

6 (J)

This project was supported as a feasibility Study and as a result has achieved proof of principle. They now wish to apply for a development grant.

In essence the Emdrive utilises solar energy to produce microwaves that, in turn result in thrust. It is estimated a combination of thrusters using 1 kilowatt of power could lift 4 tons. Currently the fuel payload weighs about 1.5 tons so the energy benefits and cost saving could be considerable.

Whilst the idea is novel, I have serious doubts about its commercial viability. There is no evidence of route to market. The applicants view is that unless he can produce a demonstrator he will be unable to stimulate market interest. A large element of the project cost was for marketing, which was designed to do this, but as I explained this is not eligible expenditure.

The 70% funding is made up of shareholder loan promissory notes. The Consultancy and Subcontract cost appear to be being paid with share options.

I have asked them to address the commercial issues and to review the finance to a sounder basis. Perhaps a guarantee from the bank to provide cash against the loans.

I do not feel able to support this project at this stage, I believe we should commission new expert advice. There it seems are other solutions being developed and even though this idea /concept has merit it is not certain that the Space Industry would buy into it.

[REDACTED]  
24/April 03

[REDACTED] please seek expert advice.  
They may wish to see the applicants  
+ technical review and joint report  
from feasibility. [REDACTED]