

NEWS RELEASE

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MICROCOSM AWARDED CONTRACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINIATURE STAR CAMERA

For Immediate Release

EL SEGUNDO, CA, February 3, 2006 – Microcosm, Inc., an aerospace engineering firm in El Segundo, California, today announced the award of a Phase II Small Business Innovative Research contract for the development of MicroMak, a star camera weighing less than 100 gm, that will provide high bandwidth, moderate to high accuracy, low-cost attitude determination for nano and microsattellites. MicroMak provides three fields-of-view in a single housing using all reflective optics. Because there are no lenses and no line-of-sight views to space, the system is significantly more radiation tolerant than most star sensors.

Star cameras provide substantially higher accuracy than other types of spacecraft attitude sensors, but typically have not been used on small satellites because of their high cost and weight. MicroMak will help small spacecraft take on many of the tasks previously done only by much larger and very much more expensive satellites.

Funding for the work is provided by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and will be administered by the Air Force Research Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM. Microcosm is developing a series of small, low-cost star cameras for use in space, in the air, and on land (both terrestrial and on other

planets). According to Microcosm President, Dr. James Wertz, “MicroMak represents a major reduction in both the cost and weight of star cameras. It is one of a series of components intended to miniaturize both sensors and actuators for spacecraft.”

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 three primary business areas include the Scorpius® family of Responsive, Low-Cost Expendable Launch Vehicles; Autonomous Guidance, Navigation and Control Systems; and Space Mission Engineering and Architecting.

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Microcosm MicroMak star sensor head contains three independent fields-of-view
in a volume of less than 2 in³

(High resolution photos available at <http://www.smad.com/micromak.jpg>)