

# **PEM Self-Pressurization Tank Design**

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ISSC 2022 beyond LEO, San Luis Obispo, May 2022





#### **Presentation Outline**

- Big Picture
  - Where we fit in
- Objectives
- Background/Motivation
- Initial Research
- Potential Complications

- Calculations
- Equipment
- Challenges
- Next Steps



# Big Picture Develop Green Propulsion System for 1-3U CubeSat





# Objectives

- Literature study on relevant tank systems to evaluate various designs
- Design and eventual construction of a self-pressurizing tank apparatus to be assessed under various pressure conditions to determine feasibility





## **Background/Motivation**

- CubeSat Propulsion Systems historically nonexistent
- "Development and Definition of a CubeSat Demonstrator for a Water Propulsion System" by Colum Walter
  - No final proposed water tank

- Motivation
  - No compressor necessary
  - No hazards at launch





#### **Initial Research**

- Different tank types
  - Propellant Management Devices
  - Positive Expulsion Devices
    - Bladder Tanks, Diaphragm Tanks, Piston Tanks







## **Potential Complications**

- PEM oxygen product line contains liquid water
- No water can be in oxygen side of tank
- Possible solutions
  - Tank separator
  - Filter or membrane





## Calculations

- Flow rates from Titan EZ-60 Stack
  - Water: 4 mL/hr
  - Oxygen: 0-30 mL/min
- Proposed experiment runtime of 1 hour
  - Minimum tank volume 4 mL
  - If oxygen confined to 10 mL:
    - Pressure: 180 atm







# Equipment

- Gore PolyVent Standard
   Model: **DME100221** (or 6)
  - Model: PMF100321 (gray)
    - Typical Airflow: 450 ml/min







## Proposed Vent Housing Design





Equipment

- Airpot Piston-Cylinder set
  - Model: 2KS95-8.0CP
    - Available Volume: 14.3 mL
    - Customer made housing







## Proposed Tank Housing Design

- To be machined from a  $\frac{1}{4}$  straight threaded pipe
- Ends tapped for a 1/16 NPT fitting
- Silicone rubber seals provided by Airpot





#### Initial Design for Piston Tank Housing



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# Housing Shell





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## Housing Ends









Challenges

- Project started in January
- Access to SolidWorks
- Obtaining equipment information
  - Corresponding with companies
- Balancing Senior workload and project goals







- Place order for Piston-Cylinder set
  - Start machining housing
- Finalize vent housing design
  - Order required parts and construct
  - Assess impermeability of vent under pressure
- Begin construction and experimentation of tank apparatus



ASTEROIDS

SpaceTREX



#### **Questions?**





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