

eesa

CONVERTING KNOWLEDGE INTO VALUE FOR OVER 35 YEARS

 \circ \circ

NOTANK - NOvel composite propulsion TANK architecture for small satellites

Final presentation

25 | March | 2024

 \leftarrow

Subcontractor

This document is property of INEGI - Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and may not be disclosed, in its entirety or in part, without express written permission.

CONTENTS

- 1. Project overview
- 2. Status of current activities Gantt Chart
- 3. State-of-art and Requirements Definition
- 4. Design Development of Conceptual Storage System
- 5. Manufacturing Process Definition
- 6. Manufacturing Implementation and Prototype Testing
- 7. Future Activities Planning

Since 1986

driving science
& innovation

Ginegi

Project overview 1.

GSTP Element 1

The main technical objective is to develop propulsion tanks with non-conventional architectures that maximize the volume storage ratio inside small satellites while being suitable for mass production with reduced costs.

• Maximization of storage volume ratio in small

- satellites using propulsion tanks (thus, minimizing the overall satellite volume).
- Suitability for high pressure (200 300 bar) propellants.
- Reduce production cost (aimed at a reduction of 30% to 50%, roughly).
- Suitability for mass production (small to medium series).
- Efficient customization for different small satellite series.

Status of current activities – Gantt Chart

FHP

2.

 \blacktriangleright

TN1: State-of-the-art (M2) (Delivered to ESA) **TN2: Requirements List (M2) (Delivered to ESA) TN3:** Design Justification file (M5) TN4: Design Development and Verification Plan_v1(M5) TN4v2: design development and verification plan_v2 (M9)

HW1: Laboratory scale prototypes (M8)

IM1 - RR -Requirements Review (TN1 | TN2) WP1000 IM2 - PDR - Preliminary Design Review (TN3 | TN4) WP2000 **MS1** - MRR - Manufacturing Readiness Review WP3000 **IM3 - TRR - Test readiness Review (TN5) WP4000** IM4 - PTR - Post-Test Review (TN6 / HW1)) WP4000 **MS2** - FR -Final Review (TN4_v2) W5000 **MS3** - FP -Final Presentation (FP) W6000

State-of-the-art 3

State-of-the-art

3

Based on parametric assessments, and literature overview, the main findings regarding storage system geometries are:

- The **cylindrical design** shows an **average performance** over the entire range of pressures.
- The **square design is mostly efficient for small service pressures**, as its efficiency drastically reduces over the service pressures span.
- The **conformable cylinder array consistently outperforms the conventional cylindrical**, since smaller wall thicknesses can be used.

State-of-the-art 2.1

Geometries Vs Manufacturing

Manufacturability assessment of each tank geometry

• Score 1: Manufacturing process is hardly applicable; **• Score 2:** Manufacturing process is applicable; **• Score 3:** Manufacturing process is ideal

Filament winding, resin transfer moulding and roll-wrapping are the most flexible processes, taking the span of considered geometries. Analogously, the cylinder array tank geometry allows the most flexibility manufacturing-wise.

State-of-the-art 2.1

Conclusions

The current trend of new pressure vessel designs aims to enhance volume efficiency and customizability, ultimately trying to contribute to greater compactness of spacecraft systems by optimizing space utilization;

On preliminary evaluations of volume efficiency (i.e. ratio between storage volume and bounding box volume), the cylinder tube array storage system has demonstrated superior performance, particularly when considering higher service pressures;

Focus on the conceptualization of a system that aligns with both mission objectives and system requirements;

A selection of the most suitable candidate technologies for each storage system has been proposed with a focus on identifying the best candidates that align with the global objectives of this activity – increased customizability and reduced manufacturing costs;

2.1 Requirements Definition

For the requirements definition, a series of design and manufacturing drivers have been taken into account.

Design:

- Propellant: Guarantee chemical compatibility.
- Pressure: Capability to hold fluids at high pressure.
- Temperature: Able to comply with temperature range.
- Volume: Efficient storage of required propellant quantities.
- Mass: Low mass for high mass-to-storage ratio
- Costumizability: Allow for quick rearangement to different requirements

Manufacturing:

- Production Volume: Be able to supply and supress market needs for smallsatellites.
- Lead Time: Be able to quickly adapt manufacturing process to possible design changes.

Design requirements

Requirements Definition

2.2

Commercial and technological interest of using electric propulsion has motivated the **selection of Xe, Kr, and Ar as the propellants to be considered** during the concept generation stage;

It was found to be inefficient from a design point of view to store these gases past the 300bar pressure range. For this reason, this value was chosen as the design

The range of operating temperatures has been selected based on previous missions, and led to **the definition of -20°C to 60°C**;

Material selection

An extensive review of different resin and fiber technologies was made, to select the most appropriate for the current application considering material properties and availability. A high strength carbon fiber Toray T700 Toughened epoxy resin

Characterization

A mechanical characterization test campaign was performed to measure the required properties for design.

Layer thickness is 0.16mm

Two concepts were initially proposed:

Modular hexagonal concept

The first design iteration was based on a packing of hexagonal lobules, resembling a honeycomb structure

Modular hexagonal concept

The first design evaluation was conducted considering an infinitely stiff overwrapping structure, and cells composed by aluminum walls (composite approximation).

The results give a good indication of the feasibility of this solution, as long as the overwrapping structure maintains stiffness.

Modular hexagonal concept

- The overwrapping structure needs an increased stiffness compared to the hexagons.
- Analyses show that the high stiffness dependence makes the design inadequate.
- The design failed due to high bending stress and stress concentrations at the hexagon-overwrapping interface.

Tube array concept

- This alternative concept corresponds to an array of cylindrical tubes, packed in an hexagonal configuration to achieve maximum volumetric efficiency;
- Cylindrical configurations are the optimal shape to sustain internal pressure loading, minimizing wall thickness;
- The concept is formed by two major elements: Composite Tubes and Metallic Caps.
- Design focus: Composite laminate sequence, metallic caps detail dimensions and interfaces

Metallic caps

The cap functions are:

- Support and join the tube array;
- Enclose the internal storage volume;
- Inter-connect the internal volume.

Material

4.

The material chosen for the caps are metallic alloys. Aluminium alloys are the preferred choice because of their lower weight and costs.

The tubes

The tube functions are:

- The main storage component;
- Support the caps.

Main characteristics

- High strength CFRP.
- Linerless construction.

4.

Tube preliminary design

An analysis of the volumetric efficiency and weight are analyzed to define tube size, considering the internal pressure as the only relevant design load.

A non-optimized laminate sequence was used to kick-start the design process:

The best performant solution corresponds to a tube with an external diameter of 20mm.

Metallic caps parametrization

The cylinders are assembled onto two metallic cap structures positioned in both ends of the tank. The relevant parameters were identified to be further analyzed.

Finite element model

A simplified model of the cap is used to analyse and define the relevant parameters.

From the tube preliminary analysis, slot diameter shall be around 20mm $\left(d_{s}\right)$

4.

Metallic Caps Design evolution

Some design iterations…

Added Features

- External perforations for inlet and outlet fittings;
- Fixture holes to secure the tank to the satellite platform;
- \Box Internal slots for fluid communication;

4.

Final Metallic Caps Specifications

Preliminary design : Tubes

Design considerations

4.

- Internal diameter is set to 18mm;
- Internal pressure primary load;
- Cap interface must be included.

To account for the cap-tube interface FEM analyses are

Laminate design

Generate initial population

Evaluation

Diversity check

- Further design to reduce wall thickness and failure indexes (Hashin criteria);
- Optimization through modified Genetic Algorithm.

Preliminary design : Tubes

First design

4.

• Fails at cap interface because local stresses;

After laminate optimization.

- Performing the laminate optimization including the bending stresses.
- New sequence: $[\pm 20; \pm 85; \pm 85; \pm 20]$

Preliminary design : Tubes

Additional solutions

4.

- Releasing the double laminate constraint;
- Is possible to reduce thickness: $[+15; \pm 60; \pm 85; -15]$

Performance summary

• Considering a 1U cell tank

Design considerations

4.

- Internal pressure is the primary load;
- Cap interface is included as a cohesive interface

Internal pressure results: tube component

• No damage initiation is triggered

4.

• L6 laminate is closer to damage initiation

Internal pressure results: cap component

• Installed stresses well below the yield stress

4.

4.

Internal pressure results: cap component (fitting connection slot)

• Introduction of fitting details does not add relevant stress concentrations

4.

Combined pressure & temperature results: tube component

- No damage initiation is triggered in the L8 laminate
- Damage initiation is triggered in the L6 laminate at 60ºC unfeasible design

Combined pressure & temperature results: cap component

• Installed stresses below the yield stress

4.

L8 ± 20 ; ± 85 ; ± 85 ; ± 20

S, Mises (Avg: 75%) 426.06 213.03 159.77
159.77
106.51
53.26
0.00

Vibration analysis

4.

• Lowest natural frequency at 2435Hz (scales with 1/L²)

35 © INEGI ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

L6 $+15; \pm 60; \pm 85; -15$

4.

Final remarks – Technical Remarks

- Expected cost reduction $-20%$
- Minor loss in mass-volume-fraction and volumetric efficiency
- Independent customization in any principal direction was achieved.
- Modular design allows for removal of "storage units"

1U Hollowed Configuration

Removal of modules to facilitate wiring communication between payload

L-Shaped configuration that could be fitted into irregular physical space

2U Tailored Configuration

Tailored configuration that is arranged around other payloads and ensures satellite maximum volumetric efficiency

*estimated cost based on cost modeling tool and Granta EduPack® cost references

Manufacturing process definition

5.

Product Specifications (Composite Tube)

 \pm D_e is dependent on achieved layer thickness (t)

- \checkmark Constant circular cross section composite tube:
	- \triangleright L8: Balanced lay-up, pair-wise inverse orientation Best suited for Filament Winding process

Inefficient to manufacture a single composite tube. The envisaged process shall be able to produce an oversized tube (length-wise) that is later sectioned to the desired length.

Tooling Selection (Mandrel)

- Low CTE material
	- \triangleright Reduces cure induced residual stresses
	- ➢ Geometric accuracy
- Good stiffness
	- \triangleright Reduced bending during filament winding

Manufacturing process definition 5.

Manufacturing Plan Macro-Stages

- ❑ Bill of material definition (BOM)
- ❑ Equipment requirements and capabilities

5.

Manufacturing Plan Detailed Steps

Manufacturing Implementation

Manufacturing @ FHP Assembly @ FHP Prototype

Manufacturing process definition 5.

Quality Inspection

- ❑ Mass: Used for the assessment of FVF.
- ❑ Length: Check if tube sectioning methods are appropriate or need to be refined.
- ❑ Avg. Diameter: Consistency of shape and if an external moulding process needs to be considered; May influence adhesive joint configuration.
- ❑ Avg. Thickness: Indirectly measures avg. layer thickness. In turn, influences structural performance.
- ❑ Fiber volume fraction (FVF): Determine if processed material properties are in line with standards, and process quality
- ❑ Void Content: Assess material, and process implementation quality
- ❑ NDT (Termography): Assess material quality in machined zones for delamination or chipping.

YES

Manufacturing Implementation and Testing

Quality Inspection

5.

The average layer thickness was outside projected values, leading to non-compliance in thickness and OD.

No noticeable concentrations of delaminations via tomography NDT

Requirement Threshold Result Compliant QA-FW-MSS Deviation <1g <0,02g YES $QA-FW-LEN$ 90 ± 0,1 mm 90,04 mm YES

QA-FW-AVD 19,6 $^{+0.00}_{-0.05}$ mm 19,73 mm NO

QA-FW-AVT $\begin{array}{|l} 0.8 \ +0.000 \\ -0.025 \end{array}$ mm 0,854 mm NO $QA-FW-FVF$ 67 ± 3%. 65.83% YES **QA-FW-VDC** <3% <1,7% YES

> Noticeable concentration of delaminations in tube sectioning

zones?

This can be corrected by doing some process parameter adjustments in the future.

QA-FW-NDT

Manufacturing Implementation and Testing 5.

Testing – out of scope

A low-fidelity model was manufactured to evaluate adhesive joint leak tightness

The test was conducted on a pressure test rig, using water at 5 bar.

Over the test duration, no noticeable leak was detected.

Future Activity Planning 7.

Main Objectives:

- Raise to TRL 6
- Identify commercial prospects
- Develop model detail features (e.g. adhesive joint, external fittings)
- Qualification tests
- Identify and plan future development needs

Future Activity Planning 7.

Main Objectives:

- Raise to TRL 6
- Identify commercial prospects
- Develop model detail features (e.g. adhesive joint, external fittings)
- Qualification tests
- Identify and plan future development needs

Budget: ~412k EUR

Next Steps - MILESTONES | PLANNED REVIEWS 6.

Alexandre Chícharo

pnfernandes@inegi.up.pt

achicharo@inegi.up.pt

João Machado

Pedro Fernandes

Paulo Gonçalves

jmmachado@inegi.up.pt

prgoncalves@inegi.up.pt

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN MECHANICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

www.inegi.pt

 $\begin{picture}(150,10) \put(0,0){\line(1,0){10}} \put(15,0){\line(1,0){10}} \put(15,0){\line($

