

# NASA CENTER UPDATE GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Presented to  
1992 NASA AEROSPACE BATTERY WORKSHOP

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# **NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER UPDATE**

- **SPACECRAFT OPERATIONS**
- **LIFE CYCLE TESTING AT NAVAL SURFACE  
WARFARE CENTER (NSWC), CRANE, INDIANA**
- **DESTRUCTIVE PHYSICAL ANALYSIS (DPA) AT  
COMSAT LABORATORIES, CLARKSBURG,  
MARYLAND**
  - **Ms. Kathleen Robbins from COMSAT is presenting  
the DPA data later in the morning at this Workshop**

# SPACECRAFT OPERATIONS

- **Solar Anomalous and Magnetospheric Particle Explorer (SAMPEX)**
- **Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE)**
- **Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite (UARS)**
- **Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO)**
- **Earth Radiation Budget Satellite (ERBS)**
- **Hubble Space Telescope (HST)**

# SAMPEX

- **Single 9 Ah Super NiCd battery**
- **22 series cells per battery**
- **Plate fabrication in 10/90**
- **Cell activation in 5/91**
- **Launched on 7/3/92**
- **Completed 1545 eclipse orbits and 525 full sun orbits**
- **Nominal performance**
  - VT 5, recharge ratio 1.04, temperature 2 - 11°C, and average DoD 12% (maximum 17.2%)

# **EUVE**

- **Three 50 Ah conventional NiCd batteries in parallel configuration (Modular Power Subsystem (MPS))**
- **22 series cells per battery**
- **Plate fabrication**
  - positive in 5/85
  - negative in 1 - 2/85
- **Cell activation in 3/88**
- **Launched on 6/7/92**
- **Completed 2470 eclipse orbits**
- **Nominal performance**
  - VT 4; recharge ratio 1.07 - 1.08; temperature : changed from -1°C to 2°C on 9/8/92, to 4.5°C on 9/15/92, and to 7.5°C on 10/23/92 ; and average DoD 9% (maximum 10%)

# UARS

- **Three 50 Ah conventional NiCd batteries in parallel configuration (MPS)**
- **22 series cells per battery**
- **Plate fabrication**
  - positive in 8 - 11/88
  - negative in 11/88 - 1/89
- **Cell activation in 10/30/89**
- **Launched on 9/12/91**
- **Completed 1730 eclipse orbits and 139 full sun orbits during the first four months with nominal performance**
  - VT 6/5, recharge ratio 1.09 - 1.15, temperature 2 - 4°C and average DoD 6 - 18% (maximum 20%)
- **After high beta angle, about 40 mV half-battery differential voltage on 1/92**

# UARS - continued

- VT levels 5 and 6, and successive high beta angle increased the half-battery differential voltage up to 500 mV
- Monitored and managed battery performance since 5/92 by adjusting solar ray offset or power demand control battery charge/discharge ratio or disable/enable VT control
  - completed 6219 eclipse orbits and 139 full sun orbits
  - VT 4, recharge ratio 1.02 - 1.07, temperature 3 - 9°C and average DoD 6-18 % (maximum 22%)

# GRO

- **Two sets of three 50 Ah conventional NiCd batteries in parallel configuration**
  - **MPS 1**
  - **MPS 2**
- **22 series cells per battery**
- **Launched on 4/5/91**

# GRO MPS 1

- **Plate fabrication**
  - positive in 9 - 10/88
  - negative in 6 - 11/88
- **Cell activation in 7/89**
- **Nominal performance up to 3174 eclipse orbits**
  - VT 5, recharge ratio 1.1 (uncorrected),  
temperature 1°C, and average DoD 10% (maximum 12%)
- **About 80 mV half-battery differential voltage on 12/91**
- **Lowered VT level to 4 on 2/92**
  - half-battery differential voltage increased to 450 mV in the next  
4 months

# GRO MPS 1 - continued

- Lowered VT level to 3 on 5/92
  - battery #2 half-battery differential voltage reached 699 mV and half-battery differential voltage reached 200 - 400 mV for Batteries #1 and #3 on 7/2/92
- Performance of battery#2 degraded even after load shedding, and VT switching or VT control inhibition
  - half-battery differential voltage reached again 699 mV and temperature reached greater than 28°C on 7/16/92
  - cell short, battery #2 disabled
- Monitored and managed battery performance since 9/15/92 by charging at 0.8 A constant current for the first 15 minutes of the day, and then usual VT control at level 3 with taper
  - completed 9150 eclipse orbits
    - VT 3, recharge ratio 1.2 - 1.3 (uncorrected), temperature 1°C, average DoD 4% (maximum 6%) and half-battery differential voltage up to 200 mV

# GRO MPS 2

- **Plate fabrication**
  - positive in 7/85
  - negative in 1 - 3/85
- **Cell activation in 11/88**
- **Completed 9166 eclipse orbits**
- **Nominal performance**
  - VT 6, recharge ratio 1.1 (uncorrected), temperature 2 - 4°C, and average DoD 14% (maximum 16%)

# ERBS

- **Two 50 Ah conventional NiCd batteries in parallel configuration (MPS)**
- **22 series cells per battery**
- **Plate fabrication**
  - positive in 6 - 9/83
  - negative in 6 - 9/83
- **Cell activation in 11/83**
- **Launched on 10/4/84**
- **Completed 19500 eclipse orbits and 2500 full sun orbits during the first four years with nominal performance**
  - VT 6, recharge ratio 1.08, temperature 10°C and average DoD 9% (maximum 50%)

# ERBS - continued

- Half-battery differential voltage up to 200 mV for battery #1 and up to 1 V for battery #2 during the last three quarters of 90, 91, and the first six months of 92
- Cell short in battery #1 on 8/7/92
  - lowered VT level from 4 to 3
- Second cell short in battery #1 on 9/4/92
  - battery #1 disabled
  - raised VT level first to 4 and then to 5
- Completed 39200 eclipse orbits and 5000 full sun orbits with nominal performance
  - VT 5, recharge ratio 1.08, temperature 7°C and average DoD 12% (maximum 18%)

# HST

- Six 88 Ah Ni-H2 batteries in two three-battery modules (Flight Spare Module(FSM) and Flight Module 1(FM2))
- Common bus for all batteries to operate at a common voltage
- 22 series cells per battery
- Positive plate fabrication
  - FSM in 2 - 6/88
  - FM2 in 6 - 11/88
- Cell activation
  - FSM in 1/89
  - FM2 in 3/89
- Launched on 4/24/90

# HST - continued

- Reconditioned batteries #1 and #4 through 5.1 ohm load to about 19 V on 12/90
  - capacity dropped to about 65 Ah
  - capacity recovered to 75 Ah in two weeks and recovered to 89 Ah in 20 months
- Reconditioned batteries #5, #2, #6 and #3 through 5.1 ohm load to about 13 V on 8-9/92
  - capacity dropped to about 63 Ah
  - capacity recovered to about 68 Ah in two weeks
  - current system capacity recovery rate 0.4 Ah per day
- Completed 13987 eclipse orbits
- Nominal performance
  - VT levels K1L3 and K2L3, trickle charge current 12 A and period 42 minutes, recharge ratio 1.06 - 1.13 (time based), temperature -3 - 3°C, average DoD 5 - 8% (maximum 8.5%), and system capacity 480 Ah

# **LIFE CYCLE TESTING AT NSWC, CRANE**

- **Advanced NiCd cells from Hughes Aircraft Company/Eagle Picher Industries, Inc., Colorado Springs**
- **Conventional NiCd cells from Gates Aerospace Batteries (GAB)**
- **Conventional NiCd cells from General Electric**
- **NiCd cells from SAFT**
- **NiH2 cells from Eagle Picher Industries, Inc., Joplin**
- **Data as of 10/26/92**

# ADVANCED NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST

- Pack # 6000A - 21 Ah, Polypropylene, PBI
- Pack # 6001A - 21 Ah, Zircar/Polysulfone
- Pack # 6002A - 21 Ah, Zircar/PBI
- Pack # 6003A - 21 Ah, Zircar/Polysulfone
- Pack # 6004A - 21 Ah, Zircar/Polysulfone
- Pack # 6005A - 21 Ah, Zircar/Polysulfone
- Pack # 6006A - 21 Ah, Zircar/PBI w/ additive
- Pack # 6053A - 21 Ah, Zircar/PBI w/ additive
- Pack # 0090A - 9 Ah, Zircar/PBI w/ additive
- Pack # 0090B - 9 Ah, Zircar/PBI w/ additive

# ADVANCED NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST- continued

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE #
Ah			%	°C			V	
6000A	21	LEO	40	20	1.03	6	1.064	15278
6001A	21	LEO	40	20	1.03	6	1.026	15190
6002A	21	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	1.073	15110
6003A	21	LEO	40	20	1.04	6	1.038	13872
6004A	21	LEO	25	30	1.03	6	0.999	13819
6005A	21	LEO	40	30	1.04	7	0.972	13744
6006A	21	LEO	40	20	1.02	6.5	1.077	13212
6053A	50	LEO	40	20	1.04	6	1.095	6551
0090A	9	LEO	40	30	1.16	7	1.134	2652
0090B	9	LEO	0-18	5	1.07	4	1.235	782

# GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE #
	Ah		%	°C			V	
6051D	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	7	0.975	18030
(EUVE)								
6051F	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	0.952	14471
6051G	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	0.974	14376
(GRO-MPS2)								
6051I	50	LEO	15	15	1.06	6	1.217	12433
(EUVE AND GRO-MPS2)							(MINIMUM 24000)	
6051H	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	1.101	11941
(GRO-MPS1)								
6052A	50	LEO	18	0	1.03	4	1.218	6222
(UARS)								
								(UP TO 5380 CYCLES: DoD - 40% AND 20°C)
6052B	50	LEO	18	0	1.03	2	1.115	5687
(UARS)								
								(UP TO 4356 CYCLES: DoD - 21.5% AND 15°C)

## **GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED**

### **Pack #6051H (GRO-MPS1)**

- **Started testing on 6/90 with 40% DoD at 20°C**
- **Cell voltage divergence first seen around 6600 cycles**
- **Maximum cell voltage divergence around 7500 cycles**
  - **EOC about 36 mV**
  - **EOD about 123 mV**
- **Gradual recovery with cycling**
  - **Cell voltage divergence around 9200 cycles**
    - **EOC about 12 mV**
    - **EOD about 10 mV**
- **Stopped testing after 11941 cycles**
- **No second voltage plateau during the capacity check**

## GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED

### Pack #6052A (UARS)

- **Started testing on 5/91 with 40% DoD at 20°C and VT6**
  - Cell voltage divergence first seen around 1500 cycles and increased with cycling
  - Cell voltage divergence around 5300 cycle
    - EOC about 31 mV
    - EOD about 52 mV
- **Moved to 0°C at 5380th cycle**
  - Cell voltage divergence around 5477 cycle
    - EOC about 40 mV
    - EOD about 60 mV
- **One cell (S/N2-7) removed for DPA at 5508th cycle**
- **Continued testing with 4 cells under UARS profile at 5510th cycle**
  - 34.5 A charge current followed by a linear decrease in current for the first 16.5 minutes and then at 18.3 A constant current with VT taper
  - 18% DoD

## **GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED**

### **Pack #6052A (UARS) - continued**

- **Cell voltage divergence around 5585 cycle**
  - EOC about 10 mV
  - EOD about 10 mV
- **Changed VT level to 4 at 5591th cycle**
  - Cell voltage divergence around 5844 cycle
    - EOC about 53 mV
    - EOD about 26 mV
- **Another cell (S/N2-21) removed for DPA at 5846th cycle**
- **Stopped testing after 6222 cycles**
  - Cell voltage divergence
    - EOC about 34 mV
    - EOD about 0 mV
- **Second voltage plateau around 1 V during the capacity check**

## **GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED**

### **Pack #6052B (UARS)**

- **Started testing on 5/91 with 21.5% DoD at 15°C, 18.3 A constant current charge rate, and VT6**
  - Cell voltage divergence first seen around 2000 cycles and increased with cycling
  - EOD voltage decline began around 2000 cycles and continued with cycling
  - Cell voltage divergence around 2530 cycle
    - EOC about 40 mV
    - EOD about 30 mV
- **Moved to 0°C at 5380th cycle**
  - Cell voltage divergence around 5477 cycle
    - EOC about 40 mV
    - EOD about 60 mV
- **Started testing under UARS profile at 4357th cycle**
  - 34.5 A charge current followed by a linear decrease in current for the first 16.5 minutes and then at 18.3 A constant current with VT taper
  - 18% DoD and 0°C

## **GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED**

### **Pack #6052B (UARS) - continued**

- **Rapid increase in cell voltage divergence during the 4393th charge cycle and the high values during the subsequent charge/discharge cycles**
  - EOC about 105 mV
  - EOD about 142 mV
- **No improvement after trickle charging at 0°C and 20°C**
- **Continued cycling at 20°C**
  - Cell voltage divergence around 4946 cycle
    - EOC about 55 mV
    - EOD about 120 mV
- **One cell (S/N2-73) removed for DPA at 4947th cycle**

## **GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED**

### **Pack #6052B (UARS) - continued**

- **Moved to 0°C at 5101th cycle**
  - **Cell voltage divergence around 5132 cycle**
    - EOC about 187 mV
    - EOD about 39 mV
- **Changed charge rate to 25 A constant current with VT 2 taper at 5298th cycle**
  - **Cell voltage divergence around 5370 cycle**
    - EOC about 100 mV
    - EOD about 70 mV
- **Stopped testing after 5687 cycles**
  - **Cell voltage divergence**
    - EOC about 23 mV
    - EOD about 113 mV
- **Second voltage plateau around 1 V during the capacity check**

# GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE
#	Ah	%	°C	V				
6051C	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	0.937	17169
6051E	50	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	0.958	15505
6053B	50	LEO	40	20	1.04	6	1.032	6455
6085A	20	LEO	20	15	1.06	6	1.221	11945
6085B	20	LEO	28	15	1.08	6	1.067	10420
6085C	20	LEO	40	20	1.01	6	1.075	14699

# GAB NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST - CONTINUED

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	EOD	SHADOW#
	Ah		%	°C	V	
0231A	6	GEO(IUE)	80	10	1.157	30
0232A	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	0	1.187	27
0232B	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	15	1.188	24
0232C	40	GEO(TDRSS)	75	0	1.162	21
0232D	40	GEO(TDRSS)	75	0	1.183	1
6232A	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	0	1.190	21
6232B	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	0	1.200	1
6232C	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	10	1.185	45
6232D	40	GEO(TDRSS)	50	15	1.196	40
6227B	12	GEO(GOES)	60	10	1.173	7
6227C	12	GEO(GOES)	60	10	1.138	7

# GENERAL ELECTRIC NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE #
	Ah		%	°C			V	
0004H	4	HEO?	40	15	3.54	6	1.184	4136
0026G	26.5	LEO	20	10	1.01	3.5	1.063	68480
0028I	26.5	LEO	18.5	10	1.02	4	1.231	43000
0026J	26.5	LEO	25	10	1.04	4	1.121	29328

# SAFT NICD CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE #
	Ah		%	°C			V	
6024S	24	LEO	40	0	1.03	6.5	1.115	19761
6124S	24	LEO	40	20	1.02	7	0.972	19501
6120S	20	LEO	40	20	1.05	7	1.024	19359

# NiH2 CELL LIFE CYCLE TEST

Pack #	SIZE	ORBIT	DoD	TEMP	C/D	VT	EOD	CYCLE #
	Ah		%	°C		V		
3600H	93	LEO	9	-3.5	1.02	1.52	1.311	2149
FM1								
3600H	93	LEO	9	-3.5	1.02	1.52	1.312	2160
FM2								