

# Satellite Research Centre School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Plasma Sources and Applications Center (PSAC)



# The Family of 25W to 400W Hall Effect Thrusters

#### 25 W Hall Effect thruster

- 1 mN nominal thrust
- Over 25% thrust efficiency
- Up to 50 kNs of total impulse
- Up to 2500 hours operational lifetime

#### 50 W Hall Effect thruster

- 3 mN nominal thrust
- Over 32% thrust efficiency
- Up to 50 kNs of total impulse
   Up to 2500 hours operational
- Up to 2500 hours operational lifetime

All thrusters are verified to be able to operate utilizing Xe, Kr and Ar

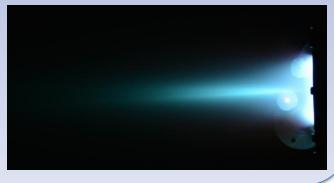
Multimode operation with high thrust mode for orbit transfer tasks and high specific impulse

mode for station keeping tasks.

#### 210 W Hall Effect thruster

- 13 mN nominal thrust
- Over 39% thrust efficiency
- Up to 120 kNs of total impulse
- Up to 3500 hours operational lifetime



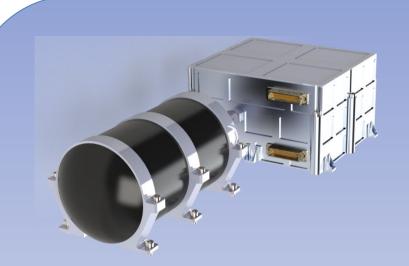






# Hall Effect Micro Jet Thruster (HEMPJet)

- 1 to 200 μN Thrust range with extreme resolution and precision
- Extremely low thrust noise of 0.1 µN/Hz<sup>1/2</sup>
- Up to 7 kNs Total Impulse
- 7000 hours in-orbit operational lifetime
- Xe, Kr, Ar, N2 or synthetic gases operation capability



# Highly Integrate Power Processing, Control, and Gas Feeding System

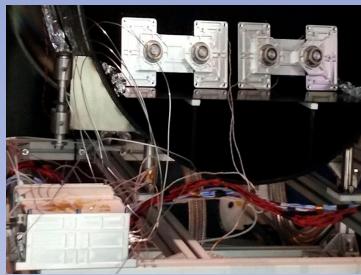
- 7x isolated DC-DC converters to supply and control satellite payloads
- Up to 8 precision mass flow or pressure outlets.
- 2 gas inlets for different gases operation capability
- Supports thrusters multimode operation by varying mass flow rate and discharge voltage level

#### **Mission payloads**

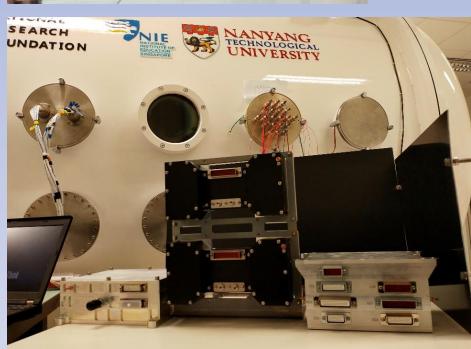
- Plasma plume and object multimode imaging and observation for near-field plume diagnostics and far-field imaging.
- Langmuir probe and Faraday Cup
- Inertial and microgravity experiments Low Frequency electromagnetic field measurements unit
- Low Earth Orbit space weather and ionosphere



### TAIJI-1 Propulsion System in collaboration with UCAS

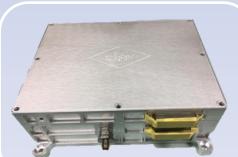


Submicronewton thrust level propulsion system developed at PSAC was launched into space with TAIJI-1 mission on 31 August 2019. It fulfilled all the requirements during in-space performance evaluation in every planned scenario and still remains in operation on board of TAIJI-1 mission. All 4 sets have been ignited >1000 times with zero-error record to date.









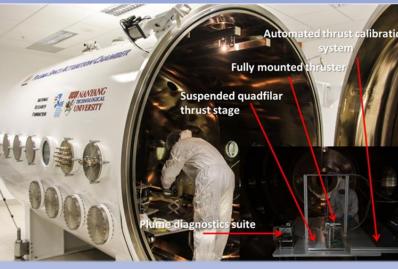




# Testing facilities







PSAC laboratory has the following testing capabilities

- Space propulsion system performance evaluation system, including:
  - Space environment simulation vessel
  - Thrust balances of sub micronewton and 10s mN Plasma parameters evaluation system
  - Ion plume monitoring system
  - Thrust vector alignment tests

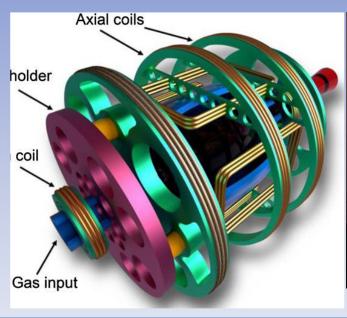


- Thermal vacuum test setup with sun simulator
- Space payload leak check



# **GER-Rotamak**Thruster

Pure electromagnetic propulsion system that works on non-inductive Rotating Magnetic Field (RMF) current drive.





## PSAC recent publications

- Hopes and concerns for astronomy of satellite constellations. Nature
   Astronomy. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41550-020-1141-0 (2020)
- Explore space using swarms of tiny satellites. *Nature*, 562, 185 (2018)
- Prospects and physical mechanisms for photonic space propulsion. *Nature Photonics*, 2, 649 (2018)
- Smart nanomaterials in space: recent progress in electric propulsion systems for small satellites. *Nature Communications*, *9*, 879 (2018)