

Mr. Vasileios M. Drakonakis (Dipl. Ing. 2008, Mechanical and Aeronautics Eng) has conducted research as an undergrad at the Composite Materials Groups (CMG) (10 /2006 – 09 / 2007) and the Applied Mechanics Laboratory (AML) (05 /2005 – 12 / 2006) of University of Patras, under Prof George Papanicolaou and Prof Vassilis Kostopoulos respectively; a research associate at the Polymeric Composites Laboratory (PCL) under Prof James Seferis from 10 / 2007 to present; a PhD Candidate at the Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering Dept of University of Cyprus under Prof Charalambos Doumanidis from 09 / 2008 to present; and a visiting graduate student at the Aeronautics and Astronautics Dept of Massachusetts Institute of Technology under Prof Brian Wardle from 12 / 2008 to present. His research expertise is in applied mechanics, composite materials processing and manufacturing, nanocomposites, thermal analysis characterization, materials strength and thermal engineering. He has been a member of European Association of Aerospace Students, an association with presence in more than 31 universities around Europe and more than 1,400 members, and elected at the International Board 2006 -2007 and local board 2005-2007 of the association. He has also been responsible for performing the Young Engineer Satellite 2 (YES2) thermal analysis and design, a project of the European Space Agency (ESA). Furthermore, he was part of the core of the ATLAS1 team that designed and manufactured a small aircraft made by carbon fiber reinforced composite materials at University of Patras; his main responsibility was the manufacturing process. The Atlas team was awarded as the winner of the 2009 Young Aerospace Engineer of the Year – Technology and Innovation; The Technology and Innovation Award: “Aerospace Testing, Design and Manufacturing 2009”. Finally, his work so far is documented in over 20 papers in scientific journals and conferences as well as in 5 national newspapers.