Lotus Dust Mitigation Coating
Kenneth O’Connor

Molecular Adsorber Coating
Nithin Abraham
Lotus Coating
Mitigating Surface Contamination

Kenneth O’Connor
Goddard Space Flight Center
September 22, 2015
Lotus Technology Description

• Lotus is a lightweight nano-textured dust mitigation coating originally being developed by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) as a countermeasure for dust accumulation during long-duration human space exploration.

• The coating sheds dust particles utilizing anti-contamination and self-cleaning properties that minimize dust accumulation on spacecraft surfaces.

• Focus is primarily on the formulation, characterization and environmental testing for space flight application.

• Designed to preserve optimal long-term performance of spacecraft and habitation components and systems.

• Sheds dust particles utilizing anti-contamination and self-cleaning properties that minimize dust accumulation on spacecraft surfaces.

• Presently applied to thermal Control coatings (paint), metal, glass, fused silica, and polymer substrates.

• Coating is super hydrophobic and sheds water.

Buzz Aldrin on the Moon with footprints in the dust.
The Lotus Effect

- Based on the Lotus plant leaf
- Naturally occurring phenomenon
- Found on surface of Lotus leaf
  - Repels water and dirt
  - Hydrophobic
  - Nano-textured surface

Lotus Leaf Phenomenon

SEM Images of Lotus Leaf
A hierarchical structure, showing microstructure as well as nano-structure, when coupled with a hydrophobic surface coating, gives the best possible surface contact angle, as seen here.
Nano-textured micro pillars like these, represent one of the best possible structures. Only attainable at the laboratory scale. Not viable for manufacturing scale-up.

The GSFC Lotus structure uses different sized nanoparticles. Less ideal for hydrophobicity, due to randomness, but easier to scale up.
Lotus Coating

- Passive Mitigation Technology

- Super-hydrophobic coating which repels dust due to its unique surface architecture by reducing surface energy & area that is required for particle adhesion

Passive Lotus Coating Technology
Lotus Development

• NASA GSFC has developed an in house “wet chemistry” method to modify the Lotus coating to meet NASA’s specific needs
  – Drivers:
    • Durability of coating
    • Stability in space environments (Vacuum, UV, radiation, etc)
    • Reproducibility
    • Quality control
    • Transmissivity
Lotus Coating Characterization and Test Methods

• **Preliminary characterization:**
  • Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) analysis
  • Contact Angle measurements
  • Durability testing
  • Transmittance
  • Vacuum Compatibility

• **Future Testing:**
  • Thermal Cycling testing in vacuum
  • Ultra Violet Radiation Exposure testing
  • Solar Wind (low energy radiation) testing
  • Contamination assessments
Lotus Coating Characterization and Test Methods

- Formulations were applied to typical aerospace substrates including:
  - Radiator white thermal control coating/Aluminum substrate
  - Bare Aluminum
  - Stainless Steel
  - Solar Cell Coverglass
  - Fused silica
  - Kapton
  - Plastics
- Can be expanded for application to various substrates
- Can be customized to meet transmittance requirements at desired wavelengths or for increased durability
- Can be spin coated, brushed, or spray coated
- Consists of a primer (optional), nanotextured layer, and hydrophobic self assembling monolayer
• SEM was used to show nano structure of coating
• Samples show hierarchical structure, as designed

**SEM micrographs of samples**  
*With Lotus coating*
Contact Angle Testing

- Goniometer was used to measure contact angle of a water droplet on the surface of both Lotus formulations
  - Hydrophobic $\geq 90^\circ$
  - Super-hydrophobic $\geq 150^\circ$

Goniometer snapshots of water droplet contact angles

*Left: Uncoated sample displaying non-hydrophobic properties (contact angle $< 90^\circ$)*

*Right: Lotus WC2 coated sample displaying super-hydrophobic properties (contact angle $\geq 150^\circ$)*
**Durability Testing**

- Durability Testing
  - Optical Coatings Hardness Kit
    - Mil Spec MIL-C-00675 Adherent
    - Contact angle measured after each pass

### Contact Angle Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Contact Angle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>153°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>153°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>150°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>150°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>150°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2lbf Cheesecloth Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Contact Angle</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>154°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>146°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>145°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>152°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>147°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>145°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5lbf Eraser Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pass</th>
<th>Contact Angle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>154°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>146°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>145°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>151°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>152°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>147°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>145°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Samples optimized for durability.
Transmittance Testing

- Transmittance Testing
  - Cary 5000 Spectrophotometer
    - Measured Transmittance compared to glass
    - Able to optimize for specific wavelengths

Sample optimized for Transmittance, Contact Angle of 148°
Vacuum Compatibility

- Samples exposed to high vacuum
  - Initial contact angle measured at 153°
  - $\sim 10^{-6}$ torr, Room Temperature
  - 4 week exposure in VEECO chamber
  - Contact angle after exposure was 150°
  - No observable change in appearance
Always Looking to Improve

• Looking into new materials and processes:
  • Replace the current binder system with one that never needs a primer
    • Identified candidates, initial screening is promising
  • Improve both durability and transmittance
    • Pursue one coating that meets all requirements
  • Remove potentially prohibitive processing steps

• More Testing
  • Continue vacuum compatibility testing with new materials
  • Thermal stability, in air and vacuum
  • Radiation Testing
    • Ultraviolet Light
    • Solar Wind
Conclusions

• Lotus coating demonstrated that it can maintain its anti-contamination and self-cleaning properties when exposed to specific space environments, especially where durability is a concern.

• Coating demonstrates super-hydrophobic properties in addition to the dust mitigation properties.

• Future work will focus on improved coating processes and formulations, as well as durability and transmissivity, for customized applications.
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*Thermal Coatings Engineer*

Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies Inc.

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Code 546, Contamination and Coatings Engineering Branch

Email: kenneth.o’connor@nasa.gov
NASA TECH BRIEFS WEBINAR:

Molecular Adsorber Coatings

Mitigating molecular contamination with an innovative NASA coatings technology

Nithin S. Abraham

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland 20771
Code 546 Contamination and Coatings Engineering Branch
Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Introduction

- What are Molecular Adsorber Coatings?
- Why do we need them for spaceflight applications?
- What are the benefits of using this coating technology?
Introduction

- Offgassing

**in Ambient Applications**

- Most manufactured materials and consumer products release gaseous chemicals that are potentially harmful to human health

- This occurrence, most often referred to as outgassing, is a part of everyday life!

- Some everyday examples of offgassing include:
  - That **NEW CAR SMELL** in recently purchased vehicles
  - Film of haze that develops on car windshields or mirrors on hot days
  - Smells that come from household cleaners, plastics, toys, electronics, carpets, flooring, mattresses, furniture, and upholstery
Introduction

■ Outgassing

*in Spaceflight Applications*

■ Significant threat to the spacecraft and the lifetime of NASA missions

■ Originates from materials that outgas or release molecules during orbit inside of the spacecraft (in vacuum)

  ■ *Examples:* plastics, adhesives, lubricants, silicones, epoxies, tapes, potting compounds, solvents, and other similar sources

■ On-orbit molecular contaminants from outgassed materials can deposit onto hardware and instrument components, and thereby, degrade the performance of highly sensitive surfaces

  ■ *Examples:* optics, electronics, laser systems, detectors, baffles, solar arrays, thermal control coatings, and vacuum chambers
Introduction

Molecular Adsorber Coating (MAC)

- Developed by NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) as a practical low mass and cost effective solution to address on-orbit contamination from molecular outgassing

- Sprayable, patent pending paint technology comprised of inorganic materials made from:
  - Highly permeable, porous zeolite minerals
  - Inorganic, colloidal silica based binders

- Available in both white and black variations for internal use only
  - White Molecular Adsorber Coating, GSFC MAC-W
  - Black Molecular Adsorber Coating, GSFC MAC-B

- Successfully demonstrated its technology with development and testing efforts in relevant space environments

- Ready for infusion and application specific advancement efforts for spaceflight projects and commercial markets that need to protect surfaces against the damaging effects of outgassing and/or molecular contamination

Photo Credit: NASA/Pat Izzo
## Introduction

- **Molecular Adsorber Coating (MAC)**
  - MAC serves as a dual purpose **contamination control** coating

### Type of Coating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Coating</th>
<th>WHITE THERMAL CONTROL COATING</th>
<th>WHITE MAC</th>
<th>BLACK MAC</th>
<th>BLACK THERMAL CONTROL COATING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Contamination Control</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal Control Properties</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical Stray Light Control</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Provides **thermal control** characteristics for thermal surfaces *(white and black)*
- Provides **optical straylight control** for baffles and optical surfaces *(black)*

- MAC provides several other **advantages** as an innovative coating technology
  - Easily **spray applied** onto most substrates *(with optimal adhesion performance)*
  - Tailored to meet specific adsorption characteristics *(thickness dependent)*
  - Low mass *(adds very little additional mass to the spacecraft)*
  - Low outgassing *(made from all inorganic materials)*
  - Cost effective *(made from low cost materials)*
  - Limited particulation effects *(with cleaning mitigation techniques available)*
Background

- What is the chemistry behind the MAC technology?
- What are its coating properties?
Background

**Chemistry**

- MAC is comprised of two key components: (1) **ZEOLITE** and (2) **COLLOIDAL SILICA**

---

**ZEOLITE**

- **Pigment** *(Molecular Sieve)*
  - Acts as the adsorbent material that captures and traps molecules due to its porous structure

- **Desired Characteristics**
  - Large open pores, or cavities, within crystal structure
  - Large surface area to mass ratio that maximizes available trapping efficiency
Background

Chemistry

- MAC is comprised of two key components: (1) ZEOLITE and (2) COLLOIDAL SILICA

Unlike colloidal silica, other silicate based binders that are commonly used in thermal control coatings, tend to wrap around the zeolite structure. This prevents access to the active pores, or adsorption sites.

- Binder (Suspensions of Colloidal Silica in Liquid Phase)
  - Acts as the glue that holds the coating together and provides adhesion between substrate layers

- Desired Characteristics
  - Nano-sized silica molecules are not large enough to clog pores or prevent access to the adsorption sites on the zeolite structure. Instead, a 3-dimensional network of silica gels around the zeolite structure.

Nano-sized silica molecules (SiO$_2$)

3D network of silica

BINDER NETWORK SURROUNDING ZEOLITE

COLLOIDAL SILICA

- Chemistry
  - MAC is comprised of two key components: (1) ZEOLITE and (2) COLLOIDAL SILICA

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- Desired Characteristics
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Background

■ Surface Morphology

Confocal Imaging Microscope (CIM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIM Parameters</th>
<th>CIM Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olympus LEXT confocal laser scanning microscope producing 3D imaging of coating surface at 20X magnification</td>
<td>Image above illustrates high surface area and surface roughness of the coating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEM Parameters</th>
<th>SEM Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electron scanning microscope under 5 kilovolts (kV) at 636X magnification</td>
<td>Image above illustrates highly porous structure of zeolite materials in the coating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background

Thermal & Optical Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COATING TYPE</th>
<th>COATING DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COATING THICKNESS</th>
<th>SOLAR ABSORPTANCE</th>
<th>NORMAL EMITTANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Silicate</td>
<td>Alion Z-93P</td>
<td>4.0-5.0 mils</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Silicate</td>
<td>Alion Z-93C55</td>
<td>4.0-5.0 mils</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White MAC</td>
<td>GSFC MAC-W</td>
<td>4.0-5.0 mils</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black MAC</td>
<td>GSFC MAC-B</td>
<td>2.5-8.5 mils</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Polyurethane</td>
<td>Aeroglaze® Z306</td>
<td>2.0-3.0 mils</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Polyurethane</td>
<td>Aeroglaze® Z307</td>
<td>2.0-3.0 mils</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Solar Absorptance ($\alpha_s$) — The measure of the proportion of solar radiation the coating absorbs.

Normal Emittance ($\varepsilon_N$) — The measure of the relative ability of the coating to radiate absorbed radiation.

AZ Technology LPSR-300 Spectral Reflectometer

Instrument measures reflectance from 0.25 to 2.8 microns at a 15° angle of incidence (ASTM E903-82)

Gier-Dünkle DB-100 Infrared Reflectometer

Instrument measures reflectance from 5 to 40 microns at room temperature (ASTM E408-71)
Background

- **Adsorption Characteristics**
  - *Molecular capacitance* is the measure of the coating’s ability to adsorb or entrap outgassed materials
  - Adsorption characteristics are dependent on:
    - *Coating Thickness*
    - *Surface Area Coverage*
    - *Type of Contaminant*
    - *Duration of Exposure*
  - Main contaminant sources used for vacuum molecular capacitance testing have been *complex chemical constituents*, which are representative of the commonly outgassed materials in spaceflight applications
    - *Long Chain Hydrocarbons*
      - Example: *Stearyl Alcohol*
        - *(This specific compound is commonly found in cosmetic products, such as shampoos and lotions)*
    - *Silicone Based Compounds*
      - Example: *DC704 Diffusion Pump Oil*
# Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Chain Hydrocarbon</th>
<th>Type of Contaminant</th>
<th>Silicone Based Compound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stearyl Alcohol</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Dow Corning ® DC704 Diffusion Pump Oil</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="#">Chemical Name</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-octadecanol</td>
<td>Chemical Name</td>
<td>Stearyl Alcohol, comprised of volatile condensable materials that have a constant vapor pressure, provides a constant source rate for testing purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₁₈H₃₈O</td>
<td>Chemical Formula</td>
<td>DC704 Diffusion Pump Oil, comprised of complex materials that have varying vapor pressures, does not provide a constant source rate for testing purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 mg/cm² *</td>
<td>Molecular Capacitance</td>
<td>1.2 mg/cm² **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0 mils</td>
<td>Coating Thickness</td>
<td>6.0 mils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~88 hrs</td>
<td>Exposure Time</td>
<td>~115 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 °C</td>
<td>Source Temperature</td>
<td>70 °C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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* Stearyl alcohol adsorption data is based on samples that have reached saturation at the coating thickness.
* Diffusion pump oil adsorption data is based on samples that have not reached saturation. The value listed is adsorption at a minimum at the coating thickness.
Background

Effect of Coating Thickness on MAC Adsorption Capabilities

Molecular capacitance is a function of coating thickness. Ex: white MAC at 6 mils is projected to have a molecular capacitance three times greater than a 3 mil sample.
Background

- **Structural Integrity**
  - Performed vacuum thermal cycle tests at temperature extremes similar to those expected during spaceflight conditions to evaluate the thermal survivability and vacuum stability of the coating.
    - MAC is anticipated to operate at temperatures that are representative of electronics boxes and other sensitive internal surfaces, which typically reach temperatures between -10 °C to 40 °C.
  - Coating structural integrity was evaluated on its adhesion performance before and after exposure to vacuum thermal cycle test conditions.
    - Favorable coating adhesion performance results were achieved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thermal Cycle Parameters</th>
<th>Expected Survivability Conditions</th>
<th>White MAC Test Conditions</th>
<th>Black MAC Test Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum Duration</td>
<td></td>
<td>50 cycles</td>
<td>100 cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Temperature Limit</td>
<td>- 10 °C</td>
<td>- 40 °C</td>
<td>- 60 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Temperature Limit</td>
<td>40 °C</td>
<td>70 °C</td>
<td>90 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Margin</td>
<td>30 degrees</td>
<td>50 degrees</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Applications

- What are the NASA Applications of MAC?
- What is its scope for other applications?
MAC has been proposed to be integrated as an innovative contamination mitigation tool on several NASA applications in the recent year(s).

Current examples of these implementation efforts include:

- Within vacuum chamber environments to protect test equipment from outgassed contaminants
  - JWST: Chamber A

- Inside small, sensitive instrument cavities to reduce effects of on-orbit material outgassing
  - ICON: Far Ultraviolet Instrument
  - GEDI: Laser Components

- For hardware bake-outs to reduce effects of vacuum material outgassing
  - MMS: Navigator Box
Project

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)
- Successor to NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope
- Most powerful infrared space telescope ever built with a 6.5 meter primary mirror and a tennis court sized five layer sunshield
- Expected launch date is 2018

Application

Chamber A at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas
- MAC was used to capture vacuum chamber contamination originating from persistent outgassing sources within Chamber A, such as silicone pump oil residue (and other hydrocarbons)
- MAC is expected to lower the contamination risk cost effectively and prevent harmful outgassed components within the chamber environment from migrating and depositing onto JWST’s highly sensitive optical ground support equipment surfaces during testing
Problem

Chamber A’s Contamination

- Chamber A is a 55 ft diameter cryogenic optical vacuum chamber that has been upgraded to test JWST in a space stimulation environment.
- Prior to its upgrade, Chamber A was originally used for testing space capsules for NASA’s Apollo missions.
- Due to its history, DC704 oil residue (among other hydrocarbons) still remained within the chamber.
  - Silicone based contaminants are known to outgas and spread easily, even at ambient temperatures, and are extremely difficult to remove. Its outgassing effects can harm test equipment.

Solution

MAC Test Panels

- Much effort has been performed to remove these persistent contaminants.
  - Among one of the innovative contamination mitigation tools is through the use of MAC.
- MAC technology was tested during JWST’s Chamber A Commissioning Test in October 2014 for proof of concept prior to its first large scale vacuum chamber application in May 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber A Commissioning Test: MAC Proof of Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonvolatile Residue (NVR) Materials Chemical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Size: 700 cm²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pristine Sample 01</th>
<th>Contaminated Sample 04 (Loc 1, BD)</th>
<th>Contaminated Sample 05 (Loc 2, PL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NVR Adsorption</td>
<td>5.7 E-03 mg/cm²</td>
<td>1.7 E-01 mg/cm²</td>
<td>1.3 E-01 mg/cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocarbons</td>
<td>4.0 mg (&gt;99 %)</td>
<td>103.1 mg (88%)</td>
<td>82.4 mg (89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC704 Diffusion Pump Oil</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>0.7 mg (0.6%)</td>
<td>4.0 mg (4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methyl Based Silicones</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>0.5 mg (0.4%)</td>
<td>1.4 mg (1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contaminants</td>
<td>0 mg</td>
<td>12.4 mg (11%)</td>
<td>5.3 mg (6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) Materials Chemical Analysis performed by Aparna Boddapati, NASA/GSFC Code 541.
Description of Task

MAC was deployed for JWST’s first Optical Ground Support Equipment (OGSE-1) test effort in May 2015

- Several MAC panels were custom designed, fabricated, and installed in very strategic locations within Chamber A to capture vacuum chamber contamination and prevent them from entering the test environment where the OGSE is housed.

All Photo Credits: NASA/Chris Gunn
NASA Applications

**Project**

Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON)
- NASA explorer program, led by University of California-Berkeley (UCB), designed to study the boundary between Earth and space and to understand its physical connection
- Expected launch date is 2017

**Application**

ICON’s Far Ultraviolet (FUV) Imaging Spectrograph Instrument
- MAC is proposed to be used internally within the FUV *instrument cavity* to address on-orbit material outgassing concerns and to meet molecular contamination requirements
- This implementation will be MAC’s *first flight mission application*

**Description of Task**

Custom Fabricated MAC Plates
- UCB supplied hardware will be spray applied with MAC and installed in strategic locations within the instrument cavity of the spectrograph and imager
NASA Applications

Project

Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation Lidar (GEDI)
- NASA science program designed to characterize the effects of changing climate and land use on ecosystems, and to understand Earth’s carbon cycle and biodiversity
- Expected launch date is 2018

Application

GEDI’s Laser Electronics Components
- MAC is proposed to be used on the interior cover of a laser q-switch board to address on-orbit material outgassing from electronics cards and its conformal coatings, and to meet molecular contamination requirements

Description of Task
- MAC will be spray applied directly onto the laser cover hardware surface
NASA Applications

Project

Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission (MMS)

- NASA mission comprised of four identical satellites flying in a tetrahedral formation designed to investigate how the magnetic fields of the Sun and Earth connect and disconnect
- Launched on March 2015

Application

Vacuum Bake-out of MMS’s Navigator Box Components

- MAC was used during a Navigator (NAV) box thermal vacuum test to reduce the effects of vacuum material outgassing from pre-baked components, such as electronic wires and harnesses

Description of Task

Custom Fabricated MAC Plates

- MAC coated plates were placed alongside the NAV box components during thermal vacuum test runs
- Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) outgassing rates showed a significant reduction with the use of MAC
- Post analysis of MAC samples verified the adsorption of hydrocarbons, silicones, phenyls, and plasticizers from the NAV vacuum test environment

QCM OUTGASSING RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chamber with NAV Box and pre-baked Components</th>
<th>Empty Chamber</th>
<th>No MAC &gt;~5700 Hz/hr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>With MAC Plate, TR1</td>
<td>No MAC ~300 Hz/hr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With MAC Plate, TR2</td>
<td>No MAC ~675 Hz/hr</td>
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QCM Analysis performed by Glenn Rosecrans SGT/Code 546
Commerical Applications

- NASA GSFC Innovative Technology and Partnerships Office (ITPO)

  - We coordinate with ITPO for technology transfer licensing opportunities
    - ITPO facilitates creative collaborations between NASA Goddard technology researchers and external parties for mutual benefit. For more information, please visit [http://itpo.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://itpo.gsfc.nasa.gov) or contact our Technology Manager, Dennis Small at dennis.a.small@nasa.gov

  - Commercial applications for MAC may include industries that require general gas adsorption, collection and containment of outgassed and/or offgassed contaminants and volatiles. Some of these potential applications may include but are not limited to:
    - Aerospace
    - Vacuum Systems
    - Laser
    - Optics
    - Electronics
    - Semiconductor
    - Manufacturing
    - Pharmaceutical
    - Medical
    - Food Industry
    - Chemical Processing
Conclusions
Conclusions

■ Summary

■ MAC is an **innovative solution** for molecular contamination control
  ■ Captures contaminants that otherwise can cause harm by depositing onto sensitive hardware
  ■ Helps meet mission molecular contamination requirements for hardware with outgassing components
  ■ Lowers pressures in vacuum chambers
  ■ Reduces outgassing rates during thermal bake-out times
  ■ Limits the use of cryogenic panels (i.e. liquid nitrogen scavenger cold plates) in vacuum chambers
  ■ Ideal within instrument cavities or hardware with electronics, optics, mirrors, telescopes, cameras, laser systems, detectors, baffles, solar arrays, etc

■ Future Plans

■ Continue with the **advancement** of the existing MAC technology with further qualification efforts and seek **infusion opportunities**
### Acknowledgements

Our **MAC Technology Team** consists of

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References

MOLECULAR ADSORBER COATINGS


NASA SPACEFLIGHT MISSIONS

- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), <http://www.jwst.nasa.gov/>
- Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON), <http://icon.ssl.berkeley.edu/>
- Global Ecosystem Dynamics Investigation Lidar (GEDI), <http://science.nasa.gov/missions/gedi/>
- Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS), <http://mms.gsfc.nasa.gov/>
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