

STEP, the satellite test of the equivalence principle: technology development status

J. Mester for the STEP Collaboration,

Hansen Laboratory, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-4085 USA

mester@relgyro.stanford.edu

An overview of STEP, the Satellite test of the Equivalence Principle will be presented. This space-based experiment will test the universality of free fall and is designed to advance the present state of knowledge by over 5 orders of magnitude. Emphasis will be given to the status of ongoing technology development, including accelerometer fabrication and test. The transfer of critical technologies successfully demonstrated in flight by the Gravity Probe B mission will be discussed.