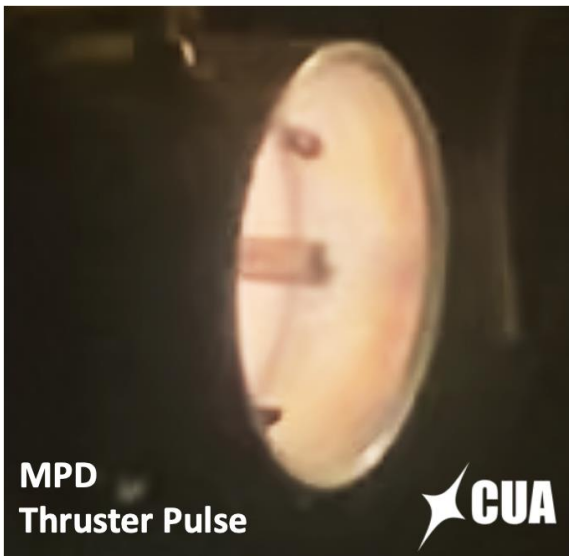
For Immediate Release

**CU Aerospace, LLC Awarded Multi-Million Dollar Contract for Cutting-Edge Space Thruster**

Champaign, Illinois - August 12, 2024 - CU Aerospace, LLC, a leading aerospace engineering company for small satellite propulsion, is proud to announce that it has been awarded a $3.29 million dollar contract by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for the development of an innovative air-propellant pulsed magnetoplasmadynamic (MPD) thruster for use in very low Earth orbit (VLEO) missions with altitudes in the atmosphere below 400 km. Should CU Aerospace (CUA) be selected for a Phase 2 flight mission, the contract award will be expanded for production of flight hardware and mission support.



**CU Aerospace (CUA) MPD demonstration thruster plasma pulse during operation.**

This groundbreaking project represents a significant leap forward in spacecraft propulsion technology. The cutting-edge pulsed MPD thruster enables a new class of low orbital altitude satellites by offering an airbreathing option with increased efficiency, lifetime, and versatility. Higher power versions of the technology may also help to revolutionize deep space exploration.

"We are honored to have been selected by DARPA for this important project," said Dr. David Carroll, President of CUA. "This contract represents a testament to our team's expertise and dedication to pushing the boundaries of space technology. We are excited to collaborate with DARPA in developing this state-of-the-art propulsion system that will shape the future of low altitude satellite operations."

The airbreathing pulsed MPD thruster uses high current generated by solar power to accelerate atmospheric air, offering enhanced performance, lifetime and efficiency for VLEO spacecraft. The MPD technology combines low propellant consumption and high exhaust velocity with high overall thruster efficiency to enable VLEO missions.

Since its founding in 1998, CU Aerospace, LLC is known for its commitment to innovation and excellence in a variety of specialized areas of aerospace engineering. With a team of talented engineers and researchers, the company continues to push the boundaries of space technology, contributing to advancements shaping the future of the space ecosystem.

For more information about CU Aerospace and its aerospace technologies, please visit www.cuaerospace.com or write to info@cuaerospace.com.

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