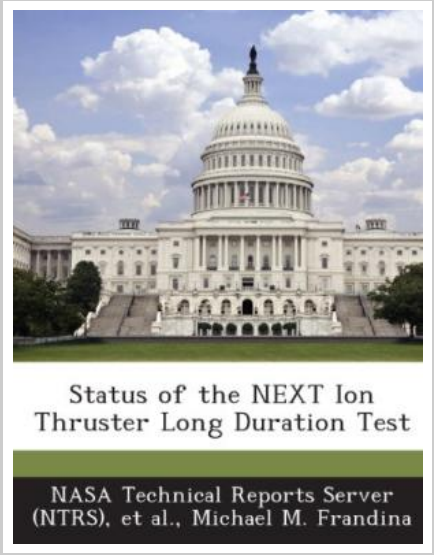

Status of the Next Ion Thruster Long Duration Test

By Michael M. Frandina

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 24 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in.The status of NASAs Evolutionary Xenon Thruster (NEXT) Long Duration Test (LDT) is presented. The test will be conducted with a 36 cm diameter engineering model ion thruster, designated EM3, to validate and qualify the NEXT thruster propellant throughput capability of 450 kg xenon. The ion thruster will be operated at various input powers from the NEXT throttle table. Pretest performance assessments demonstrated that EM3 satisfies all thruster performance requirements. As of June 26, 2005, the ion thruster has accumulated 493 hours of operation and processed 10. 2 kg of xenon at a thruster input power of 6. 9 kW. Overall ion thruster performance, which includes thrust, thruster input power, specific impulse, and thrust efficiency, has been steady to date with very little variation in performance parameters. This item ships from La Vergne,TN. Paperback.

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