Abstract Submitted for the DPP06 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Generation and Evolution of Intense Ion-Cyclotron Turbulence by Artificial Plasma Cloud in the Magnetosphere¹ GURUDAS GANGULI, NRL Plasma Physics Division, LEONID RUDAKOV, Icarus Research Inc., MANISH MITHAIWALA, NRL, DENNIS PAPADOPOULOS, University of Maryland — It is shown that intense ion-cyclotron turbulence can be induced in the near-Earth space environment by shaped release of neutral gas such as lithium. Release of one ton in the Earth's equatorial plane at L=2 can introduce about 30 GJ of energy to pump intense turbulence around the ion cyclotron harmonics that readily evolves into the turbulent state. The energy is obtained by converting the orbital kinetic energy of the neutral lithium atoms into free energy for the electromagnetic waves through photo-ionization and creation of a ring distribution. The distribution function is highly unstable to the generation of shear Alfven waves near the lithium cyclotron harmonics. Additionally these waves lead to intense pitch angle scattering of the trapped electrons in a broad energy band.

¹Work supported by ONR.

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Date submitted: 22 Jul 2006 Electronic form version 1.4