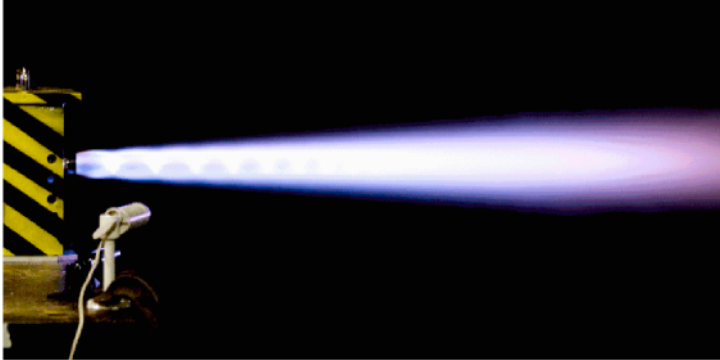




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## Press Release



with a space nozzle.

Orion's customer, Gary C. Hudson, CEO of HMX stated, "We've been wanting to add a gas-gas space qualified propulsion system to our capability for some time, and teaming up with Orion allowed us to greatly accelerate our plans due to their proven ability to support our rapid prototyping program. This is just the first of many joint projects we intend to pursue, which makes our collaboration even more exciting."

This engine offers many advantages in both the current and upcoming space markets. These include: reusability, affordability, high performance. Furthermore, the engine can burn Methane that is mined during Mars In-Situ missions, or stored on long-term orbit missions.

In the near future, Orion and HMX plan to jointly develop a product line based on this flexible engine design. The first application will be the t/Space CXV human spaceflight vehicle for NASA. The engine will also be qualified to burn a variety of easily stored propellants, including: propane/ nitrous oxide, ethane/ nitrous oxide, and hydrogen/ oxygen.

Orion Propulsion is a small and innovative aerospace company in Madison, Alabama, that is committed to affordable aerospace solutions. The Orion Propulsion team has over 30 years of experience in the aerospace industry. Orion Propulsion specializes in hot and



cold testing of rocket system devices. Orion personnel conduct the tests on either Orion or customer facilities. As demonstrated in July 2005, at Mojave, CA, Orion personnel conducted tests of AirLaunch LLC's *QuickReach* Stage Two LOX-Propane engine under direction of HMX, Inc. Earlier, in March 2005, Orion delivered and installed a 20k thrust mobile test stand to AirLaunch for this testing.

