



Belgorod State Technological
University named after V.G.
Shoukhov

25th Workshops on Radiation Monitoring for the International Space Station

Study of the Radiation Shielding Properties of the Composite Material in the ISS Service Module Crew Cabin

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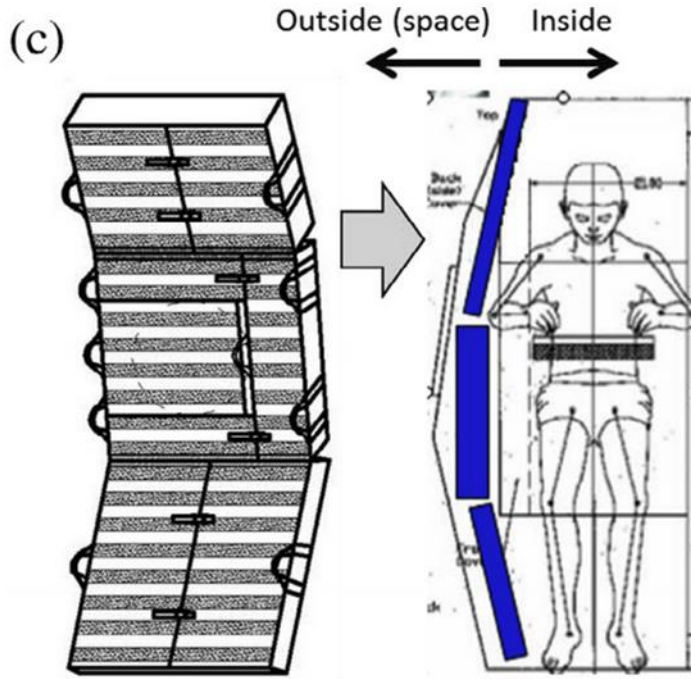
Mons, Belgium

RADIATION ON THE EARTH AND IN SPACE

Location and period of exposure	Dose, mSv
Background dose on the Earth's surface per day / per year	~0.003 / ~1
Dose aboard the space station per day / per year	0.7 / 250
Dose per chest x-ray	0.1
Dose from a powerful solar proton event in low Earth orbit/outside the magnetosphere	6 / >100
Dose for extravehicular activities (6 hours)	~ 0.6
Dose limit for an astronaut ~1 day / 1 month / 1 year	150 / 250 / 500
Dose limit for 1 year for group A personnel on Earth (on average for 5 years) in Russia	20
Occupational dose limit for cosmonaut / group A personnel (according to Russian standards)	1000

$\Delta(\text{Life Time}) \leq 3 \text{ years}$

EXPERIMENT ON SHIELDING AGAINST SPACE RADIATION (NEUTRONS INCLUDED) IN THE COSMONAUT'S CABIN ON THE RUSSIAN SEGMENT OF THE ISS



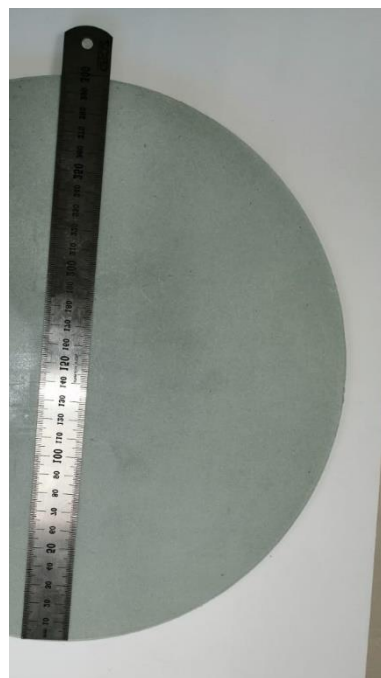
"Matryoshka-R" space experiment 3

PROPOSED POLYMER COMPOSITE (PC)

PC Composition: - 38,5 wt% polymer matrix (C₂F₄)_n - fluoroplast-4 (PTFE);
 - 58,5 wt% modified filler - bismuth oxide (Bi₂O₃)
 - 3 wt% nanodispersed filler - tungsten carbide (WC)

Atomic composition of PC

Content of atoms, wt %				
C	F	O	Bi	W
9,42	29,26	6,03	52,47	2,82

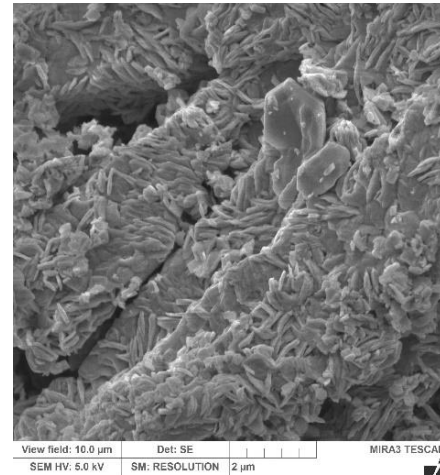
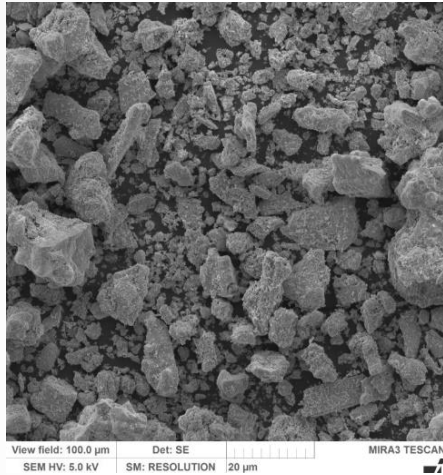


By the decision of the International Jury, the development was awarded the GOLD MEDAL of the XXII Moscow International Salon of Inventions and Innovative Technologies "Archimedes-2019".

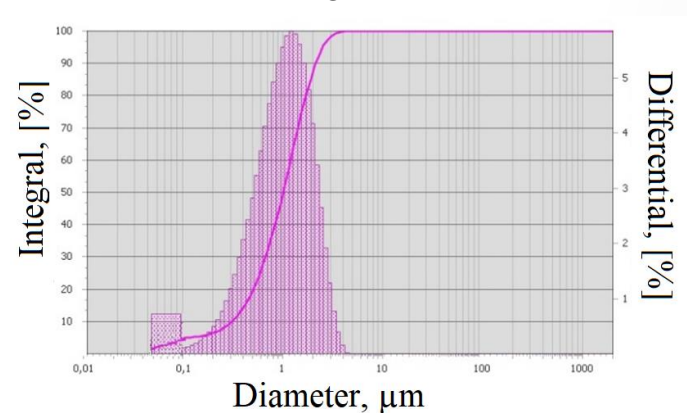
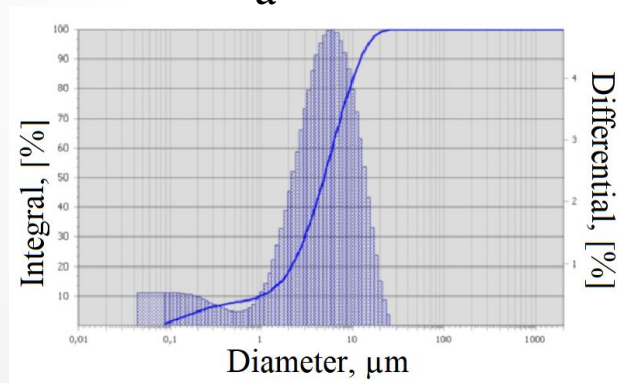
Experimental PC

BISMUTH OXIDE FILLER CHARACTERISTICS

Bismuth oxide ($\alpha\text{-Bi}_2\text{O}_3$)
(manufactured by Plant of Rare Metals LLC, Novosibirsk, Russia).



SEM image of particles $\alpha\text{-Bi}_2\text{O}_3$



Fractional compositions of the filler before (a) and after (b) physical-mechanical treatment
(wet grinding 6 h and ultrasonic treatment 30 min)

COMPOSITE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY



Static Testing Machine 300LX-B1-C3-J1C (Instron)

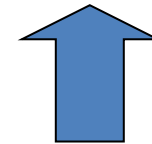
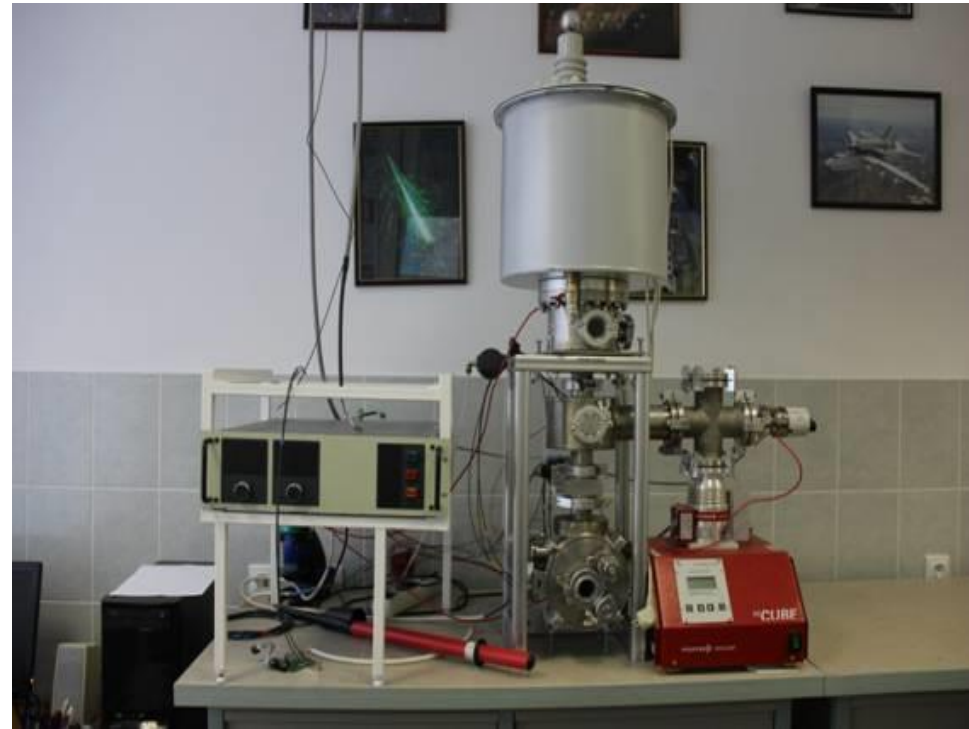
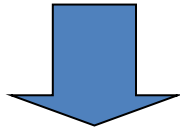
The technology includes cryogenic grinding, heating, pressing and hardening.

PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF THE COMPOSITE

Density, g/cm³	4,0
Bending strength, MPa	12
Compressive strength, MPa	17
Tensile modulus, GPa	0.38
Elongation at break, %	4.5
Microhardness (according to Brinell), HV	27
Operating temperature, °C: - on air - in vacuum ($P=1.4 \cdot 10^{-5}$ Pa)	от -170 до 250 от -170 до 320
Thermal cycling -170....+150 °C, cycles	> 50
Electrical strength, kV/mm	17
Dielectric constant (10^3 Hz)	3.3
Specific electrical resistance, Ohm·m	10^{17}
Thermal conductivity, W/(m·K)	0.24
Radiation resistance, MGy	5

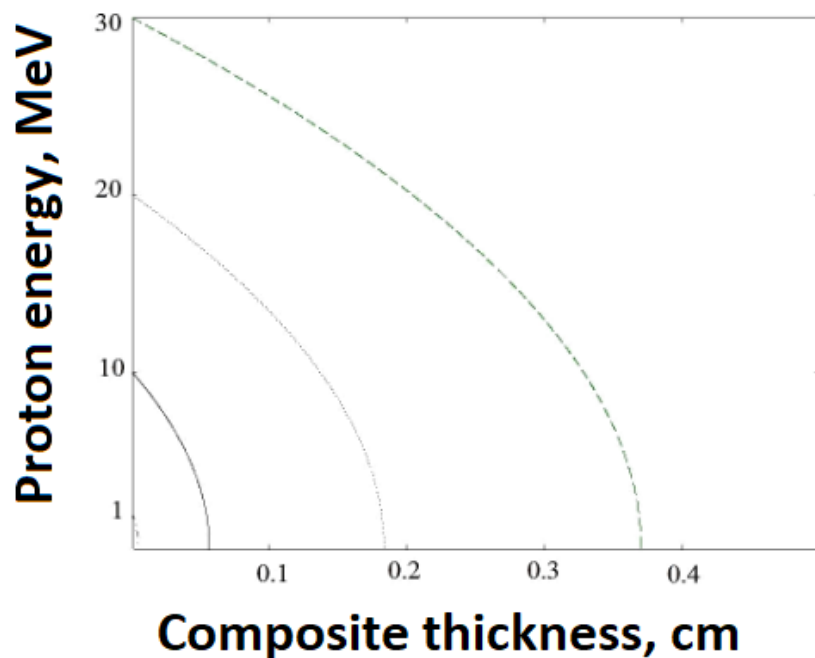
NEAR-EARTH SIMULATION FACILITIES OUTER SPACE

Vacuum Ultraviolet (VUV) Testing
Machine for PC
in conditions close to near-Earth space

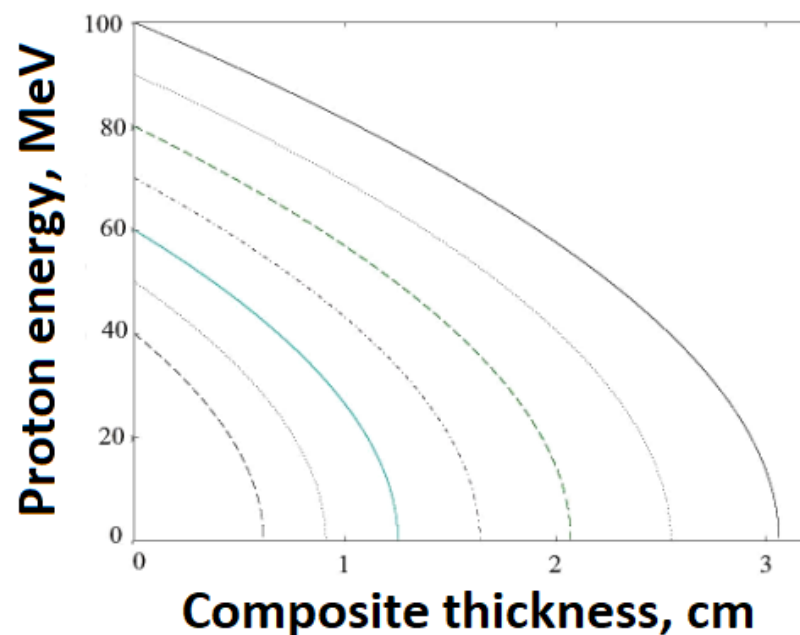


Installation for Irradiation of PC with
Fast Electrons under Conditions
Approximate to Near-Earth Space

PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF THE PASSAGE OF PROTON RADIATION THROUGH A PC



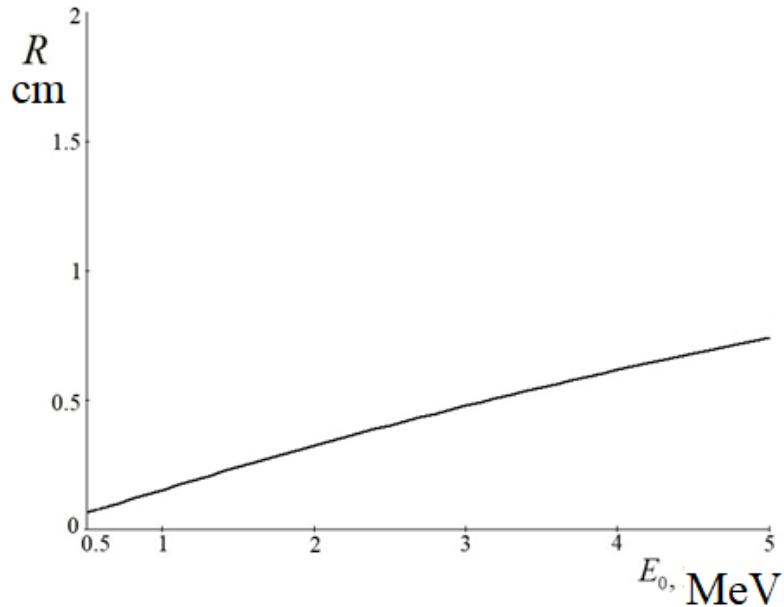
Proton energy change
(10 - 30 MeV), passed in the PC
path x (cm)



Proton energy change
(40 - 100 MeV), passed in the PC path
 x (cm)

**Effective range (L) of protons with $E = 100$ MeV $L=3.0$ cm in PC
(in Al - 3.6 cm); at $E = 40$ MeV $L=0.63$ cm in PC (in Al - 0.70 cm)**

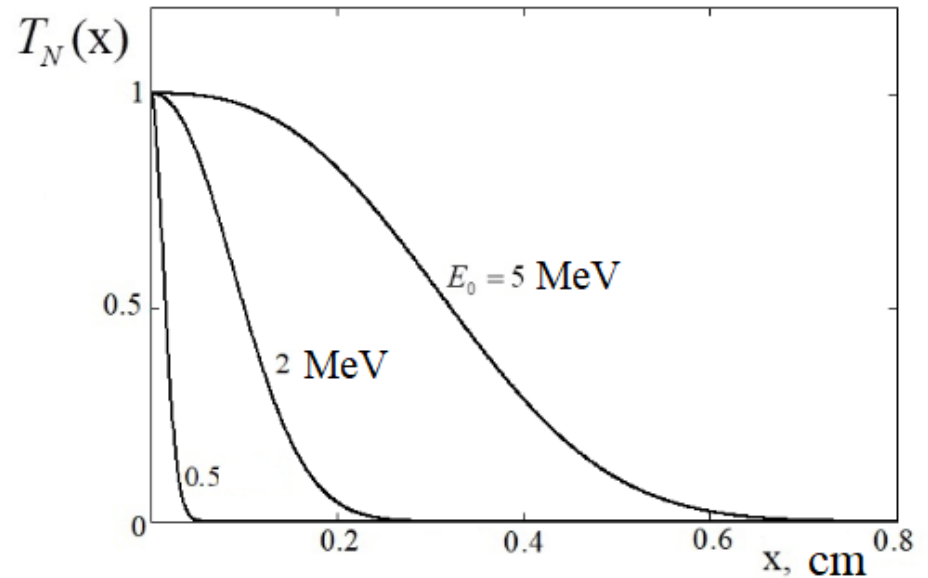
PHYSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SIMULATION OF THE PASSAGE OF FAST ELECTRONS THROUGH A PC



Effective electron range in PC
versus electron energy

Effective range of electrons

($E=5$ MeV) in PC - 0.58 cm (in Al - 0.95 cm)



Electron Transmittance for normal fall
(90 deg.) on PC versus electron energy

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS ON γ -IRRADIATION OF PC

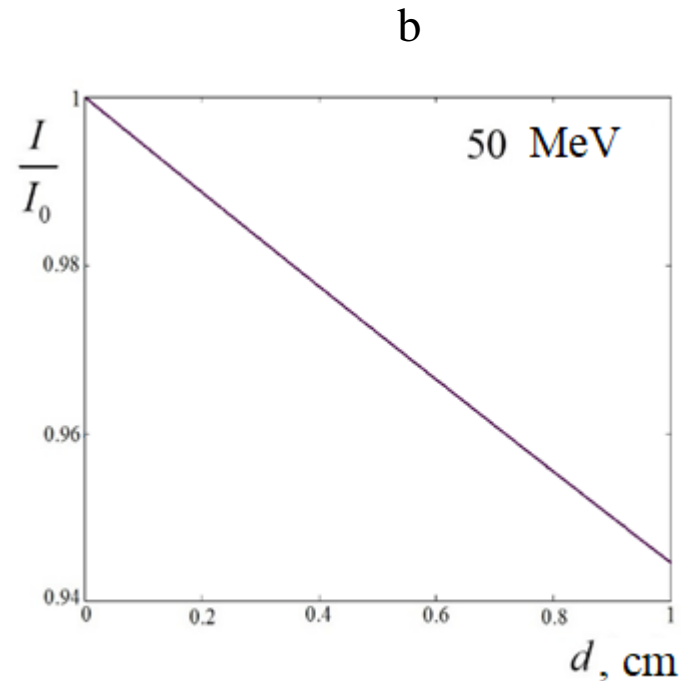
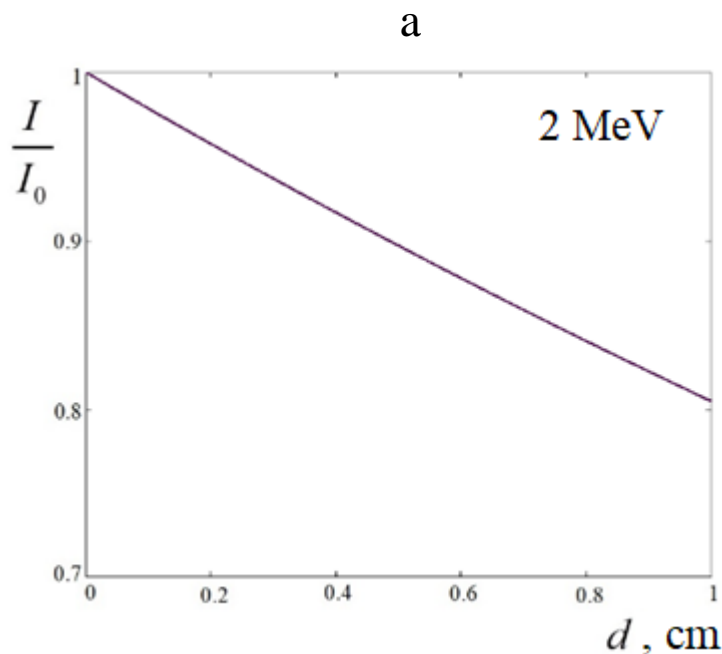
Comparative characteristics of radiation-protective properties at $E_\gamma = 0,66 \text{ MeV}$ (^{137}Cs)

Parameter	PC	Al
Linear attenuation coefficient of γ - radiation, μ , cm^{-1}	0.79	0.20
Mass factor attenuation of γ - radiation, μ_m , cm^2 / g	3.39	0.56

Comparative characteristics of radiation-protective properties
at $E_\gamma = 1,25 \text{ MeV}$ (^{60}Co)

Parameter	PC	Al
Linear attenuation coefficient of γ - radiation, μ , cm^{-1}	0.40	0.15
Mass factor attenuation of γ - radiation, μ_m , cm^2 / g	1.72	0.42

THEORETICAL RESULTS ON NEUTRON EXPOSURE



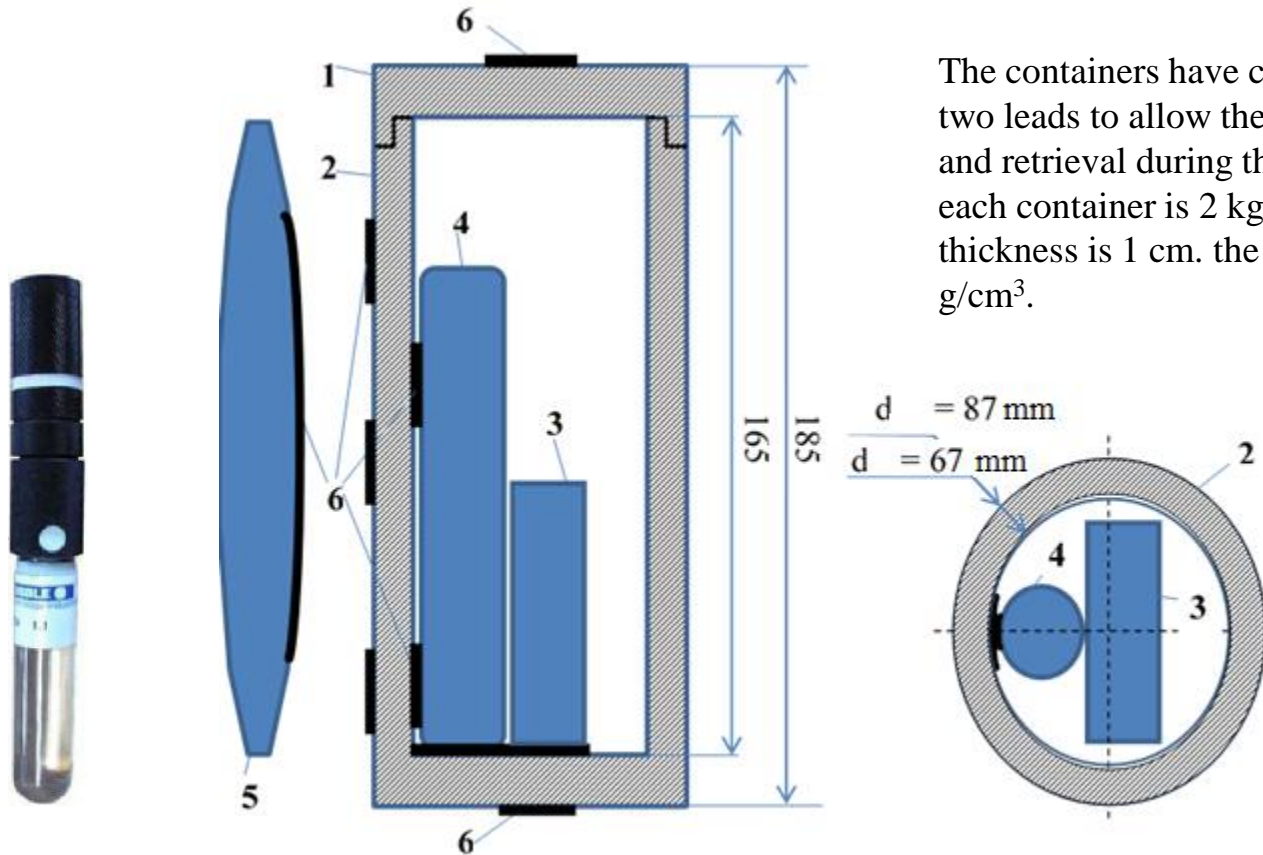
Attenuation of neutron flux when passing through a protective composite at energy of:

a – 2 MeV; b – 50 MeV

When passing through the developed protective composite 1 cm thick, the neutron flux decreases by 19.0 and 5.5% at neutron energies of 2 and 50 MeV, respectively.

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT USED in "PROTECTIVE COMPOSITE" SPACE EXPERIMENT

On February 17, 2022 two containers from the composite material together with passive detectors were delivered to ISS by Progress-MC-19 cargo spacecraft.



The containers have cylindrical form with two leads to allow the detectors placement and retrieval during the flight; the mass of each container is 2 kg, the container wall thickness is 1 cm. the material density is 4 g/cm^3 .

Design model of a radiation shield in the form of a container: 1 – container cover; 2 – container body; 3 - DI-MTS detector, 4 - Pille-ISS detector; 5 - Bubble dosimeter in a case; 6 - Velcro fastener

DOSIMETER "PILLE-ISS"



Developed by the Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Energiatudományi Kutatóközpont (Hungarian Academy of Sciences Energy Science Research Center, Hungary) and the Institute of Biomedical Problems Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia).

It was delivered as a regular dosimeter in 2003. Currently in use.

Main functions:

- measurement of the absorbed dose at various points in the compartments of the Russian segment of the ISS;
- dose measurement during out-of-ship activities;
- automatic measurements of doses by a sensor inside the console;
- individual dosimetric control.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE "PILLE-ISS" DOSIMETER

It consists of a set of sensors and a remote control in which the accumulated information is read and written to the memory card.

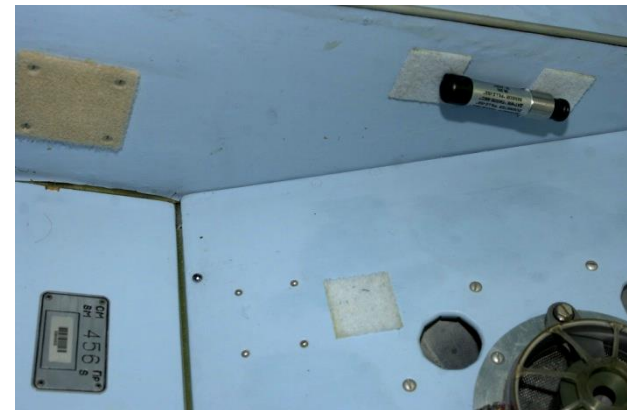
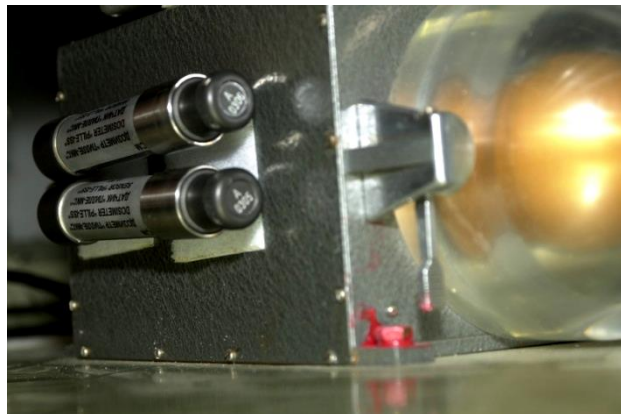


Detectors – thermoluminescent
(material $\text{CaSO}_4 : \text{Dy}$)

	Dimensions, mm	Weight, kg	Power consumption, W
Control pane	213x126x70	1.5	10
Detector	Ø 23x120	0.08	-

The measurement error from 10 μGy is less than 5%

PHOTO OF THE «PILLE-ISS» DOSIMETER ON THE RUSSIAN SEGMENT OF THE ISS



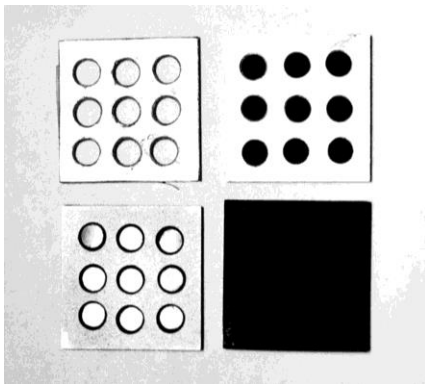
DOSIMETER INDIVIDUAL FOR A MANNED TRANSPORT SHIP (DI-MTS)

The dosimeter provides:

- registration of the integral absorbed dose from the flow of charged particles of solar cosmic radiation, galactic cosmic radiation, radiation belts of the Earth in the range from $1 \cdot 10^{-4}$ to 5 Gy;
- measurement of the linear energy transfer spectrum of charged particles in the range from 5 to 700 keV/ μm ;
- determination of the radiation quality factor (by calculation after ground processing);
- determination of the equivalent dose in the range from $1 \cdot 10^{-4}$ to 10 Sv.

The dosimeter consists of:

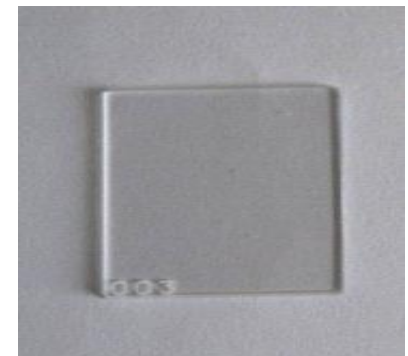
- holder with 9 thermoluminescent detectors (TLD), 2 pieces maximum
- solid state track detector (SSTD), 2 pieces maximum.



Holder for TLD



Appearance of the detector



SSTD

Overall dimensions of the detector: 80x65x20 mm.

SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT USED IN "PROTECTIVE COMPOSITE" SPACE EXPERIMENT ON THE RUSSIAN SEGMENT OF THE ISS



Photo of a container from radiation-protective composite



Photo of scientific equipment



Photo of scientific equipment on the ISS

CARRYING OUT "PROTECTIVE COMPOSITE" SPACE EXPERIMENT ABOARD THE ISS



Russian cosmonaut Sergei Korsakov conducts the "Protective composite" space experiment on the Russian Segment of the ISS



Scientific equipment of "Protective composite" space experiment in hands of the hero of Russia, cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov on the Russian segment of the ISS

DATA OF «PILLE-ISS» DOSIMETER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE CONTAINERS

Date of data transfer to Earth	Dose, μGy			
	First container		Second container	
	inside the container	in the styling pocket	inside the container	in the styling pocket
03/21/2022	$1.04 \cdot 10^4$	$1.5 \cdot 10^4$	$7.31 \cdot 10^3$	$1.59 \cdot 10^4$
04/19/2022	$9.68 \cdot 10^3$	$1.31 \cdot 10^4$	$6.97 \cdot 10^3$	$1.54 \cdot 10^4$
05/26/2022	$1.22 \cdot 10^4$	$1.69 \cdot 10^4$	$9.31 \cdot 10^3$	$2.07 \cdot 10^4$
06/29/2022	$1.09 \cdot 10^4$	$1.54 \cdot 10^4$	$8.04 \cdot 10^3$	$1.78 \cdot 10^4$
07/22/2022	$7.6 \cdot 10^3$	$1.05 \cdot 10^4$	$5.81 \cdot 10^3$	$1.21 \cdot 10^4$
08/25/2022	$1.08 \cdot 10^4$	$1.49 \cdot 10^4$	$8.11 \cdot 10^3$	$1.73 \cdot 10^3$

The results obtained in recent sessions demonstrate high shielding properties of the composite material as the absorbed dose inside the containers is from 30 to 60 % lower than that outside on the crew cabin wall.

CONCLUSION

1. A unique polymer composite material was developed and patented in Russia to protect crewmembers and sensitive electronic components from space radiation in-flight.
2. On ground studies demonstrated high shielding properties of the composite materials for low energy electron and proton fluxes. The on ground studies were followed by the space experiment in the ISS Russian Segment.
3. The results obtained in recent sessions demonstrate high shielding properties of the composite material as the absorbed dose inside the containers is from 30 to 60 % lower than that outside on the crew cabin wall.
4. The study will be continued in 2023.

Gratitude to the cosmonauts for research in the Russian segment of the ISS:



Sergei
Korsakov



Petr
Dubrov



Anton
Shkaplerov



Oleg
Artemiev



Denis
Matveev