

Special Issue

Space Electric Propulsion Technology

Message from the Guest Editors

Space electric propulsion is playing an increasingly prominent role in space engineering such as long-life satellites, deep space exploration, and non-drag control, becoming the forefront of space propulsion technology and receiving attention from countries around the world. The successful applications of the Smart-1, Hayabusa, Deep Space 1, and Shijian satellites mark the gradual maturity of electric propulsion technology and the increasing importance in the future of the aerospace field. Space Electric Propulsion Technology has gone through a long period of development and reserve, and has made solid progress in ion thruster, Hall thruster, Arcjet, Pulse Plasma Propulsion, Magneto Plasma Dynamic (MPD) thruster, Colloid and electrospray thrusters, and other aspects. Electric propulsion is currently considered by all space actors as a key and revolutionary technology for the new generations of commercial and scientific satellites. Initiatives in this field all over the world are aimed at the development of competitive new generations of electric propulsion systems for the different types of markets and applications.

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