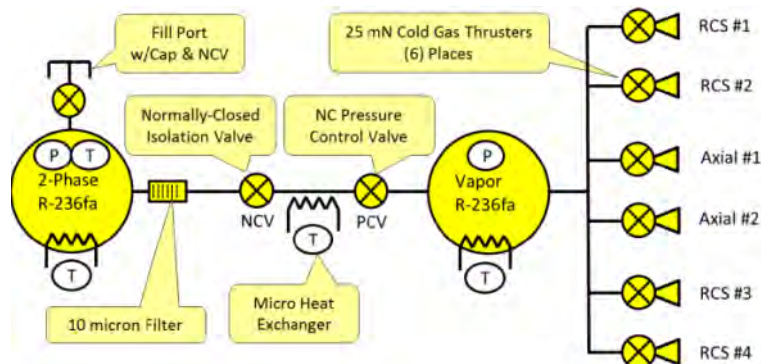
### System-in-a-Tank Design Including:

- ⊕ Propellant Storage & Feed System
- ⊕ (2) Axial & (4) RCS 25mN Thrusters
- ⊕ Controller & Sensor Suite

### Three Seals Against Leakage

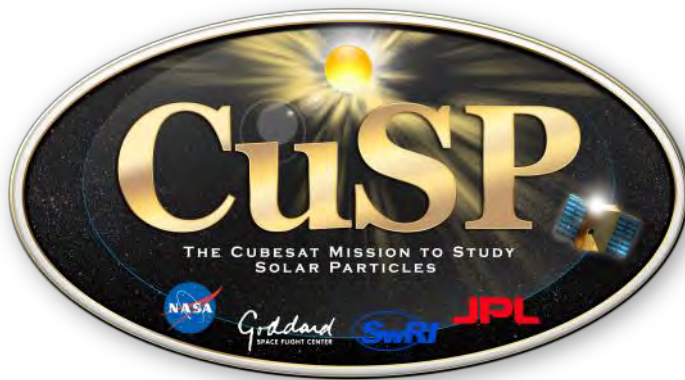
**Power: <9 watts while Firing**

**All-Welded Aluminum Alloy Construction**





## SWRI CubeSat Mission to Study Solar Particles (CuSP)

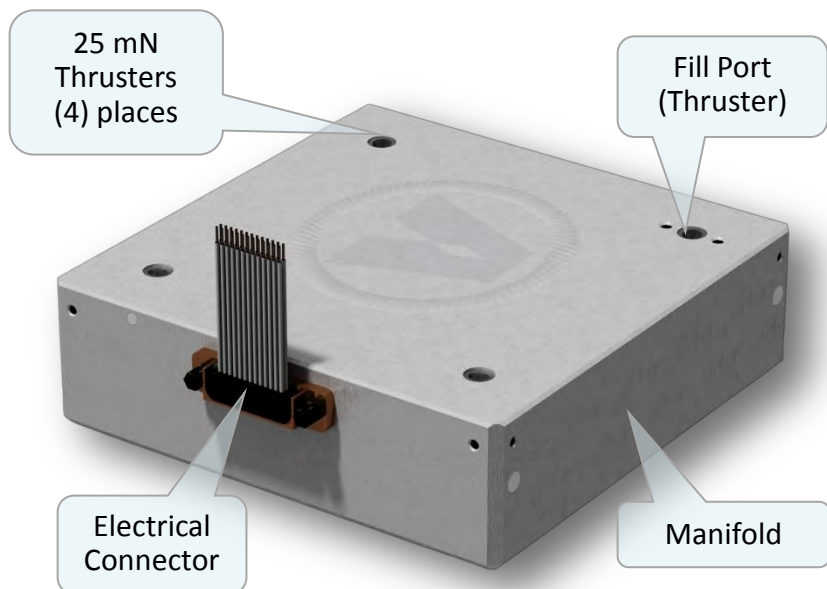


### CuSP Mission Objectives:

1. Study Solar Particles in interplanetary space
2. Be a Pathfinder for creating a network of “Space Weather Stations”
3. Strengthen the case for CubeSats as a viable platform for performing ‘High Value’ Science
4. Raise the TRL of the SIS instrument for future missions



## CuSP Micro Propulsion System



### Smart, Self-Contained Cold Gas Propulsion System Standardized System Based on MarCO:

- ✦ Contract for (1) Flight System

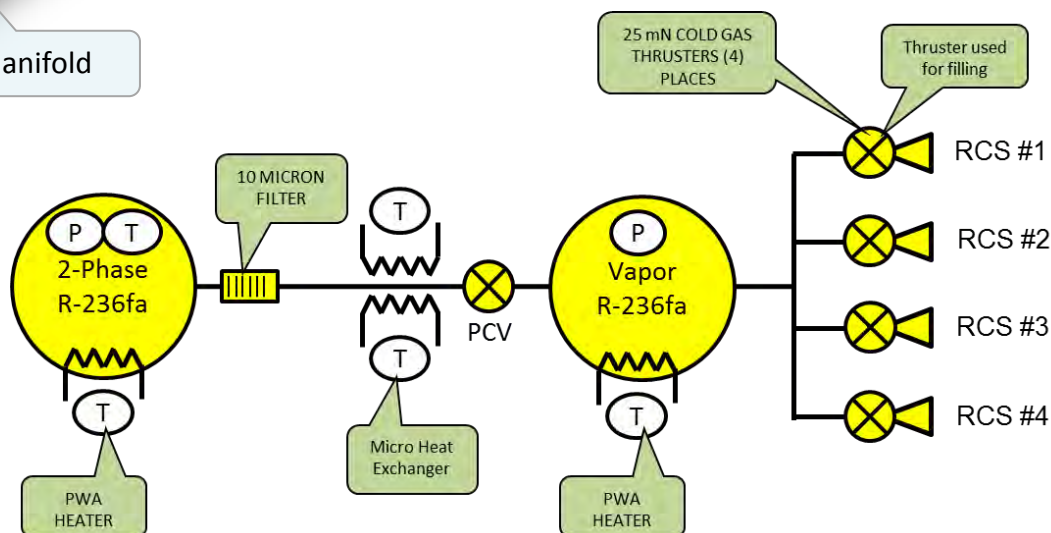
### System-in-a-Tank Design Including:

- ✦ Propellant Storage & Feed System
- ✦ (4) RCS 25mN Thrusters
- ✦ Controller & Sensor Suite

### Two Seals Against Leakage

**Power: <12 watts while Firing**

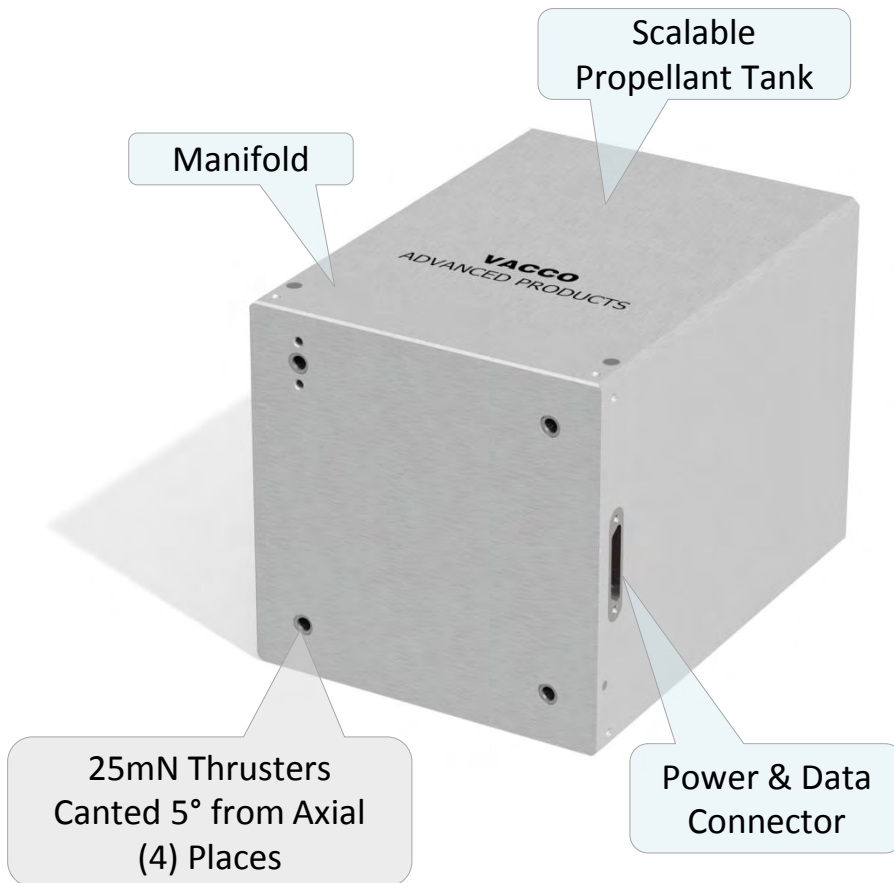
**All-Welded Aluminum Alloy Construction**







## Standard Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System



### *Four Systems Sold To-Date*

#### **Self-Contained Reaction Control System:**

(4) 25mN Cold Gas Thrusters for ACS & Delta-V

All-Welded Aluminum Alloy Construction

Normally-Closed Frictionless Valves

High Reliability Pressure Control Valve

Built-In, Shielded Control Electronics

9V to 12.6V Unregulated Input Voltage

RS422 Data Bus Interface

Integral Pressure & Temperature Sensors

Minimum Impulse Bit: <2.5mN-Sec

#### **Range Safety Features:**

Green R236fa Propellant:

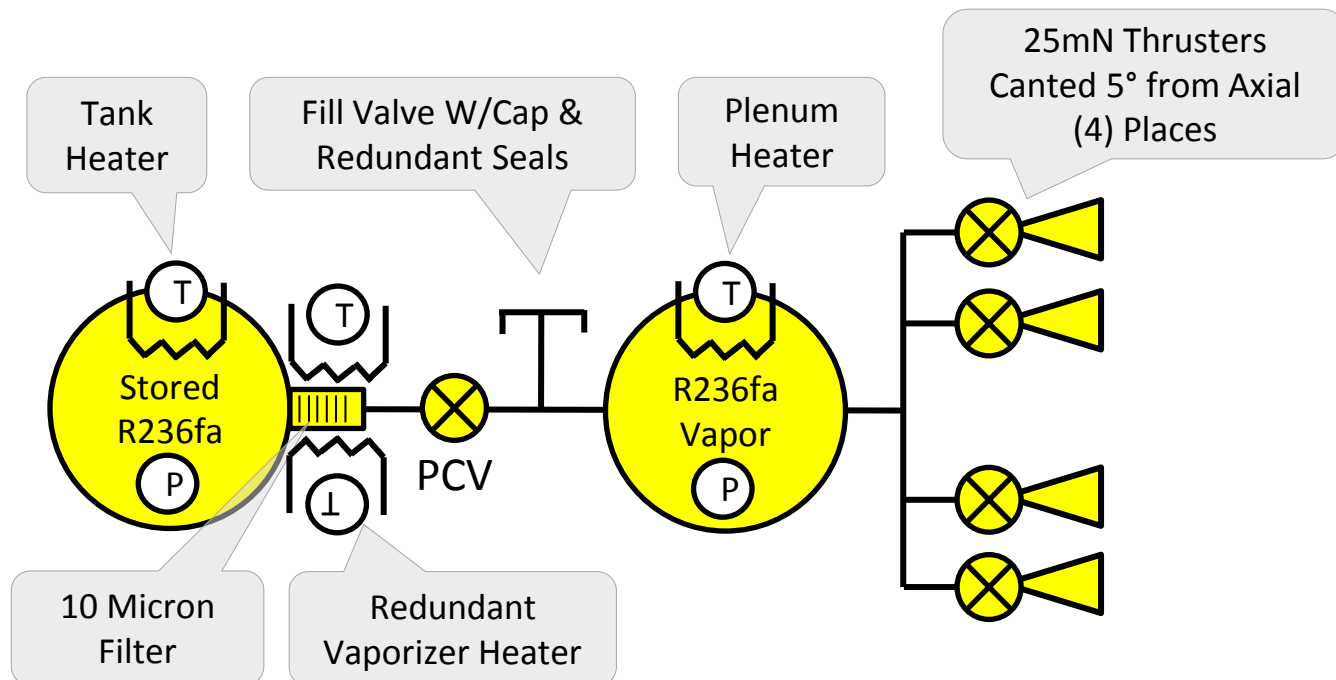
Benign Fire Extinguisher Material

Max Pressure <0.69MPa (<100 psi)

(3) Seals Against Propellant Leakage



## Standard Cold Gas Micro Propulsion System

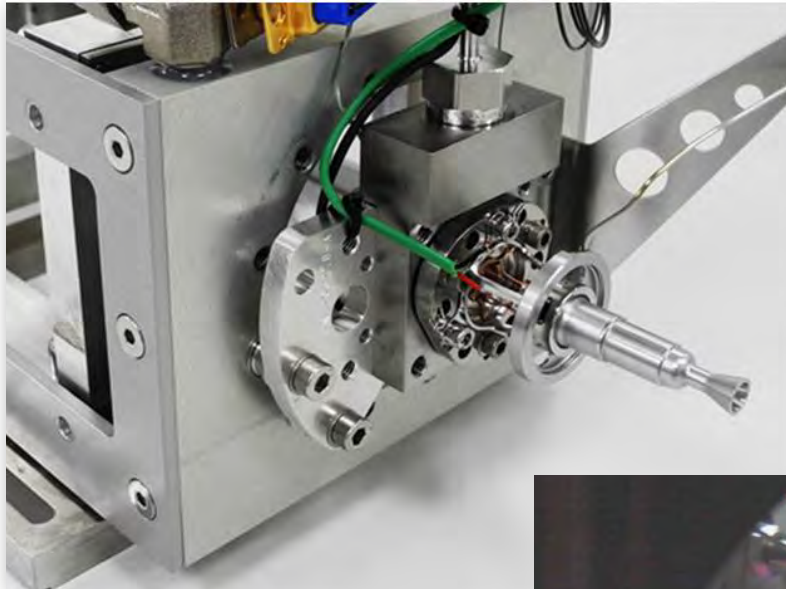


Standard MiPS

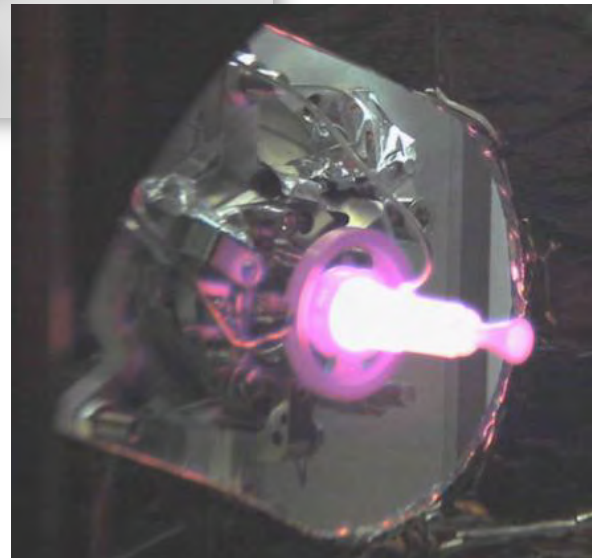
Tank Vol. (cc)	Prop Liquid Mass (g)	Isp (sec)	Total Impulse (N-Sec)	MiPS Dry Mass (grams)	Initial Cubesat Mass (Kg)	Axial Delta-V (M/s)
1041	1280	40	502	963	12	<b>44</b>



## Green Monopropellant Micro Propulsion Systems



***ECAPS 100mN LMP-103S Thruster***



***ECAPS 100mN LMP-103S  
Hot Fire Test***



# ArgoMoon Hybrid Micro Propulsion System

## ArgoMoon

- Lunar mission designed by the Italian company Argotec for the Italian Space Agency (ASI)
- Will demonstrate proximity operations with the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage (ICPS)
- Record images of the ICPS for historical documentation
- Test optical communication capabilities between the CubeSat and Earth.

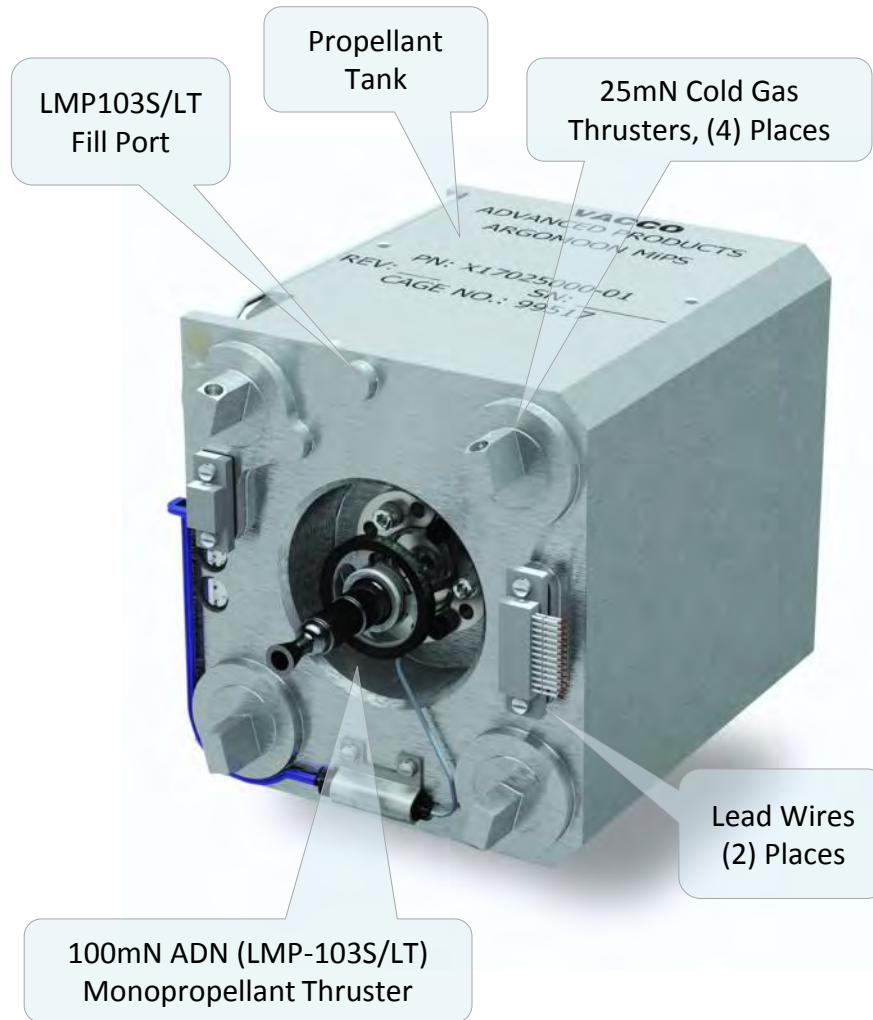


ArgoMoon [Argotec]





## ArgoMoon Hybrid Micro Propulsion System



Customer is Argotec in Italy

ArgoMoon EM-1 CubeSat

Self-Contained Propulsion System:

- (1) Axial 100mN LMP-103S/LT Delta-V Thruster

- (4) 25mN Cold Gas ACS Thrusters:

  - Double Canted 15° in Pairs

- All-Welded Titanium Alloy Construction

- High Reliability Frictionless Valves

- Built-In, Shielded Controller

- 9V to 12.6V Input Voltage

- RS422 Data Bus Interface

- ACS Minimum Impulse Bit: <1.25mN-Sec

Green LMP-130S/LT Monopropellant:

- LMP-103S Flight Proven on PRISMA

- (44) Thrusters in Orbit on SkySat Satellites

- UN / US 1.4S (Commercial Aircraft)

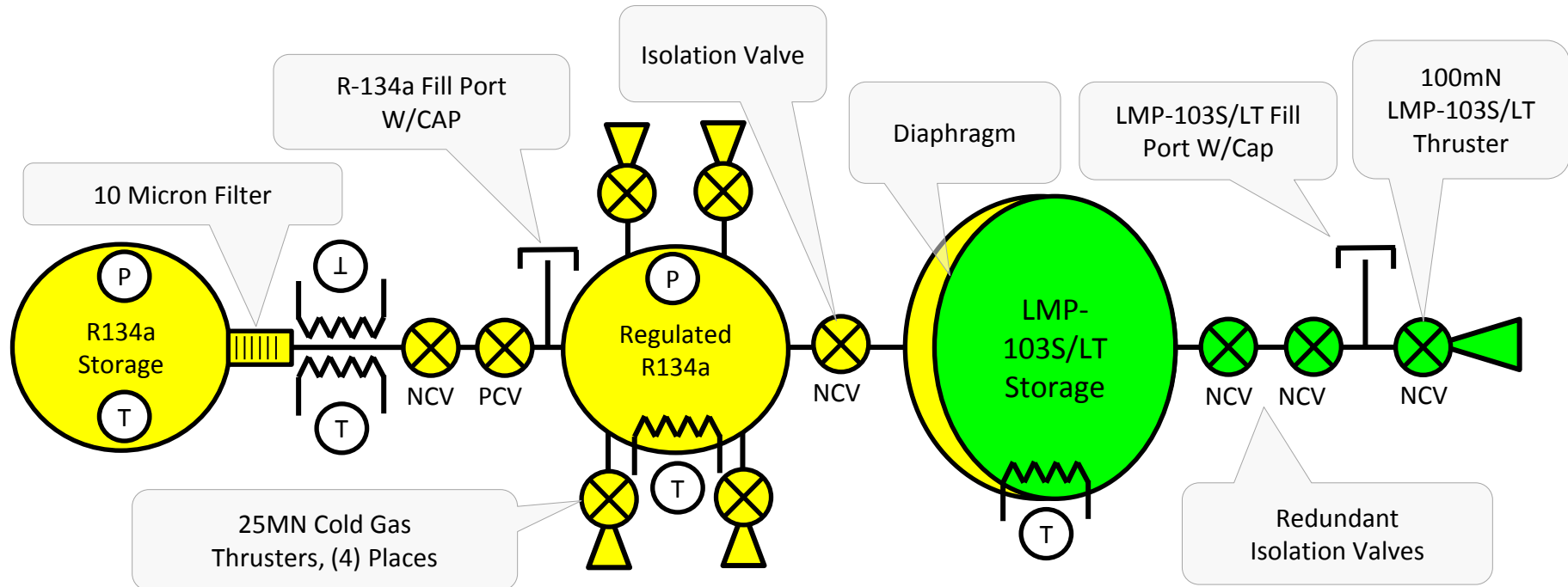
R134a Pressurant / ACS Propellant

- (3) Seals Against LMP-103S/LT Leakage

- (3) Seals Against R-134a Leakage



## ArgoMoon Hybrid Micro Propulsion System



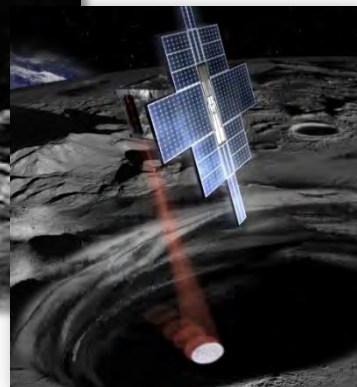
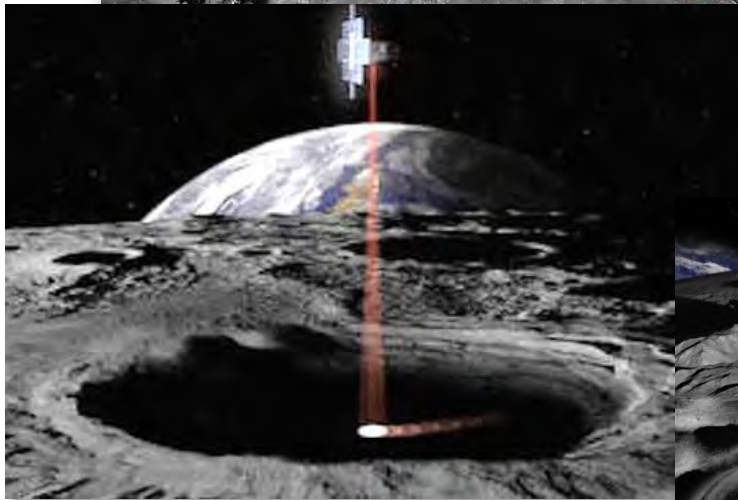
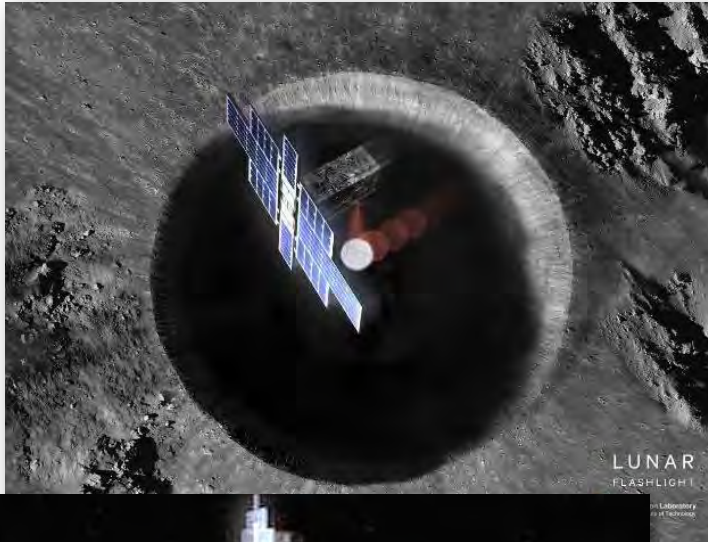
**93mm x 100mm x  
144mm Envelope**

LMP-103S/LT Thruster  
R-134a Thrusters

	Prop Vol. (cc)	Prop Mass @ 60C (g)	Isp (sec)	Total Impulse (N-Sec)	MiPS Dry Mass (Kg)
LMP-103S/LT Thruster	354	420	190	783	1.47
R-134a Thrusters	241	114	40	45	



## JPL/MSFC Lunar Flashlight Mission



### Mission Objectives:

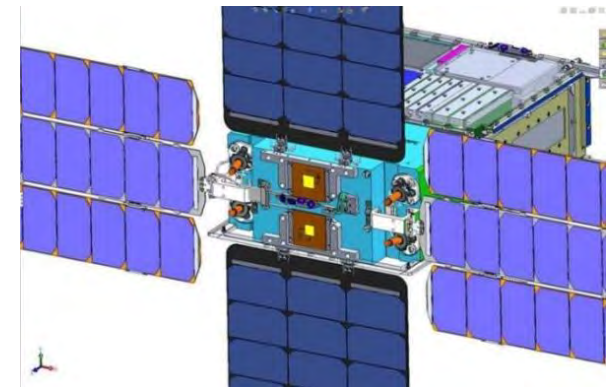
- Map surficial lunar water ice in permanently-shadowed regions

### Measurements:

- Using the difference in reflected laser light ratios to indicate the presence and quantity of water ice
- Multiple passes over lunar south polar region with potential ice deposits.

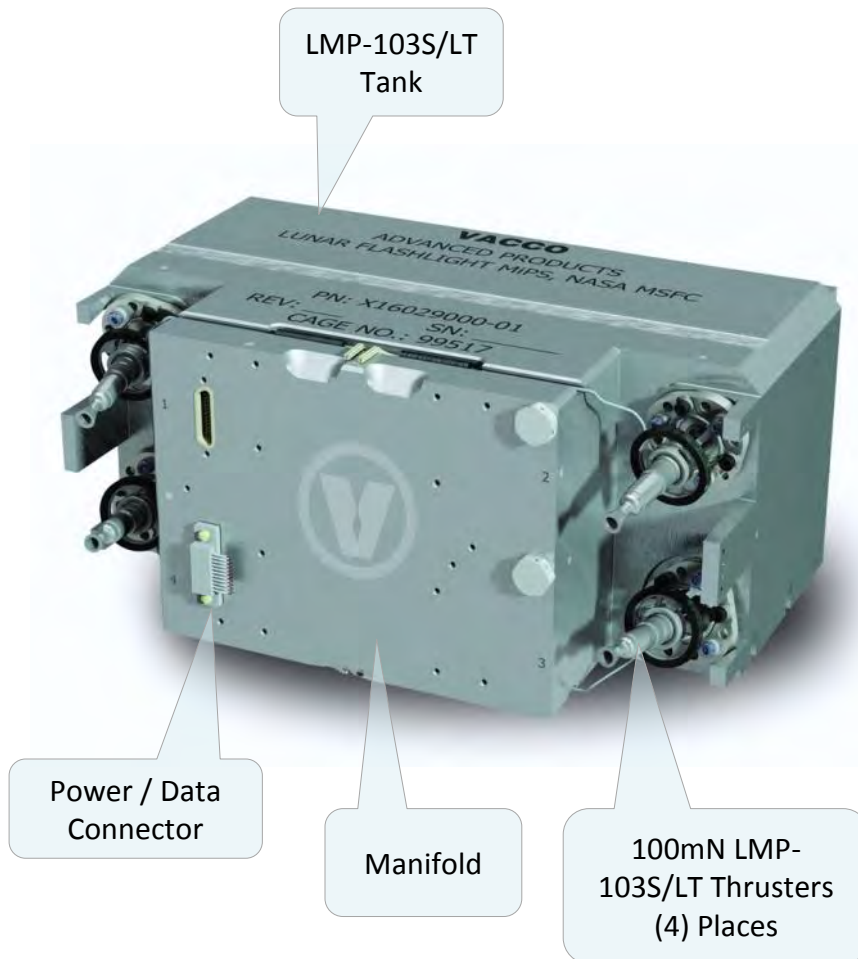
### Key Technical Constraints:

- 30 month maximum mission duration
- Solar sail acceleration limits
- Surface illumination strategies





## Lunar Flashlight Micro Propulsion System



### Self-Contained Delta-V Propulsion System:

- (4) 100mN LMP-103S/LT Thrusters

- Provides Pitch, Yaw, Roll and Delta-V

- All-Welded Titanium Alloy Construction

- Normally-Closed Frictionless Valves

- Built-In, Shielded Controller

- 5V & 28V Input Voltage

- 15 watts while firing

- RS422 Data Bus Interface

- Minimum Impulse Bit: <5mN-Sec

### Range Safety Features:

- Green LNP-103S/LT Monopropellant:

  - LMP-103S Flight Proven on PRISMA

  - (44) Thrusters in Orbit on SkySat Satellites

  - UN / US 1.4S (Commercial Aircraft)

- (3) Seals Against Leakage

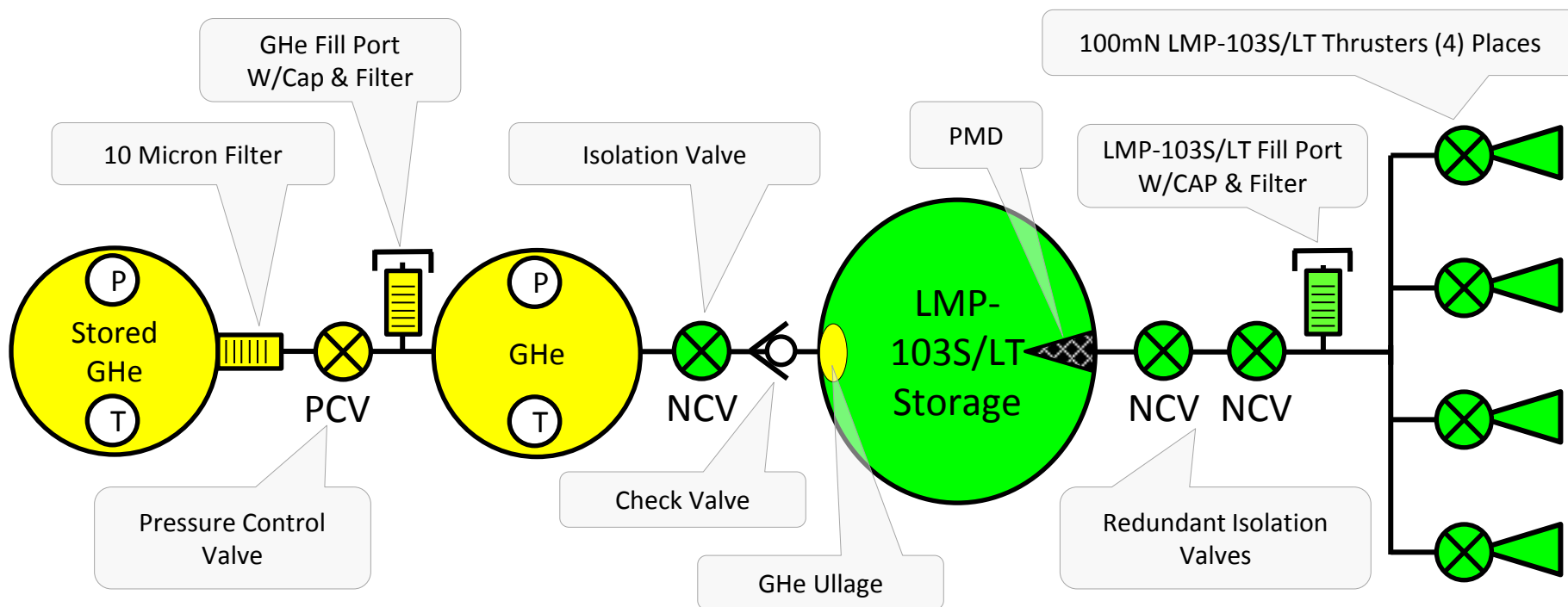
- Benign GHe Pressurant

- Safe and Arm Circuit





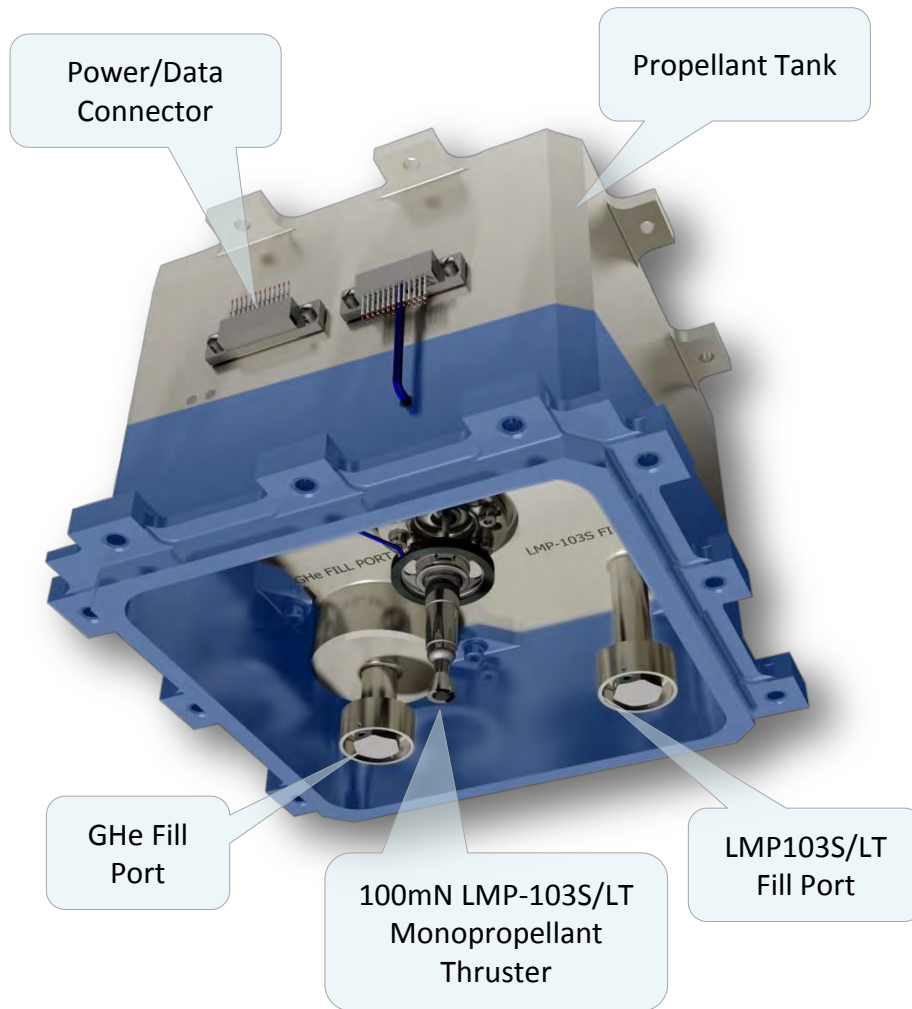
## Lunar Flashlight MiPS Schematic & Performance



	ADN	90% ADN			MiPS Dry Mass	Initial Satellite Mass	
	Vol. (cc)	Mass (g)	Isp (sec)	Total Impulse (N-Sec)	(Kg)	(Kg)	Delta-V (M/s)
100mN Thruster	1583	1747	190	3255	3.0	14	248



## SDL Broadhead DV Micro Propulsion System



### Space Dynamics Laboratory Small Sat Self-Contained Propulsion System:

- (1) Axial 100mN LMP-103S/LT Delta-V Thruster
- All-Welded Titanium Alloy Construction
- High Reliability Frictionless Valves
- Built-In, Shielded Controller
- Sensor Suite
- 9V to 12.6V Input Voltage
- RS422 Data Bus Interface
- ACS Minimum Impulse Bit: <1.25mN-Sec

### Green LMP-130S/LT Monopropellant:

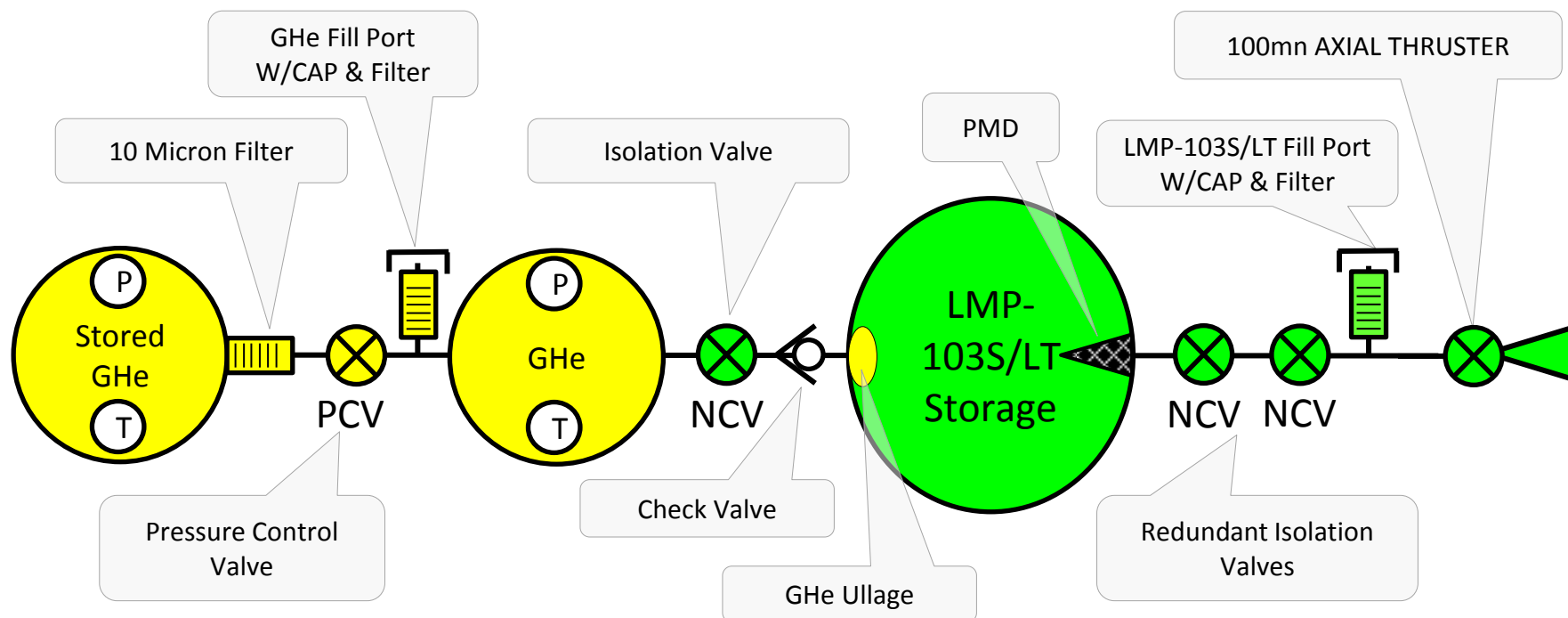
- Flight Proven on PRISMA
- (44) Thrusters in Orbit on SkySat Satellites
- UN / US 1.4S (Commercial Aircraft)
- (3) Seals Against LMP-103S/LT Leakage

### GHe Pressurant

- (3) Seals Against Pressurant Leakage



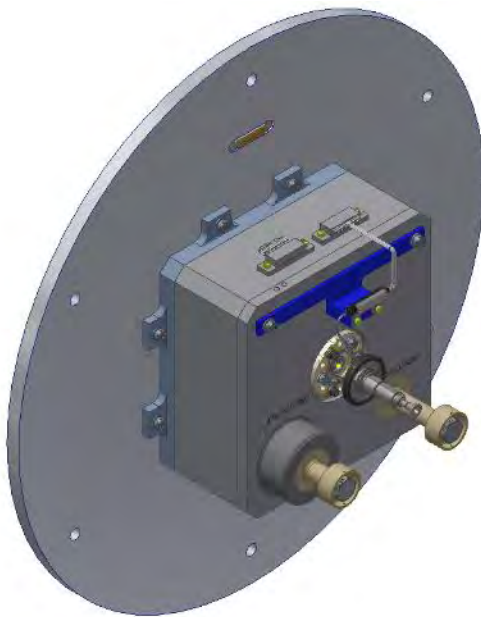
## Delta-V Micro Propulsion System Schematic & Performance



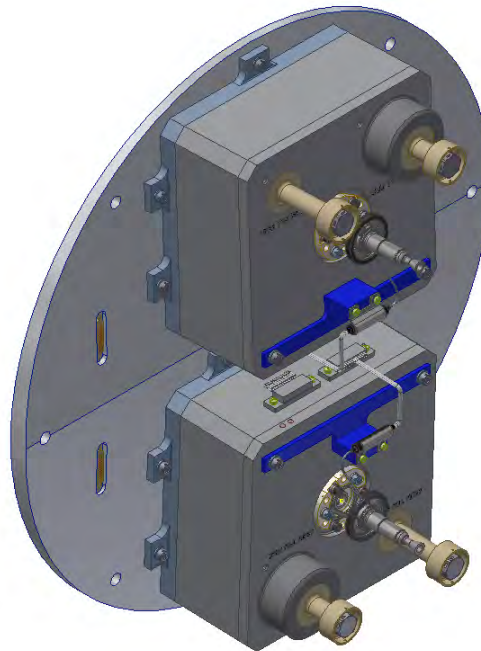
	Prop Vol. (cc)	Prop Mass (g)	Isp (sec)	Total Impulse (N-Sec)	MiPS Dry Mass (Kg)	Initial Satellite Mass (Kg)	Delta-V (M/s)
LMP-103S/LT	220	264	190	491	1.4	40	12

## Green Monopropellant Micro Propulsion Systems

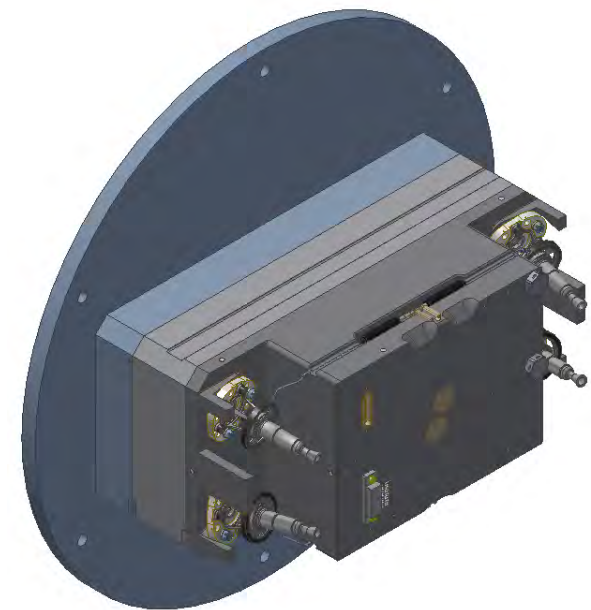
### *Bolt-On Modular Micro Propulsion Systems For ESPA Class Small Satellites*



Single Delta-V System,  
Single Thruster



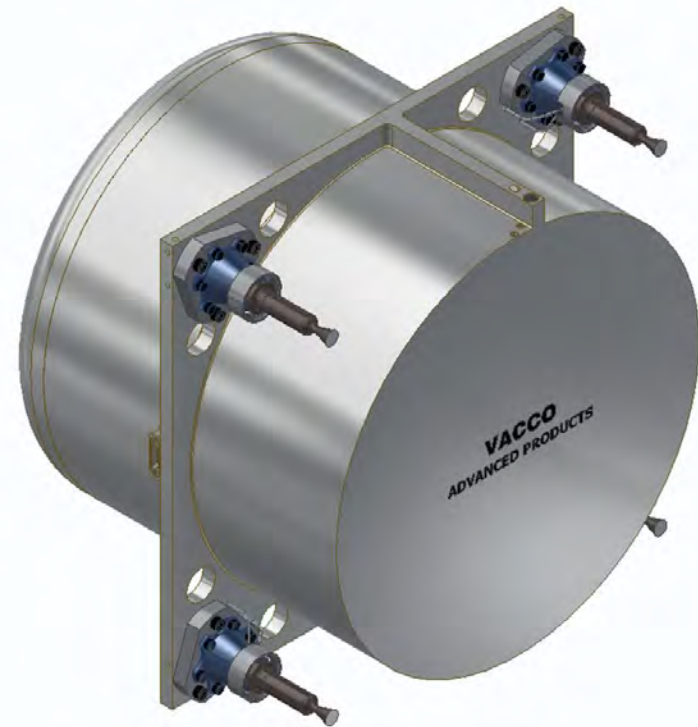
Redundant Delta-V Systems,  
Single Thruster Each



Quad Micro Propulsion System  
Based on Lunar Flashlight



## Green Monopropellant Micro Propulsion Systems



## *Integrated Propulsion Subsystem for Small Satellites*

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## Green Monopropellant Micro Propulsion Systems



### ***VACCO Under Contract for Three Flight Systems***

#### **Self-Contained Integrated Propulsion Subsystem:**

(4) 1N LMP-103S Thrusters Operated at 878mN to Minimize Operating Pressure

Thrusters canted at 5° Angle to provide Pitch, Yaw, Roll and 3.5N net Delta-V Thrust

Total Impulse: 13,470 N-sec

All-Welded Titanium Alloy Construction

Frictionless High Reliability Micro Valves

Built-In, Shielded Controller

5V & 28V Input Voltage, 15 watts while firing

RS422 Data Bus Interface

Minimum Pulse Width: 100ms

#### **Range Safety Features:**

Green LMP-130S/LT Monopropellant:

LMP-103S Flight Proven on PRISMA

(44) Thrusters in Orbit on SkySat Satellites

UN / US 1.4S (Commercial Aircraft)

(3) Seals Against Leakage

Benign GHe Pressurant Stored at 47 bar

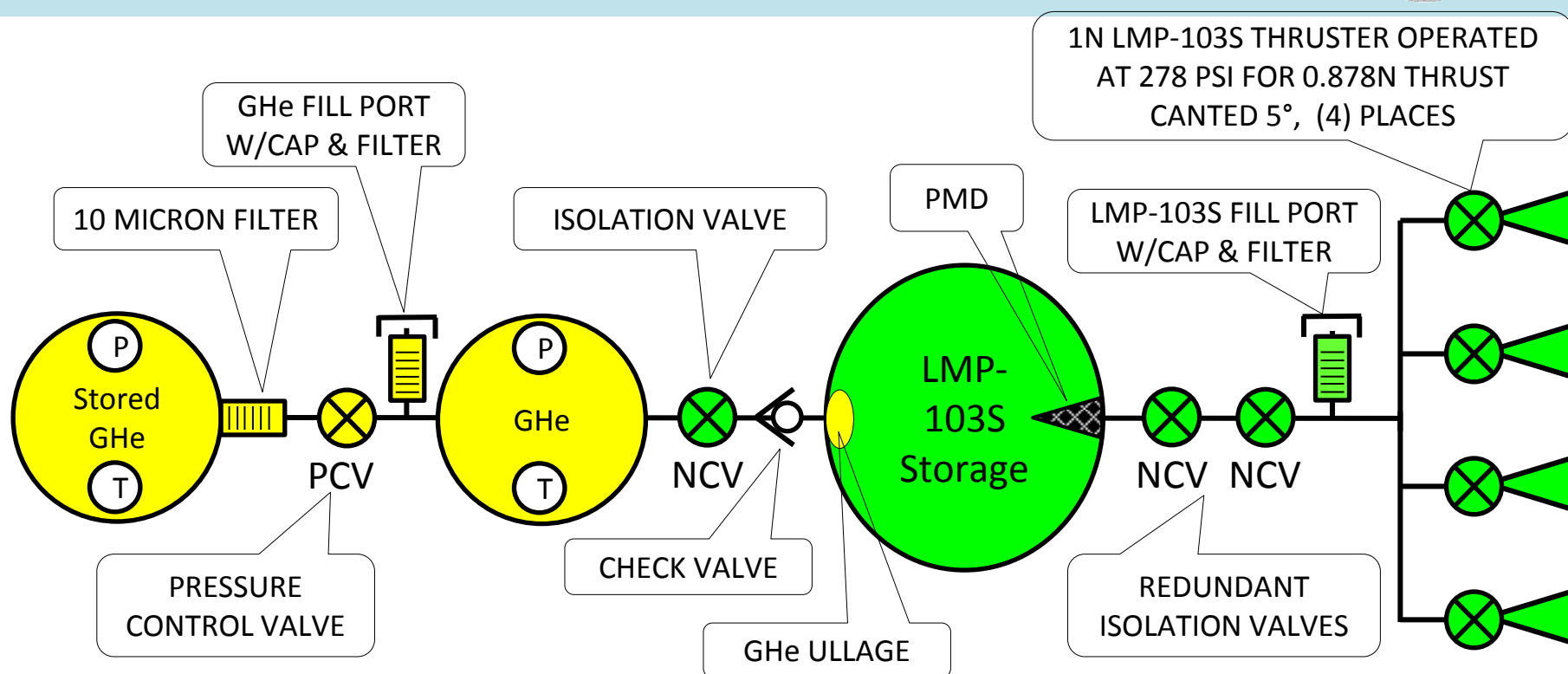
Safe and Arm Circuit

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## Green Monopropellant Micro Propulsion Systems



3.5N Net Thrust

LMP-103S Vol. (cc)	LMP-103S		Total Impulse (N-Sec)	MiPS Dry Mass (Kg)
	Mass, 90% Fill (g)	Isp (sec)		
5374	6051	227	13470	5.3

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## MiPS Radiation Tolerance Features

1. **Electronics Shielded by Structure and Propellant** – As-proposed, all-welded aluminum alloy propellant tank shell is  $\geq 100$  mil thick. Wall thickness will be adjusted as-required to meet up to 30krad requirement. Liquid R236fa propellant or pressurant surrounding Controller adds shielding.
2. **Watchdog Timer Built into Microcontroller** - Watchdog software reset. Power cycling under control of spacecraft power switching.
3. **No FLASH Memory Writing** - Corrupt settings cannot be saved to persistent memory.
4. **Designed to be Without Power Most of the Mission** - Reduces a number of single event effects (SEU, SEL, SEFI)
5. **No Voltages Above 12V** - Reduces likelihood of SEGR and SEB
6. **Radiation Testing** - JPL has conducted TID testing on select components from 0 to 30 kRAD. The electronics operate well to 13 kRAD and after that some of the circuits drift. Some components have been SEL tested.





## Software Features

- Up to 7 autonomous temperature regulation zones with manual override
- Over 30 commands
  - Custom commands created at customer request
- Customizable features adjustable on orbit:

Heater voltage/power	Plenum pressure setpoint	PID constants	Save thrusting sequence
Maximum system power	Valve maximum voltage	Redundant PIV driver	Valve hold current
Manual heater override	Telemetry transmit rate	Plenum pressure timeout	Temperature setpoints

- Health Monitoring data packets transmit at 10 Hz to provide continuous telemetry