

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

Environment

CubeSat Compatible High Resolution Thermal Infrared Imager

A small, adaptable, and stable high resolution thermal imaging system that provides more detailed spatial and temporal data from orbit.

The CubeSat Compatible High Resolution Thermal Infrared Imager is a technology with multiple applications. It can be flown on an aircraft, deployed on the International Space Station, launched on a ride-share as an entirely self-contained 3U CubeSat, flown on a small satellite, or be a co-manifested satellite instrument.

BENEFITS

- High quantum efficiency
- Broad spectral response
- Ease of fabrication
- Smallest and most compact, easily deployable scientific near/long wave infrared imager
- Easily configured for a Space Station facility instrument as a supplemental IR camera system



THE TECHNOLOGY

This dual band infrared imaging system is capable of spatial resolution of 60 m from orbit and earth observing expected NEDT less than 0.20 C. It is designed to fit within the top two-thirds of a 3U CubeSat envelope, installed on the International Space Station, or deployed on other orbiting or airborne platforms. This infrared imaging system will utilize a newly conceived strained-layer superlattice GaSb/InAs broadband detector array cooled to 60 K by a miniature mechanical cryocooler. The camera is controlled by a sensor chip assembly consisting of a newly developed 25 m pitch, 640 x 512 pixel.

APPLICATIONS

The technology has several potential applications:

- Environmental monitoring
- Space flight
- Meteorology

PUBLICATIONS

Patent No: 10306155

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Agency Licensing Concierge Goddard Space Flight Center

Code 102 Greenbelt, MD 20771 202-358-7432 Agency-Patent-Licensing@mail.nasa.gov

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