

Press release

Auriga™ star tracker

- A VERSION WITH ENHANCED RADIATION HARDENING
- A NEW 26° BAFFLE

January 31st 2023 - Sodern is pleased to announce the launch of an upgraded version of the Auriga™ star tracker and of a new 26° baffle.

The Auriga™ star tracker is packed with the latest high-tech components and is optimized for the small satellite markets of less than 500kg and for New Space projects as of 6U. The new version of Auriga™ offers improved optical performance and a thicker casing for enhanced protection against radiation. These improvements allow a lifetime of over 15 years in geostationary orbit and 10 years in low Earth orbit (LEO 400-1,200km). In addition to the 35° baffle, a 26° baffle is now available.



The Auriga™ star tracker, with its standardized components, is specifically designed to meet cost reduction objectives while offering excellent technical performance and reliability. Auriga™ is the legacy of 50 years of Sodern experience in space equipment development and the Hydra high-performance star trackers. Auriga™ offers fast acquisition of about 3 seconds for an accuracy of 5 arc seconds.

The highly advanced Sodern industrialization process guarantees a very short lead time of a few weeks, with several hundred Auriga™ available off-the-shelf at all times.

Furthermore, its reduced volume (66 x 59 x 94 mm) and its weight of 225g make it the most compact star tracker in its category.

“Auriga has revolutionized the star tracker market both through its extremely compact design and far lower price than a traditional star tracker, and through its production time of only a few hours. Auriga has established itself as the new standard in the star tracker market. While initially produced for OneWeb, over 50 customers have now placed their trust in us”, says Fabien Robert, Vice-President Sales & Marketing of Sodern.

Over 1,000 Auriga™ are in orbit with a mission success rate of 100%. These trackers equip constellations of connectivity satellites such as OneWeb, Earth observation satellites and many CubeSats.

The Auriga™ star tracker exists in two models:

- Auriga™-CP (Centralized Processing) whose optical head incorporates image pre-processing, with the star tracker software being implemented in the satellite's On-Board Computer (OBC);
- Auriga™-SA (Stand-Alone) operates the Auriga™ optical head in a CP version, with the star tracker software implemented in a specific electronic unit, supplied by Sodern.

Auriga™ star trackers are available within 60 days after ordering for quantities of up to 50 items.

The proposed price before tax starts from 49,000€ for a single optical head; and from 45,000€ for the electronic unit, depending on the required configuration.

It is also possible to order a specific Auriga™ Ground Optical Simulation system.

An online price simulator is now available on Sodern.com for an immediate quote.

Contact:

Isabelle DE OLIVEIRA
Communication Manager
isabelle.deoliveira@sodern.fr

About Sodern

Sodern draws on sixty years of experience in optronics and neutron technology to design innovative and competitive solutions for stakeholders in space, defense, industry and research. A world leader in star trackers and neutron systems for analyzing and detecting materials, Sodern is internationally recognized for its expertise in very high technology equipment. Subsidiary of the European leader in access to space, ArianeGroup, Sodern employs 450+ highly quality people. Its 2022 turnover is over 80M€.

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