MATERIALS AND STRUCTURES SYMPOSIUM (C2)
Space Environmental Effects and Spacecraft Protection (6)

Author: Prof. Antonio Paolozzi
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, Antonio.Paolozzi@uniroma1.it

Prof. Ignazio Ciufolini
Università del Salento, Italy, ignazio.ciufolini@unile.it
Prof. Luigi Schirone
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, luigi.schirone@uniroma1.it
Prof. Isidoro Peroni
Scuola di Ingegneria Aerospaziale, Italy, isidoro.peroni@uniroma1.it
Mr. Claudio Paris
Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, claudio.paris@uniroma1.it

TESTS OF LARES CUBE CORNER REFLECTORS IN SIMULATED SPACE ENVIRONMENT.

Abstract

LARES satellite will be launched with the maiden flight of the European new launch vehicle VEGA. The launch is foreseen sometimes in year 2011. The satellite is devoted to test a particular aspect of General Relativity: the Lense-Thirring effect. Tracking of the satellite is performed through laser ranging using laser pulses reflected by the 92 Cube Corner Reflectors (CCRs) mounted on the satellite. Objective of the mission is to measure the effect with a low error that can be reduced at a level of 1