

ROSETTA - PHILAE

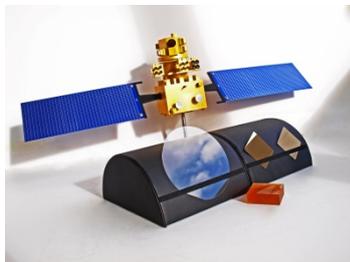
North Wales Industry blazing a technology trail in space

It has been an anxious year for those involved in the Rosetta mission. Landing a craft on a moving comet is a hard enough task in its self. But first having to wake that craft after it has been in deep sleep hibernation for nearly three years doesn't make the job any easier. Luckily, after a shaky start and three touchdowns, the Philae probe settled on the surface of a comet after its long journey onboard the Rosetta craft.

One thing they didn't have to worry about is the coverglass components on board supplied by Qioptiq. With well over 40 years of supplying these components, specifically for the space industry, Qioptiq heritage proves its reliability once more.

Qioptiq Coverglass is manufactured from ultra-thin ribbons of glass produced at the Qioptiq facility in Bodelwyddan, North Wales (UK). "We are one of the only facilities in the world producing this type of glass specifically for the space industry, supplying all of the Wests' satellites" Craig Taylor, head of Communications said.

This is a long standing ESA program for which, between 1998 and 2001, Qioptiq supplied CMG 100 coverglass. The glass is conductor coated and is 100 micron thick, as thin as a human hair. Yet these coverglasses are so robust they can be bent double without braking. They are used, in their hundreds, to cover the photovoltaic cells that provide the satellite with its power and protect them from the harsh extremes of space. Rosetta relies solely on solar cells for power generation. The two 14 meter long solar panels allow the craft to operate with only 4% of the sunlight levels on Earth.



Qioptiq has a long history with these satellites and a heritage that goes back to the early days of space exploration. We have been supplying the space industry for well over four decades and continue to be world leaders, supplying ultra-thin coated coverglass which protects the solar cells in the harsh environment of space and OSRs (Optical Solar Reflectors) for the thermal management of space craft for a myriad of programs.

Our unique expertise is recognised by industry and academia alike as we supply the vast majority of satellite programs with our highly specialised products. EADS Astrium has awarded Qioptiq "Master Supplier" status. EADS Astrium is a worldwide organization and an established leader in space technology.

Over the years Qioptiq products have been used on a substantial number of major satellite programs.

- Huygens - designed to explore the surface of Saturn's moon Titan.
- Messenger - designed to make the first orbital study of Mercury.
- Kepler - designed to seek out planets capable of sustaining life.
- Rosseta - designed to orbit a comet for a year-long study.
- Orion - designed for crewed missions to the Moon, asteroids, and Mars.
- ATV - designed to supply the International Space Station (ISS)

The International Rosetta Mission was approved in November 1993 and was launched on 2 March 2004 via an Ariane-5 G+ launch vehicle from Europe's spaceport in Kourou. It gets its name from the famous Rosetta stone that led to the deciphering of Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Qioptiq hold a unique place in the space industry, operating one of the world's only production facilities producing these products for space programs. Developments in coatings and production techniques keep us at the forefront to assist our customers in answering some of the mysteries of our universe.

PTO

Notes for Editors

Further information can be found on the Qioptiq Space Technology website - <http://www.qioptiq.com/space.html>
Datasheets are also available for download

About Qioptiq:

Qioptiq, an Excelitas Technologies Company, designs and manufactures photonic products and solutions that serve a wide range of markets and applications in the areas of medical and life sciences, industrial manufacturing, defense and aerospace, and research and development. Qioptiq benefits from having integrated the knowledge and experience of Avimo, Gsänger, LINOS, Optem, Pilkington, Point Source, Rodenstock, Spindler & Hoyer and others. In October 2013, Qioptiq was acquired by Excelitas Technologies Corp., a global technology leader focused on delivering innovative, customized solutions to meet the lighting, detection and other high-performance technology needs of OEM customers. The combined companies have approximately 5,300 employees in North America, Europe and Asia, serving customers across the world. Visit www.qioptiq.com and www.excelitas.com for more information.

#END#

For further information contact:

Craig Taylor - Qioptiq Communications Manager, Defence and Aerospace.
T: +44(0)1745 588002 | M: +44(0)7827 831519 | F: +44(0)1745 584258
E: Craig.taylor@uk.qioptiq.com | www.qioptiq.com | www.excelitas.com