

NEWS RELEASE

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MICROCOSM SUCCESSFULLY TESTS

HIGH-PRESSURE COMPOSITE TANKS

FOR HELIUM AND LIQUID OXYGEN

For Immediate Release

EL SEGUNDO, CA, June 1, 2006 – Microcosm, Inc., an aerospace engineering firm in El Segundo, California, today announced successful tests on two separate programs for composite tanks for launch vehicles. In testing done for the Scorpius Space Launch Company (SSLC), Microcosm successfully tested a 25 inch diameter all-composite liquid oxygen (LOX) tank to nearly 4 times its operating pressure of 550 psi. Testing was done at cryogenic temperatures using liquid nitrogen. In a separate program, under contract to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Microcosm tested a composite high-pressure gaseous helium tank to 14,500 psi. The operating pressure for the helium tank is 5,600 psi. Both tanks were designed and built under the direction of Aaron Leichner at Microcosm. The work was done as part of the technology development program for the Scorpius[®] family of low-cost, responsive launch vehicles.

According to Dr. Shyama Chakroborty, Microcosm Vice President and Head of the Launch Vehicle Division, "The ongoing tank development work at Microcosm represents a major advance in both composite tank technology and in

lowering the cost of access to space. We are very pleased to have made substantial breakthroughs in both types of tanks.”

The 20-inch diameter high-pressure helium tank is an Inconel-lined, composite over-wrap pressure vessel. It is a full-scale qualification tank for the High Performance Pressurization System (HPPS) for the Sprite small launch vehicle, the smallest orbital vehicle in the Scorpius[®] family. It is also used in the SR-M suborbital launch vehicle being built for AFRL. Chakroborty indicated that the helium tank has been through 25 operating pressure cycles plus thermal cycling and is now fully flight qualified.

According to Maj. Gen. (ret) Jack Kulpa, the President of SSLC, “The very successful testing of the 25-inch, all-composite LOX tank represents a substantial advance for launch vehicles in terms of both lower cost and higher performance. This advance has come about due to new manufacturing approaches by Microcosm and new materials technology from CTD [Composite Technology Development of Lafayette, CO]. We are grateful to both organizations for their pioneering work that is very scalable to much larger tanks and launch vehicles, as well as a range of industrial applications.” The next series of tests will culminate in the build and test of a 42-inch full-scale LOX tank for the Sprite vehicle. These tests should be complete by early July. The 42-inch composite tank will also be flown on the SR-M suborbital vehicle.

About Microcosm, Inc.

Microcosm is a small business specializing in space mission engineering and the development of technologies and methods to facilitate more responsive space missions at substantially reduced costs. Microcosm’s four primary business areas include the Scorpius[®] family of Responsive, Low-Cost Expendable Launch Vehicles; Mission Integration for Responsive Space Systems; Autonomous Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems; and Space Mission Engineering, Architecting, and Cost Modeling.

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