



Press-Release

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Drop Tower Catapult gets stormy

After many years of announcements, discussions, postponements, re-announcements, design and preparation, the drop tower catapult now enters the stormy phase.

The catapult, designed to almost double the microgravity time of the Bremen drop tower by throwing the capsule into a vertical parabola from underneath the tower instead of simply dropping it, is now under construction.

The fotos show the pre-assembled main parts at the constructors site. It is the extension of the vacuum section confining the cylinder and the acceleration piston in the center surrounded by the pressure vessels below and the vacuum vessels on top. While the pressure vessels restore the energy to drive the piston, the vacuum vessels shall serve for safety purposes. In case of any failure during acceleration the energy will be released into the vacuum vessels through pyrotechnically opened thin discs separating the two confinements.

These parts will be delivered to ZARM in calender week 44 and be immediatly installed underneath the tower. Installation of the cylinder is foreseen for calender week 49. The catapult is foreseen to enter the operation test phase early in 2004.

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