CubeStack: CubeSat Space Access

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Moog CSA Engineering
2565 Leghorn Street
Mountain View, California

LoadPath
933 San Mateo Blvd NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
CubeStack Multi-Payload Adapter

• MPA development by LoadPath and Moog CSA
  – Under contract to AFRL Space Vehicles Directorate

• Adapter similar in function to ESPA
  – CubeSats mounted in 10-inch adapter between payload interface and primary payload
  – Accommodates eight 3U CubeSat dispensers
    • or four 6U CubeSat dispensers
    • or other combinations of 3U and 6U dispensers
CubeStack Primary Payloads

- Sized for Athena, Minotaur, Taurus, Pegasus, Falcon 1
- Primary interfaces
  - Ø38.81-inch (Ø98.6-cm)
  - Ø24.00-inch (Ø61.0-cm)
- Primary payload capability
  - 1000 lb (454 kg) on Ø38.81-inch interface
  - 500 lb (227 kg) on Ø24.00-inch interface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Payload Interface</th>
<th>Maximum Payload Mass (kg (lbrm))</th>
<th>Axial Load Factor* (g's)</th>
<th>Lateral Load Factor* (g's)</th>
<th>Payload CG (cm (in))</th>
<th>Separation System Offset (cm (in))</th>
<th>Adapter Offset (cm (in))</th>
<th>Total CG Offset** (cm (in))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ø98.6 cm (Ø38.81 inch)</td>
<td>454 (1000)</td>
<td>±6.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>82.80 (32.60)</td>
<td>5.42 (2.13)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>88.22 (34.73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ø61.0 cm (Ø24.00 inch)</td>
<td>227 (500)</td>
<td>±6.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>55.88 (22.00)</td>
<td>5.42 (2.13)</td>
<td>13.86 (5.46)</td>
<td>75.15 (29.59)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Quasi-static load factor

**Total maximum distance from primary payload interface to payload CG.
CubeStack Secondary Payloads

• CubeSat dispensers mount to CubeStack interior on customizable mounting plates
  – P-POD
  – Planetary Systems 6U canister
  – NASA Ames NanoSat Launch Adapter System (NLAS) dispenser

• Dispensers protrude through opening to facilitate door opening and payload deployment
  – Plates can be modified for attachment of other dispenser systems

• Designed for dispenser plus CubeSat total mass of 23.1 lb (10.5 kg) per 3U
  – Total of 185 lb (83.9 kg)
CubeStack Structure Design

- Primary cylindrical structure machined from 7075-T6 aluminum ring forging
- Removable sandwich panel decks
  - 7075-T6 aluminum alloy facesheets
  - 5056 aluminum alloy honeycomb core
- Total structure mass 104.1 lb (47.3 kg)
  - Mass without dispensers or CubeSats
  - Upper deck (~25 lb) can be removed for multiple CubeStack mission
- Interior access
  - Two 24.0”x 7.0” (61.0 cm x 17.8 cm) main payload openings
  - Two 6.0” x 4.0” (15.2 cm) access doors
  - ~Ø23” (~Ø58 cm) opening on upper deck
- Dispensers bolted to 6061-T6 aluminum mounting plates attached to aft deck
  - Potted inserts provide mounting plate attachment locations
CubeStack Analysis

• Finite element analysis to optimize/validate design and support static qualification and vibration tests

• Design optimization
  – Minimize weight with positive strength margins while monitoring manufacturing and assembly processes
  – Down-select process: candidate designs evaluated for strength, stiffness, load peaking, buckling, weight

• Static test configurations analyzed using loads environments from candidate launch vehicles
  – Predictions for qualification test strains and displacements

• Random vibration test analysis
  – Select load levels
  – Predict vibration mode shapes of test stack
  – Compute acceleration transmissibility functions for mode identification
CubeStack Static Qualification Test

- Dedicated qualification test verified that flight-representative structure meets requirements of strength and stiffness when subjected to 1.25 times limit load
  - Qualification test also used to correlate model
- Success criteria achieved: CubeStack is qualified for flight
Static Test Hardware

• Loads applied using multi-channel load control system with integrated data acquisition
  – Acquire load, strain, and displacement data
  – Independently controlled hydraulic actuators apply loads as required for each test configuration and simulated environment

• One of two test configurations shown
### Static Testing Summary

**14 Load Cases**
- 4 stiffness cases assessed axial stiffness with low-level loads
- 4 qualification cases for 500-lb primary interface
- 4 qualification cases for 1000-lb primary interface
- 2 aft deck cases for CubeSat dispenser interfaces

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Load Case</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Axial Load (kN)</th>
<th>+Y Lateral Load* (kN)</th>
<th>+Z Lateral Load* (kN)</th>
<th>Qualification Loads (125%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flight Loads (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>kN (lbf)</td>
<td>kN (lbf)</td>
<td>kN (lbf)</td>
<td>Axial Load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Stiffness - Comp.</td>
<td>-42.2 (-9485)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Stiffness - Tension</td>
<td>42.2 (9485)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Stiffness - Comp.</td>
<td>-41.8 (-9400)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Stiffness - Tension</td>
<td>41.8 (9400)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Qual 1-Comp.</td>
<td>-29.4 (-6600)</td>
<td>18.7 (4200)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-36.7 (-8250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Qual 1-Tension</td>
<td>29.4 (6600)</td>
<td>18.7 (4200)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>23.4 (5250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Qual 2-Comp.</td>
<td>-29.4 (-6600)</td>
<td>14.3 (3217)</td>
<td>12.0 (2700)</td>
<td>-36.7 (-8250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ø98.6cm Qual 2-Tension</td>
<td>29.4 (6600)</td>
<td>14.3 (3217)</td>
<td>12.0 (2700)</td>
<td>17.9 (4022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Qual 1-Comp.</td>
<td>-14.7 (-3300)</td>
<td>14.0 (3150)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-18.3 (-4125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Qual 1-Tension</td>
<td>14.7 (3300)</td>
<td>14.0 (3150)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17.5 (3938)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Qual 2-Comp.</td>
<td>-14.7 (-3300)</td>
<td>10.7 (2413)</td>
<td>9.0 (2025)</td>
<td>-18.3 (-4125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ø61.0cm Qual 2-Tension</td>
<td>14.7 (3300)</td>
<td>10.7 (2413)</td>
<td>9.0 (2025)</td>
<td>13.4 (3016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Aft Deck - Qual Comp.</td>
<td>-24.7 (-5556)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-30.9 (-6945)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Aft Deck - Qual Tension</td>
<td>24.7 (5556)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30.9 (6945)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Applied at payload CG, i.e. ‘Lateral Offset’

**Distance from the CubeStack primary payload interface**
Pre-test strength analyses of both test configurations showed high positive margins on ultimate material yield strengths.

Note: Load Cases 1-4 are “stiffness” cases, not qualification cases.
CubeStack Dynamic Testing

• Test series to expose assembly to dynamic loads
• Primary objective: model validation and verification of inputs
  – Test sequence is not a qualification test
• Secondary objectives
  – Develop database for estimating modal damping ratios
  – Estimate natural frequencies of low-order modes
  – Determine structural dynamics sensitivity to load level
  – Demonstrate workmanship of assembly under flight-traceable dynamic loading conditions
  – Acquire measurements to derive CubeSat dispenser vibration environments
**Dynamic Test Sequence**

Dynamic inputs in thrust and two lateral directions

- Swept sine
  - Low level inputs to estimate damping and natural frequencies
- Broadband random
  - Identify nonlinear structural behavior
- Shaped random
  - Minotaur I maximum predicted environment (MPE) used to expose test stack to flight-traceable conditions

Accelerometer measurements used for modal parameter estimation and comparisons with model predictions
Flight Adapters and Future Development

• Two flight structures currently in production
  – Additional units available as needed starting 3rd quarter 2012

• Second generation CubeStack design
  – Bulkhead configuration eliminates lower deck
    • Weight reduced by 15%-20%
    • Improved access for integration

• CubeStack propulsion module
  – Configurations based on hydrazine or ADN-based HPGP

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