



NASA Honors Busek's Founder with Public Achievement Medal

NATICK, MA APRIL 25, 2018 – Busek Co. Inc. confirmed its Founder and President, Dr. Vlad Hruby, was awarded National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Exceptional Public Achievement Medal, one of the Agency's highest awards for non-Government employees. The medal acknowledges Dr. Hruby's and Busek's contributions and partnership with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in the development and delivery of critical electrospray propulsion technology for the Space Technology-7 Mission (ST-7). The thruster systems developed under ST-7 were part of NASA's contribution to the highly successful European-led LISA Pathfinder program.

NASA's JPL selected Busek to develop entirely new solar electric thrusters for the European Space Agency (ESA) mission which necessitated ultra-precise spacecraft control. Thruster requirements included the ability to control spacecraft position to within a few nanometers, equivalent to the width of a strand of DNA. Busek matured its electrospray colloid-style thrusters, propellant, feed system, and electronics from laboratory concepts to flight qualification, delivering eight fully-fueled systems in 2008. Nearly eight years later, the systems were launched aboard a Vega Rocket, with in-space commissioning in January 2016. LISA Pathfinder operations completed in June 2017, having met 100% of the mission goals, with each electrospray thruster accumulating an average of 2,500 hours' operation, or 20,000 hours of cumulative on-orbit operation.

"It's a true honor to receive this award, a culmination of many individuals' tireless work inside and outside of Busek. We look to continue our partnership with ESA, NASA JPL, and Goddard Space Flight Center, such that we are prepared for the full-on LISA Mission later this decade." said Dr. Hruby. The LISA mission will help scientists and the greater public understand the underpinnings of our universe, potentially reinforcing Albert Einstein's theory of gravitational waves and helping to map the Solar System's dark matter. The firm's precision electrospray technology is directly applicable to future gravitational wave missions as well as missions requiring precise, jitter-free pointing, deep-space laser communications, and formation-flight.

About Busek: Busek Co. Inc. is an industry leader in the development and manufacture of high performance space propulsion systems. The firm's satellite products include highly efficient solar electric propulsion systems such as Hall thrusters, electrospray thrusters, radio frequency ion thrusters, and pulsed plasma thrusters, in addition to green monopropellant thrusters. Busek's expertise across multiple space propulsion disciplines enables it to provide unbiased quality solutions to best fit customers' needs.



(L-R) Busek electro-spray thrusters aboard ESA LISA Pathfinder (credit: ESA); NASA Medal and four Busek ST-7 Electro-spray Thrusters (credit: Busek);



Media Contact:
Ms. Judy Budny
Busek Co. Inc.
508.655.5565
judy@busek.com