# Small Satellites Deployable solar panels for Deep Space Missions

### V. Díaz, M. Vázquez 38<sup>th</sup> annual Space Power Workshop April 19-22 2021 VIRTUAL

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DHV TECHNOLOGY Málaga (Spain)



# OUTLINE

- Short Company presentation
- 6U Mission for Deep Space
  - Power needs & Radiation Hardness & Environmental requirement
  - Design of solar panels
  - Simulations
  - Test plan
- Conclusions



# DHV Technology is a company specialized on the design and manufacture of solar panels for small satellites





- DHV Technology was funded on 2013, located in Malaga (Spain)
- Staff: 54 focused on Mechanical design, FEM analysis and simulations, solar panel testing and validation, solar cells
- Staff coming from high maturity markets: Photovoltaics, Defence, Electronic, Renewable companies. <u>Since 1995 in Solar Panels</u>
- Facilities: Offices 1.400 m<sup>2</sup>. ISO-7 clean room 1.200m<sup>2</sup> warehouse 850 m<sup>2</sup>





- Welding, coverglass & bypass diodes performed in-house
- Solar panels are assembled and welded in-house
- On-site dry storage lockers for completed assembly storage prior to delivery





Solar panels manufactured using manual or semi-automated processes

- DHV Technology manufactures solar panels using CFRP over an aluminium honeycomb core.
- Future capabilities include fully automated solar cell placement and bonding
- DHV Technology is developing end-to-end automated production capacity that streamlines inspections, inventory transactions, welding & encapsulation and final testing









Solar Arrays of different architectures PocketQube, CubeSat 1U, 2U, 3U, 6U, 12U

### **Small Satellites**























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# 6U Mission for Deep Space

CubeSat Deployers

#### Overview

- Initial configuration of vehicle optimized for near-term heavy-lift capability
- Completed Critical Design Review in July 2015

#### SLS Block 1

Capability: >70 metric tons

Height: 322 feet (98 meters)

Weight: 5.75 million pounds (2.6 million kg)

Thrust: 8.8 million pounds (39.1 million Newtons)

Available: 2019

#### **Secondary Paylooads**

On Exploration Mission-1, SLS will include thirteen 6U payload locations of up to 14kg per CubeSat





# 6U Mission for Deep Space





# 6U Mission for Deep Space

#### Moon

- Lunar Flashlight (NASA)
- Lunar IceCube (Morehead State University)
- LunaH-Map (Arizona State
- University)
- OMOTENASHI (JAXA)

### Asteroid

NEA Scout





 CuSP (Southwest Research Institute)

#### Earth

EQUULEUS (JAXA)
Skyfire (Lockheed Martin)

#### And Beyond

- Biosentinel (NASA)
- ArgoMoon (ESA/ASI).
- Three Centennial Challenge Winners (TBD)

### Power Needs, Radiation, Environmental Requirements

- 80 W BOL (5 strings 8 solar cells in series per wing.40W)
- Two wings double deployable
- Reduced thickness (less than 5 mm in stowed configuration including everything)
- Van Allen Belts Crossing requirements
- Vibration, Shock, Vibro Acoustic and TVAC test requirements







### **Design of Solar Panels**

- Mechanical parts of the Solar Array
  - Hinges, Torsion Springs
  - Tie Down and other mechanical items
- Substrate selection
- Solar cells, connectors, sensors
- Thermal knife and associated circuitry
- Design extension to meet Interplanetary missions: RAD HARD, Special Coatings, ...











### Simulations: modelling of the panels

- Substrates have been modeled with linear plate elements
- Solar cells
- Interface with panels
- Hinges, connections to the satellites
- Torsion Springs, Tie down
- First mode 140 Hz
- Static Load 45 g







### Simulations: results

### Stowed model. Static loads. Displacement analysis X, Y, Z







### Test plan

Mechanical and vibration tests: (GSFC-STD-7000A

standard, NASA GEVS levels.)

- sinusoidal vibration
- random vibration
- shock loads
- resonance survey test





- Thermal and vacuum test: thermal cycling at low pressure conditions.
- Electric performance and over voltage test
- Development of Tools for Gravity compensations during deployment tests







### Test plan: deployment GSE







### Test plan: deployment GSE

#### In house Deployment process by Ground Support Equipment







### Test plan: IV test

#### In-house Flash IV Test: 40 W BOL per wing









### Test plan: Vibro-acoustic

#### **External Vibro acoustic test**



- Structural model
- External Vibro acoustic test trapezoidal base: 5,7 m 7,35 m, 6,25 m and 6,3 m
- Height 4,90 ,
- Area 210 m2
- Volume 200 m3
- Plus 9 plane acoustic diffusers for a more diffuse field





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### Conclusions

DHV is delivering to the market Solar Panels for Small Satellites and Cubesats 3U,6U, 12U for LEO but also interplanetary Missions

- Full customized design according to mission requirements is considered
- and executed
- A dedicated test plan is carried out for each project. Engineering model is extremely recommended on a deployable cubesat mission



### Thanks so much for your kind attention

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