

# OPTICAL POSITIONING ACTUATORS



Linear actuators with high-fidelity positioning capabilities are required for aligning large optical payloads used in ground-based telescopes and the testing of space-based optical systems. Moog has developed and fielded high performance actuators that meet the needs of these demanding applications. High precision components, including a fine pitch, preloaded roller screw,

high gear ratio/backlash-free harmonic drive, flexured or preloaded end-joints, and high resolution encoders lead to exceptional positioning capability even under high loads. These customizable actuators can be incorporated into a wide variety of architectures including gimbals, tripods, and hexapods.

### TELESCOPE ACTUATOR FEATURES

- High load capacity
- High stiffness
- · High resolution
- High repeatability
- High accuracy
- Self-locking
- Vacuum-compatible
- · Low heat dissipation
- · Long life









# HIGH LOAD OPTICAL POSITIONING ACTUATORS

The OPA series actuators are used for static positioning or slow tracking operation where minimum incremental step size, repeatability, and/or accuracy are critical. These precision actuators have high stiffness, handle heavy loads, and avoid backdriving making them ideally suited for the alignment of large optics. Outdoor, cleanroom, and vacuum-compatible versions are available. Customization of stroke length, end-joints, and other features is common to meet program-specific requirements.

## **APPLICATIONS**

- Ground-based telescope mirror positioning
- Testing of space-based telescopes and optical systems
- · Beam/laser pointing

#### PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS





**OPA-400** OPA-500 Model

| Stroke Length <sup>1</sup>                     | 28 mm  | 160 mm  |
|--|--|---|
| Minimum Incremental Step Size                  | 0.1 μm   | 0.1 μm  |
| Repeatability (Unidirectional)                 | < 1 µm   | < 3 µm  |
| Repeatability (Bidirectional)                  | < 3 µm   | < 10 µm   |
| Accuracy                                       | < 0.05% of Full Range                                    | < 0.1% of Full Range  |
| Max Speed                                      | 1.17 mm/s (0.5 mm/s Continuous)                          | 1.17 mm/s (0.5 mm/s Continuous)   |
| Axial Load Capacity                            | 39.2 kN  | 39.2 kN   |
| Stiffness (Excluding End-Joints)               | 217 N/μm   | 277 N/μm  |
| Dimensions <sup>2</sup> (Excluding End-Joints) | 230 mm D x 375 mm L                                      | 274 mm D x 480 mm L   |
| Mass (Excluding End-Joints)                    | 39 kg  | 43 kg   |
| Motor Type                                     | Brushless  | Brushless   |
| Gear Reduction                                 | 50:1 Harmonic Drive (Zero Backlash)                      | 50:1 Harmonic Drive (Zero Backlash)   |
| Screw Type                                     | Recirculating Roller Screw w/Preloaded Nut               | Recirculating Roller Screw w/Preloaded Nut                                      |
| Sensor Type                                    | Absolute Linear Encoder                                  | Rotary Encoder  |
| Backdrivable <sup>3</sup>                      | No (Self-Locking)  | No (Self-Locking)   |
| End-Joint Options                              | Flexures, Universal Joints w/ Preloaded Bearings, Custom | Flexures, Universal Joints w/ Preloaded Bearings, Custom                        |
| Vacuum Compatibility                           | With Customization                                       | Yes   |
| Heritage Usage                                 | Rubin Observatory/Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) | James Webb Space Telescope Testing,<br>NASA X-Ray and Cryogenic Facility (XRCF) |

- 1. Custom stroke lengths available upon request
- 2. Length measured at midstroke position
- 3. Brakes available as additional protection against backdriving



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