

Rachel Leach

Rachel Leach, Ph.D. began her career with MicroSat Systems, Inc. (MSI) in July of 2007 as a Systems Engineer and is primarily working on the Demonstration and Science Experiments (DSX), along with the WrapSat program. Currently she is busy assisting the DSX Integration and Test team.

Rachel is originally from Pontypridd, a small town in South Wales, United Kingdom. She graduated from Leicester University in 1997, where she attained an MPhys. degree in Physics with a Space Science and Technology emphasis. Rachel then went on to continue her graduate studies at the University of Birmingham in Physics and Astronomy and completed her Ph.D. in 2001.

While attending the Small Satellite Conference in Logan, Utah, Rachel was recruited to work for Design_Net Engineering (Dnet) where she worked for six years before joining the MSI team. During her time at Dnet, Dr. Leach identified a niche in the aerospace market for precision micro-propulsion devices and subsequently invented and patented the Hybrid Electric-Laser Propulsion (HELP) system.



Rachel scuba diving

Besides her research, Rachel also has a keen interest in a wide range of physical activities. She has been an international competitor in the sport of Judo for over two decades, achieving the No. 1 rank in Great Britain and becoming the British National Universities Champion. Furthermore, she has been on the Welsh Commonwealth Games squad in 1994, 1998, and 2002. She also competed at a high-level in skiing, and achieved a position on the Welsh racing squad. Rachel enjoys rock climbing at the international level, snowboarding, rollerblading, scuba diving, paragliding, and downhill mountain biking (last summer she raced and won the Winter Park Mountain Bike Race Series).



Rachel, Rhodri, & Titan back country skiing

Rachel has been married for six and half years to her husband, Rhodri. They enjoy hiking and trail running with their dog, Titan, and have become regular "DIY weekend warriors" in their endeavor to fix-up their house.