

News Release

31 May 2016

Cobham Microelectronic MRAMs contributed to ExoMars 2016 Payload

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. – Cobham’s Magnetoresistive Random-Access Memories (MRAMs) launched aboard the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO), on March 14, 2016. The MRAMs are used by the Nadir and Occultation for MArS Discovery (NOMAD) instrument on the TGO. NOMAD is a spectrometer suite that will measure the spectrum of sunlight across a wide range of wavelengths, enabling the detection of components of the Martian atmosphere. Cobham’s Semiconductor Solutions business unit, part of the Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions sector, provided the MRAMs to the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (IAA) and the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB).

Cobham MRAMs were chosen due to the part’s access time, data retention and footprint, as well as radiation performance. Five MRAMs have been integrated on an interface board on the instrument. IAA confirmed in April that the board was powered on during flight and the MRAMs are working properly. “Cobham extends our sincere thanks to IAA, BIRA-IASB and ESA, along with our congratulations on a successful design, launch and mission,” said Jeff Hassannia, Senior Vice-President of Business Development and Technology for Cobham Advanced Electronic Solutions.

The ExoMars program is a joint endeavour between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos). The first mission of the ExoMars program is ExoMars 2016. It is scheduled to arrive at Mars in October 2016 and consists of a Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) and an entry, descent and landing demonstrator module (EDM) known as Schiaparelli. The main objectives of this mission are to search for evidence of methane and other trace atmospheric gases that could be signatures of active biological or geological processes and to test key technologies in preparation for ESA’s contribution to subsequent missions to Mars.

Please visit www.cobham.com/HiRel for product information.

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Cobham Semiconductor Solutions

We are a global supplier of Standard HiRel ICs including memory, μ processor, interconnect & power and ASICs for space, commercial, medical and industrial markets, along with Electronic Manufacturing Services (Circuit Card Assembly, Radiation Testing, Component Up-screening and Packaging).

Cobham Semiconductor Solutions' Colorado Springs site is a supplier of semicustom and standard VLSI circuits and custom circuit card assemblies. They have a Qualified Manufacturer List (QML) certification for Class Q, Class T and Class V.

About Cobham

The most important thing we build is trust.

Cobham is a leading global technology and services innovator, respected for providing solutions to the most challenging problems, from deep space to the depths of the ocean.

We employ more than 11,500 people on five continents, and have customers and partners in over 100 countries, with market leading positions in: wireless, audio, video and data communications, including satellite communications; defence electronics; air-to-air refuelling; aviation services; life support and mission equipment.

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