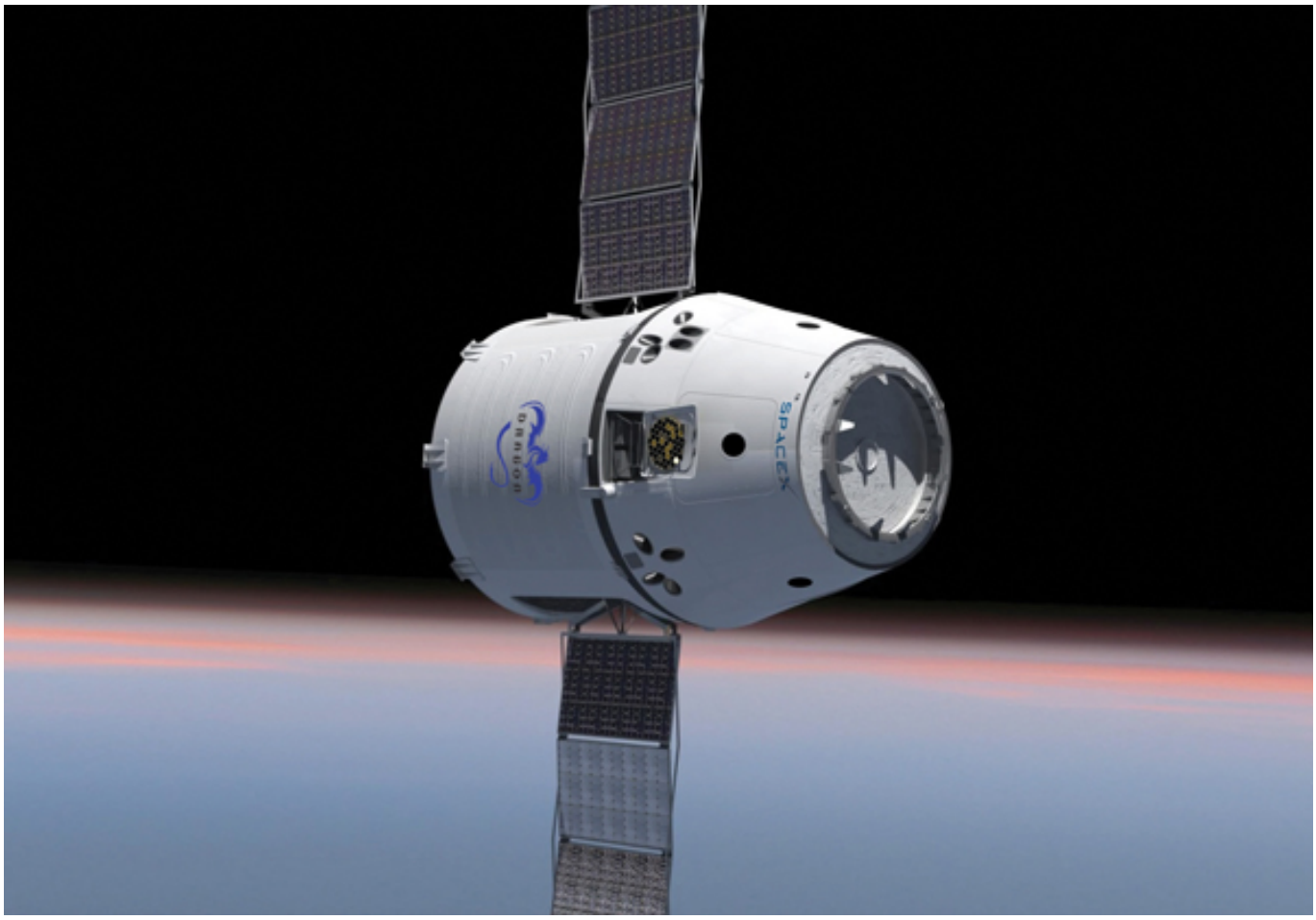
maxon motors fly into outer space on board the "Dragon" spacecraft

The flawless launch of the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on May 22, 2012 is another successful step for maxon motor ag in the use of high precision motors in the astronautics industry. The crucial tasks of the maxon motors in the SpaceX mission included orienting the solar arrays of the Dragon spacecraft towards the sun to provide the power supply.



The first private cargo capsule in the history of space travel was launched into space on May 22, 2012 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.The voyage of the unmanned “Dragon" spacecraft, developed by the Californian company SpaceX, was a historical event for all involved. Never before has a private company developed a combined spacecraft and launch system that is capable of undertaking an orbital rendezvous and then returning to earth

maxon brushless motors were used on the voyage to the ISS to rotate the solar arrays to keep them aligned with the sun as Dragon orbited the earth, open the instrument bay door which contains navigation equipment, and lock in place the fixture that allows Dragon to be grappled by the space station’s robotic arm.

On May 25, 2012, astronaut Donald Pettit successfully used the 17.6 meter robotic arm of the ISS to grapple the Dragon and guide it to the docking point on the space station. The 4.4 meter tall Dragon spacecraft supplied 520 kg (1146 pounds) of scientific equipment and food to the ISS. On May 31, the six ton capsule detached from the ISS and splashed down under parachutes in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California on the same day. The capsule was returning 660 kg (1455 pounds) of material from the ISS. Now that NASA has phased out its space shuttle program, the Dragon is the only means of transporting such large quantities of material back to earth.

The maxon team has been working on the SpaceX motor project for the last year. This is a milestone in the history of maxon, and the story isn't over yet, as NASA has contracted with SpaceX for another twelve flights to the ISS. In a few years, the spacecraft will carry seven astronauts to the international space station.

Source URL (retrieved on *03/09/2014 - 2:50pm*):
http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2012/07/maxon-motors-fly-outer-space-board-dragon-spacecraft