HIGH PERFORMANCE DIELCTRIC MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

by

J. Piché, Ted Kirchner and K. Jayaraj

Foster-Miller, Inc.
350 Second Avenue
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154-1196

FOSTER-MILLER, INC.

- 37 year old independent technology development company
- Located in the Boston area
- About 270 employees
- Primary areas of business
  - Advanced polymers
  - Robotics
  - Composites
  - Special machinery
POLYMER COMPOSITES
MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

• Mission
  - Develop materials and processing technology to meet DoD and commercial needs

• Specific Areas of Research
  - High temperature dielectric materials
  - High performance dielectrics for capacitors
  - Electronics packaging
  - High performance structural materials
  - Micro-composite blends
  - NLO materials, devices
  - Smart processing

HIGH PERFORMANCE CAPACITORS

• 300°C Filter capacitor for aircraft power conditioning
  - Funded by the U.S. Air Force

• 8 kJ/kg Repetition rated energy storage capacitor - SDIO

• High energy density dielectric film - U.S. Army

• Interpenetrated polymer network capacitor - SDIO (Scheduled to start September, 1991)
HIGH TEMPERATURE AEROSPACE INSULATION

• Identify and develop new insulation materials that can operate reliably at 250°C+
• Phase I SBIR program started in July, 1991
• Funded by the U.S. Air Force
• Monitored by Mr. George Slenski, and Mr. Eddie White

TARGET FOR NEW INSULATION

![Graph showing minimum life in days, months, and years for different classes of insulation materials at various hottest temperatures.](graph.png)
WHY FOSTER-MILLER?

• Extensive experience in the development of advanced materials for specific DoD applications
  - Thermotropic LCPs, Xydar, Vectra for PWBs
  - Lyotropic LCPs, e.g. PBZT, PBO for capacitors, light weight structures
  - High performance polyimides - electronic packaging
  - Blends of Vectra and LARC TPI
  - Blends of Matramid and PES
  - Interpenetrating networks of PBO, PBZT and polyimide resins, epoxies

• Foster-Miller is not a material vendor
• Design and synthesize novel materials
• Develop techniques to process difficult materials into films for major material producers

• Close working relationship with
  - Resin vendors
  - Cable and wire vendors
  - System houses
  - Airframe companies
  - and leading experts

• Related experience in
  - High temperature dielectrics for capacitors
  - Insulation for electromagnetic launchers
**APPROACH**

- **Phase I**
  - Identify key performance parameters and requirements for high temperature insulation materials
  - Prepare an evaluation matrix consisting of appropriate weighted coefficients for each performance parameter
  - Characterize each candidate material with a composite relative merit index (performance index) using the evaluation matrix
  - Select a small number of candidates that meet or exceed all requirements for further investigation

- **Phase II**
  - Thoroughly characterize selected materials
  - Develop methods to fabricate round and flat wire constructions
  - Evaluate materials in finished wire constructions
  - Pick one for incorporation into an airframe
PHASE I PROGRAM PLAN

REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION PARAMETERS

- 250°C+ temperature rating
  - Thermal Index
- Dry arc resistance
- Voltage withstand, insulation resistance, flammability
- Toxicity, smoke quantity, ...
- Retention of properties
  - Abrasion, flex life ...

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# MATERIALS UNDER CONSIDERATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Advantages and Properties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fluorinated PBO-PI</td>
<td>Hoechst Celanese</td>
<td>Combines processibility of polyimides with high temperature properties of LCPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermoplastic PBO with hexafluorinated moieties</td>
<td>Material Lab, WRDC</td>
<td>Thermally processible, high temperature stability, Tg&gt;380°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difluoro-PBZT, tetrafluoro-PBZT</td>
<td>Foster-Miller</td>
<td>High temperature stability, low dielectric constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PQ-100 polyquinolines</td>
<td>Maxdem</td>
<td>Thermally processible, available in a number of configurations, high purity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBO-fluorinated IPN</td>
<td>Foster-Miller</td>
<td>High temperature stability combined with resistance to flashover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PBO</td>
<td>Foster-Miller, Dow</td>
<td>Ultra high thermal stability 300 - 350°C significantly exceeds the performance of Kapton and Tefzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FPE proprietary aromatic polyester</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Readily available high quality aromatic films useful up to 250°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluorinated polyimides</td>
<td>Hoescht-Celanese, Ube/ICI, DuPont</td>
<td>Readily available, from Ube/ICI, DuPont thermal stability exceeds Kapton and Tefzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polysiloxaneimides</td>
<td>McGrath, VPI</td>
<td>Resistant to ionizing radiation, high thermal stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluorocarbon-hydrocarbon polymers</td>
<td>Tefzel, DuPont</td>
<td>Readily available, high quality films, moderate thermal stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organo-ceramic hybrid nanocomposites</td>
<td>Garth Wilkes, VPI</td>
<td>Resistant to ionizing radiation, high thermal stability, greater than 200°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polysilsequioxane</td>
<td>David Sarnoff Labs</td>
<td>Good electrical properties up to 250°C superior to Kapton and Tefzel, can dip or spray coat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADVANCED INSULATION MUST MEET MINIMUM PERFORMANCE INCREASES OVER CURRENT MATERIALS AND BE AMENABLE TO LARGE-SCALE PROCESSING AT ACCEPTABLE COSTS.
LIST OF ATTENDEES

Bruce Banks  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 302-1  
21000 Brookpark Road  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Eric Baumann  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Road  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Jon Bayless  
NASA Kennedy Space Center  
MS DDS027  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

Bob G. Beamans  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center  
Mail Code 4210  
Greenbelt, MD 20771

Robert W. Berasaw  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Road  
Cleveland, OH 44135

David Berkelbie  
E.I. DuPont Co.  
Specialty Polymers Division  
Chesterfilet Rd. Plaza, Bldg. 713  
Wilmington, DE 19899

Henry W. Brandhorst, Jr.  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-3  
21000 Brookpark Road  
Cleveland, OH 44135

John Burke  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Mail Code 22400  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Frank Campbell  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Code 4654  
Washington, DC 20375

Bob Debtier  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
MS 196-2  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109

John E. Dickman  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Patrick Dillon  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
MS 1-105  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Walter Dinkins  
Lawrence Technology  
2400 Packer Rd.  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Stan Domitz  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Edgar H. Fay  
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.  
LeRC Group  
2001 Aerospace Parkway  
Brook Park, OH 44142

Dale C. Ferguson  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 302-1  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Wilson F. Ford  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 501-4  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Robert Friedman  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 502-17  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Sandra Fies-Carr  
WPAFB  
WLPDOC  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Kristo Gaudst  
Auburn University  
231 Leach Center  
Auburn, AL 36849

Ahmad Hammad  
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

John E. Harbison  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
MS EP 64  
Huntsville, AL 35812

Robert Hendrix  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Mail Code S184  
Houston, TX 77058

Bob Jones  
TRW, Inc.  
One Space Park  
Bldg. G1 92040  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Dennis J. Kazmar  
P.O. Box 2332  
Mount Bay, NJ 07962-2332

Wassim Khachem  
University of Buffalo  
312 W. Sonnen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260

Ted Kirsche  
Foster Miller, Inc.  
350 Second Ave.  
Watertown, MA 02172-1196

Javer Lougher  
University of Buffalo  
Bonner Hall, Room 316  
Buffalo, NY 14260

Joe Landers  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
MS CP 21  
Huntsville, AL 35812

Jimmy Lee  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
MS EE 81  
Huntsville, AL 35812

Stan Levin  
Allied-APiCAL  
2639 Lombardi Road  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Larry Linley  
NASA White Sands Test Facility  
P.O. Drawer MM  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Roger Lorrain  
Aero-Logic Business Corporation  
3040 Presidential Drive, Suite 201  
Fairborn, OH 45324

L. David Massie  
WPAFB  
WLPDOC  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Tamara S. McIntyre  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
MS EH 02  
Huntsville, AL 35812

Billy J. McPeak  
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
MS EB 13  
Huntsville, AL 35812

Daniel Mulville  
NASA Headquarters  
Code GQ  
Washington, DC 20546

Patrick Murray  
Naval Air Systems Command  
1421 Jefferson Davis Hwy.  
Arlington, VA 22243-4100

Ina Myers  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-3  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

John Nau  
WPAFB  
WLPDOC  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Maeo Oka  
Allied-Gold  
1 Columbia Rd.  
P.O. Box 2332R  
Mount Bay, NJ 07962-0341

Michael D. Pedley  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Mail Code ES 53  
Huntsville, AL 77058

R.V. Peterson  
Rockwell International  
Mail Code FB 83  
P.O. Box 7009  
Downey, CA 90241

Joe Piché  
Foster Miller  
195 Bear Hill Road  
Waltham, MA 02154

Bruce Pike  
Engineering Teledyne Thermatics  
P.O. Box 900  
Elm City, NC 27822-0909

Jeanette Pianta  
Unisys - NPPD  
4700 Boston Way  
Lanham, MD 20706-4311

John Reagan  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 501-4  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Gerald Reuter  
NASA Johnson Space Center  
Mail Code 2  
2101 NASA Road One  
Houston, TX 77058

C.R. Sawyer  
Boeing Aerospace  
P.O. Box 240002  
Houston, TX 77240

Greg Schmiz  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 501-102  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Gene Schwartz  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

George Siewski  
WPAFB  
WLPOLA  
Wright Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Ron Solomon  
McDonnell Aircraft Co.  
Dept. 354  
Mail Code 0341240  
P.O. Box 516  
St. Louis, MO 63166

Tom Stuebner  
Sverdrup Technology, Inc.  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
Mail Code 034124  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Gale Sundberg  
NASA Lewis Research Center  
MS 301-2  
21000 Brookpark Rd.  
Cleveland, OH 44135

Jayan Suthar  
University of Buffalo  
312 W. Sonnen Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260

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**Title**: First NASA Workshop on Wiring for Space Applications

**Authors**: Ahmad Hammoud and Mark W. Stavnes, compilers

**Organization**: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Lewis Research Center
Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3191

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Washington, D.C. 20546-0001

**Summary**: This document contains the proceedings of the First NASA Workshop on Wiring for Space Applications held at NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, July 23–24, 1991. The workshop was sponsored by NASA Headquarters Code QE Office of Safety and Mission Quality, Technical Standards Division and hosted by the NASA Lewis Research Center, Power Technology Division, Electrical Components and Systems Branch. The workshop addressed key technology issues in the field of electrical power wiring for space applications. Speakers from government, industry and academia presented and discussed topics on arc tracking phenomena, wiring applications and requirements, and new candidate insulation materials and constructions. Presentation materials provided by the various speakers are included in this document.

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