



*For Immediate Release*

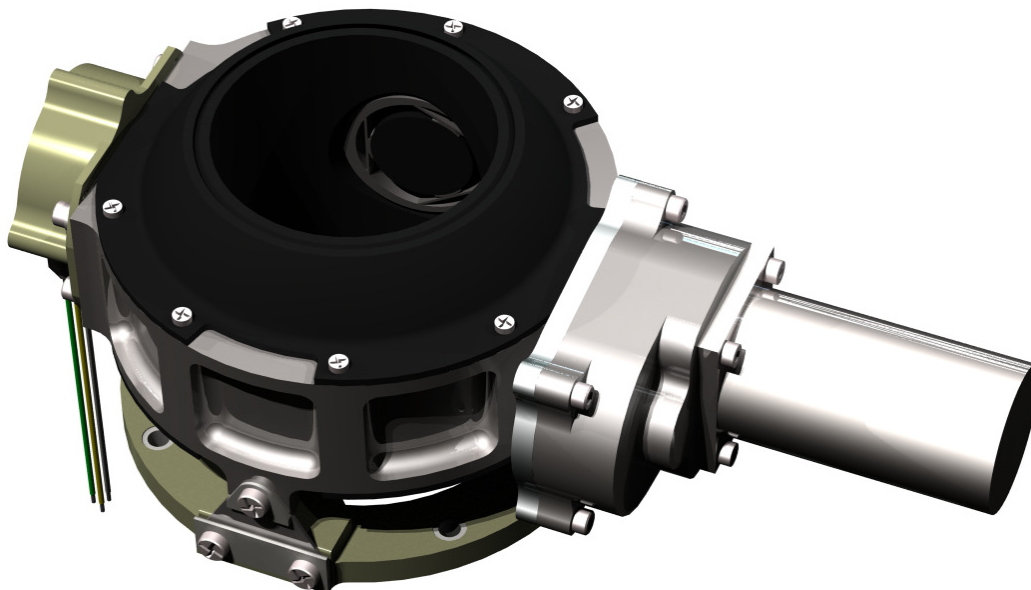
## **ROCKETSTAR ROBOTICS AWARDED DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING CONTRACT FOR OPTICAL SHUTTER MECHANISMS ON SPACE INTERFEROMETRY MISSION**

Contact: Douglas Petercsak      877.423.7795      [info@rocketstarrobotics.com](mailto:info@rocketstarrobotics.com)

CAMARILLO, CALIFORNIA – March 27, 2008 – Rocketstar Robotics, an innovator in the design, analysis and manufacturer of mechanisms and actuators for spaceflight applications, today announced that it has been placed under contract to design and manufacture optical shutter mechanisms for the Space Interferometry Mission (SIM).

SIM is a space telescope being developed for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to search for earth sized planets orbiting other stars. The spacecraft will utilize optical interferometry to accomplish several scientific goals. The technique of interferometry will collect light through multiple telescope mirrors, in this case two, as if they were one large mirror. In addition to hunting for extrasolar planets, SIM will attempt to help astronomers construct a map of the Milky Way Galaxy. Other important tasks will include collecting data to help pinpoint stellar mass for specific types of stars and assisting in the determination of the spatial distribution of dark matter in the universe. The last task will be accomplished by measuring galactic motion.

The device that is being designed and built by Rocketstar Robotics opens and closes an optical path to the spacecraft's instruments. The shutter features an optical target for calibration purposes and has been designed to provide fail-safe operation. Magnetic latches provide end of travel locking and telemetry feedback.



**Figure 1 - Solid Model of SIM Optical Shutter Mechanism**

In selecting Rocketstar Robotics to develop this complex mechanism JPL recognizes the value of Rocketstar's engineering and manufacturing team. Spacecraft mechanisms often represent a high risk to mission success.

Rocketstar Robotics has over 70 years of combined spaceflight mechanisms design, analysis and manufacturing experience available to help our customers reduce risks while meeting their goals. Our engineering talent is well known throughout the industry.

### **About Rocketstar Robotics**

Dedicated to providing actuators and mechanisms for spaceflight applications Rocketstar Robotics features a management and engineering team with over 70 years of experience in the design and manufacture of spacecraft motors, gearboxes, actuators and mechanisms. Rocketstar Robotics engineers have designed an unparalleled number of mechanisms for Mars applications and are experienced in an extensive range of transmission, motor, telemetry and mechanism designs. Applications include:

- Spacecraft mechanisms and actuators
- Gimbals for pointing antennas, cameras and instruments
- Solar array drives
- Deployment actuators
- Robotic manipulators
- Reaction and momentum wheels
- Filter wheels
- Sampling systems
- Aperture covers

For more information, please visit <http://www.rocketstarrobotics.com>.

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