

GPM Compression Molded Solar Array Cup/Cones Statement of Work

September 23, 2009

Background

Spacecraft solar arrays commonly use titanium cup/cones attached to honeycomb panels made with graphite fiber composite facesheets. Occasionally aluminum cup/cones are used, such as in the current Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) spacecraft. Relative to these metal main-stays, graphite fiber composite cup/cones offer spacecraft significant mass advantages and reduce thermal mismatch issues typical of metal-to-composite interfaces.

GPM solar array cup/cones using continuous resin reinforced graphite fiber material have been developed and test-verified in a previous effort. The validated design reduces GPM solar array mass by 15%, decreases interface stresses, and improves system reliability compared to the aluminum design.

In order to also be competitive with the Aluminum design on cost, it is desirable to make the composite parts using a compression molding technique. This high volume manufacturing process promises to lower unit costs by significantly reducing the amount of labor that usually goes into laying-up each composite part by hand. As a result, the purpose of this procurement is to produce compression molded cup/cones in order to demonstrate materials and manufacturing techniques for the GPM solar array cup cone application.

Description of Tasks to be Performed

The contractor shall:

1. Review a GSFC-supplied design of the compression-molded cup/cones (Figure 1) as specified in drawings 2131586 (cup 1) through 2131589 (cup 4) and provide GSFC feedback to ensure the design is manufacturable using the compression molding technique.
2. Design / build the tooling and, jointly with GSFC, develop the manufacturing process necessary to produce cups 1 and 3.
 - Process development will involve an iterative process of manufacturing 1 or 2 samples at a time, evaluating the resulting microstructure, and altering the molding procedure until a consistent random 2D distribution of fibers is obtained.
 - Process development may include on-site visits by GSFC engineers.
 - All process development data and hardware, including but not limited to sectioned parts, micrographs, fiber volume measurements, cure

temperatures and durations, dimensional measurements, etc., shall be forwarded to GSFC for review.

3. Ship quantity 11 of cup 3 for mechanical and environmental testing at GSFC. In addition, ship a quantity of 2 of cup 1.
4. Work with GSFC to address any issues identified in the testing process.

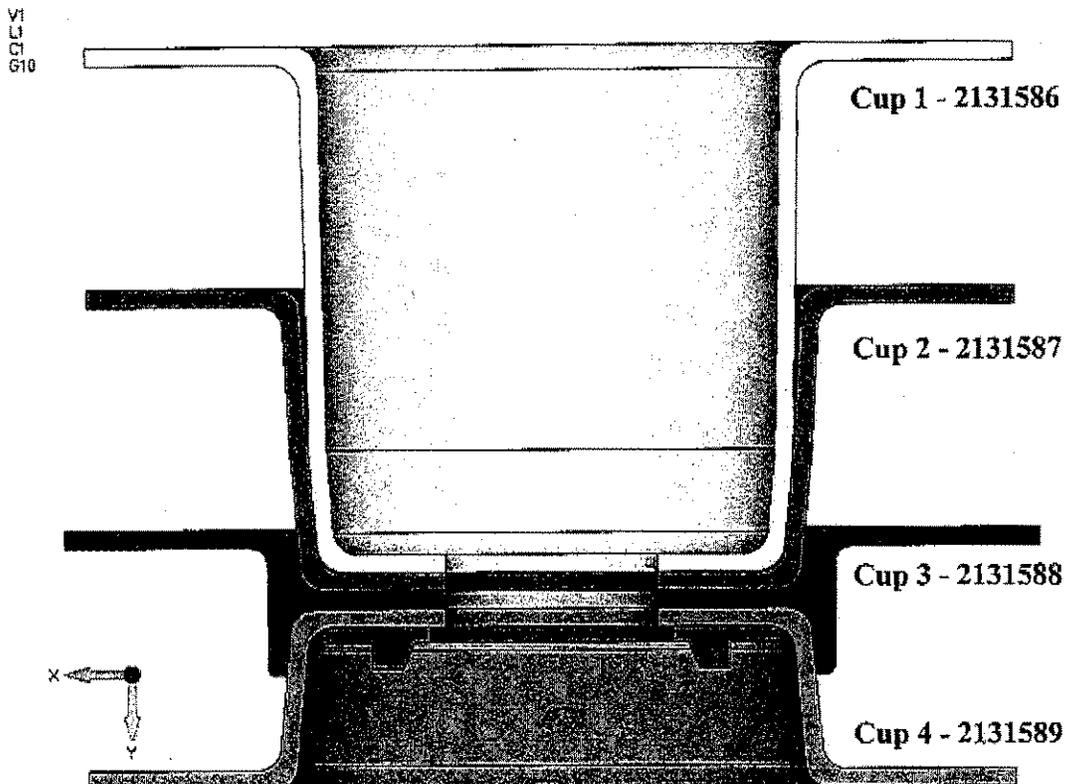


Figure 1 – GPM Compression-Molded Cup-Cone Stack

Requirements

1. The desired fiber distribution shall be consistently random two-dimensional. The preferential direction for fiber orientation, if any, shall be radial, outward from the center of the part and flowing along the sides. Bulk fiber orientation shall be the same within any sector of the part.
2. Fiber flow along the corners of the part shall be continuous without kinking or folding.
3. Parts shall be produced using the MS-4A material.
4. Parts shall conform to drawings 2131586 and 2131588.

5. The vendor shall provide status updates (telecon or e-mail is acceptable) to GSFC at least every two weeks and shall immediately notify GSFC of any significant issues such as those that may affect part delivery schedule.
6. The vendor shall support a kick-off telecon no later than one week after contract award.

Deliverables

1. Iterative process development parts and data as defined above.
2. After the iterative process development portion of the effort is complete, the contractor shall ship to GSFC:
 - 2 cup/cones 1 (2131586)
 - 11 cup/cones 3 (2131588)
 - Final tooling for cup/cones 1 and 3

Period of Performance

All materials shall be delivered to GSFC 10 weeks after contract award.

Options

The contractor shall cost Options for later execution

Option 1

The contractor shall perform the following:

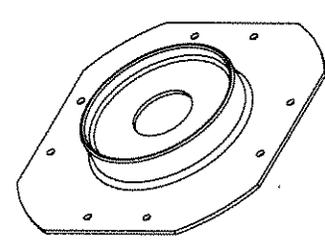
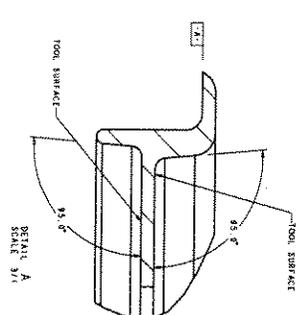
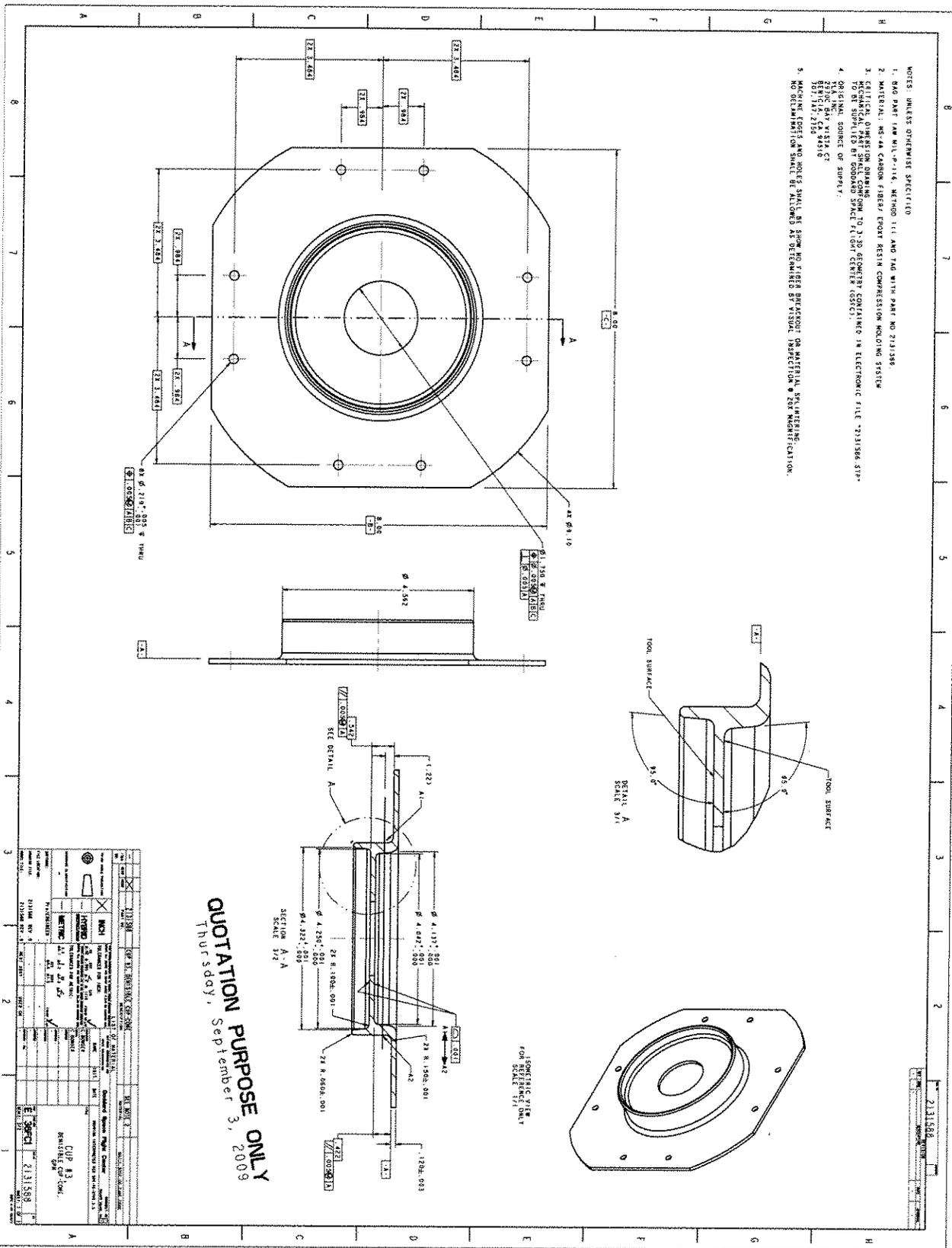
1. Use lessons learned in the development of cups 1 and 3 to build the tooling and manufacture cups 2 and 4.
2. Deliver 2 each of cups 2 and 4 to GSFC.
3. Deliver tooling for cups 2 and 4 to GSFC.

Option 2

The contractor shall perform the following:

1. Build and deliver to GSFC flight sets of 14 each of cups 1, 2, 3 and 4 (56 cups total) for use on the GPM spacecraft.

- NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
1. TAG PART 146 MIL-P-116, METHOD 111 AND TAG WITH PART NO 2131386
 2. MATERIAL: NS-44 CARBON FIBER/ EPOXY RESIN COMPRESSION MOLDING SYSTEM
 3. ELECTRICAL CONNECTION CABLES TO BE SUPPLIED BY CUSTOMER TO 3-30 DESIGNER CONTAINED IN ELECTRONIC FILE "2131386_S1P" TO BE SUPPLIED BY CUSTOMER SPACE FLIGHT CENTER (SFC).
 4. ORIGINAL SOURCE OF SUPPLY:
 - 2290C 04Y VISA CT
 - 5011517-2290C
 - 5011517-2290C
 - 5011517-2290C
 5. MACHINE TOLERANCES AND HOLE SIZES SHALL BE SHOWN FIRST BREAKDOWN ON MATERIAL SUPPLIER'S DRAWING. NO DELAMINATION SHALL BE ALLOWED AS DETERMINED BY VISUAL INSPECTION @ZM MODIFICATION.



QUOTATION PURPOSE ONLY
 Thursday, September 3, 2009

REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	ISSUE FOR QUOTATION

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