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Groundbased Studies of Spacecraft Glow and Erosion  
Caused by Impact of Oxygen and Nitrogen Beams\*

W.D. Langer, S.A. Cohen, D.M. Manos, R.W. Motley and S.F. Paul

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, P.O. Box 451, Princeton, NJ 08544

To simulate surface reactions in the space environment we have developed a groundbased facility that produces a very high flux ( $10^{14}$  to  $10^{16}$ /cm<sup>2</sup>/s) of low energy (2-20 eV) neutral atoms and molecules. The neutral beams are created using a novel method involving neutralization and reflection of ions from a biased limiter, where the ions are extracted from a toroidal plasma source. We present spectra of emission due to beam-solid interactions on targets of Chemglaze Z-306 optical paint and Kapton. We measured erosion yields for carbon and Kapton targets with low energy ( $\sim 10$  eV) nitrogen and oxygen beams. The reaction rates and surface morphology for the erosion of Kapton are similar to those measured in experiments on STS-5.

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