Appendix K

Herschel experience on modelling and verification of active heater control

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Abstract

Herschel satellite was launched on May 14th, 2009 and is currently orbiting 1.5 million kilometres away from the earth on the second Lagrange point (L2) of the Sun-Earth system.

Main objective of the active thermal control system is the thermal stability of two HIFI instrument units $(3 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ °C/s})$ and of the Star Tracker mounting plate $(2.5 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ °C/s})$. After a brief introduction of the satellite, the presentation provides a general view on the lesson learnt from the thermal vacuum and thermal balance (TVTB) test performed in the ESA-ESTEC Large Space Simulator (LSS), control system design, thermal modelling and the current status of the ESA telescope.











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