CASTRA capacity and current projects in space

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Who we are?

Cluster AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGIES, RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS (CASTRA) is an industry-driven consortia of business entities, academic institutions and other bodies with expertise and capacity to develop technologies, products and services in the aerospace domain and its applications serving society. CASTRA has the legal status of a non-for profit organization according Bulgarian law.

CASTRA’s vision is to promote the research, innovations and technology developments in the aerospace sector to the benefits of society and citizens.

CASTRA’s mission is to stimulate the public interest to the field of aerospace technologies and research, and to the activities of the organizations - members of the cluster; to increase the public awareness about the benefits to all on Earth from developing novel upstream space technologies and their downstream applications.
CASTRA members

Companies
- Aegis Ltd.
- Telesys Ltd.
- Novorell Ltd.
- Lumycomp Design Ltd.
- SimSoft Ltd.
- BMG Bulgaria JSC
- PointL-Bulgaria Ltd.
- MicroPlus Apostolov Ltd.
- ElectronInvest Group Ltd.
- KONTRAX JSC
- O &K SD
- Mozaika Co Ltd.
- Green Embedded Systems Ltd
- SSTL Ltd. (UK)

Academic organizations
- Sofia University with its 'Space Research and Technologies Centre"
- Institute of Cryobiology and Food Technology
- Technical University of Sofia - Department of Aeronautics
- Institute for Mathematics and Informatics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

NGO's
- Remote Sensing Application Center-ReSAC
- Bulgarian Modeling and Simulation Association "BULSIM"

PARTNERS
- Aerospace Engineering and Communications (ASE&C) M.Sc. Program at Sofia University
- Bulgarian Institute of Metrology
- OPTIX JSC, Bulgaria
- Micro-satellite and Space Microsystems Lab, University of Bologna, Italy
- Cluster of Serbian Aeronautical Industry – UVIS
- Bulgarian Air-Traffic Control Authority
- Space Mission Control Centre, Russia
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS) is the biggest R&D organization in Bulgaria. It has 49 R&D institutes in all spheres of science and technology. It has 3570 full time employee researchers and educates 581 PhD students (2010). In 2010 BAS published over 2553 scientific articles at international level.

Sofia University is the oldest and the biggest University in Bulgaria. It educates ~ 23 000 students (2013) in 16 Faculties and it is ranked on 640 position among all Universities worldwide, with strong educational and research activities in the areas of science, law and economics. Together with CASTRA, a new M.Sc. in AeroSpace Engineering and Communications was established in 2012.

The Technical University is the most reputable Academic institution active in the field of Engineering Sciences and Technology. It educates ~ 18 000 students (2013) in 14 Faculties. The University has campuses in the cities of Sofia, Plovdiv and Sliven and brings significant expertise in areas such as mechanics, electronics, robotics and other.
Map of CASTRA members across Bulgaria

[Map showing locations of CASTRA members in Bulgaria]
Some selected areas of expertise

( Additional information available on request )
TWO Bulgarian cosmonaut space flight programs were implemented – 1979, 1988

Developed unique experience and infrastructure in program management, development of various spaceborne and ground instrumentation, R&D in fundamental sciences and other related areas.

NEW high-tech SME potential

Electronics, IC design, automation, robotics, UAV systems, high-speed satellite communications, software and embedded systems and other.
LumyComp Design Ltd
LumyComp Design

- ESA XMM Newton Telescope, mirror PWR control,
  1997-1999

Astrium/ESA proposal for Docking Module Standardized Multipurpose Androgynous Docking Adapter (312294 - SMADA) - FP7-SPACE-2012-1 2012
LED electronics design, more than 60 projects in 10 years.

Official FREE LED Solution Provider for East Europe

FP7 BG161PO003-1.1.05-0187 project – EU funded for Light Measurement laboratory.

H2020, EU funded project – OPTINTEGRAL – advanced displays

OEM electronic design and production – PCB design, production assembly and testing.
LumyComp Design

Telecom measurement equipment:

- Low noise (-72 dB signal/noise ratio) Line simulator/tester

- High Tech DSLAM/VDSL2 modem test equipment – 48x1Gbps to 2x10Gbps test structure, Vitesse / Broadcom / Lantiq chipset based.
LumyComp Design

- LCPT (80W, 160W, 300W) – anti-lightning and over-voltage protection – up to 10kV, 10kA / 20usec and up to 415VAC / 1000msec.

- Very-High efficient (98%) DC/AC Invertor up to 2kW – participation in the worldwide Google Little Box Chalanage 1,000,000 $ prize competition.

- LED drivers and power modules, solar panel and battery management, dimmable modules, DMX / Wireless controlled and thermally protected.

- OEM design and production
Industrial LED lightning and control systems development for high-reliability and high-spec applications (e.g. past project underwater LED lightning solutions for the nuclear reactor zone in the nuclear power plant in Kozlodui).

Development of specialised power supply solutions with embedded protection to sensitive electronic modules against over-voltages and currents - e.g. in emergency events (e.g. EMP in phase E1, E3 of a nuclear explosion), protection of military and civil communication and power supply networks against induced overvoltages by solar EM storms (polar regions of Earth, power EM fields near communication antenna and radar equipment, and other...
Novorell Technologies Ltd
Integrated Circuits design for high-reliability (e.g., radiation hardness) for space applications (ESA projects)

See separate presentation

Technology, design and manufacturing of advanced MEMS sensors and actuators for high-precision high sensitivity applications, including avionics, gyro-systems, accelerometers, level meters, force and pressure sensors, gas sensors, bio-sensors
Acceco systems
O & K co. Accoco systems capabilities

- Unmanned aircraft systems
- Concept, design, prototyping, production
- High altitude, solar powered aircraft
O & K co. Acceco systems capabilities

Sofia University cubesat project

• Microsat prototype with folding solar panels
• Hi-res imaging/video camera & high speed down/up link /DVB-S2/
• Micro thruster /hot gas/ for orbit transfer - safe, low pressure tank
O & K co. Acceco systems capabilities

- Communication equipment and laboratory
- Satellite tracking station in VHF, UHF, L,S,X band
- Antennas and arrays – design, measurement, production
- High speed communication transceiver DVB design, test, production
- Soft Defined Radio core and FPGA integration with image sensor
O & K Co. Acceco systems capabilities

CASTRA μ-Satellite – basic scheme

Payload, provided by CASTRA

Basic transportation satellite systems (commercial or amateur)

On-board computer

Hyperspectral camera

~8 MB/s

Communication computer

DVB-S2 MOD

100 ÷ 900 MHz

DVB-S2 DEMOD

~5 MB/s

Data Storage

2W RF; 15 W dc

Tx BUC (5.83-5.85 GHz)

Rx BDC (2.40-2.45 GHz)

Tx BUC (5.83-5.85 GHz)

PA

BPF (10 MHz)

Rx BDC (2.40-2.45 GHz)

LNA

BPF (10 MHz)

Antenna switch

ATx

or

ARx
Automated Design of Control Systems
New project on Satellite test bed tester Systems Within CASTRA
The Company

Point L - Bulgaria Ltd. is an engineering company established in 1991 with the mission to develop and provide innovative software and hardware products for process control application.

The Company’s products make up a complete set of software tools and intelligent devices for design, implementation, monitoring and support of open process control systems. The set includes: CASE designers for analysis and automated design of control systems; SCADA System; Software tool for administration of industrial networks; intelligent actuators’ controllers, based on a patented method for contactless reading of the position; intelligent hybrid input-output modules; gateways; active sensors; other.

The Company has completed numerous automation projects across an array of industries, countries and clients.
Point L Intelligent Actuators’ Control

Non-contact Position Readout and Control
Functional diagnostics and control incorporated in actuator
Application range - all actuator types, new and used
Intelligent Input/Output Devices, Gateways
The Company offers a Computer-Aided Software Engineering Designer ArchiAlgor for automated design and commissioning of satellite and ground station control systems

ArchiAlgor is based on an innovative engineering approach, enabling analysis, structured description and solution of critical control tasks.

Main advantage of said method is that it creates priorities of activities, resulting in greater reliability and performance of control systems.

This tool helps build a priority mechanism, complements specification through process analysis, implements technical requirements, creates a modular program structure.
New project for designing of a test bed for testing microsatellites’ attitude control-orientation and stabilization

"Point L- Bulgaria" Ltd., in collaboration with the company "Micro plus-Apostolov" Ltd., Sofia University and other members of the cluster CASTRA, began development of an innovative modular test bed with three degree of freedom for testing the attitude control orientation and a stabilization of microsatellites or separate satellites components. The installation will shorten tests of the behavior of satellites in orbit by simulating the magnetic and radiation effects and by monitoring the reaction of the on-board control system. It will increase the objectivity of the assessment of performance of satellite systems.
Micro-Plus Apostolov

Precision mechanical systems and equipment;
Key supplier in CERN projects
Activity

- Design of mechanical parts, modules, systems and equipment mainly for high accuracy and reliability requirements purposes. The equipment is either with high-tech production purposes, automation processes, or automation of the measuring technologies.
- Optimization and modernization of existing mechanisms and machinery.
- Unique equipment including for scientific researches.
- Design of products and devices in serial production.
- Consulting activity.

Our competitive advantages

- Our team has about 45 years of professional experience mainly in design of systems and equipment for high-tech production and processing.
- In accordance with the requirements of the specific project, certain design rules and principals are applied, including exact constraint design, error minimizing principals for the entire system.
- We are knowledgeable of the classical mechanical technological abilities (including the limit abilities) as well as of the recent micro mechanical technologies.
- Optimization and computer design feasibility of different elements and modules qualities.
- Excellent relationship with companies with similar activity as well as with hardware and software professionals.
- Excellent relationship with Bulgarian technical universities, related with design of precise mechanisms and machines, and high vacuum equipment.
- Excellent relationship with companies for mechanical parts manufacturing.
- Our experience and organization of work allows us to participate with competitive solutions related to the full implementation of tasks including: design, mechanical systems engineering supporting of production (providing technological, measuring, control and specialized tools), manufacture, installation and testing.
1. Participation in the project XFEL (in DESY Hamburg Germany) since 2005 and currently

Fig. 1.1 design and manufacturing of the power divider (high energy) and RF phase shifter shifter

Fig. 1.2 Support system for waveguide distribution systems with kinematic type links

2. Engineering support for manufacture, measuring, and installation of prototype models for the project SPIRAL2.
Design, fabrication and installation of the mechanical system of "Ge detector for gamma radiation" -project funded by the European programs. Mechanical structure is protected by two European patents.

Design of the mechanical system for specialized equipment for microelectronics.

Fig. 4.1 Experimental equipment for Atom Layers CVD

Fig. 4.2 Experimental equipment for plasma etching
TELESYSS Ltd

Avionics, Flight Control and Navigation and Communication Systems Design and manufacturing; UAV systems design, manufacturing and operation; Key Supplier to the Ministry of Defense for UAV JET and radar systems
• MOBILE COMMUNICATION MODULES for emergency situations
  (Telesys Ltd., BAS-IPP, Civil Protection Agency)

• Interrogator Units Supplier – EASD / Defense Electronics
• Producer
  EADS DS Belgium NV Oostkamp
Navigation Systems design and applications in Automotive and aviation sectors;
Design and Manufacturing of electronic systems and precision sensor networks
Dedicated GPS/Galileo/Glonass tracking solutions - R&D, development, manufacturing and operation of such networks

Integration with custom or existing sensor networks for remote monitoring and control

Intergarted Sensor networks for remote environmental and industrial monitoring of infrastructure, equipment and other
Green Embedded Systems / ESA 2014
Experience and Expertise

- Embedded software design and development
  - MCUs - Cortex M4, M3, M0, M0+, MSP 430
    - Freescale, ST, Texas Instruments
  - MPUs - i.MX 23, i.MX 27, i.MX 28, i.MX 31, i.MX6
- Radio communication (sub-GHz, 1-GHz, 2.4GHz, Wi-Fi)
  - Texas Instruments – CC2538, CC3100, CC3200
  - Semtech – SX1272
- GSM/GPRS – u-blox, Quectel
- PCB design, development and layout
- Embedded OS
  - Linux - Board bring-up, Device drivers, Toolchains, OpenEmbedded, Yocto, Custom Board Support Packages (BSP), User-space application development
  - Contiki OS – 6LoWPAN IP radio mesh networks for embedded applications
  - Quantum Leaps QP platform (state-machines for embedded software applications) – proven in aerospace, medical and industrial applications
- Programming languages – C/C#, Python, Java, Javascript, C#
- Databases – CouchDB, SQLite, MySQL
- Mobile Apps – Android and iOS
Noteworthy projects

- Web based AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) system, CloudAMI – complete family of Linux based meter controllers using Wi-Fi, Ethernet, RF and GPRS + cloud based server and client application
- Integrating CloudAMI smart metering platform into Nokia-Siemens mobile billing system (Cumulocity) for creating pre-paid energy system and general M2M communication platform
- Home and Industrial Lighting management and control system (Cortex M3 MCU’s to control the LED drivers and 6LoWPAN to communicate with the outside world + Sencha Touch 2 mobile app to control the lights and communicate with the LED drivers) for Earns Technologies (Hong Kong)
- STAP GNSS receiver
- Web based Vehicle Tracking System
- Complete Linux BSP for i.MX27 based weighing scale for Avery Berkel (England)
- Board bring-up for Linux / i.MX28 based industrial controller for TekPartner (Denmark)
Ultra-compact embedded Linux controllers
SimSoft Ltd

Design, manufacture and custom software solutions for simulation and training, incl. UAV flight control systems;
Control and management software for complex systems

Virtual reality and REAL GAMES development

Real-time data processing and visualisation from airborne sensors and aircraft systems
Bulgarian Association for Modeling and Simulation
Cyber-security training and infrastructure

Areas of expertise

- Software systems development for the needs of cyber-security and crisis management trainings
- Software tools in support of the decision making process in crisis management
- Application of tools and systems for modelling and simulation in the decision making process at operational and tactical levels in warfare
- Modelling and simulation of natural disaster events and processes
- Development of virtual reality tools
- Aerospace Mission design
- Business process simulations
MOZAIKA Ltd.

Information Management for Aerospace
Mozaika - The Humanizing Technologies Lab

- in operation since May 2013
- subject areas
  - data science
  - natural interfaces
  - human insight
- activity areas
  - R&D and project development
  - consulting for knowledge intense solutions
  - DaaS (Data as a Service)
  - Information/data infrastructures for a variety of applications
  - Natural human-computer interactivity
  - Voice biometrics
- verticals
  - Business Information, Human Resources Management, Earth Observation, Aerospace, Smart Cities, Cultural Heritage

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Radio Engineering
Department of the
Physics Faculty, Sofia University

High-Speed Satellite communication systems and antennas;
RF plasma micro-thruster development
Design and manufacturing of low-profile satellite communication antennas

Sofia University
Department of Physics

MW antenna patch design

Example: multi-panel 2-way communication antenna (the so-called “mobile VSAT”)

Fully flat panel
Single inclined panel
Multi-panel antenna
The developed Ar gas pulsed plasma source produces dense plasma with high gas temperature $T_g \sim 1500-3000K$. When used with a basic Laval-type nozzle, achieves maximum jet velocity estimated at $v \sim 1000-2000$ m/s (hypersonic) at atmospheric pressure. The calculated maximum thrust at gas flow rate 150sccm is in the range 4.5-9 mN and the specific impulse is in the range 105-210s. This parameter shows that our electrothermal thruster is suitable for realization of an orbital maneuver of a microsatellite (~30 kg) with achieved $\Delta v \sim 13-26$m/s for 24-hour period.

Dimensions 2cm X 0.3cm X 0.3cm, f=2.45GHz, ceramic tube, P<10W both in continuous and pulse regimes

Assoc. Prof. J. Kiss'ovski, Sofia University
Content

➢ General information about CASTRA
➢ Some selected areas of expertise
➢ **Small Satellite project for ICT applications**
A satellite based ICT system

**Main components of our satellite system**

- **Minisatellite** <1000 kg
- **Microsatellite** <100 kg
- **Nanosatellite** <10 kg
- **Picosatellite** <1 kg
- Ground station(s) and control room; (fixed and/or mobile)
- Information and communication (IC) infrastructure for analysis, processing, archiving and dissemination of data
- Qualified and motivated team of trained specialists

The development and integration of a functional system requires close cooperation and joint effort from organizations with complementary expertise
Application №1:
Remote sensing of Earth surface with a Hyperspectral digital camera and generation of information content images for the needs of specific users:
Control of vegetation cover, land and water surfaces, industry and ecology driven monitoring, security and other...
Application №2: Wireless data transfer from/to on-ground sensor networks OR data users, followed by data exchange with a remote receiving station....

Position 1: data collection and transmission

Position 2: data download/upload at the control station
Application №3:

Land and Sea tracking of vehicles, humans, cargo, and other objects for the purpose of security, logistics, research etc..
The simplified orbit analysis shows that our satellite could pass over the Bulgarian base on the Livingston Island ~2 times daily, and over Bulgaria ~1 times per day. Total data volume for a single communication session is evaluated at ~100 MB for the uplink channel and ~300 MB for the downlink channel.
Our Satellite Mission and Design was selected as a semi-finalist among other 77 projects from 53 countries in the International Mission Idea Contest – 2012, Tokyo, Japan.
A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step

千里之行，始於足下

(qiānlǐ zhī xíng, shǐ yú zúxià)

Laozi