

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	REGIMES FOR THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE EXPLORATION	2
3.	RADIOISOTOPE POWER DEVICES	7
3.1.	TEGs	7
3.2.	Thermionic converters	13
3.3.	Soviet/Russian TEG developments	14
3.4.	Safety	17
3.5.	Future applications	17
4.	REACTORS IN SPACE	18
4.1.	US experience	18
4.1.1.	Studies of on-board nuclear reactors	20
4.2.	Soviet/Russian experience	23
4.2.1.	Romashka NPS	23
4.2.2.	BUK NPS	26
4.2.3.	TOPAZ NPS	29
4.2.4.	Yenisey (TOPAZ-2) NPS	31
5.	NUCLEAR PROPULSION SYSTEMS	34
5.1.	US directions	36
5.1.1.	Safe affordable fission engine (SAFE)	37
5.1.2.	Heat pipe operated Mars exploration reactor (HOMER)	38
5.2.	Soviet/Russian directions	40
5.2.1.	IGR reactor	41
5.2.2.	IVG-1 experimental bench reactor	42
5.2.3.	IRGIT reactor	45
5.3.	Future applications	47
6.	SAFETY	48
7.	OTHER INTERNATIONAL SPACE PROGRAMMES	50

7.1. China	50
7.2. France	52
7.3. India	53
7.4. Italy	54
7.5. Japan	55
8. THE FUTURE	55
8.1. Nuclear energy for interplanetary missions	55
8.2. International projects	57
8.2.1. Mars Together	57
8.2.2. TOPAZ-2	57
8.3. The road ahead	60
8.4. USA: Future directions	66
8.4.1. Variable specific impulse magneto-plasma rocket (VASIMR)	68
8.4.2. Ion engines	68
8.5. Russian Federation: Future directions	69
8.5.1. Transport and energy module TEM	70
8.5.2. Advanced thermionic NPS	71
8.5.3. Advanced NPSs using the external energy conversion systems	74
8.5.4. Advanced nuclear systems using lithium–niobium technology	76
8.5.5. Gas core NTP	77
8.5.6. Nuclear photon engines for deep space exploration ...	79
8.6. New technologies through nuclear space systems engineering	80
8.7. The value of space technology in terrestrial applications	91
8.7.1. Research and development	91
8.7.2. Products, equipment and materials	92
8.8. Problems to be solved in space by the use of nuclear power ..	98
9. CONCLUSIONS	101
10. LOOKING AHEAD	104
APPENDIX I: EVALUATION OF MARS MISSIONS	107
APPENDIX II: SPACECRAFT LAUNCHES INVOLVING RADIOISOTOPE SYSTEMS	108

APPENDIX III:	SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS	111
APPENDIX IV:	CASSINI SPACECRAFT	114
APPENDIX V:	AMTEC	115
APPENDIX VI:	PROPULSION PERFORMANCE	116
APPENDIX VII:	THE ROVER PROGRAMME	117
APPENDIX VIII:	COMPARISON OF REACTOR SIZES.....	118
APPENDIX IX:	SOVIET NUCLEAR POWER SYSTEMS IN SPACE	119
APPENDIX X:	SPACE EXPLORATION AGENCIES AND CONTRACTORS	121
APPENDIX XI:	INTERNET REFERENCES	125
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	129
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	131
	CONTRIBUTORS TO DRAFTING AND REVIEW	133