

INTERNAL WIRE-TRIGGERED PULSED CATHODIC ARC PROPULSION SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

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Disclosed herein is a propulsion system comprising: a solid conductive or semiconductive cathode (130); an anode (110) having a potential difference relative to said cathode (130), said potential difference creating an electric field between said anode (110) and said cathode (130); and an insulated trigger (150) adapted to trigger an arc discharge from a point on a upper surface of said cathode (130) in pulses, when said trigger (150) and cathode (130) are substantially in a vacuum, said trigger being bounded within the cathode so that the point at which the arc is triggered is located on the upper surface of said cathode.

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[Fig. 12]