# Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) Proposers Day

Dr. Gordon Roesler, Program Manager

DARPA Tactical Technology Office

Briefing prepared for Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) Proposers Day

May 25, 2016

# DARPA Perspective on Space

Ms. Pamela A. Melroy, Deputy Director
DARPA Tactical Technology Office

May 25, 2016

# Mission

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) was established in 1958 to **prevent strategic surprise** from negatively affecting U.S. national security and **create strategic surprise** for U.S. adversaries by maintaining the technological superiority of the U.S. military.

To fulfill its mission, the Agency relies on **diverse performers** to apply multi-disciplinary approaches to both advance knowledge through basic research and **create innovative technologies** that address current practical problems through applied research.

As the DoD's **primary innovation engine**, DARPA undertakes projects that are finite in duration but that create **lasting revolutionary change**.
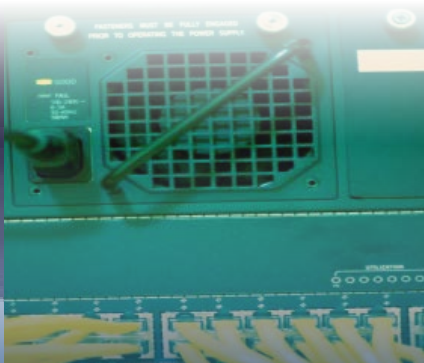
# DARPA History

SATURN F1
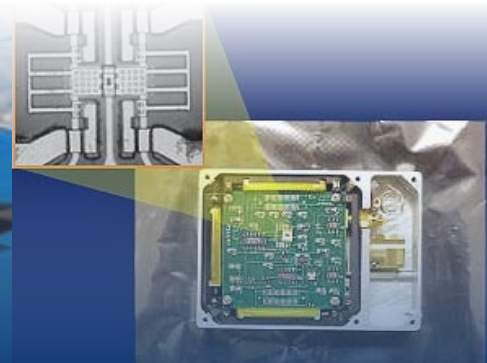Rocket Engine
1960

Speech Recognition
1971

Stealth Fighter
1983

Microelectromechanical Systems
(MEMS)
1991

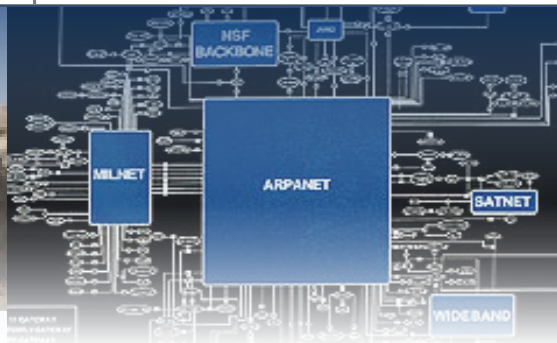1960          1970          1980          1990          2000

ARPA Established
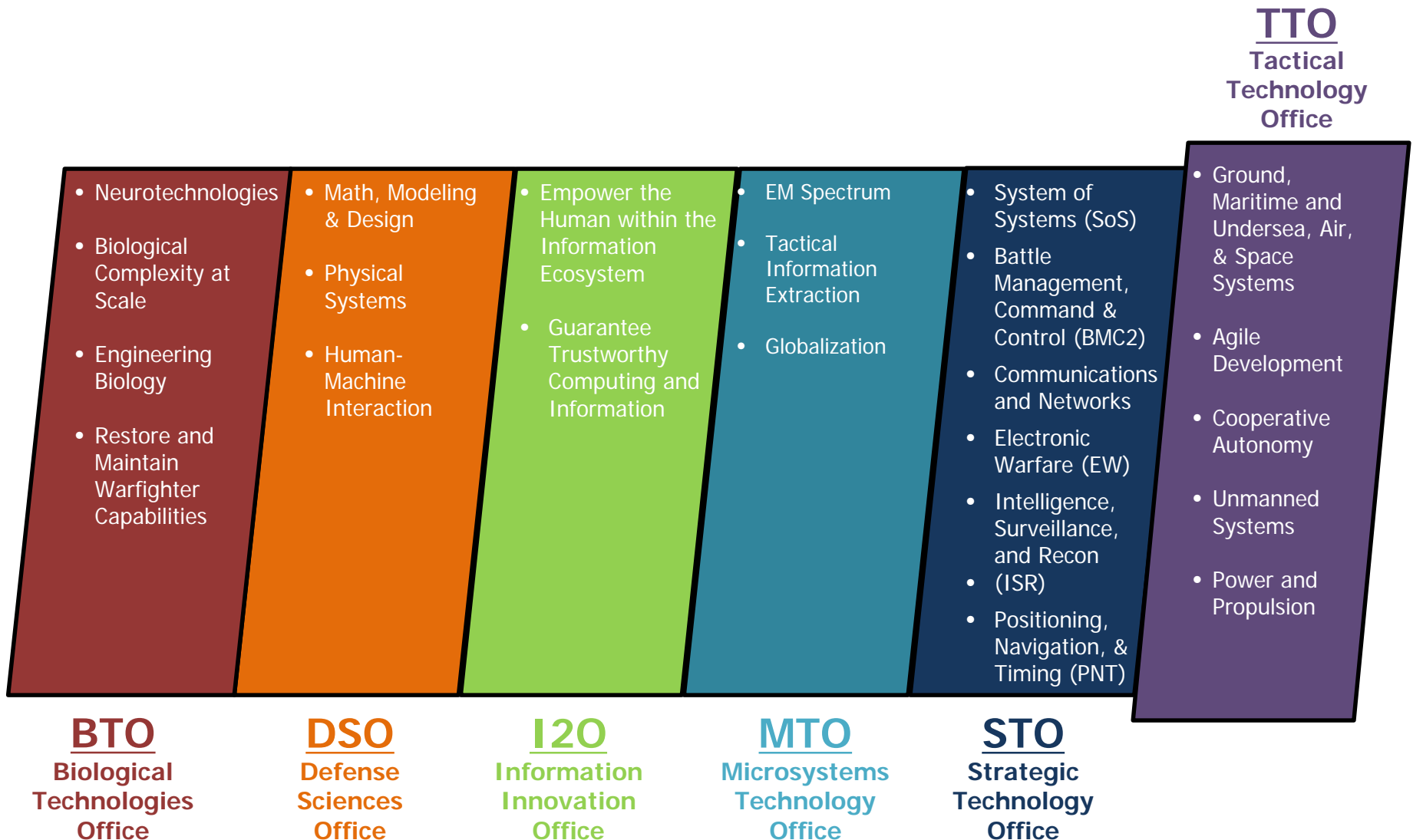1958

M16 Assault Rifle
1965

ARPANET
1969

Global Hawk
1998

# DARPA Technical Offices

## TTO
**Tactical Technology Office**

- Ground, Maritime and Undersea, Air, & Space Systems
- Agile Development
- Cooperative Autonomy
- Unmanned Systems
- Power and Propulsion

## BTO
**Biological Technologies Office**

- Neurotechnologies
- Biological Complexity at Scale
- Engineering Biology
- Restore and Maintain Warfighter Capabilities

## DSO
**Defense Sciences Office**

- Math, Modeling & Design
- Physical Systems
- Human-Machine Interaction

## I2O
**Information Innovation Office**

- Empower the Human within the Information Ecosystem
- Guarantee Trustworthy Computing and Information

## MTO
**Microsystems Technology Office**

- EM Spectrum
- Tactical Information Extraction
- Globalization

## STO
**Strategic Technology Office**

- System of Systems (SoS)
- Battle Management, Command & Control (BMC2)
- Communications and Networks
- Electronic Warfare (EW)
- Intelligence, Surveillance, and Recon
- (ISR)
- Positioning, Navigation, & Timing (PNT)

# Challenges in Space

## Launch Flexibility

- Current launch has no surge capability and long call-up times
  - 2+ years to get "into the queue"
  - Custom-built production line of a few (Maserati model) vs. assembly line of thousands (Ford model)
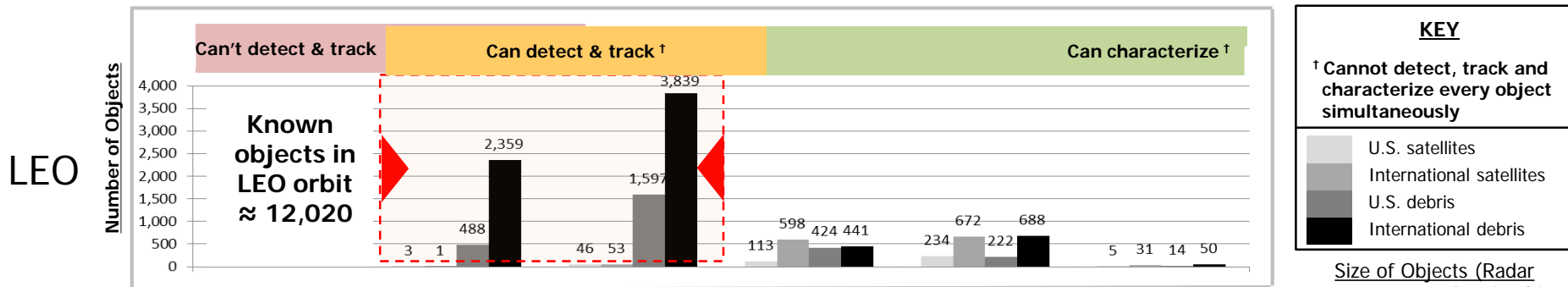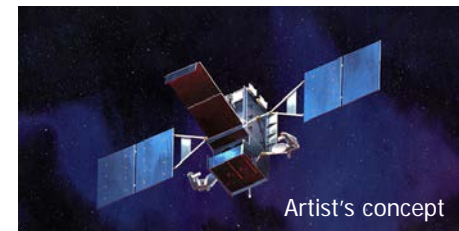- Fixed launch sites are vulnerable

## Architectures

- DoD payloads launched on Evolved ELV at >$3B/year & growing
- Small payloads launched at $50M+ on few remaining Minotaurs

## Space Domain Awareness

- There are approximately 16,000+ objects in $10^{14}$ km$^3$ (240,000 oceans)
  - Approximately 12,020 in low Earth orbit (LEO), 1,890 in medium Earth orbit (MEO), and 1,890 in geosynchronous Earth orbit (GEO)

© Reuters

© NOAA

Artist's concept

**LEO**

| Can't detect & track | Can detect & track † | | Can characterize † |

Number of Objects

Known objects in LEO orbit ≈ 12,020

3  1  488  2,359  46  53  1,597  3,839  113  598  424  441  234  672  222  688  5  31  14  50

**KEY**

† **Cannot detect, track and characterize every object simultaneously**

- U.S. satellites
- International satellites
- U.S. debris
- International debris

Size of Objects (Radar Cross Section (RCS) m$^2$ )

©Reinfo   ©SpaceX


© Inmarsat


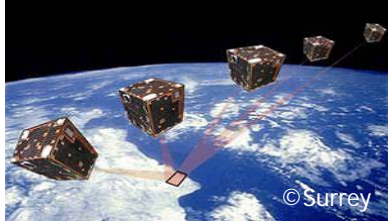© Virgin Galactic


©Surrey


©SpaceX

Commercial access easier than ever

Ever-growing and lucrative commercial satcom markets

Wealthy visionaries are investing in space tourism and transportation

Commercial startups and international entrants are expanding microsat and smallsat capabilities

NASA investments are buoying new entrants for orbital and suborbital markets

# DARPA Vision for Robust Space

Launch:

- Experimental Spaceplane (XS-1): Aircraft-like space access to lower cost and increase capabilities


Satellite:

- Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS): Dexterous space robotics that could provide improve satellite resilience and create significant opportunities for U.S. Government and commercial satellite partners


Space Domain Awareness (SDA):

- OrbitOutlook: Real-time detection and tracking versus catalog maintenance and days to weeks of forensics
- Hallmark: Integrated real-time space domain command and control (C2) capabilities for the U.S. space enterprise
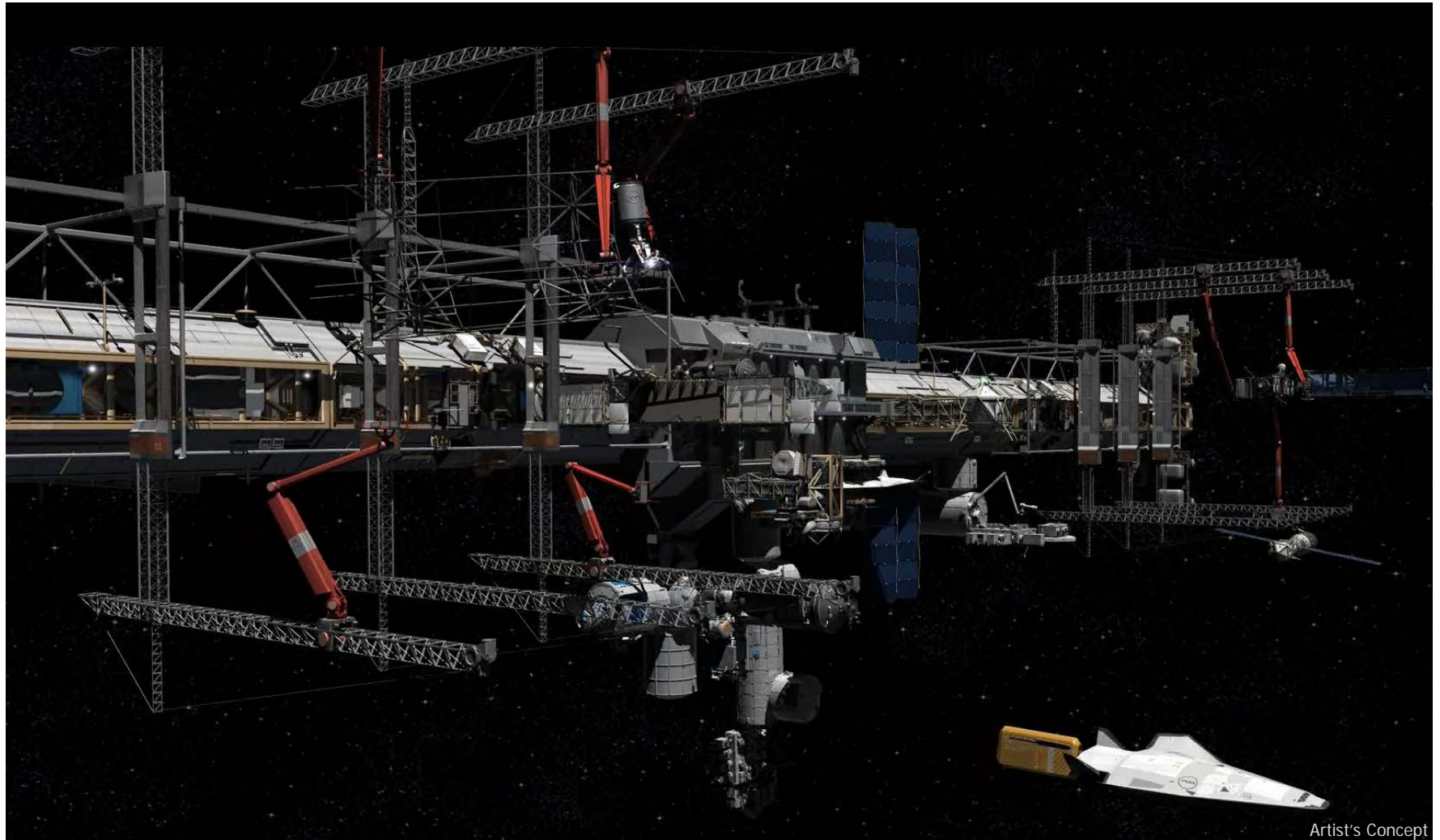
Artist's Concept

www.darpa.mil

# Program Overview

Dr. Gordon Roesler
RSGS Program Manager

May 25, 2016

# We've been talking about this for a long time...

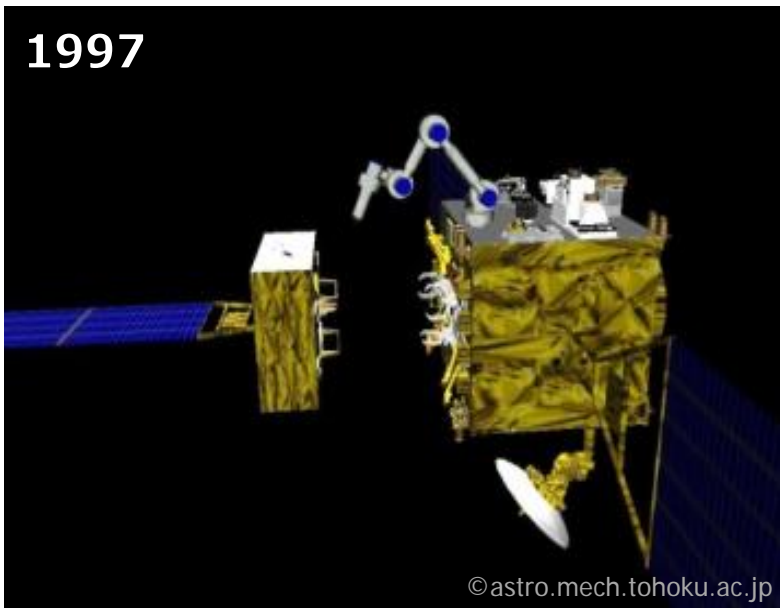Lockheed 1958
cyberneticzoo.com

MSFC 1970
©cyberneticzoo.com

1988 TRW
©Astronautix.com

ORC 2005
...talrecovery.com

2011 DLR
©ohb-system.de

**1997**



©astro.mech.tohoku.ac.jp
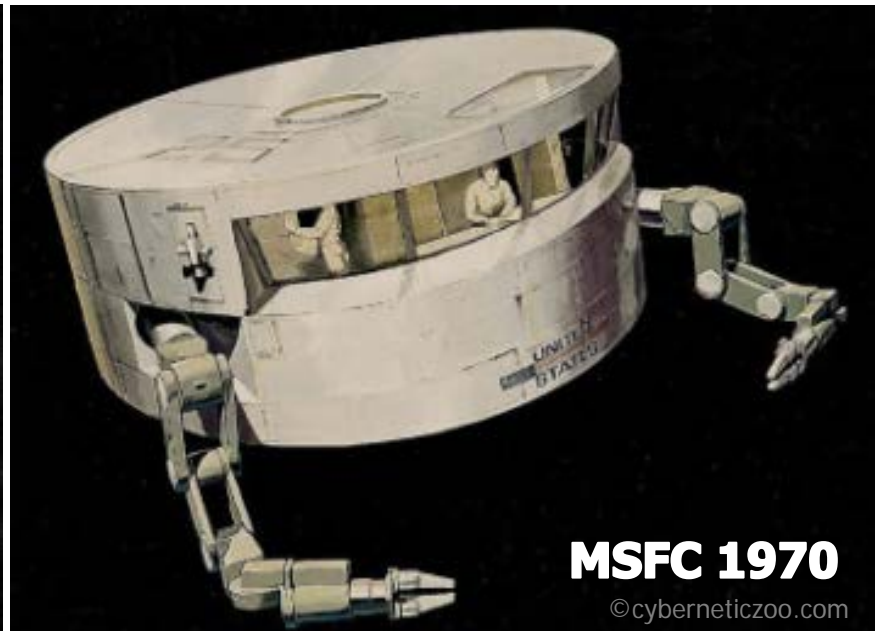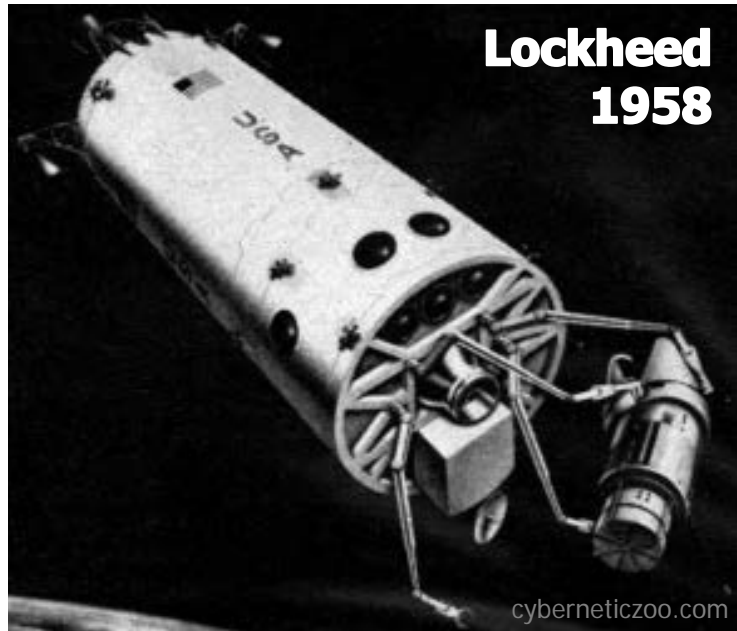
JAXA ETS-VII

**2007**



DARPA Orbital Express

# Why GEO?

# More potential customers
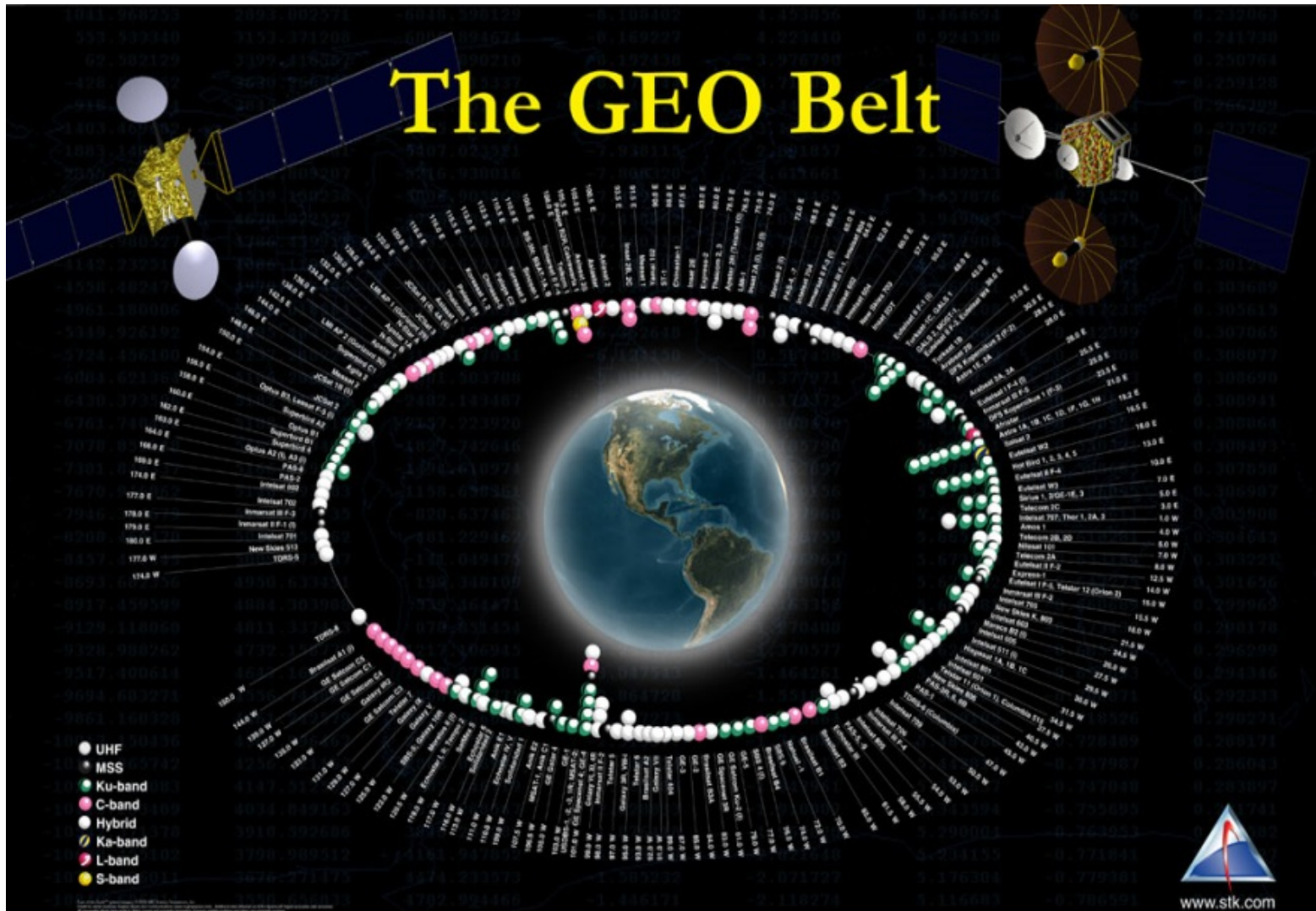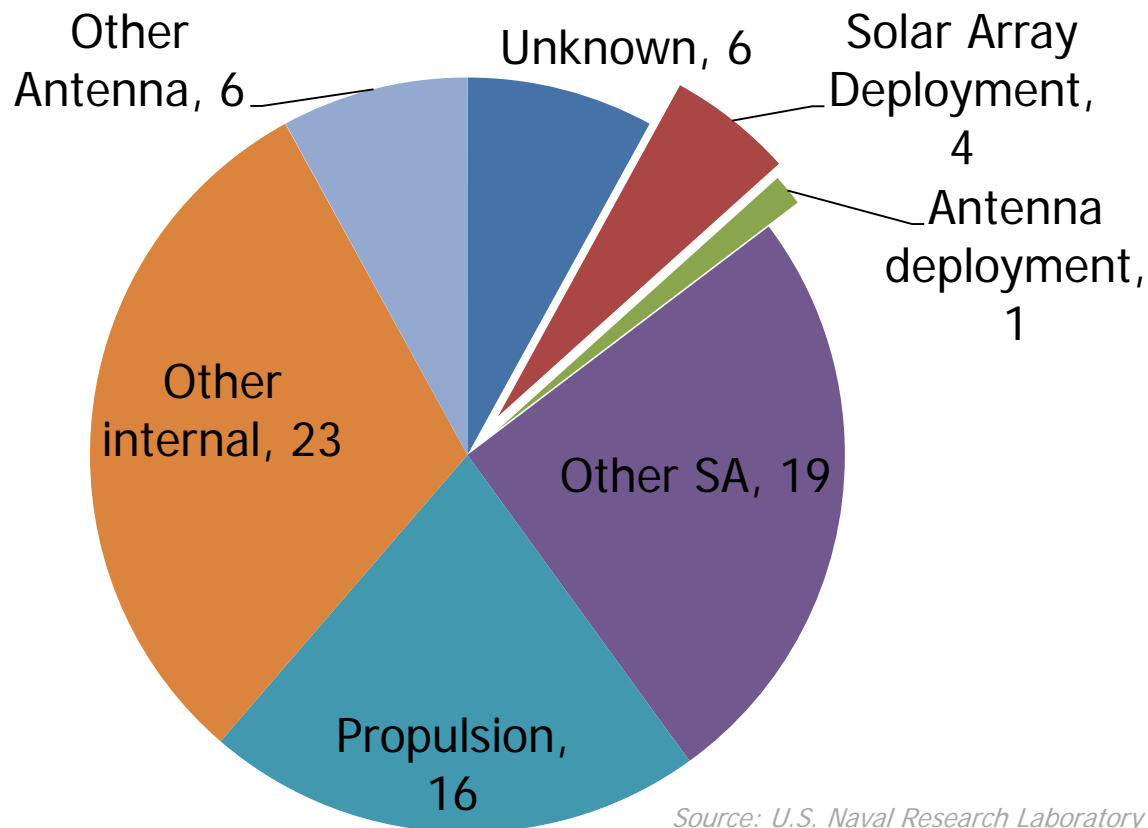


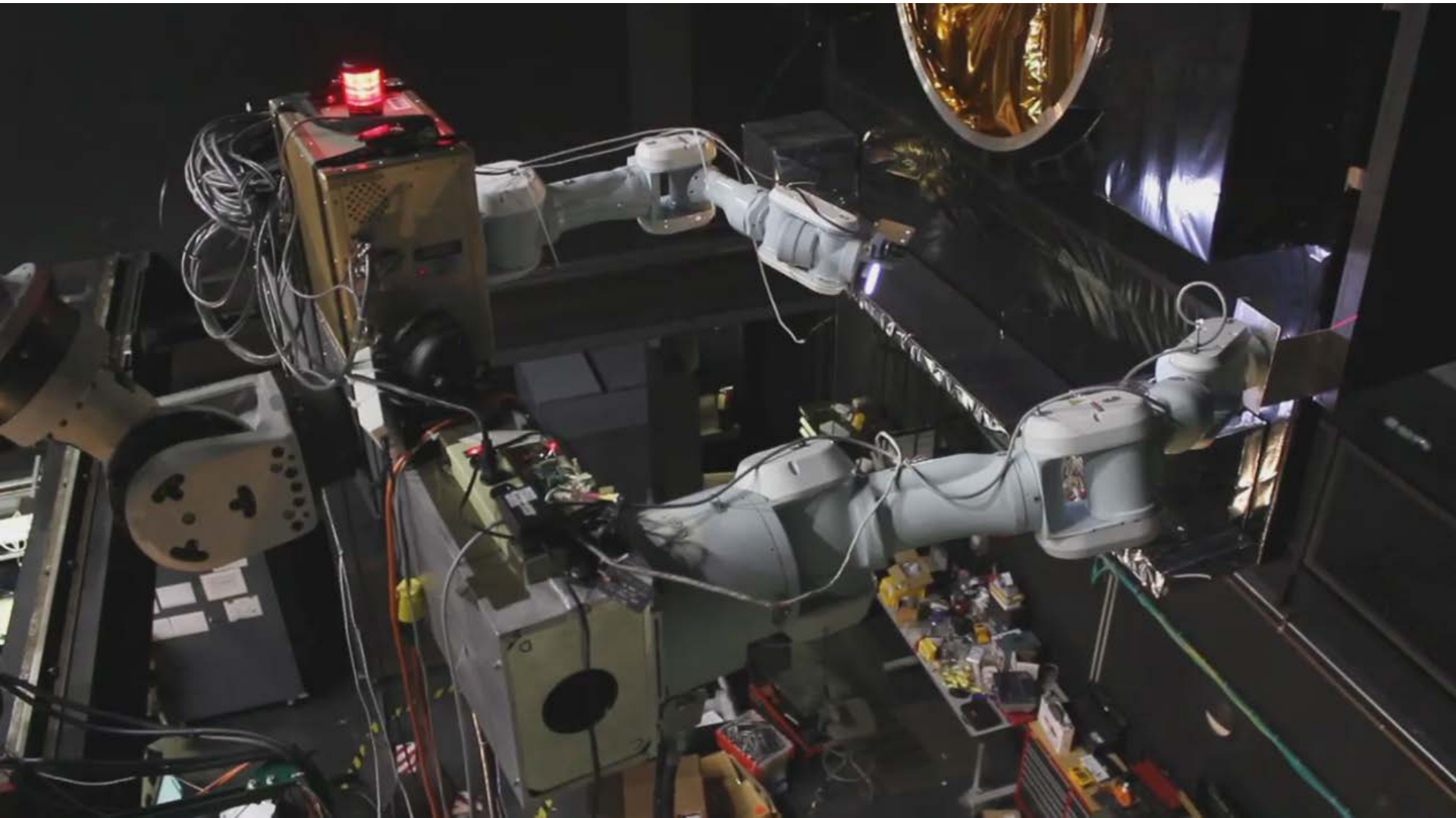# ~5:1 commercial to government

# Things go wrong



AEHF-1

New Dawn

Pie chart: Ten years' worth of GEO anomalies

- Unknown, 6
- Solar Array Deployment, 4
- Antenna deployment, 1
- Other SA, 19
- Propulsion, 16
- Other internal, 23
- Other Antenna, 6

*Source: U.S. Naval Research Laboratory*

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory    BICEP test    2010

# Preparation

**DARPA**

*Lab Experiments* → *Flight Robotic Arm* → *Tools & CONOPS* → *Flight Program*

SUMO

FREND

ORBITAL EXPRESS

PHOENIX
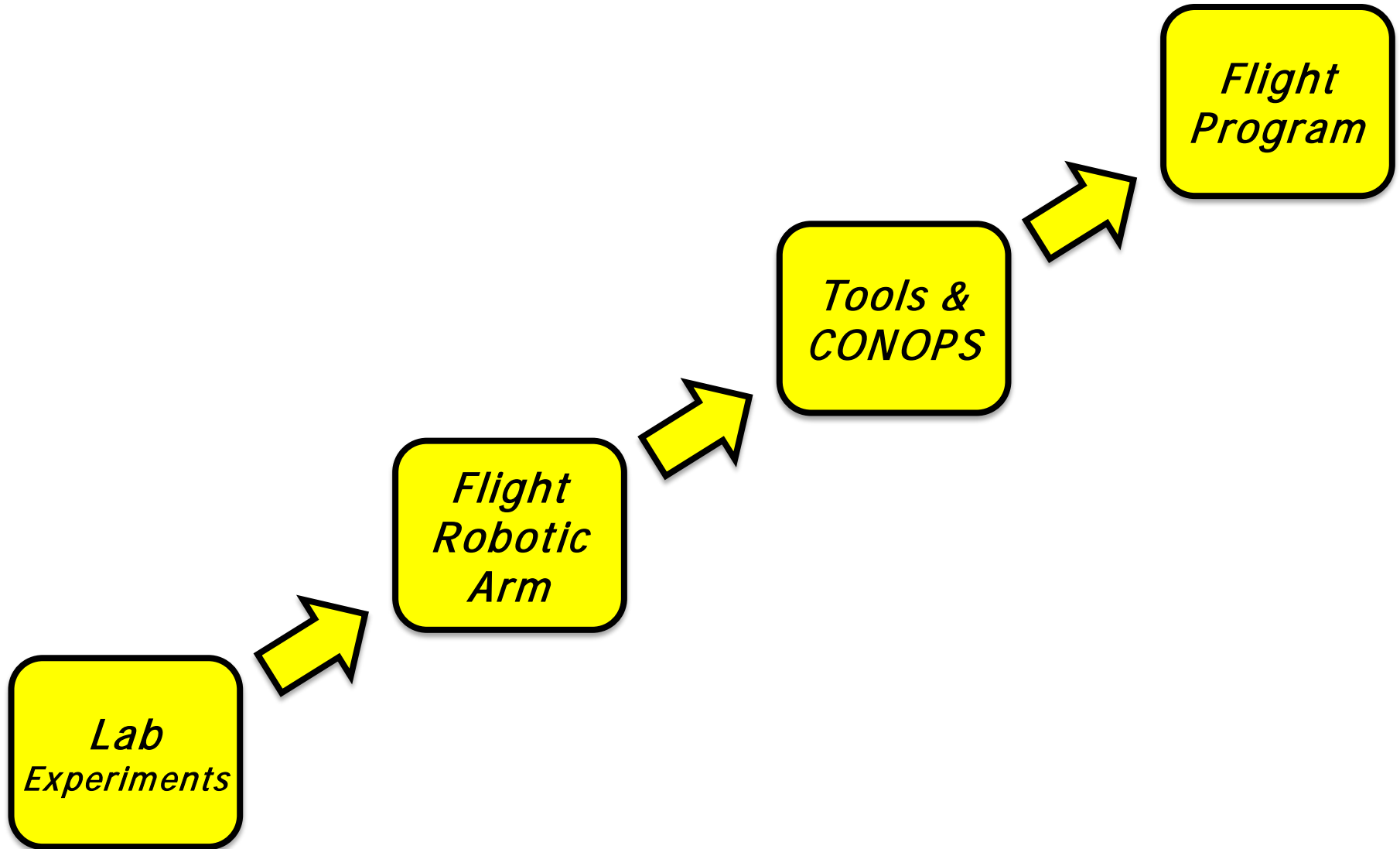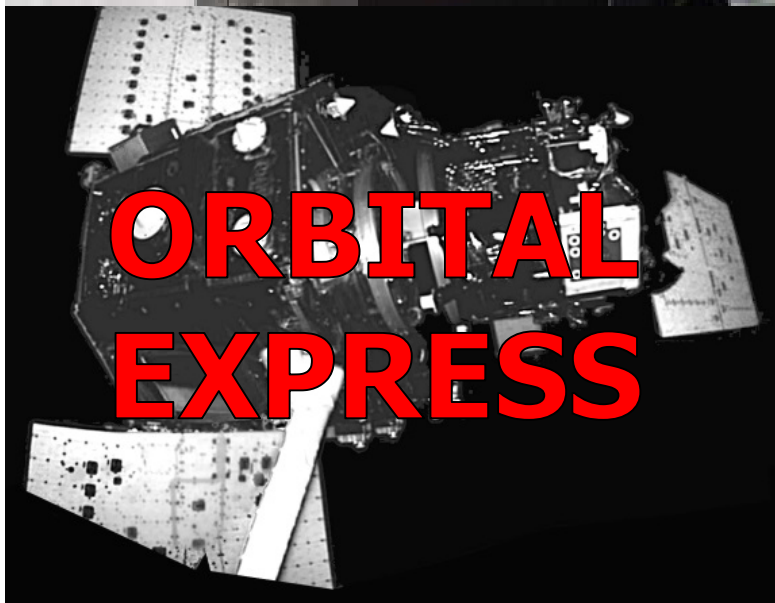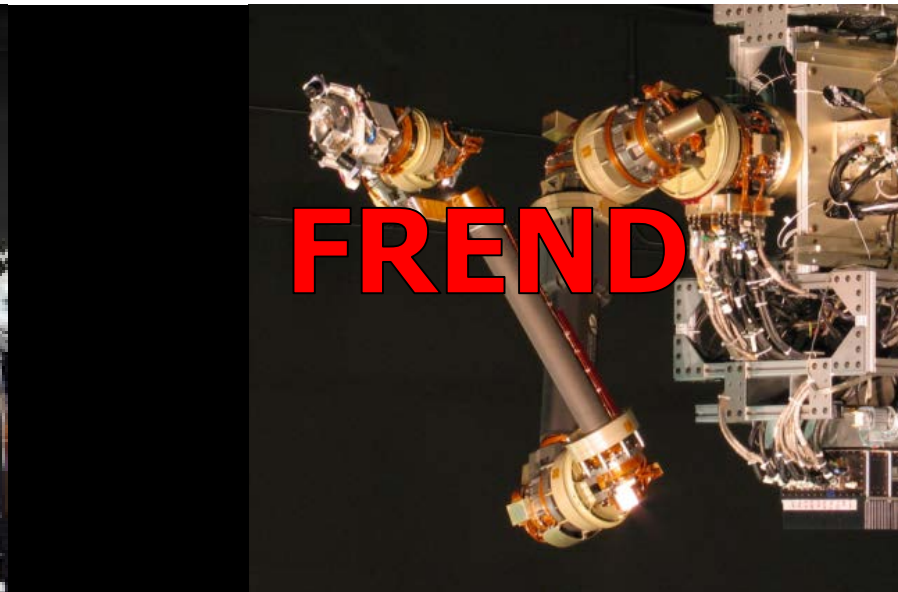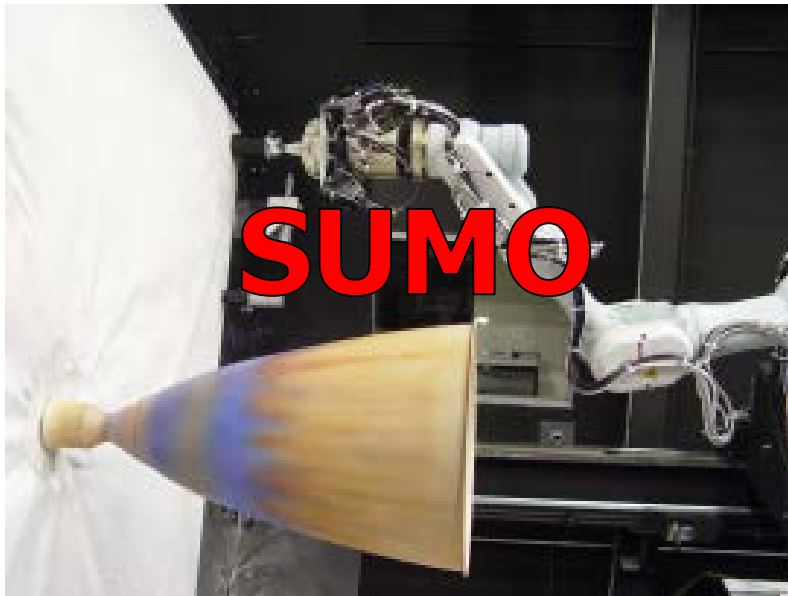
# Increasing levels of integrated testing
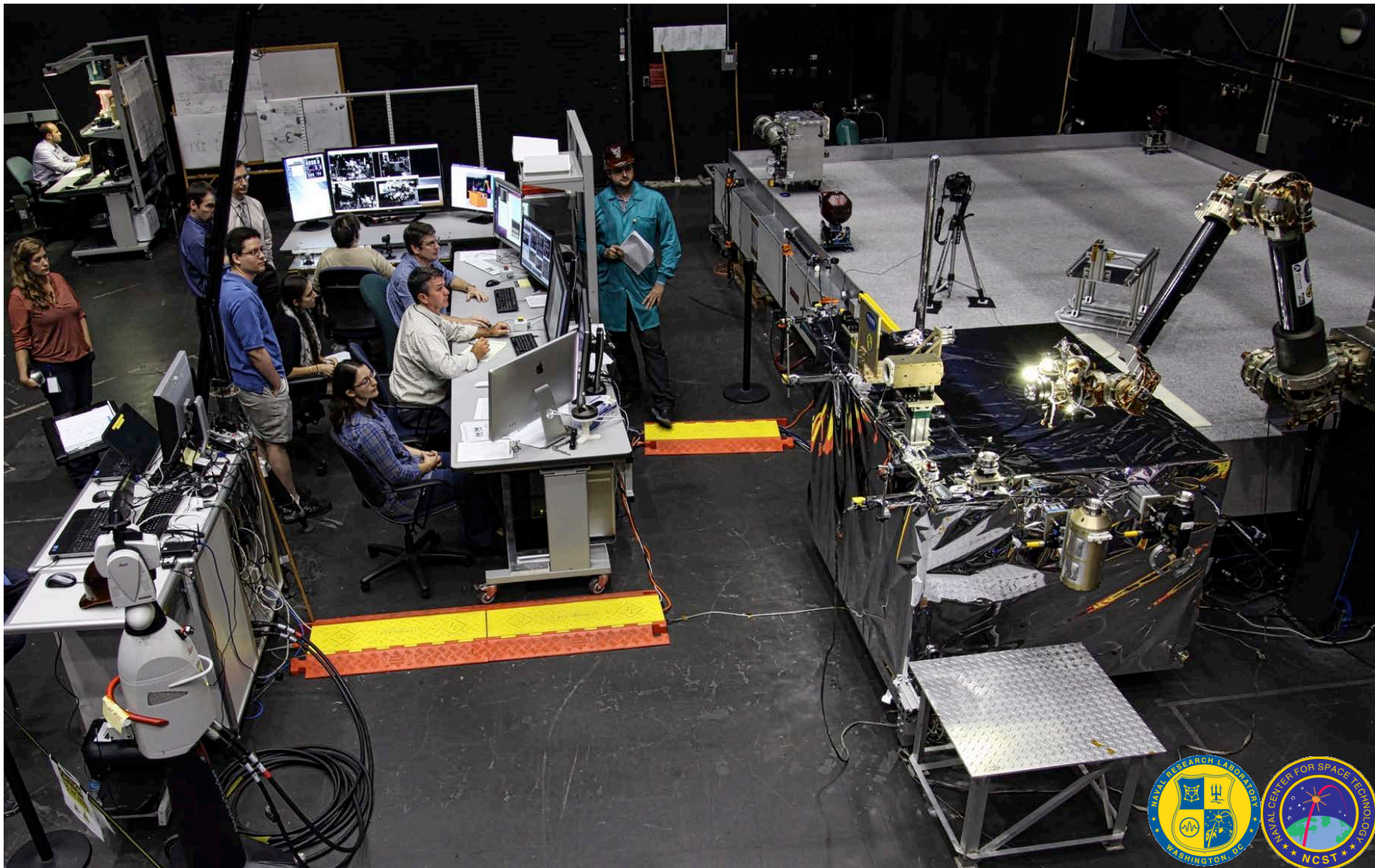
**Goal:** To create a dexterous robotic operational capability in geosynchronous orbit, that could both provide increased resilience for the current U.S.
space infrastructure, and be the first concrete step toward a transformed space architecture with revolutionary capabilities
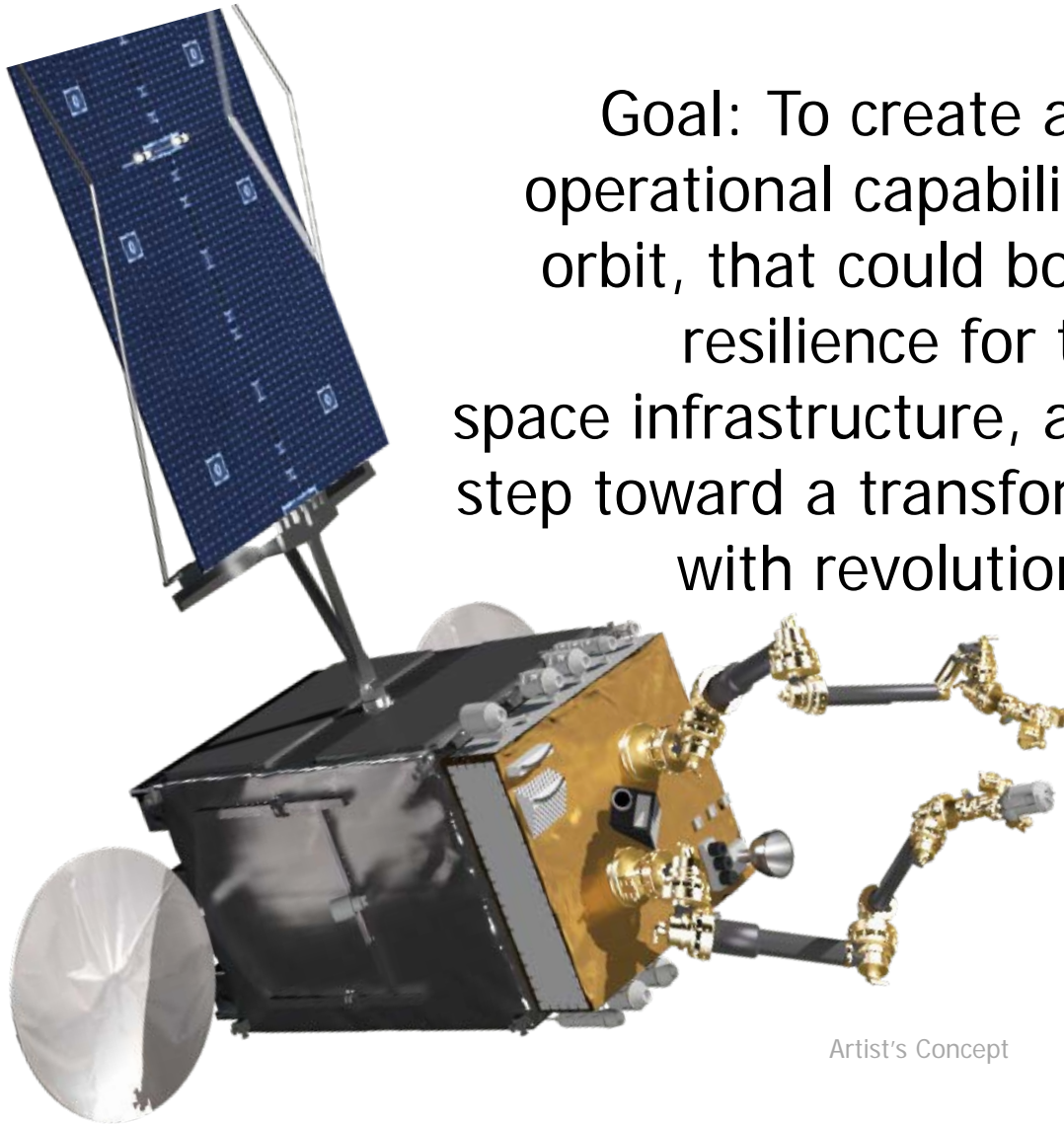
Artist's Concept

# The DARPA baseline mission set

**High-Resolution Inspection**

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**Anomaly Correction**

Artist's Concept
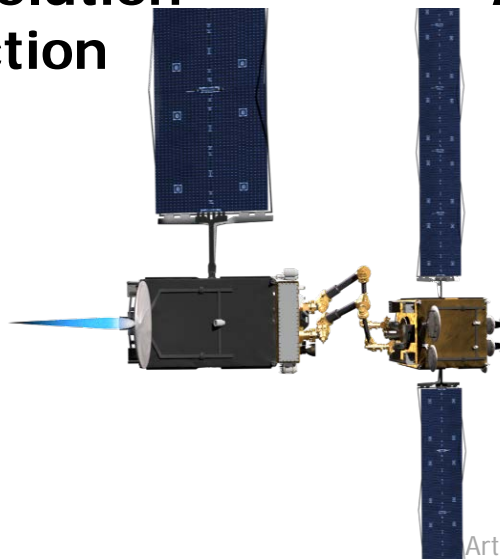
**Cooperative Relocation**

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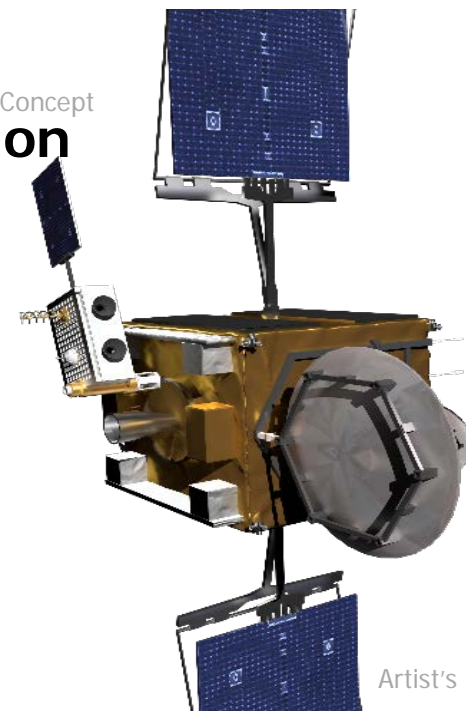
**Upgrade Installation**

Artist's Concept

# RSGS: THE MOVIE

Robotic Servicing of Geosychronous Satellites (RSGS)

Concept Video

**Goal: To create a dexterous robotic operational capability in geosynchronous orbit, that could both provide increased resilience for the current U.S. space infrastructure, and be the first concrete step toward a transformed space architecture with revolutionary capabilities**
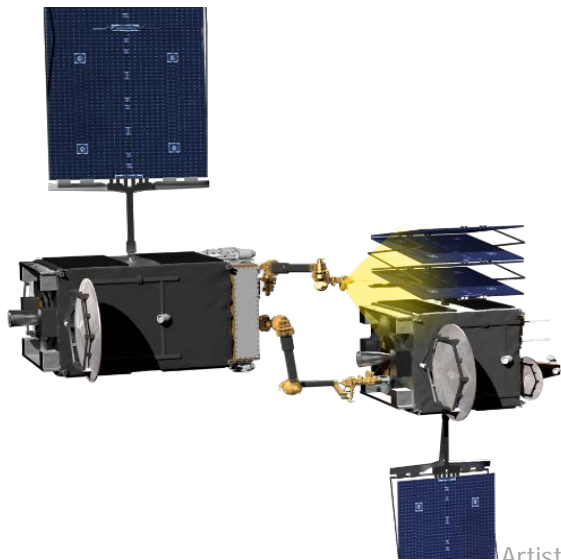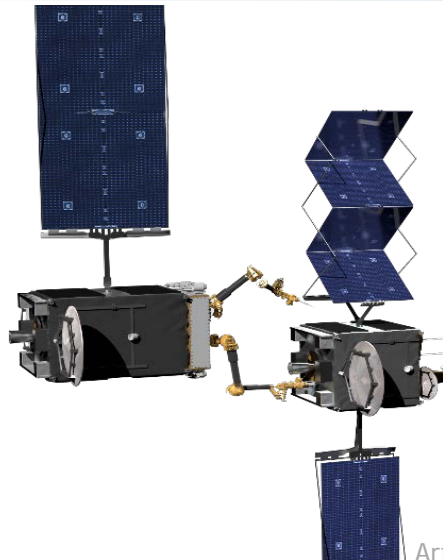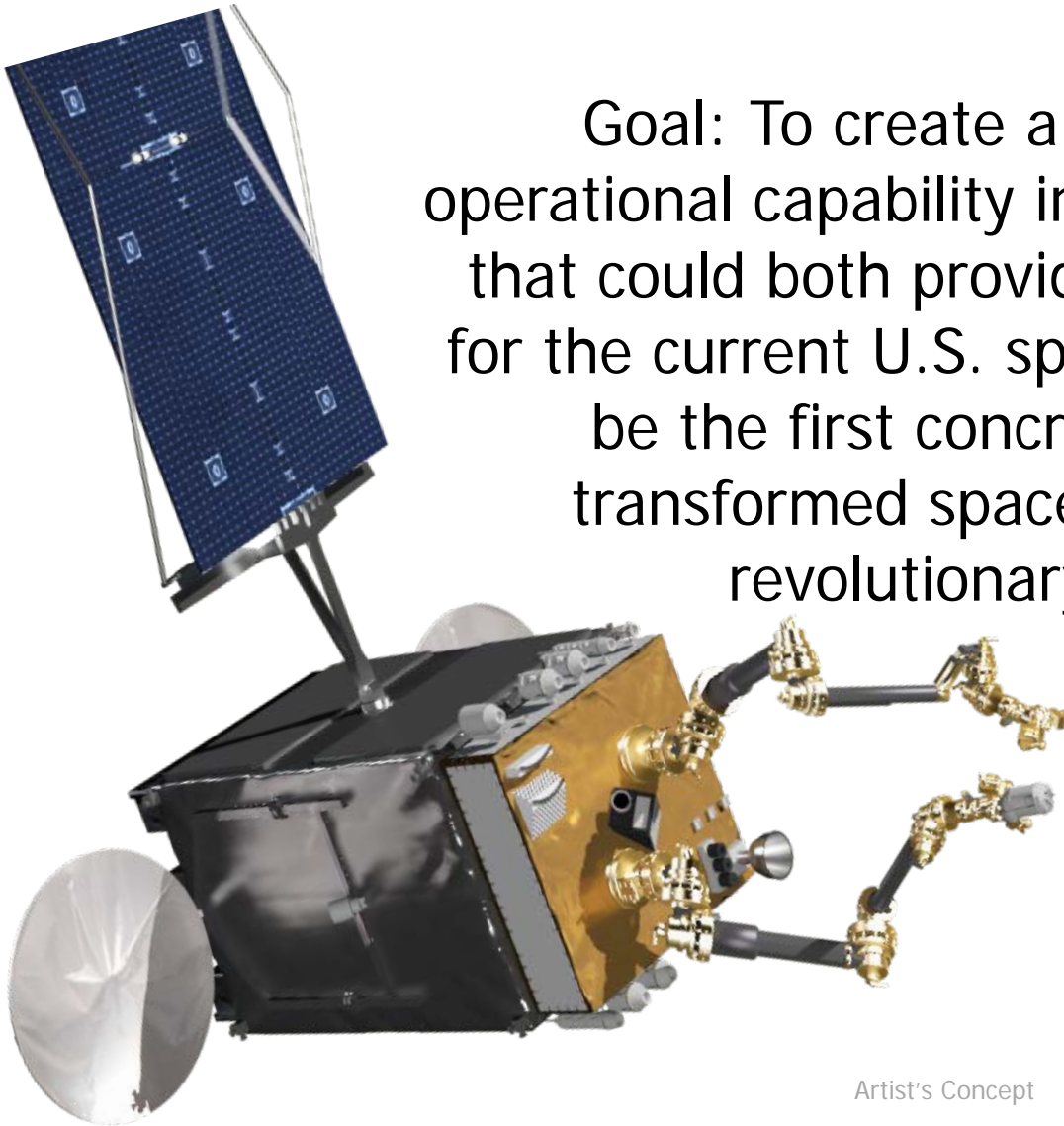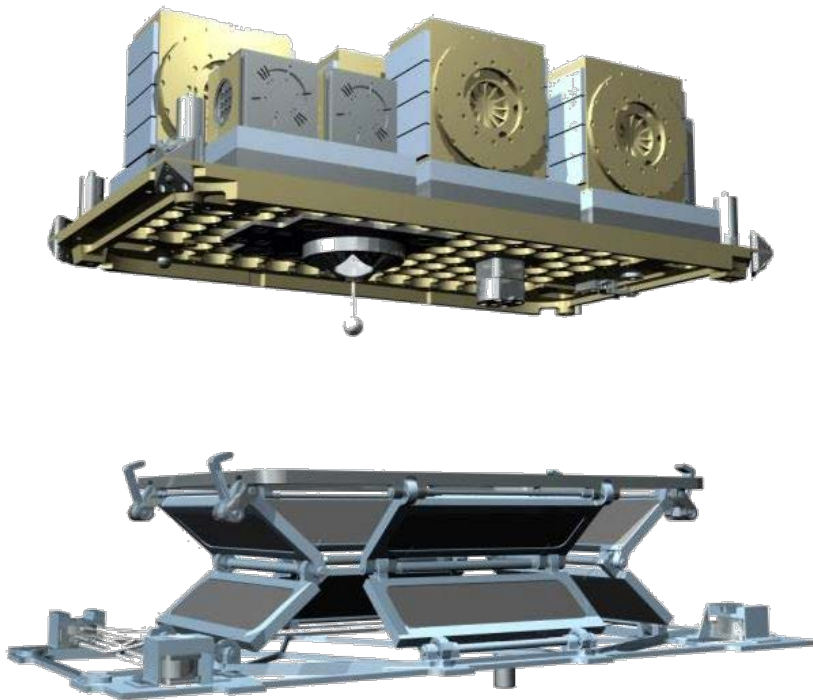
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# RSGS + POD = *future logistics infrastructure*



**RSV docks**

**Spacecraft maneuver**

**RSV restores orbit, conserves asset propellant**

**Present-day GEO asset**

**Future small satellite**

**Future GEO asset**

**RSV captures & unpacks POD**

**RSV attaches new GEO payloads**

**RSV replenishes expendables**

**RSV captures & transports expendables**

**Deliveries to GEO via PODs (hosted on commercial satellite)**

**Deliveries to GEO via ESPA, secondary, or dedicated launch**

Robotic Servicing Vehicle (RSV)

Payload Orbital Delivery (POD) System

Source: NASA.gov



Source: NASA.gov



Source: NASA.gov

**BUILDER**

**+**

**OWNER**

**+**

**OPERATOR**

DARPA

GEO Servicing!

Artist's Concept

NEW SERVICES, ARCHITECTURES

SPACE LOGISTICS

EXPERIMENTS

UPGRADES

Artist's Concept

# The Plan

# An innovative partnership

## What

- Government contribution: robotic payload, launch, milestone payment upon demo completion
- Partner team: GEO heritage spacecraft bus, integration, ground segment

## Why

- More potential customers
- More opportunities to learn
- Help close the servicing business case
- Government access, favorable terms

## How

- Other Transactions (OT) for prototype: *true partnership*
- DARPA to partner with builder-owner-operator team from U.S. space industry
- Management structure proposed by partner
- Collaborative decision making

# Capability demonstration and after

- DARPA will arrange for one or more GEO vehicles as test customers

- Once on orbit, RSGS vehicle would:
  - Complete a checkout and calibration phase
  - Demonstrate capabilities that support inspection, tug, anomaly resolution, and upgrade capabilities
  - Perform servicing operations for an estimated 6-9 months, followed by milestone payment

- Following demo, partner has opportunity for revenue generating operations
  - Commercial satellite servicing
  - Government fee-for-service missions

Payload being designed for 5-8 years of GEO operations to facilitate partner ROI

Partner selection ~ November 2016

Bus/Payload component assembly and test 2019

Bus and Payload integration 2020

RSGS launch NLT March 2021

Capability demonstration 6-9 months

# Join us



www.darpa.mil

# Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) Overview

**Mr. John P. Schaub, SES**
Acting Director, Naval Center for Space Technology
Superintendent, Spacecraft Engineering Department (Code 8200)
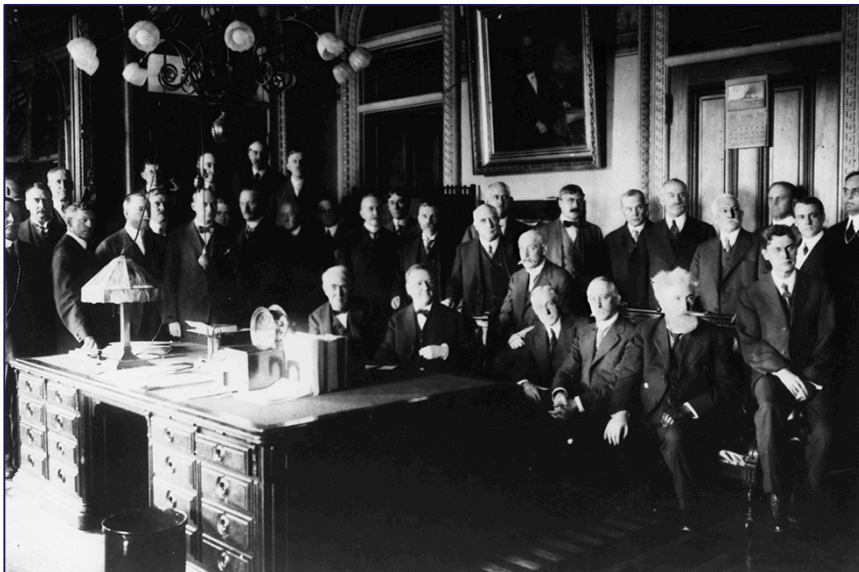
"One of the imperative needs …is machinery and facilities for utilizing the natural inventive genius of Americans to meet the new conditions of warfare."

–*SECNAV Josephus Daniels, 1915*

# A Department of the Navy Laboratory

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (RD&A)

Chief of Naval Research | N84
Vice Chief of Naval Research

U.S. Naval Research Laboratory
CO|DOR

| Business Operations | Systems Directorate | Materials Science and Component Technology | Ocean and Atmosphere Science & Technology | Naval Center for Space Technology |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Radar<br>Electronic Warfare<br>Optical Sciences<br>Information Technology | Chemistry<br>Materials Science & Technology<br>Comp. Phys & Fluid Dynamics<br>Plasma Physics<br>Electronics Science & Tech<br>Bimolecular Science & Engineering | Acoustics<br>Remote Sensing<br>Oceanography<br>Marine Geosciences<br>Marine Meteorology<br>Space Sciences | Space Systems Dev<br>Spacecraft Engineering |

- NRL has proven history developing diverse, new systems and transitioning to operations
  - 100 satellites and 38 launches for national, DoD, and civilian sponsors

**Blossom Point**



Starshine
EPDM, ATEx
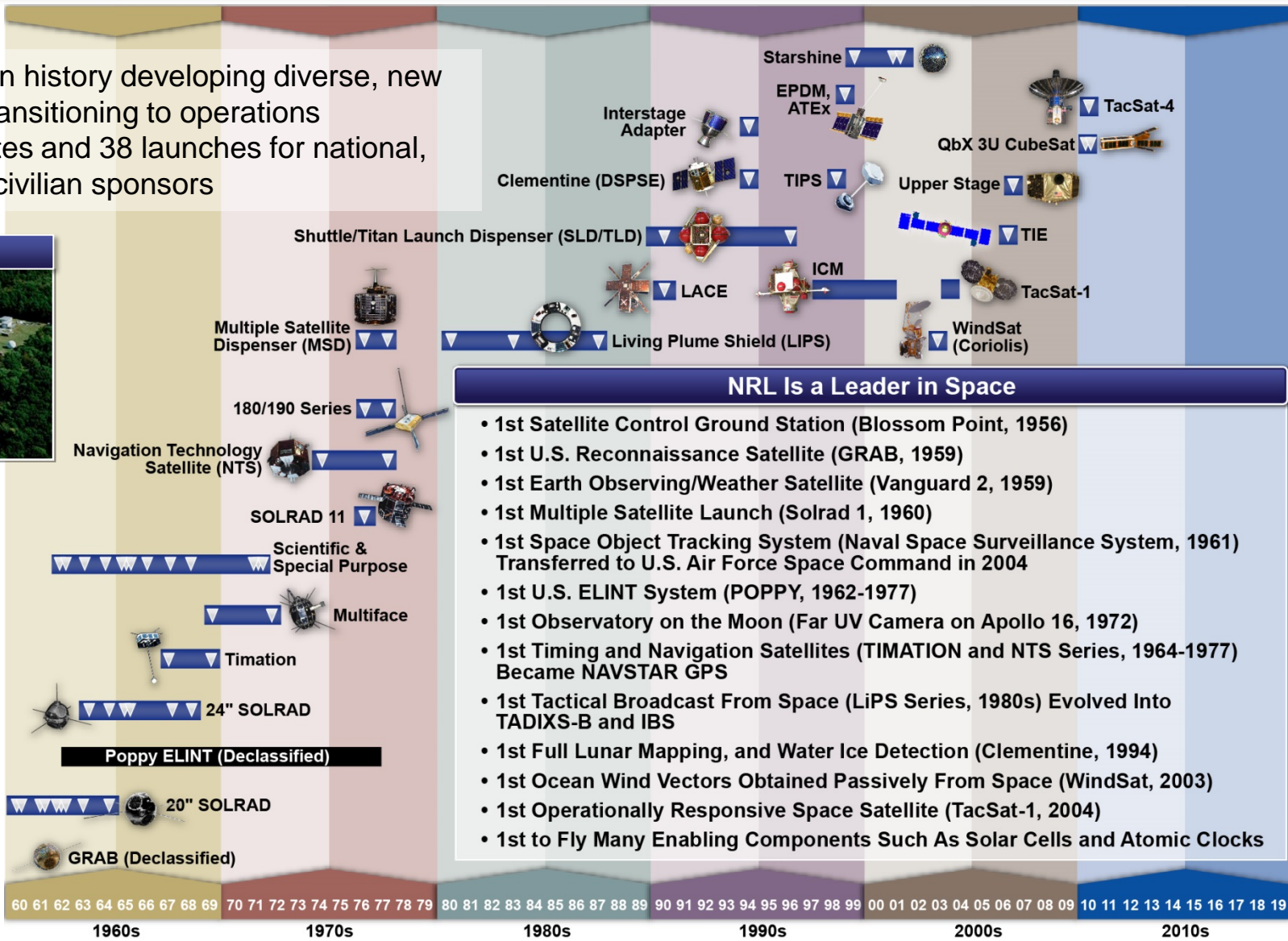Interstage Adapter
TacSat-4
QbX 3U CubeSat
Clementine (DSPSE)
TIPS
Upper Stage
Shuttle/Titan Launch Dispenser (SLD/TLD)
TIE
ICM
LACE
TacSat-1
Multiple Satellite Dispenser (MSD)
Living Plume Shield (LIPS)
WindSat (Coriolis)
180/190 Series
Navigation Technology Satellite (NTS)
SOLRAD 11
Scientific & Special Purpose
Multiface
Timation
24" SOLRAD
Poppy ELINT (Declassified)
20" SOLRAD
GRAB (Declassified)

### NRL Is a Leader in Space

- 1st Satellite Control Ground Station (Blossom Point, 1956)
- 1st U.S. Reconnaissance Satellite (GRAB, 1959)
- 1st Earth Observing/Weather Satellite (Vanguard 2, 1959)
- 1st Multiple Satellite Launch (Solrad 1, 1960)
- 1st Space Object Tracking System (Naval Space Surveillance System, 1961) Transferred to U.S. Air Force Space Command in 2004
- 1st U.S. ELINT System (POPPY, 1962-1977)
- 1st Observatory on the Moon (Far UV Camera on Apollo 16, 1972)
- 1st Timing and Navigation Satellites (TIMATION and NTS Series, 1964-1977) Became NAVSTAR GPS
- 1st Tactical Broadcast From Space (LiPS Series, 1980s) Evolved Into TADIXS-B and IBS
- 1st Full Lunar Mapping, and Water Ice Detection (Clementine, 1994)
- 1st Ocean Wind Vectors Obtained Passively From Space (WindSat, 2003)
- 1st Operationally Responsive Space Satellite (TacSat-1, 2004)
- 1st to Fly Many Enabling Components Such As Solar Cells and Atomic Clocks

60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 | 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 | 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 | 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 | 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 | 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

**1960s** | **1970s** | **1980s** | **1990s** | **2000s** | **2010s**

NRL_SdLaunches/24.ai

# Extensive Space System Facilities

## Building A59 Payload Processing Facility – 188,000 ft² Total Area


Assembly and Integration Area With High Bay and Bridge Crane (12m High); Support Facilities; Fab Machinery; and Controlled Access


Harness Fabrication and Assembly Area With Calibrated Tooling, Fixtures, and Materials for Fab, Validation, and Qual


3 Large TVAC Chambers (10-7 Torr) (Largest Is 18ft Diameter/32ft Length). Multiple Smaller Chambers for Electronics Boxes and Piece Part Bakeouts
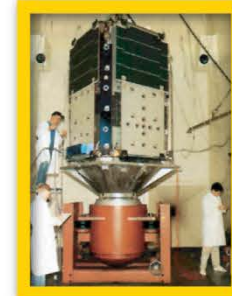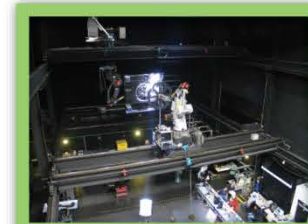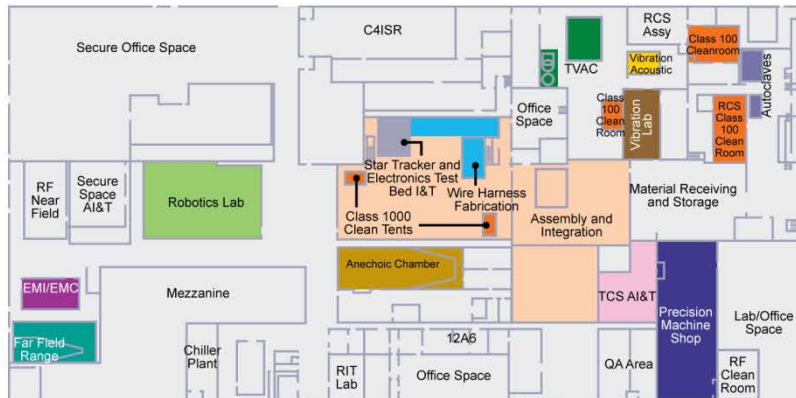

Vibro-Acoustic Chamber; 32-10,000 Hz Freq. Range (153dB Acoustic); 30klbf Electrodynamic Vibration Exciter


Vibration Facilities Has Shakers From 1klbs to 50klbs for Vertical and Horizontal Modes


EMI/EMC Test Facility: 100dB Attenuation From 10kHz to 20 GHz; Standard and Non-Standard (Single Event Switching Transients; Abnormal Voltage, Surge Voltage) Capabilities


(Floorplan diagram)

Secure Office Space; C4ISR; RCS Assy; Class 100 Cleanroom; TVAC; Vibration Acoustic; Autoclaves; Office Space; Class 100 Clean Room; RCS Class 100 Clean Room; Vibration Lab; RF Near Field; Secure Space AI&T; Robotics Lab; Star Tracker and Electronics Test Bed I&T; Wire Harness Fabrication; Material Receiving and Storage; Class 1000 Clean Tents; Assembly and Integration; EMI/EMC; Mezzanine; Anechoic Chamber; TCS AI&T; Precision Machine Shop; Lab/Office Space; Far Field Range; Chiller Plant; 12A6; RIT Lab; Office Space; QA Area; RF Clean Room


Proximity Operations and Robotics Laboratory


Multiple Clean Rooms/Tents From Class 1k to 100; Largest Has 960 ft² Area; Laminar Flow Benches and Orbital Welding and Fab


Far Field Range: 704 ft² Chamber; 5 ft Diameter Spherical Quiet Zone; 100dB Attenuation From 50MHz -100GHz Frequencies; 150dB Isolation


3,720 ft² Shielded Anechoic Chamber


3,400 ft² Work Space for Analysis, Design, Fab, Assembly, Qual, and Test of Thermal Control Systems


Precision Machine Shop: Gantry Router (5' x 10' Table); 5 Axis Mill (64" x 24" x 24"); Tool Room; Lathe; Support Equipment


Large and Small Autoclaves; Lab Work Space; CTE Measurement Capability for Design and Fab of Composite Articles
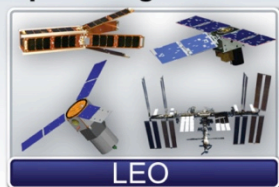
# Blossom Point:
# NRL's Spacecraft Operations Center


**Space Segment**
LEO | HEO | GEO


**C3 Segment** — 13m, 10m and 3m Site Antennas


**Launch Support via WAN or VPN**
660 U.S. Navy Naval Research Laboratory
U.S. AIR FORCE Cape Canaveral Air Force Station


**AFSCN Connectivity via WAN**
OAFS  NHS  TTS  TCS
VTS
HTS                          GTS
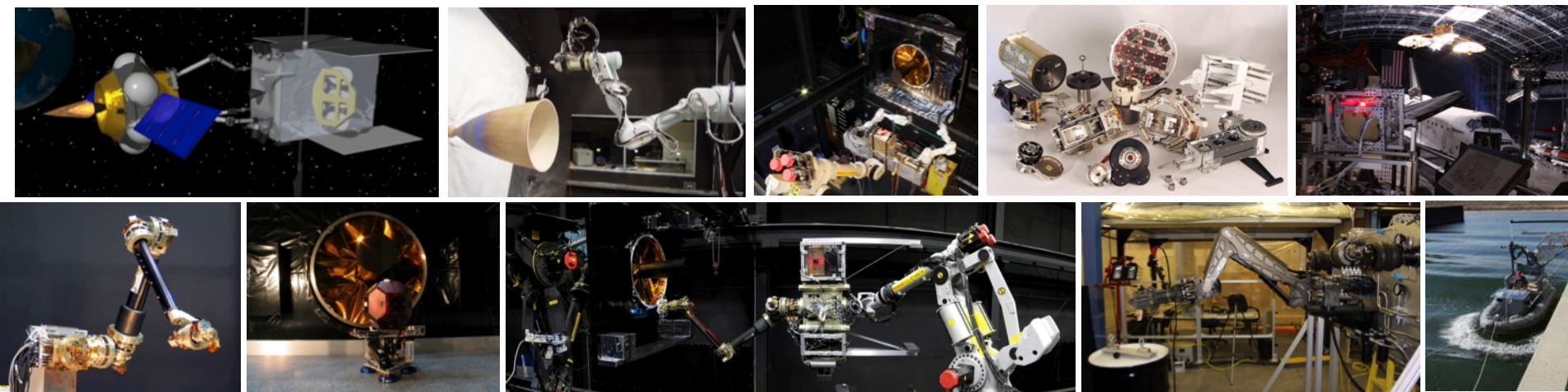AFSCN
SAFB
CTS
TSTR    EVCF    DGS

- Established in 1956 to support MiniTrack and Vanguard
  - First CONUS ground station

- Highly automated to support both operational and experimental spacecraft
  - 100-200 contacts per day; staffed 8 x 5, operations 24 x 7

- Demonstrated resiliency in operations for decades with unique, "pooled" hardware architecture
  - Includes dedicated antennas and interface to AFSCN
  - Easily extended to Commercial Ground

- Controlled by Neptune® multi-mission Command and Control (C2) software
  - Controls pooled hardware resources
  - Meets satellite C2 requirements through all phases with flexible core architecture supplemented by mission-unique software
  - Common baseline for all missions
  - SOC2SOC capability enables resource sharing at geographically separated SOCs

- VMOC is option for mission operations and tasking

- NRL's Neptune and VMOC also support several other DoD and National organizations

## NRL ground resources form baseline for resilient ground architecture

SC_ops_center/V3.ai

- Significant NRL internal investments in facilities, people, and research applying to long-range goals since the late 1990s
- Leading national efforts in developing new space robotics capabilities and policy
- Nationally unique capabilities in robotic control algorithms and software, innovative mechanism design, systems engineering, and system testing and validation
- NRL robotics has attracted external funding from DARPA, USAF, NASA, and Industry
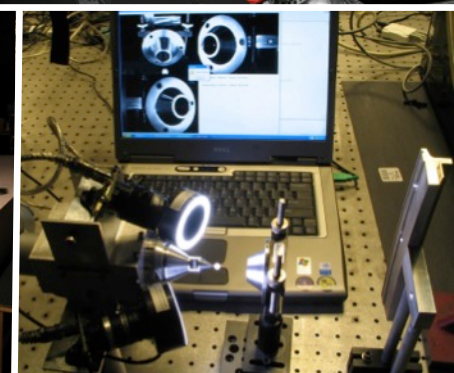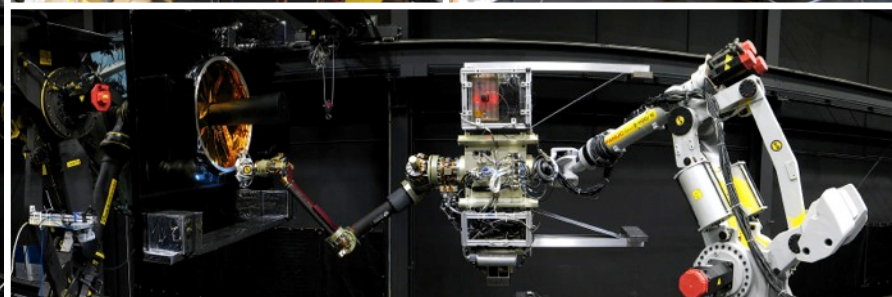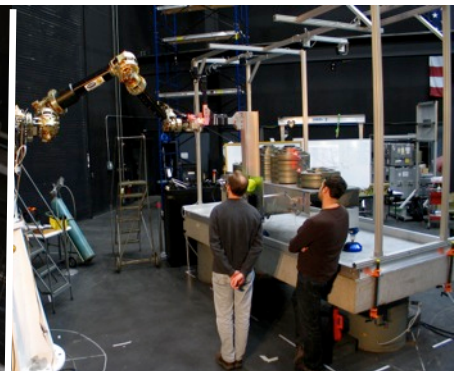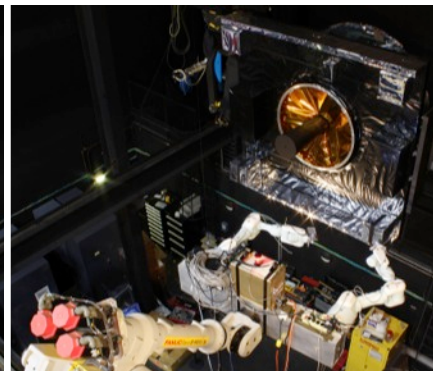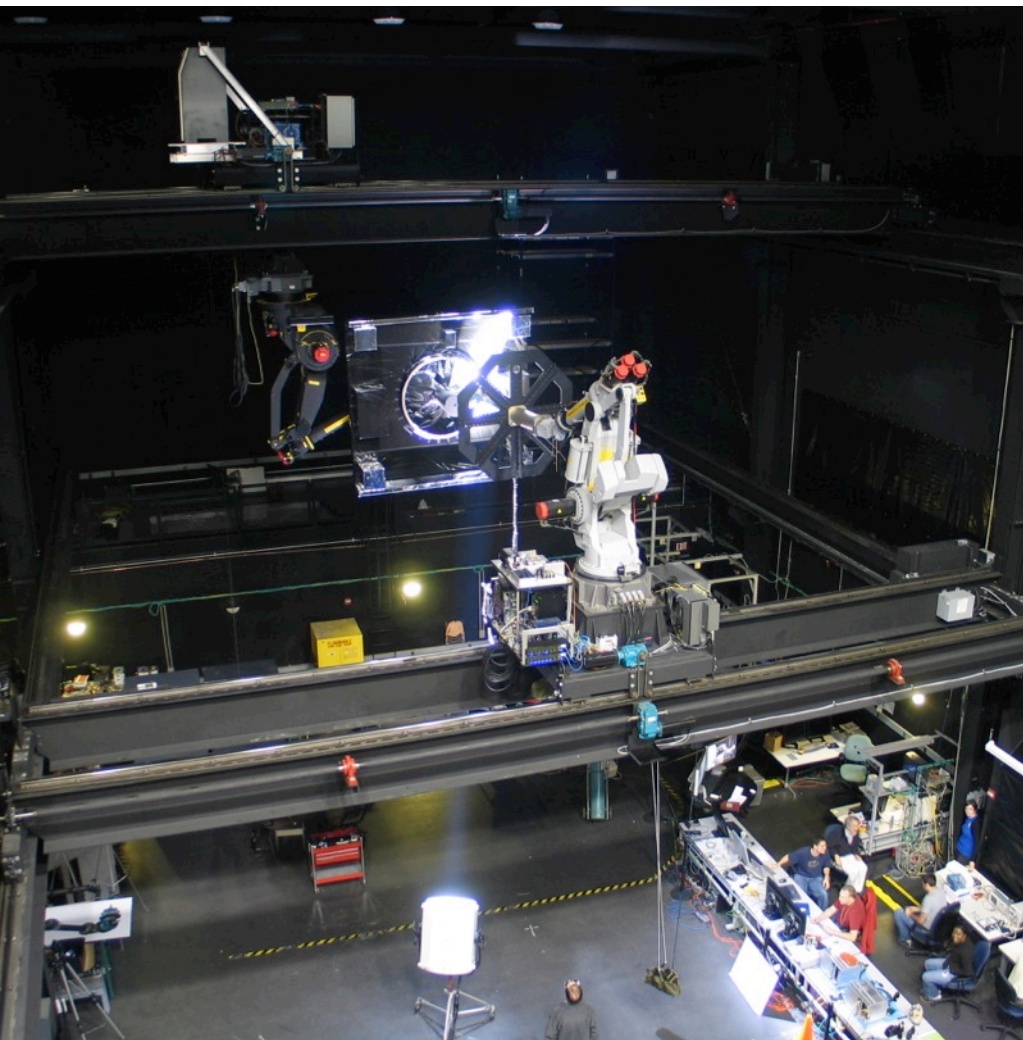
# NRL Robotics Vision of Transformation
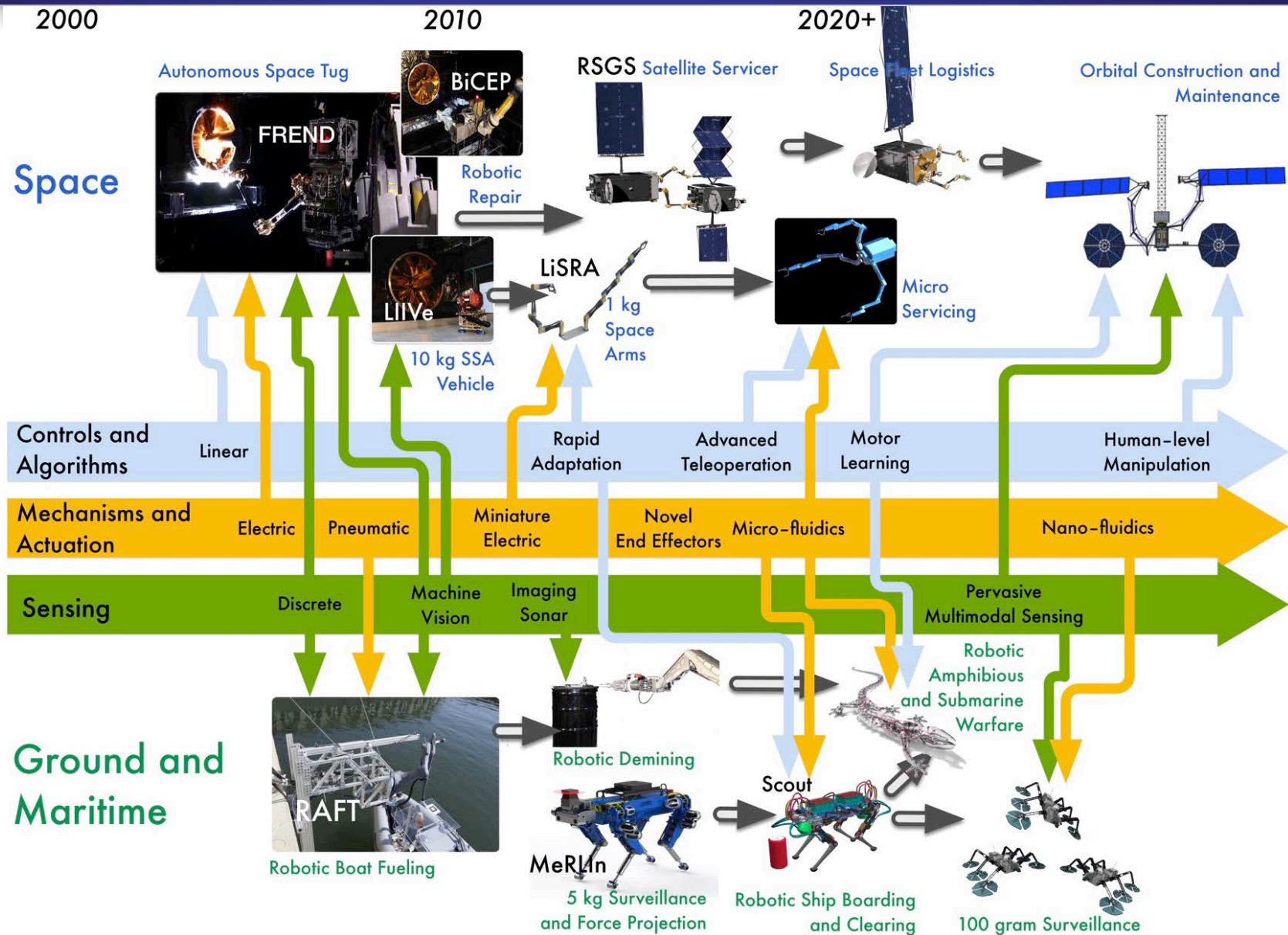
# Partnership Vision

Dr. Gordon Roesler

RSGS Program Manager

May 25, 2016

# Combining Government technologies

FREND
Robot
Arm

Prototype
Robotics
Tools

Prototype
Robotics
Ground
Station

Flight
Software
Testbed
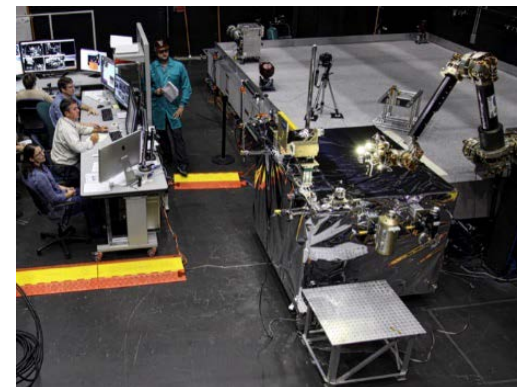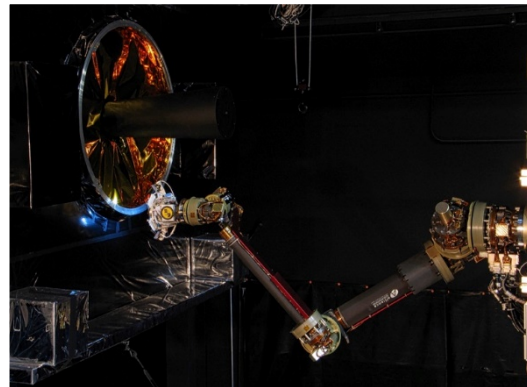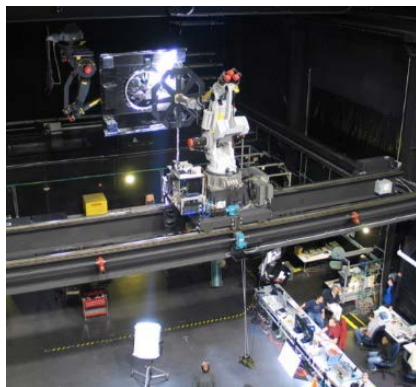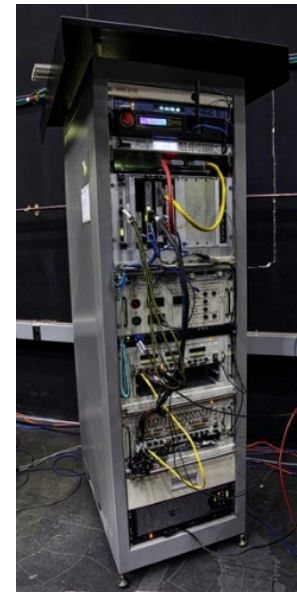
RPO and Contact Dynamics Testbeds
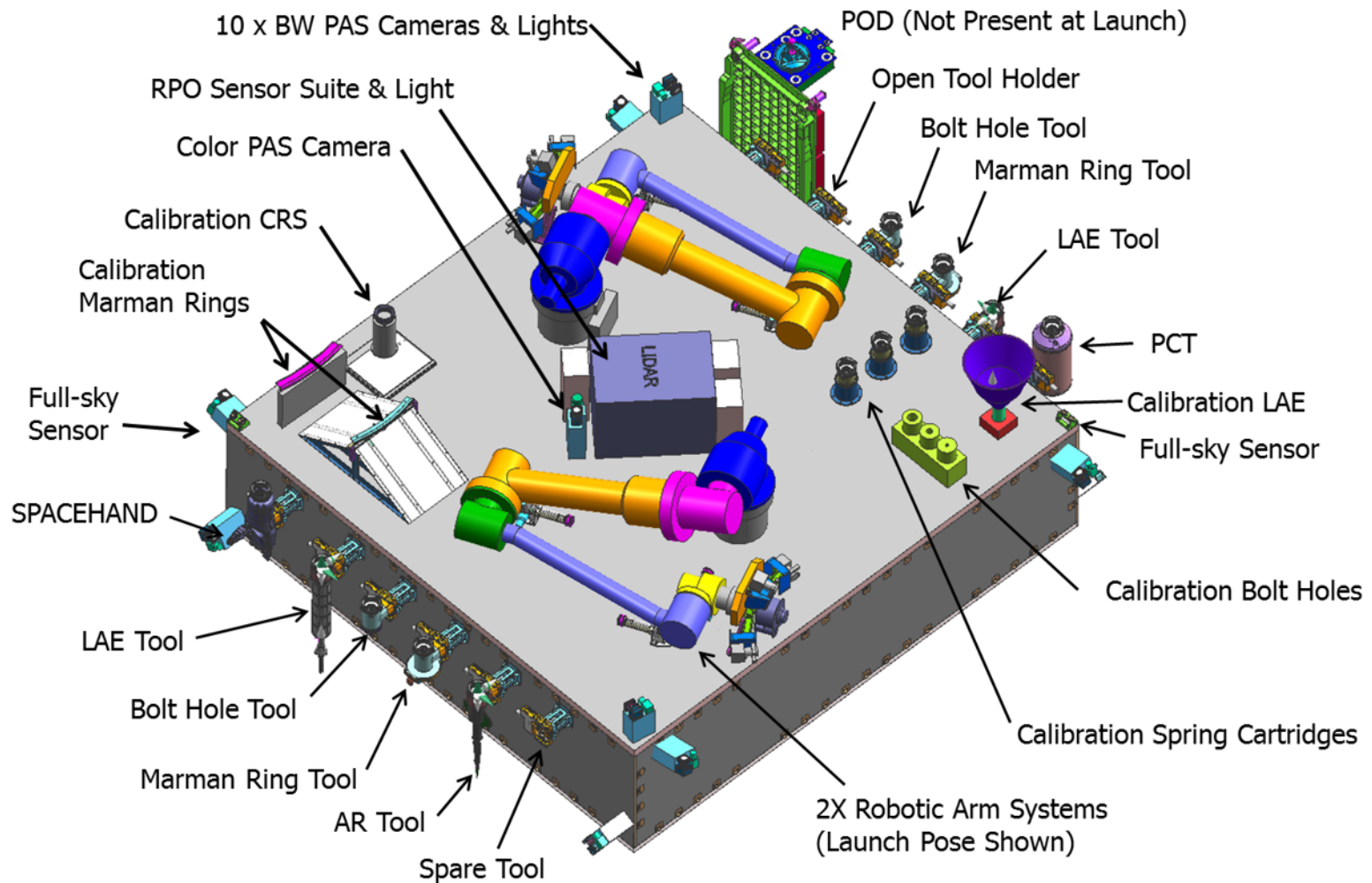
# Partner task description

- Provide the GEO bus

- Provide the ground segment

- Receive integrated robotic servicing payload

- Integrate payload onto bus

- Provide launch vehicle integration

- Execute demonstration mission

- Operate RSV for its lifetime

# Ideal partner team has:

- Built GEO buses

- Operated in GEO

- Done RPO

- Lived the GEO business case

- Has a plan to grow satellite servicing and space logistics

- RSV design

- Mission planning

- Training of operators

- RSV operations

# Key partner attribute:
# Commitment to success and growth

# Show us you understand the problems (e.g., Cyber)

# Show us you have options to resolve the hard problems before flight

# There will be tradeoffs that we make together

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# Credits
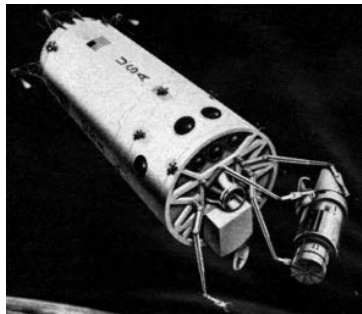


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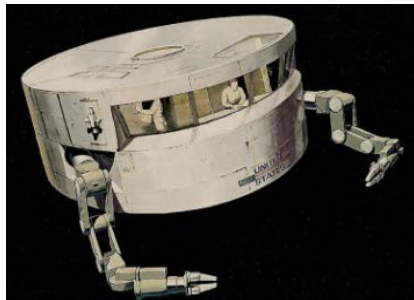
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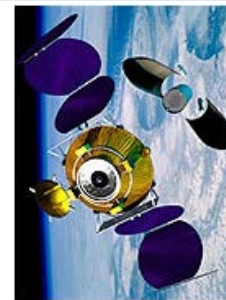
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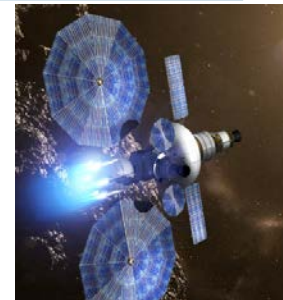
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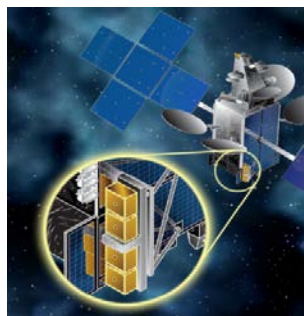
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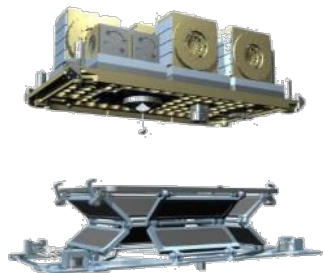
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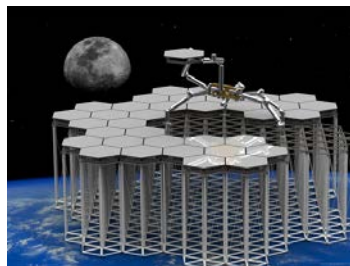
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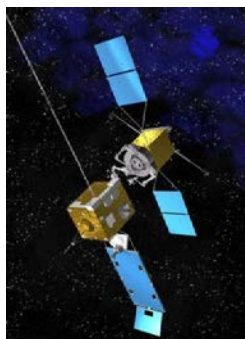
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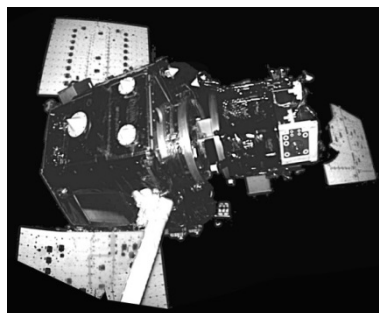
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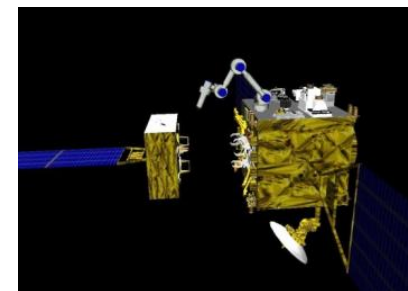
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# Program Solicitation
# DARPA-PS-16-01

Mark Jones

DARPA Contracts Management Office

May 25, 2016

# DISCLAIMER

**If the Program Solicitation contradicts any information in these slides,**

## the <u>Program Solicitation</u> takes precedence.

# DARPA RSGS Award Process

## Agenda

- Other Transaction Agreement / Program Solicitation

  - What is it

  - Why are we using it

- Program Goals and Evaluation Criteria

  - Evaluation areas

  - Partnership

- Step-by-Step Solicitation Process

# Other Transaction (OT) Agreement/Program Solicitation

The Government intends to award a single OT agreement to the offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the Government.

## What is it?

- OT is awarded under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 2371b

- Program solicitation is OT acquisition method

- Non FAR/DFARS based award – e.g. not required to follow Government accounting rules

- OT intended to reflect commercial agreements

## Why?

RSGS partnership is a unique method – OT agreements give the parties the freedom to approach this in a more commercial-like manner.

# Program Goals and Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation areas

- Technical – can your team technically perform

- Business – not only can your team financially manage, but will your team successfully transition this effort into a persistent servicing capability

- No Traditional Cost Evaluation

Partnership

- Partner team must include a bus manufacturer and the ultimate robotic servicing satellite owner/operator (which may be the same or different commercial entities)

- Teaming partnership matures throughout solicitation process

## Step-by-Step Partner Selection

# Four Step Partnership Selection Process

## Step 1 – Eligibility

## Step 2 – Proposal Submission / Negotiation Pool

## Step 3 – Orals/Negotiations

## Step 4 – Final Evaluation/Award

# Notes on Submissions

- DARPA will receive unclassified submissions via its web-based upload system. Submission must be in a single zip file not exceeding 50 MB.

- DO NOT include any classified information in the unclassified portion of the submission or it may be deemed non conforming. Follow the appropriate classified submission method as indicated in the program solicitation

- DO NOT wait until the last minute to make submissions – the submission deadlines as outlined in the program solicitation or in subsequent proposal submission instructions will be strictly enforced!

- DO NOT forget to FINALIZE your submission in the submission tool! Failure to finalize will prevent the Government from proper receipt.

# Step 1 – Eligibility

Submit Executive Summary by 5:00pm ET, July 5, 2016

- 15 Page Summary Limit

- Must Prove Eligibility / ITAR Compliance

- Describe overall capacity to meet RSGS program requirements

Government will notify submitters whether qualified to propose

Those qualified will move to Step 2 . . .

## Step 2 – Proposal Submission / Negotiation Pool

Eligible proposal submitters will receive supplemental package and proposal submission instructions/due date

- Minimum 45 days to submit

- 200 page limit

- Includes Executive Summary

- Must have "team" defined and bus builder identified

Copy of OT template / terms included in supplemental package – submit updated OT with proposal as Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 – Supplement Business Data

# Step 3 - Orals

Proposals deemed most advantageous will progress to technical oral discussions and OT negotiations



- Oral presentations done at proposer facility

- Multiple visits anticipated to cover technical and business management areas

- All proposer teams will complete and submit signed OT at the end of negotiations – all team members must sign and be responsible for final agreement

# Step 4 – Final Selection and Award

www.darpa.mil

# Evaluation Criteria and Partner Selection

Dr. Gordon Roesler

RSGS Program Manager

May 25, 2016

Goal: To create a dexterous robotic operational capability in geosynchronous orbit, that could both provide increased resilience for the current U.S. space infrastructure, and be the first concrete step toward a transformed space architecture with revolutionary capabilities
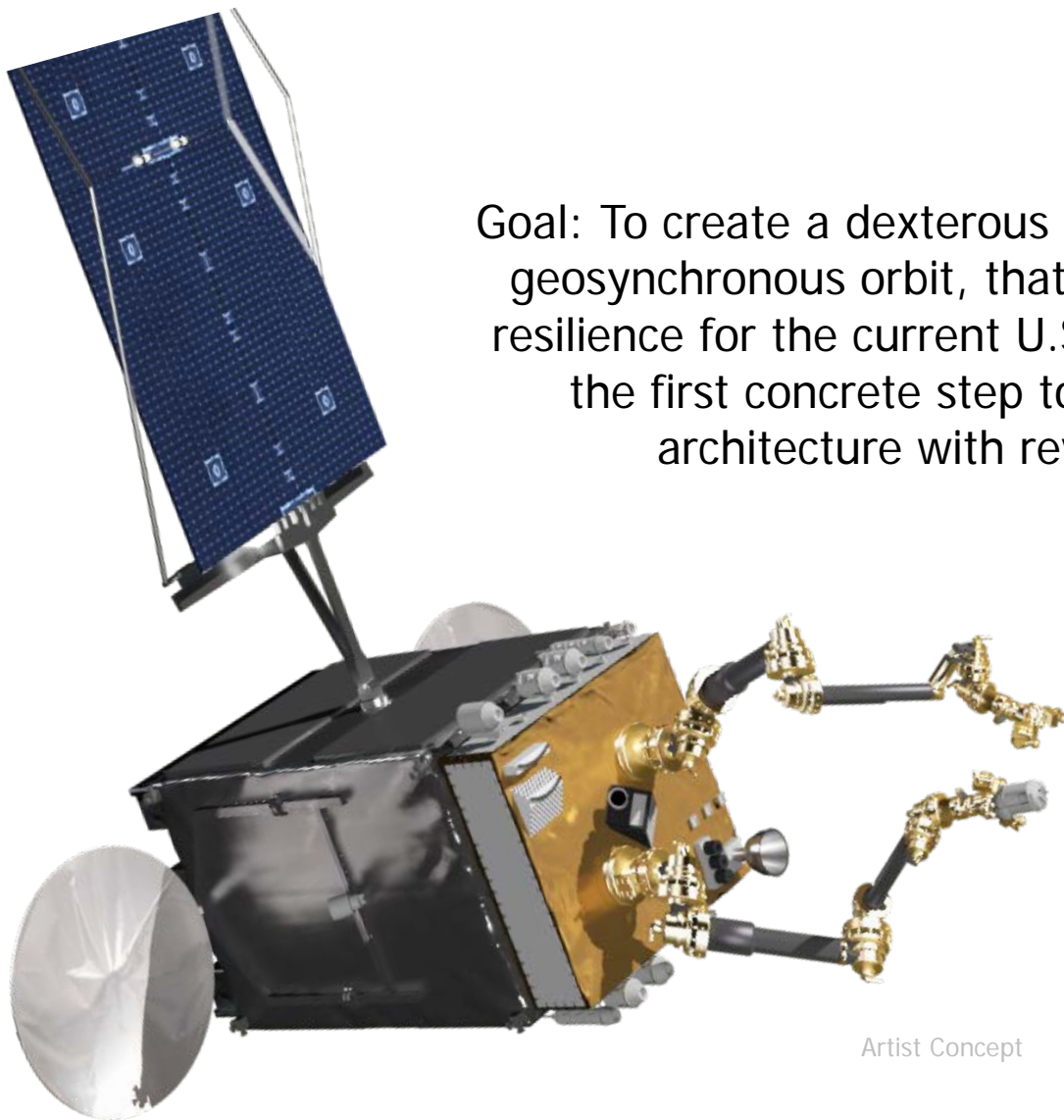
Artist Concept

# Top-level evaluation criteria

- **Technical approach**
  - Consistency, heritage and supportability
  - Rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) solution
  - Communications solution
  - Information assurance and cyber security
  - Mission assurance approach
  - Payload accommodation
  - Propulsion solution
  - Mission planning and simulation
  - Expertise of technical team
  - Mission operations center
  - Ground station and network

- **Business approach**
  - Long range vision for space servicing
  - Investment strategy
  - Financing terms
  - Liability and insurance
  - Customer outreach
  - Management approach, plan and schedule
  - Market analysis
  - Servicing road map and servicer fleet growth
  - Satellite design transformation
  - Government terms for servicing missions
  - Desired teaming approach

- Consistency, heritage and supportability of overall approach
  - Extent to which proposed bus solution retains heritage from reliable GEO bus solution and yet consistently meets RSGS objectives
  - Extent to which modifications to bus can be designed and bus delivered on RSGS timeline
  - Extent to which proposed solution is consistent with business approach


- Rendezvous and proximity operations solution
  - Extent to which RPO solution has heritage from past/present RPO sensors, control approaches, and operational practices
  - Extent to which RPO approach relies upon available hardware and software solutions
  - Extent to which RPO approach is consistent with RSGS objectives

- Communications solution
  - Ability of proposed comms solution to obtain required spectrum
  - Ability to operate in proximity to client satellites without causing electromagnetic interference or damage to client receivers
  - Ability of proposed comms solution to operate continuously during all phases of RSGS operations
  - Ability of proposed bus to accommodate proposed comms solution

- Information assurance and cyber security
  - Ability of information assurance and cyber security approaches to assure mission performance in a cyber contested environment

- Mission assurance approach
  - Ensure mission assurance approach is consistent with RSGS objectives for reliability and endurance
  - Ability to achieve program schedule while implementing proposed mission assurance plans and procedures

- Payload accommodation approach on proposed bus
  - Evaluate analysis of payload impact on proposed bus, including structure, mass, moment of inertia, thermal, electrical, and control
  - Evaluate degree to which proposed bus has considered and evaluated alternative payload accommodation schemes compared to baseline single-module payload

- Propulsion solution
  - Ability of proposed propulsion solution to achieve multiple servicing missions
  - Ability of proposed solution to provide adequate thruster authority during proximity operations
  - Ability to minimize pluming of client satellite
  - Maturity of propulsion solution

- Mission planning and simulation
  - Ability of proposer's simulation environment to provide high-fidelity mission simulations, including robotic actions
  - Ability of mission planning capability to support efficient planning of servicing missions with short lead times

- Expertise of technical team. Past performance and expertise in:
  - Rendezvous and proximity operations
  - GEO satellite design, manufacture and operations
  - Bus-to-payload integration
  - Launch campaign support
  - Agile software development
  - Commercial space operations and business practices
  - Government GEO space operations and procedures
  - Information assurance and cyber security

- Mission operations center
  - Ability of proposed ground solution to incorporate robotic payload operations
  - Ability to implement security procedures for servicing of national security spacecraft
  - Ability to support efficient RPO and servicing operations, including integration with NRL-developed Integrated Robotic Workstation

- Ground station and network solution
    - Ability to provide 360-degree coverage of GEO belt, consistent with proposed communications solution
    - Analysis of time delays resulting from network infrastructure
    - Ability to provide cyber secure operations

- Long range vision for space servicing
    - Consistency of long range vision with corporate capabilities and proposed RSGS solution
    - Extent to which economic analysis supports long range vision
    - Growth potential of long-range vision and ability to address national security and commercial interests

- Investment strategy
  - Extent to which outyear plan for investment results in stable, persistent servicing capability
  - Extent to which strategy includes assessments and decision points relevant to investment timing
  - Extent to which investment strategy will promote growth of servicing market

- Financing terms
  - Ability of financial approach to support delivery of all required RSGS products on schedule
  - Extent to which term sheets have been obtained for all external financing
  - Extent to which internal financing has been approved by Board of Directors

- Liability and insurance
  - Extent to which proposer has interacted with insurers to explore rates and terms
  - Extent to which proposer's liability plan will advance the acceptance of space servicing by commercial space operators

- Customer outreach
  - Comprehensiveness of proposer outreach plan for establishment and growth of space servicing market

- Management approach, plan and schedule
  - Extent to which management plan will support an effective partnership for design, development and demonstration of RSGS
  - Extent to which proposed schedule will support RSGS timeline
  - Extent to which management plan will support prompt resolution of emergent technical issues
  - Ability of partnership communication plan to maintain ideal partnership functionality

- Market analysis
  - Consistency with long range vision, investment strategy, and financing

- Servicing road map and servicer fleet growth
  - Evaluate servicing road map and growth plan for consistency with long range vision, investment strategy, and financing

- Satellite design transformation
  - Ability of proposed servicing approach to influence design of future GEO satellites
  - Ability of team to affect satellite design and requirements
  - Ability of team to communicate advantages of transformed satellite designs to customers

- Assured Government terms for servicing missions
    - Extent to which business case depends upon Government business for sustainability, and what terms are required to achieve sustainability
    - Extent to which proposers have held discussions with Government customers to establish servicing needs
    - Extent to which proposers have developed conceptual servicing missions and payloads to address projected Government requirements

- Desired teaming approach and terms
    - Extent to which team decision process supports execution of RSGS program
    - Extent to which terms of the proposed Other Transactions agreement support RSGS objectives, corporate objectives, and long-term development of space servicing

# Tell us what supplemental data you need for your proposal

# DARPA-PS-16-01@darpa.mil

www.darpa.mil

# RSGS Payload Technical Overview

Bill Vincent

NRL Program Manager

May 25, 2016

# Outline

- NRL space robotics history
- RSGS mission introduction
- Robotic servicing vehicle (RSV) overview
- GEO robotics payload overview
- GEO robotics payload components
  - Robotic arm system (RAS)
  - Tools and docking system
  - Payload rendezvous and proximity operations (RPO) suite
  - Proximity awareness system (PAS)
  - Payload electronics
  - Robotic control algorithms
  - Payload flight software
- RSV bus assumptions and expected interfaces
- Ground system
- Mission concept of operations
- NRL test and development capabilities
- Mission areas: "What Could the Payload Do?"

# NRL Space Robotics History

# NRL Space Robotics History

- RSGS is benefiting from multiple past DARPA programs with substantial technology development performed at NRL.

- The core focus of the technology development has been maturing elements of robotic servicing for government and commercial missions:
  - 2002-2005 – SUMO: Spacecraft for the Universal Modification of Orbits
  - 2005-2009 – FREND: Front-end Robotics Enabling Near-term Demonstration
  - 2009-2010 – FREND Application Studies
  - 2010-2011 – MGS: Manned Geo Servicing Study, joint study by DARPA/NASA
  - 2011-2013 – Phoenix
  - 2014-2015 – Phoenix (GEO Robotics)
  - 2015-Launch – Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS)

- Focus throughout has been:
  - Systems engineering to identify where development is needed to enable robotic servicing as a national capability
  - Risk reduction and technology development to mature capability
  - Robust laboratory testing to validate technologies and system integration
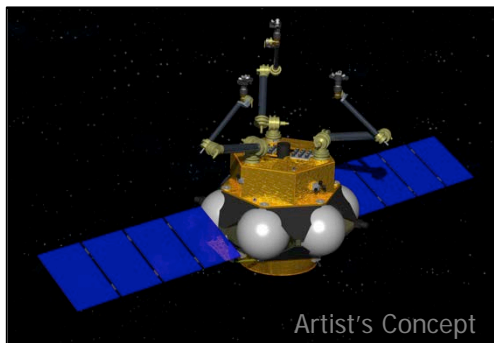
2004: SUMO Point Design
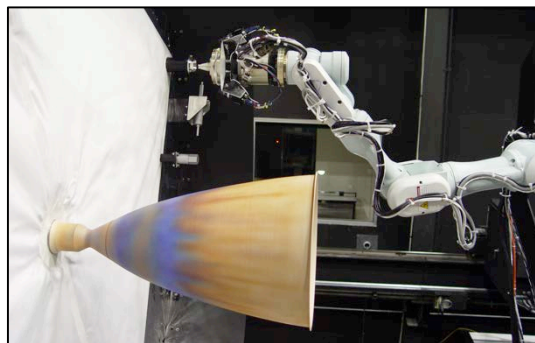


2004: SUMO Grapple Demonstration
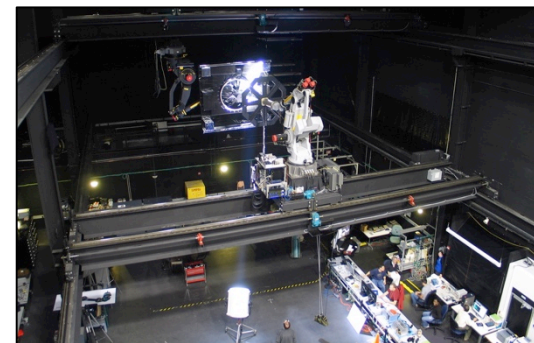


2005: SUMO RPO & Grapple Demonstration
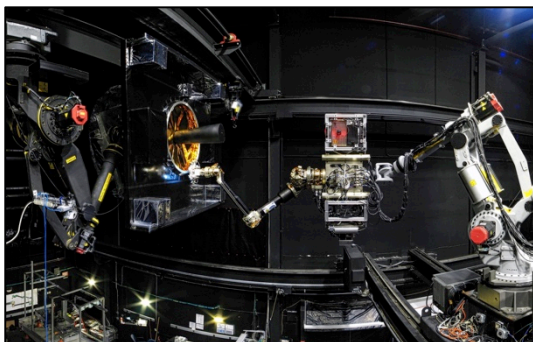


2008: FREND EDU Grapple Demonstration
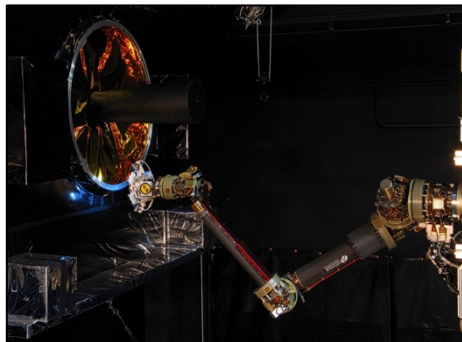


2008: FREND Flight Prototype Grapple



2009: FREND Environmental Testing
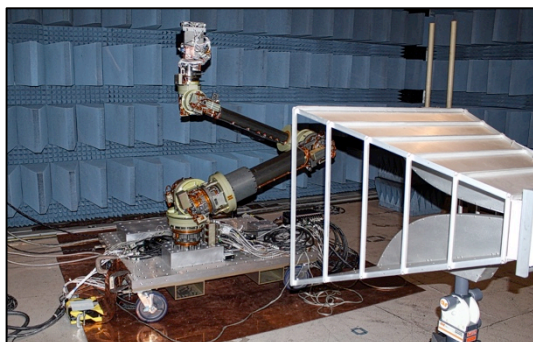


2013: Phoenix EMI Testing
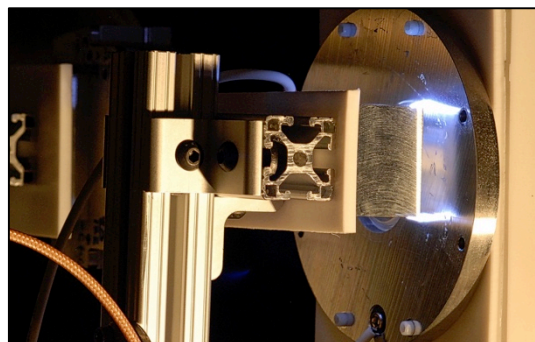


2013: Phoenix First Contact Discharge R&D
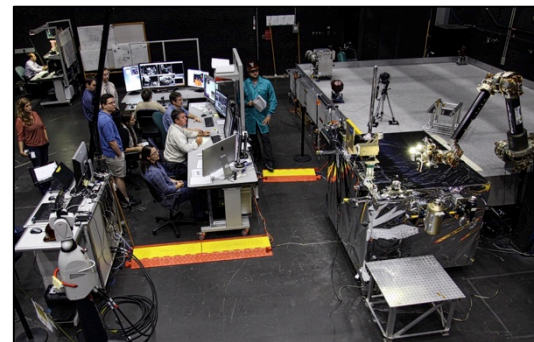


2014: Phoenix Teleoperations Tool Testing

**Integrated Robotics Workstation**

Robotics Operations Workstation — Neptune Ground Station

Uplink

Spacecraft Bus Simulator

FREND Robot Arm System

Rikishi Electronics Unit

Payload Power

Payload Flight Software Testbed (Hosts BB Hardware and Software)
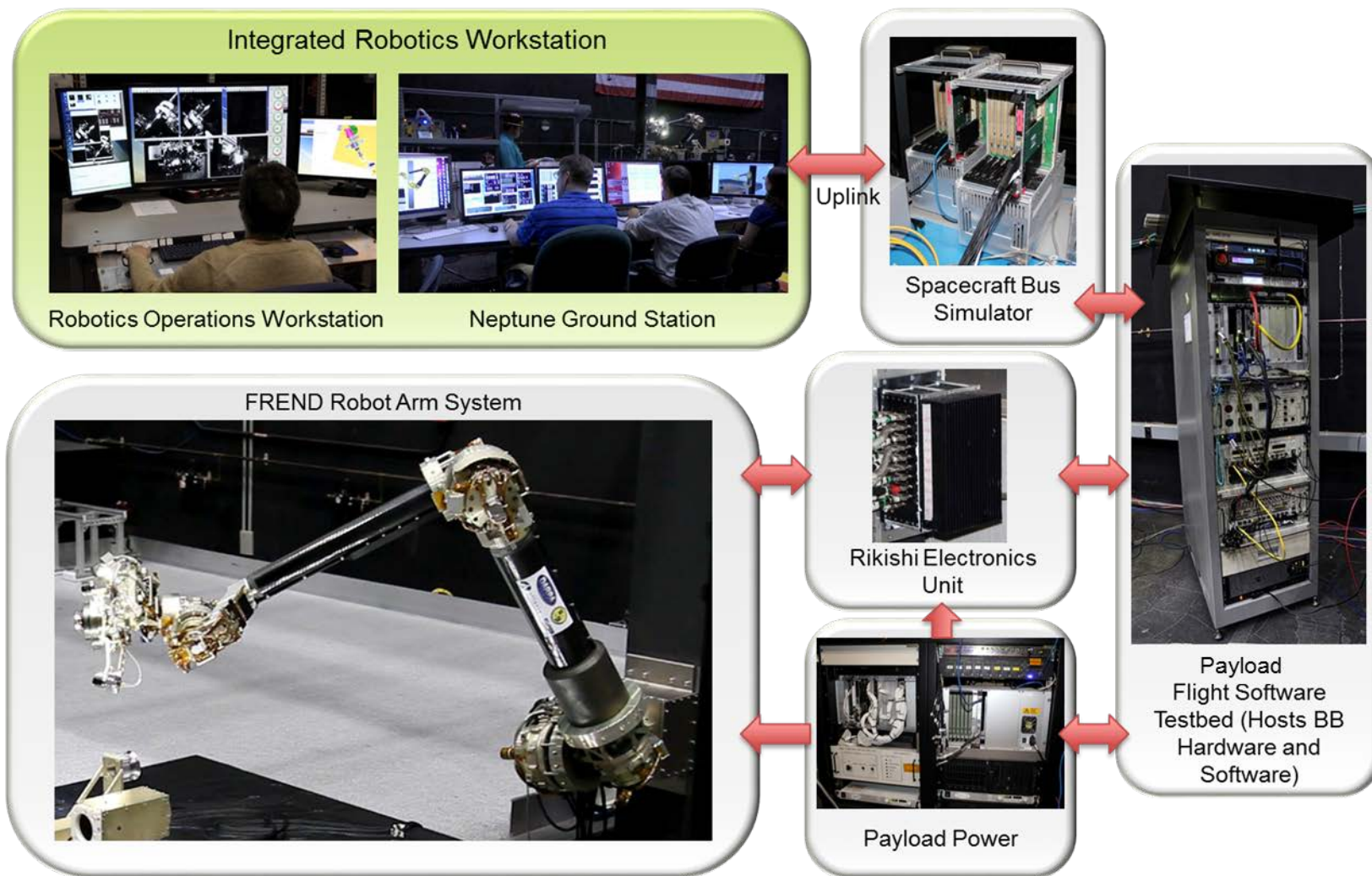
## Demonstrated end-to-end flight architecture signal chain

# RSGS Mission Introduction

# RSGS Architecture Block Diagram



Control is coordinated between RSV and Client

**Robotic Servicing Vehicle (RSV)**

**Client Spacecraft**

Artist's Concept

RSV CMD/TLM

Robotic Payload TLM

Client CMD/TLM

**Space Segment**

**Ground Segment**

**Ground Station 1** - - - - **Ground Station N**

**Client Ground Station(s)**

- Ground Control
- Ground Status
- Timing Data
- Tracking Data
- Antenna Pointing Data
- Uplink
- Downlink
- High-Rate Downlink

**Mission Operations Center**

RSV Mission Planning and Execution

RSV Spacecraft Operations

RSV Payload Operations

**External Resources**
- Client Owner/Operator
- Ground Tracking
- Ground Sites

**RSV Operations Planning and Validation Facility**

93

**Client Inspection
(Free Flyer or Grappled)**
Week(s)

**RSV Launch, Initial
Activation, and
Checkout**
Hours

**RSV Activation and
Checkout/
Quiescent Operations**
Months

**Proximity
Operations**
Week

**Client Orbit Modification**
Days-Weeks

**RSV Parking Orbit
Transfer**
Months

**Rendezvous**
Days-Weeks

**Client Grapple/
Ungrapple**
Hours

**RSV Parking Orbit
Transfer/Quiescent
Operations**
Days

**Client Anomaly Resolution and
Upgrade Installation (Grappled)**
Week(s)

Artist's Concept

- Design objectives
  - RSV design based on Phoenix and FREND technologies
  - Program is a DoD Class B Mission
    - Single-point failures should be avoided if critical or where cost-effective
    - Level 2 Parts per EEE-INST-002
    - Redundancy used in some critical functions or where cost-effective
  - The RSV is designed to be single-fault tolerant to a loss of primary mission for long life
    - Designed for graceful degradation
    - Block and functional redundancy used as needed to support design philosophy
    - Quality of components and design practices should result in five-year to eight-year payload mission life

- Operational objectives
  - Conduct a government on-orbit checkout, commissioning, and demonstration period that is nominally 6-9 months
  - Perform post-demonstration servicing missions under the management and control of an organization outside the government
  - Perform cooperative autonomous grapple/ungrapple of GEO satellites
  - Be capable of performing cooperative servicing missions anywhere in the GEO ring
  - Be capable of grappling Liquid Apogee Engine (LAE), bolt hole, and Marman ring interfaces on GEO satellites

# Robotic Servicing Vehicle (RSV) Overview

- To date, DARPA and NRL development efforts have focused on the payload technologies required to support the mission
- In lieu of having a bus defined, NRL has created a high-level functional allocation of RSV subsystems between the RSV bus and the GEO robotics payload to allow the payload design to mature
  - The RSV concept design was used as a point of departure for the payload design and requirements development
  - A "generic" RSV is being used as a baseline "stand-in" to perform required RSV-to-client system-level analysis and trades
- RSV assumptions overall
  - "Generic" RSV mass (wet): 4,500 kg (analytical model)
  - RSV payload mass: ~1,000 kg (including payload structure)
  - Class B per DOD-HNDK-343; GEO environment; long life; block redundant power and avionics
  - Two-arm configuration (two FREND MKII RAs) and supporting equipment
  - GEO robotics payload requires coordinated control of RSV and Client

**GEO Robotics Payload**

**RSV Bus**
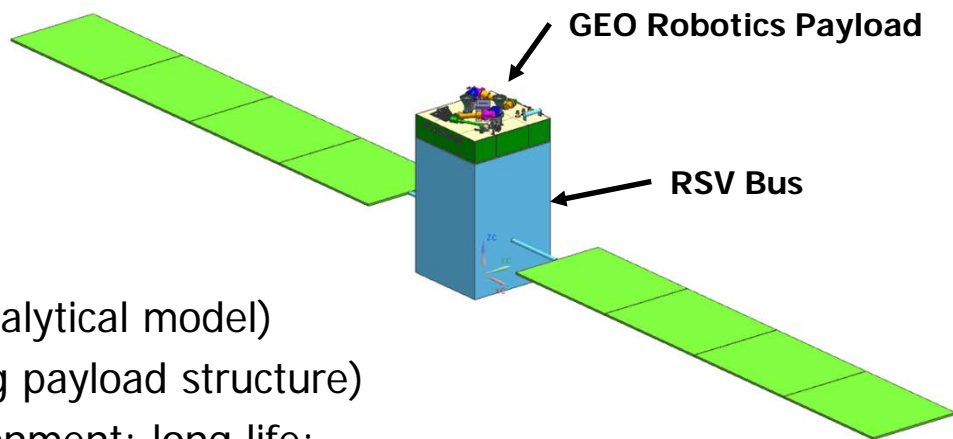
Artist's Concept

# GEO Robotics Payload Overview

# Payload Point Design Description

- NRL's point design has focused on a monolithic payload with two robotic arms designed to fully meet the government mission objectives for cooperative servicing
- To match government objectives with commercial objectives, variations from this starting point may be desired

- DoD Class B reliability: Single-fault tolerant to criticality 1 (mission-ending) failures
  - Block-redundant Robotic Arm Systems
    - o Based on the assumption that 1 RAS is adequate to perform the full mission
  - Block redundant avionics
  - Block redundant orbit-modification mission tools (first grapple tools)
  - Functionally redundant RPO
  - Robotic arm design allows for graceful degradation to arm faults

- Design practices, component selection, and design tolerance against single faults expected to result in five-year to eight-year payload mission life

- 100 krad/Level 2 parts per EEE-INST-002; GEO Env

- Protoqualification verification test program

**Long-life payload would leverage DARPA investments**

NRL Image

- 2 Robotic Arm Systems
- 1 POD accommodation
- 12 tool/POD holding slots
- 2 CT&DH and EPS chains (internal)
- Toolkit (10)
  - 2 Marman Ring Tools
  - 2 Bolt Hole Tools
  - 2 Liquid Apogee Engine Tools
  - 1 Anomaly Resolution Tool
  - 1 PODS Capture Tool
  - 1 Spacehand
  - 1 Spare Tool
- Proximity Awareness Sensors
  - Deck mount BW cameras
  - Deck mounted lights
  - 1 Color Camera
  - Full-sky coverage sensors
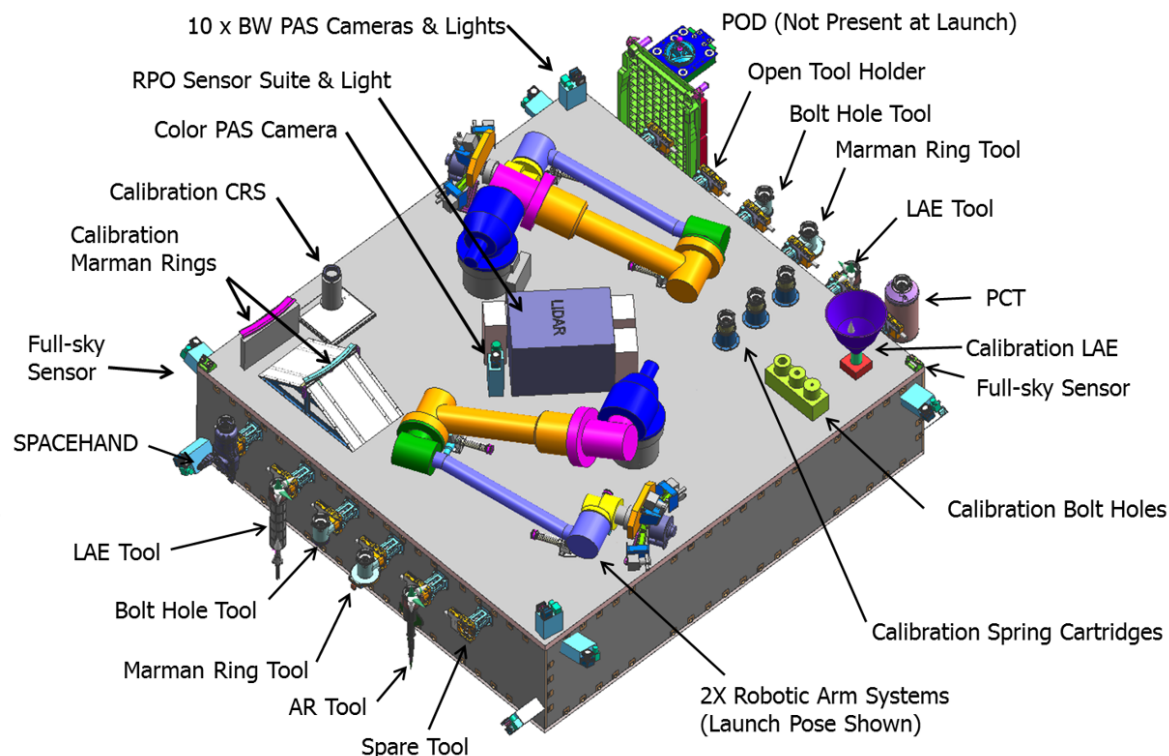


- RPO Sensor Suite
  - LIDAR
  - Narrow Field Cameras, Wide Field Cameras, and Lighting
  - Infrared Camera
- Calibration Hardware

# GEO Robotics Payload Components
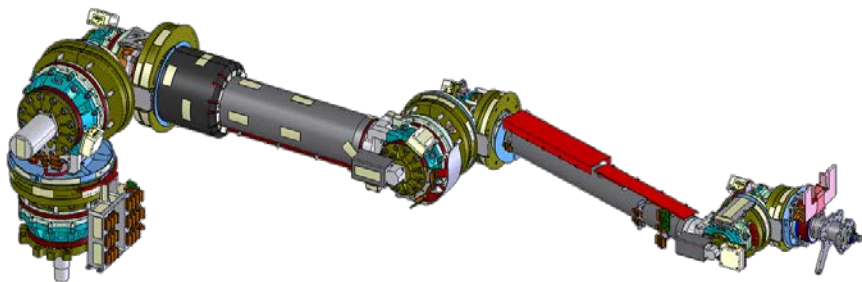
# Robotic Arm System

**FREND MKII Robotic Arm**

- Robotic Arm System:
  - Front-end Robotics Enabling Near-term Demonstration (FREND) Robotic Arm (RA)
  - Rikishi Electronics Unit (REU)
  - End-of-Arm (EoA) Subassembly
    - End-of-Arm Control Board (EACB)
    - Tool Changer
    - Camera system with lens-mounted lights
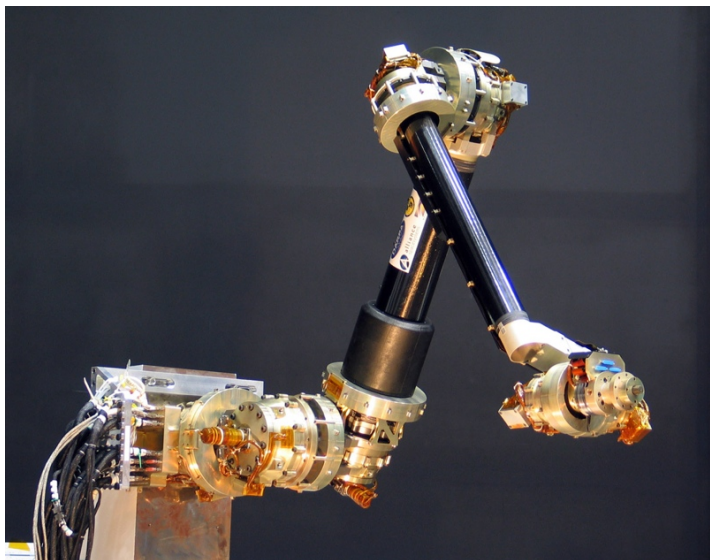


**FREND EDU Robotic Arm**
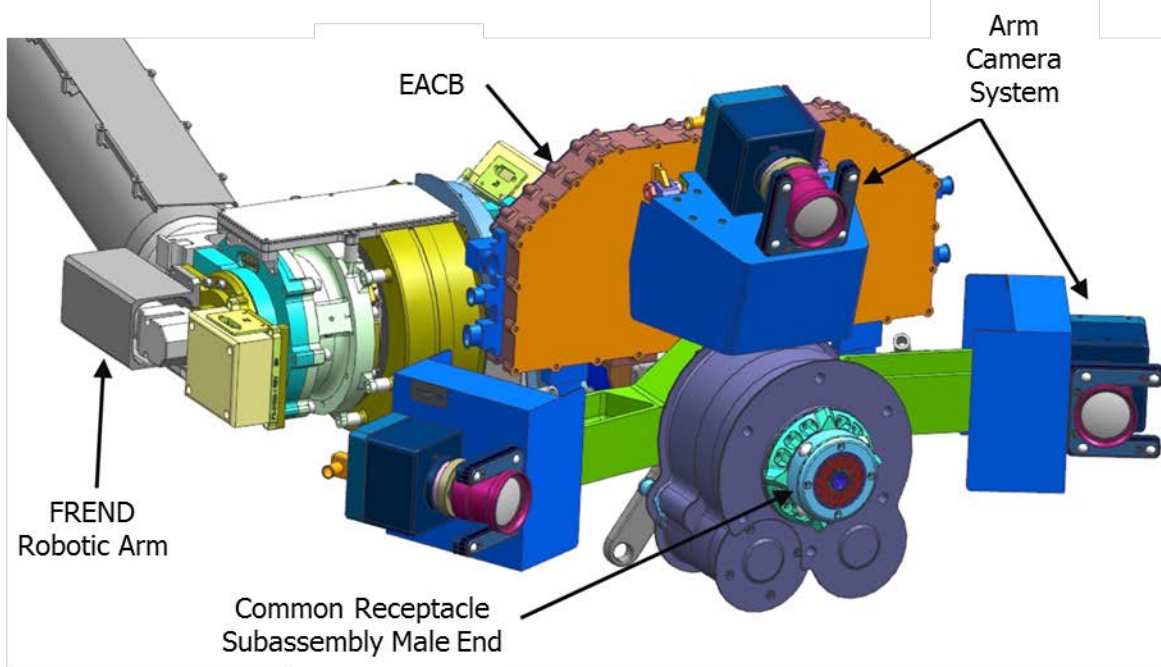


**End-of-Arm Subassembly**
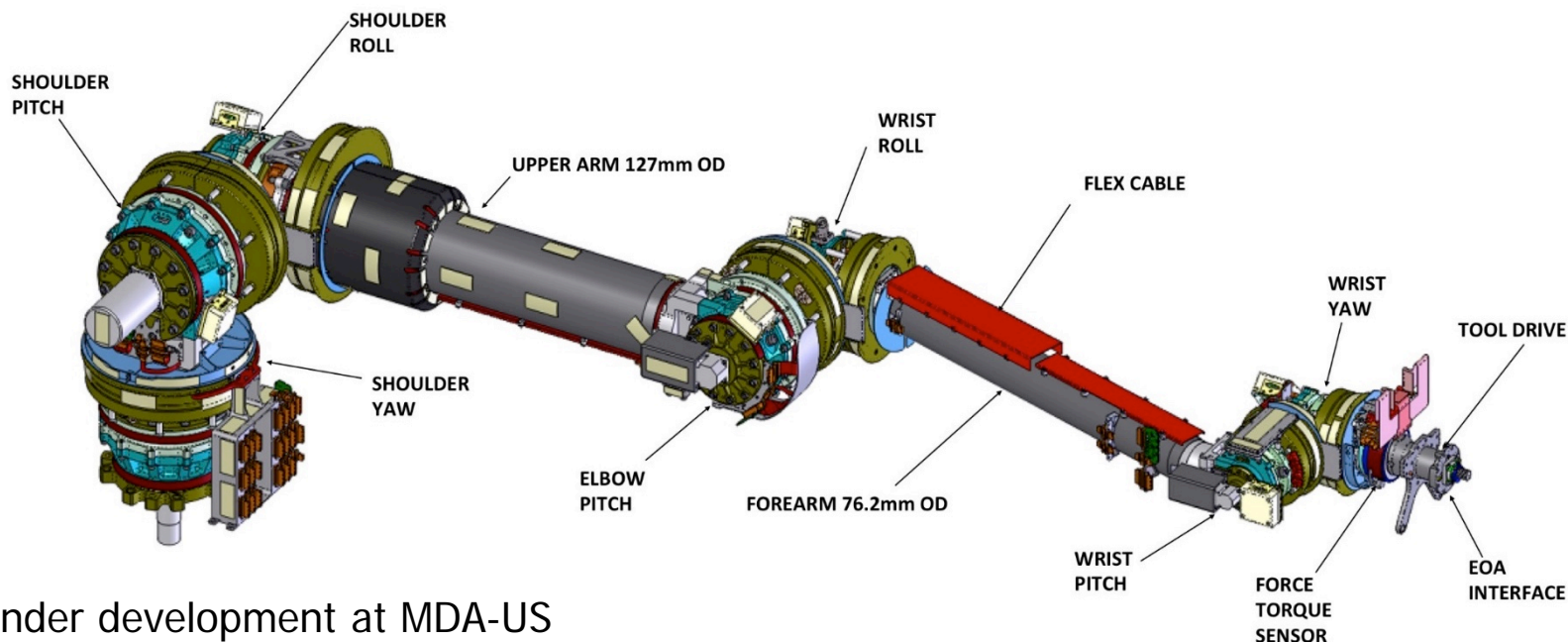
- Under development at MDA-US
- 2 Meter Class, 7-DOF Robotic Arm
- Capable of 1g operations – critical for robust system-verification testing
- FREND Mark II arm incorporates several design improvements, including upgraded resolver electronics, improved grounding, and enhanced flex harness design
- First-generation FREND EDU used extensively for system-level testing for the last 8 years
- First-generation FREND FPU completed flight-qualification testing (vibe, TVAC, EMI) in 2008
- Mark II flight units planned for delivery in 2018

**FREND 7-DOF arm design is robust and is designed to enable multiple missions**

# Robotic Arm Electronics

- Rikishi arm control electronics - under development at Moog Broad Reach under contract to MDA-US
  - 9 Motor Control Boards (MCBs) (SY, SP, SR, EP, WY, WP, WR, TD1, TD2)
  - 1 COMM Card
  - 1 Mother Board

- Motor and power filter boxes – under development at MDA-Brampton under contract to MDA-US

- Mark I Rikishi EDU has been operating successfully at NRL since 2007

- EM units planned for late 2016, flight units planned for 2018



**Rikishi Electronics**
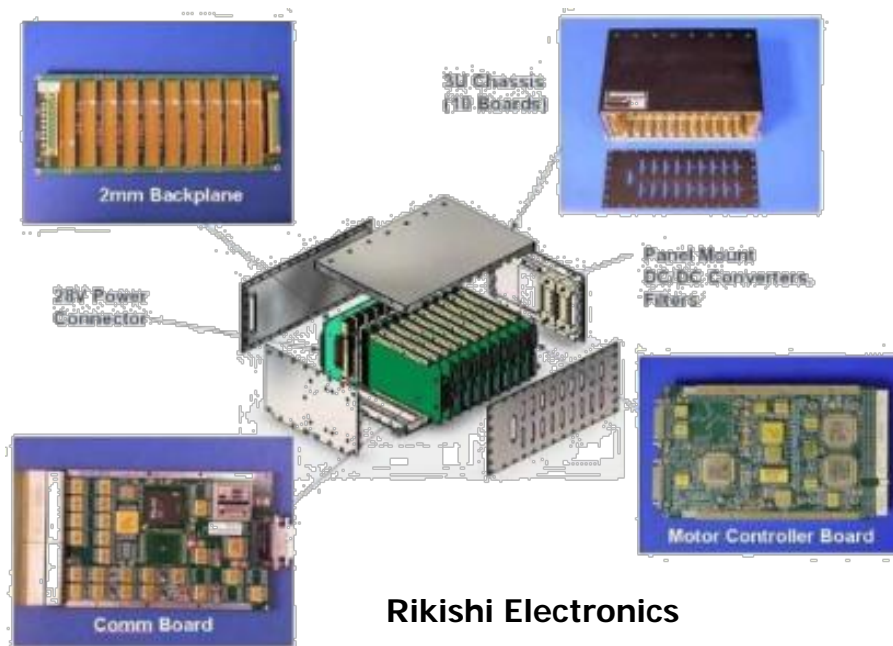


**EM Motor Filter Box**

Arm electronics would provide system reliability through test-proven design

- Under development at NRL
- Provides digital control of end-of-arm cameras, lighting, and Tool Changer
- Provides Force/Torque Sensor signal conditioning
- Provides SpaceWire router to switch between camera and tool sources
- Breadboard EACB in production
- EDU expected in 2017
- Flight units expected in late 2018
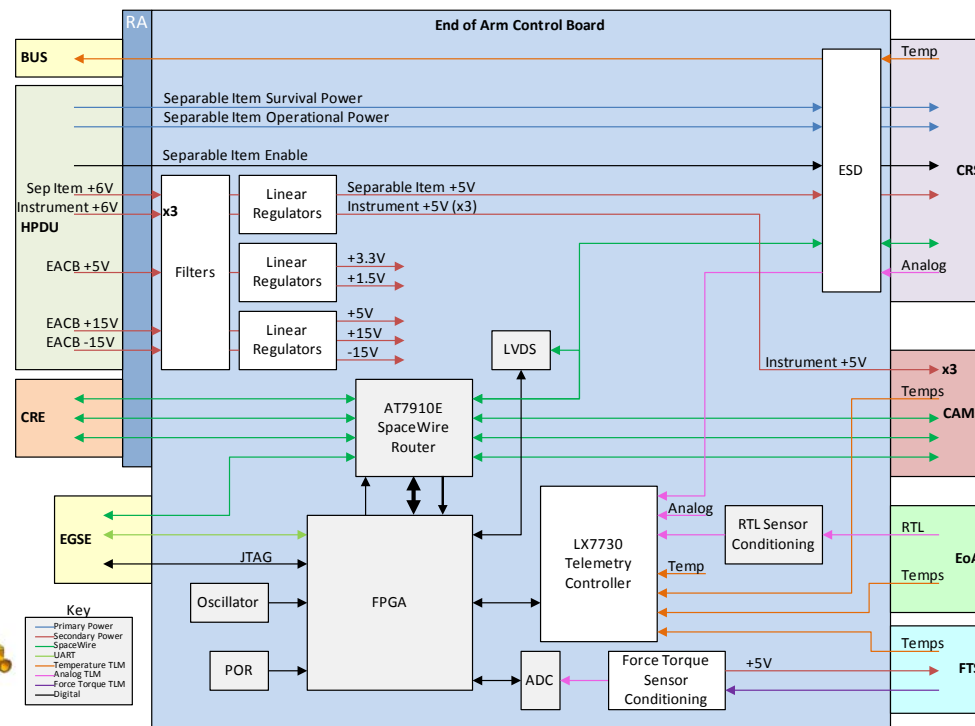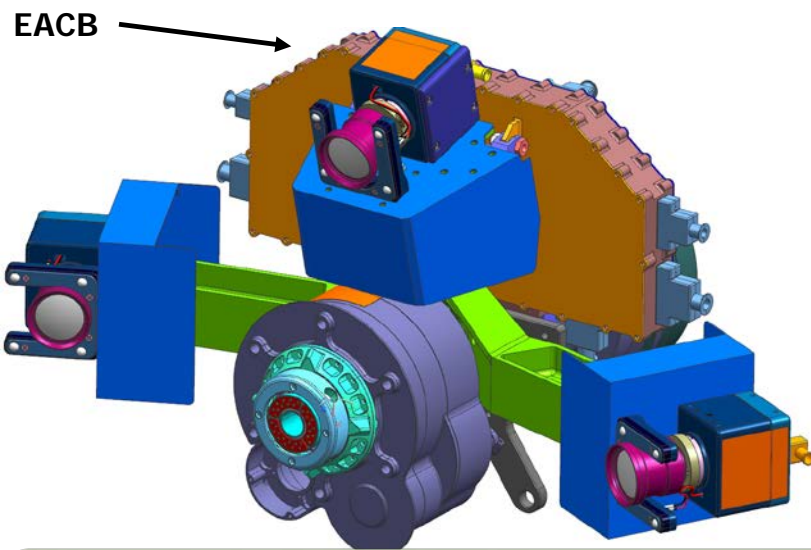
**EACB**



**EACB provides reliable digital signals via FREND arm flex harness**

# Tool Changer System

- Under development at Oceaneering
- Provides the common electrical and mechanical interface for on-orbit tool attachment
  - Supports attachment and detachment of a wide range of tool types
  - Provides power, analog data, and digital data interface for changeable tools
  - Passes torque from FREND arm tool drive to tools
- Prototype has been operating successfully at NRL since 2014
- EM units planned for delivery spring 2017
- Flight units planned for early 2019

**Prototype CRS**

**Prototype Tool Changer**

Stepper Motor Shell

Reaction Torque Feature

Clocking Limiter

Mechanical Locking Interface (4 Balls)

Tool Drive Interface

Common Receptacle Subassembly (Tool Side Interface)

Tool Electrical Socket (32 pins)

Tool Drive Motor Housing
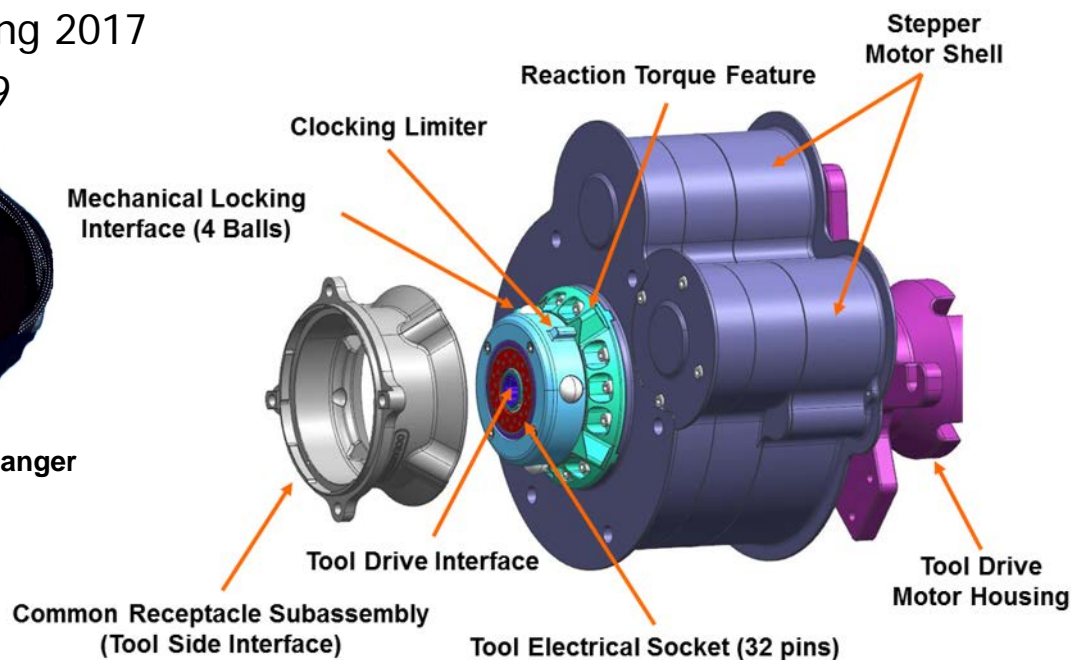
## Tool Changer enables mission flexibility and reliability

- Imagers are planned to be small, lightweight, 5MP or better
- Imaging system includes an LED lighting system
- SpaceWire interface used for communications and image output
- Imagery is used as primary input into machine vision algorithms
- Imagery to be recorded for close-proximity, high-resolution inspection missions
- Engineering models needed in early 2018, flight units by early 2019



**Camera Unit**

MDA Canada

**LED Module**
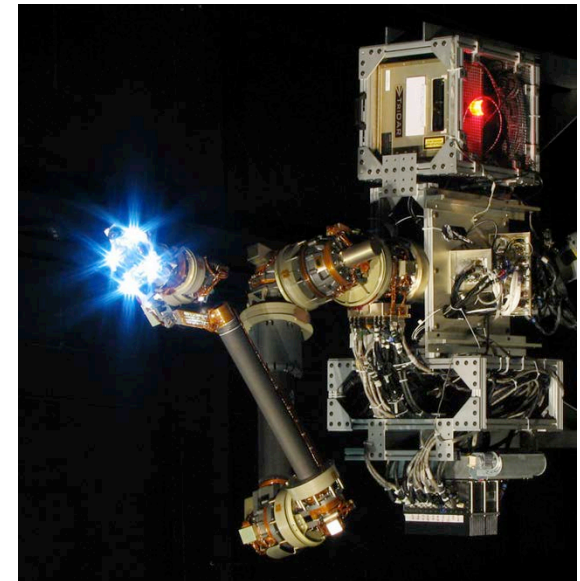
**End-of-arm cameras for machine vision and precision inspection**

# Tools and Docking System

- Baseline suite of 10 tools:
  - LAE Grapple Tool (quantity: 2)
  - Marman Ring Grapple Tool (quantity: 2)
  - Bolt Hole Grapple Tool (quantity: 2)
  - Spacehand (quantity: 1)
    - Being developed by DLR
    - German technology demonstration with DARPA
  - PODS Capture Tool (PCT) (quantity: 1)
  - Passive Anomaly Resolution Tool (quantity: 1)
  - Spare Tool (quantity: 1)
    - Slot reserved for future expansion or new mission requirement/capability

Artist's Concept

**LAE Tool Concept**

Artist's Concept

**Anomaly Resolution Tool Concept**

NRL

**Marman Ring Tool**

DLR

**Spacehand**

MDA

**PODS Capture Tool**

NRL
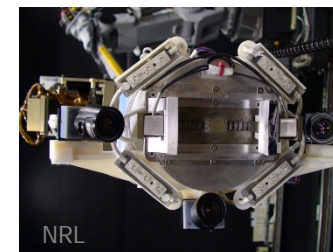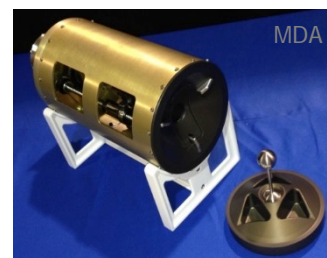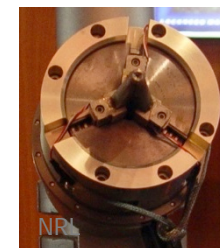
**Bolt Hole Tool**

**Tool suite for redundancy, robustness, flexibility, and expandability**

- Provides a standard launch interface for tools
- Provides an on-orbit restraint and release system to structurally mount tools and PODs to the RSV payload for storage
- Provides mounting points for future assembly missions
- Passes survival power to and reads data from tools and PODs
- POD UDS from MDA-US is shown, alternate approaches are being studied



**Alignment Holes**

**Tool Cleat**

**Alignment Pins**

**Stepper Motor**

**Power and Signal Connector**

**Pass-through Connector**

**Frangibolt Assembly**

**Pass-Through Connector with Electrical spring Probe Contacts (40)**
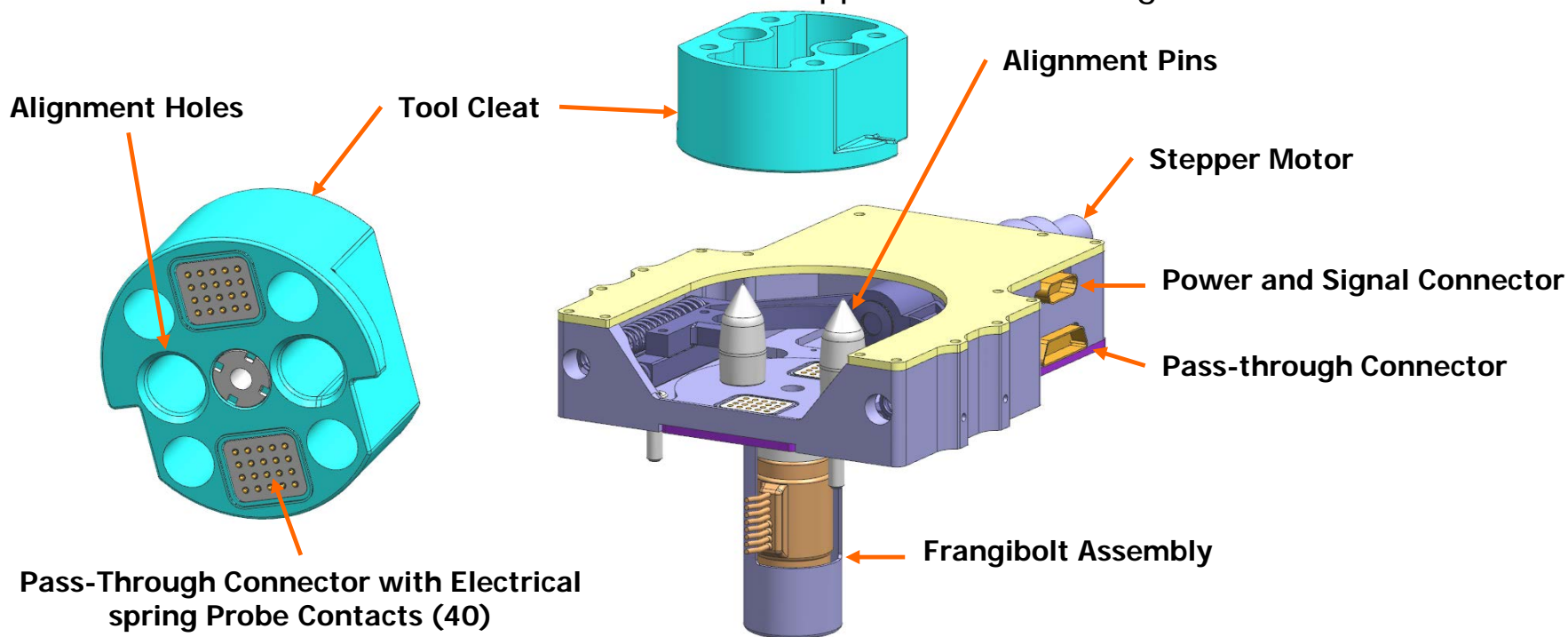
## Standard interface for mission flexibility

# Payload Rendezvous and Proximity Operations Suite Point Design

# Rendezvous and Proximity Operations (RPO)

- The RPO Suite consists of the RPO sensors and pose estimation code

- The notional RPO sensors consist of two visible cameras, one IR camera, and one LIDAR

- Payload avionics process RPO sensor data and calculate range and bearing at long distances and relative pose for close-proximity operations

- Range/bearing or relative pose solution is sent to the bus as input to the relative navigation filter

- Filtered pose is transmitted back to the payload from the bus during grapple operations for use in the robot arm trajectory planner

- Partner experience, expertise, and preferences in RPO sensor suite selection are welcomed both in responses and in potential future negotiations

## Highly capable suite for RPO and grapple without fiducials
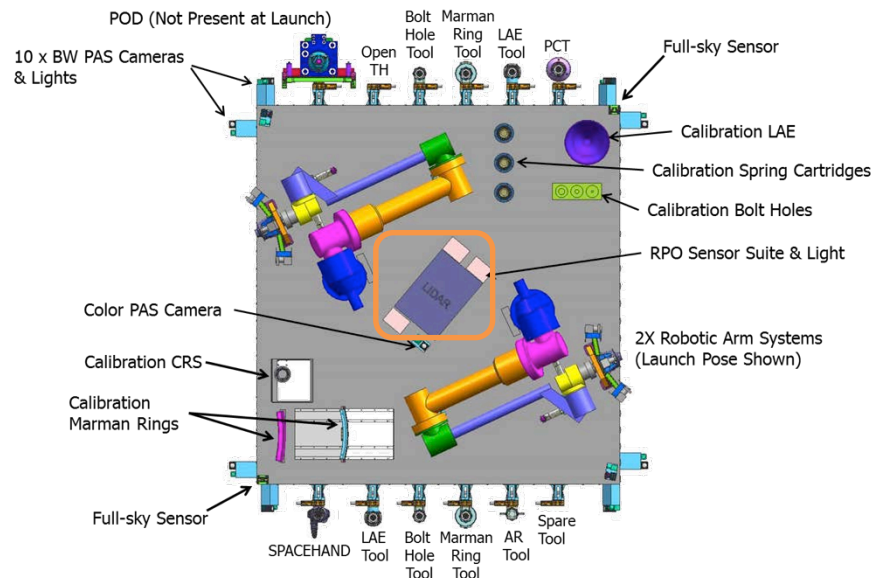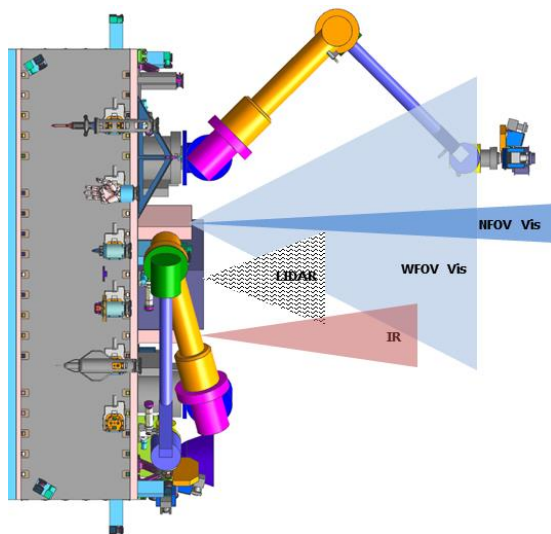
- The RPO suite generates relative pose information and imagery
  - 1 NFOV visible camera
  - 1 WFOV visible camera
  - 1 IR camera
  - 1 LIDAR pose sensor
  - 1 light bank
- NFOV camera and LIDAR pose sensor serve as primary sensors from acquisition to grapple
- WFOV camera serves as secondary sensor from acquisition to grapple, providing imagery to PLD FSW for secondary pose calculation
- Optional configuration could replace WFOV camera with second LIDAR or a WFOV pose camera, bypassing the need for secondary pose calculation in the PLD FSW
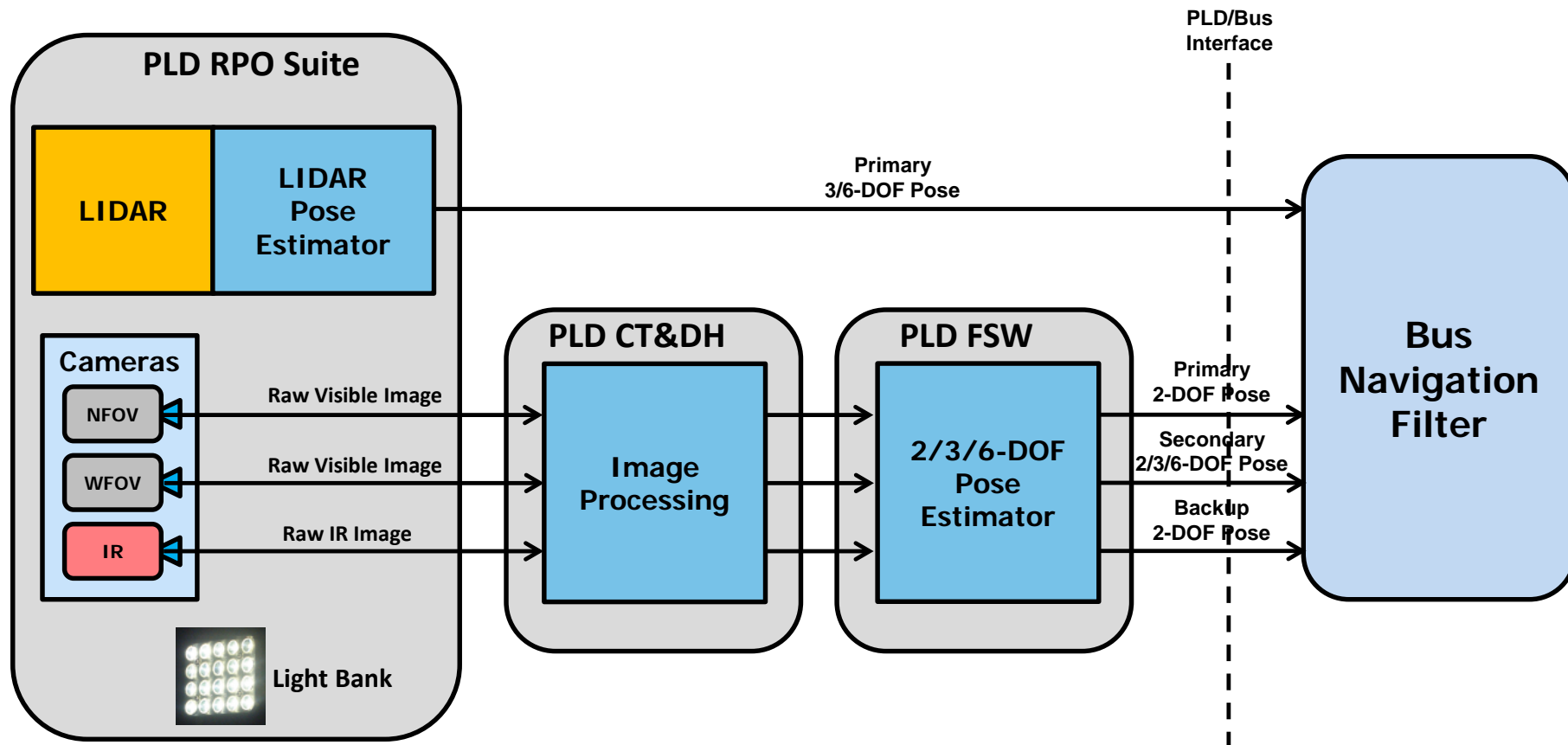
- Note that the baseline RPO suite provides LIDAR-derived pose, but not camera-derived pose
- Camera-derived pose is generated in FSW from camera images

# Proximity Awareness System

# Proximity Awareness System (PAS)

- The PAS consists of multiple payload body mounted cameras
- Provides a wide range of payload monitoring, mission monitoring, and inspection capabilities
- Includes body-mounted color documentation camera for color inspection imagery
- Incudes full-sky coverage sensor for complete proximity awareness

**Example Views:**
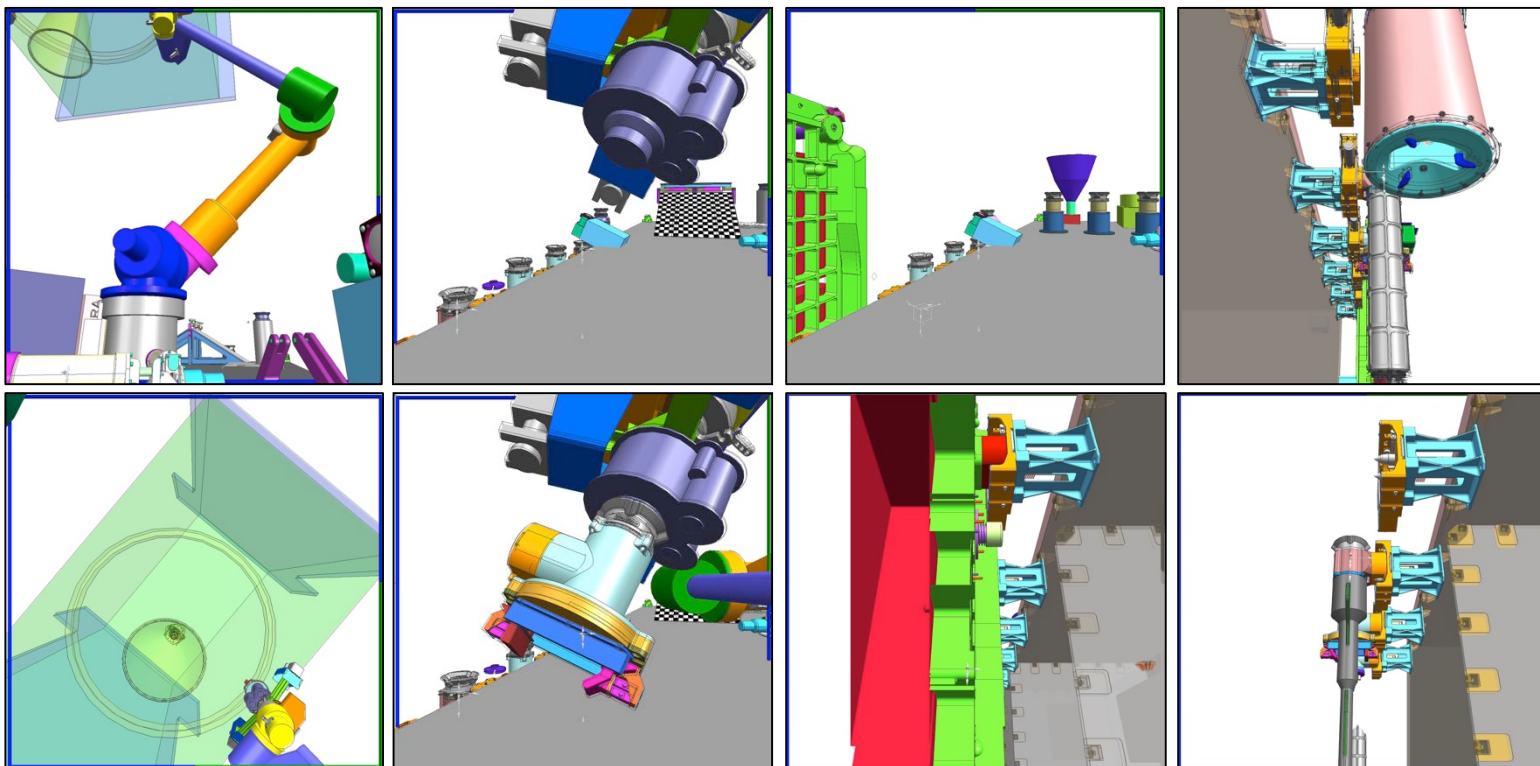


## Multiple on-board cameras would facilitate safe operations and enhanced inspection

# Payload Electronics

# Payload Avionics

- Processes uplink command packets received from the ground thru the bus
- Collects and formats telemetry packets for transmission to the ground through the bus
  - State of health
  - Operating mode
  - Faults and warnings
- Receives image data from a number of different cameras
  - FREND Mark II arms
  - RPO
  - PAS
- Processes image data cameras
  - JPEG compression
  - FTA acceleration processing
  - Raw image collection and storage
- Formats mission data packets for transmission to the ground through the wideband data communications channel
- Implements mechanism release for all payload components
- Maintains control authority over FREND arms

**Payload avionics are reprogrammable to enable new missions**

**Robotics Processing Module (RPM) consists of:**

- Motherboard
  - Custom cPCI Backplane
- Mass Memory Unit (MMU)
  - Data storage
- Gateway Router Bridge (GRB)
  - A custom card, added to the architecture in an attempt to offload some functions better suited to perform direct interfacing between the processors and the MMU
- Single Board Computers (5x)
  - Identical, re-assignable functionality (in-flight)
  - Minimum number required to support all mission phases
    - o Feature Tracking Algorithm Processor (G1P, G2P)
    - o Robotic Arm Control Processor (RAP)
    - o RM Control Processor (RCP) / Trajectory Planning Processor (TPP)
    - o Sensor Data Processor (SDP)
- Power Supply Card (PSC)
  - Provides regulated power for/to cards

**Common Remote Electronics (CRE)**

- Performs the functions of command distribution, telemetry collection, wideband downlink data formatting, separable component interface and Robotic Arm Control Interface.
- Drives, monitors and otherwise controls cameras including end-of-arm, situational awareness, and (notional) RPO cameras
- Multiplexes cameras to multiple "destinations", including FTA Processing, RPO processing, Narrowband down link, Wideband downlink (e.g., teleops) or onboard storage (e.g., MMU such as during RPO mapping ops)
- Mechanism Release Electronics (MRE) drives, monitors, and otherwise controls all launch locks / release devices, Tool Holders, and Tool Changers (one per FREND arm)

- All electrical energy received from the bus is passed through the power distribution system (PDS)

- Single-point ground is located on the bus
  - PDS provides isolated primary voltages to all payload electronics with a primary voltage need

- PDS manages payload component power distribution and conversion
  - PDS provides secondary voltages as needed for payload equipment, including cameras and lighting
  - PDS provides survival voltage pass-thru from bus to payload Components

- PDS provides state-of-health telemetry
  - Secondary voltages, temperature, mode of operation, switch status, current monitoring

- PDS is the first payload component to power "ON" following successful bus activation

**PDS would provide power interface flexibility with bus**

# Robotic Control Algorithms

- The algorithms and software that control space robotics are the invisible half of the program...
  - Equally as important as the robotics hardware, equally complicated, and equally as important to protect as a national capability

- Autonomous approaches are being used to the extent necessary to improve system safety and reliability

- FREND robotics control algorithms development and testing have been an NRL focus since the beginning of program development

- Robotic control modes, as defined by NRL
  - Scripted: The robot carries out pre-planned trajectories, using only proprioceptive sensors
  - Tele-operated: The robot carries out continuous human–generated trajectories, using only proprioceptive sensors
  - Partial autonomy: The robot carries out sequences of operations using both proprioceptive and environmental sensors, pausing at state changes and waiting for human authority to proceed
  - Fully autonomous: The robot carries out sequences of operations using both proprioceptive and environmental sensors, without waiting for human authority to proceed at state changes

**Algorithms for enhanced system safety during payload operations**

- Developed by Moog Broad Reach under contract to MDA-US
- Basic fault checking and arm safing
- In the absence of commands or when a tracking error, overcurrent, overtemp, or joint range violation occurs, the arm safes itself
  - "safe" = stops accepting new commands, actively holds the last good position
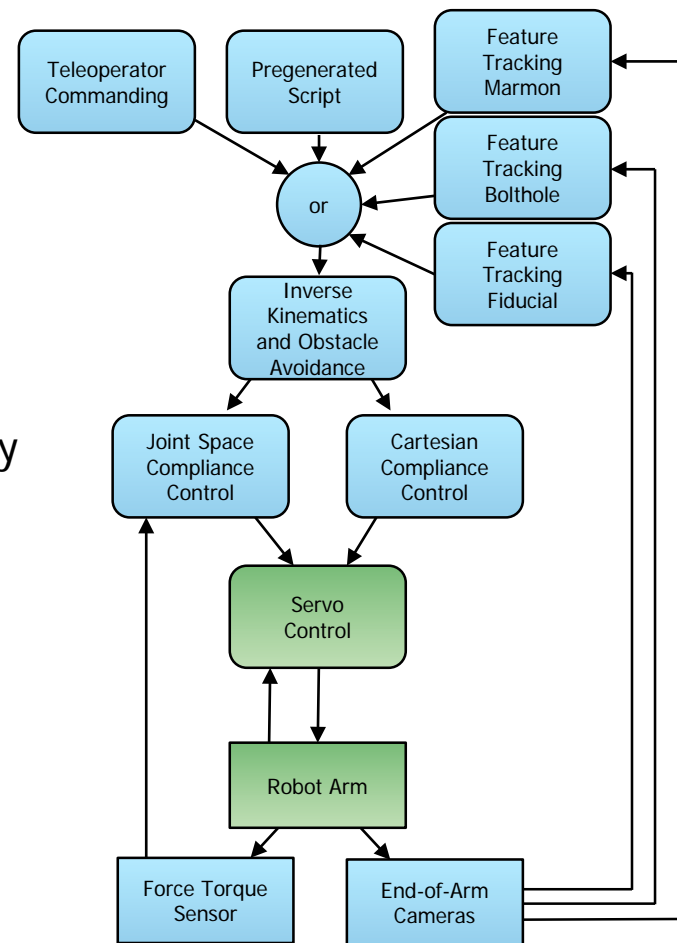


**Extensive arm testing has demonstrated safe operations**

- Developed by NRL
- Reacts to sensed forces and changes joint commands to reduce those forces
- This technique is primarily used to minimize contact forces during initial grapple contact
- Prototype algorithm used extensively during 8 years of testing
- Flight development efforts are underway
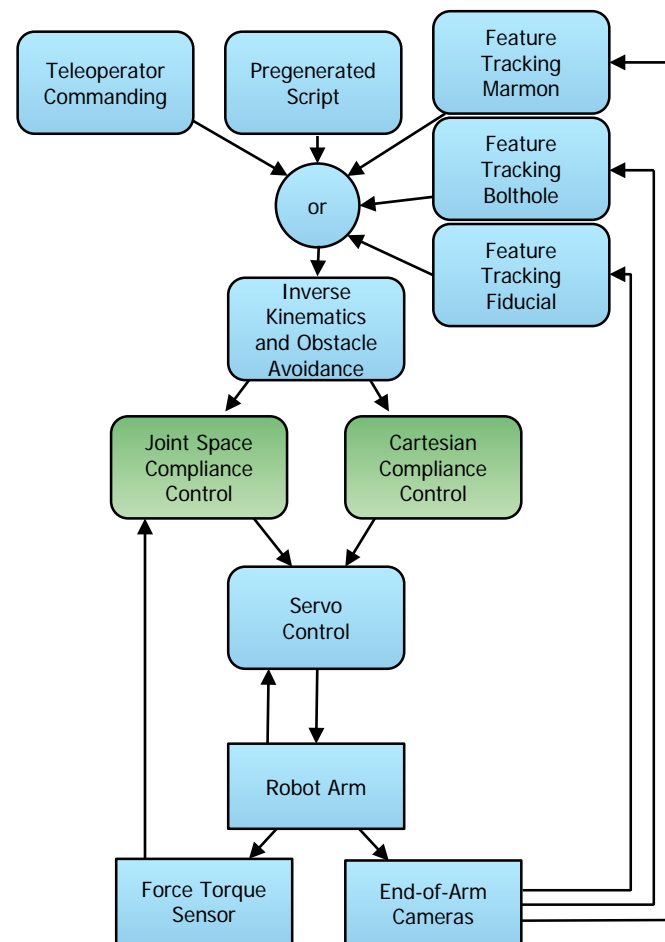


**Compliance control increases system robustness**

- Commands from teleoperators, machine vision, etc. are in Cartesian coordinates
- Commands are transformed into joint angles using a technique known as "Resolved Motion Rate Control (RMRC)"
- FREND arm has 7 DOF; 6 DOF are required to follow arbitrary Cartesian trajectories, the other is "free"
- We take advantage of free DOF to avoid obstacles, joint limits, and singularities
- Prototype algorithms used during 8 years of testing
- Flight development efforts are underway
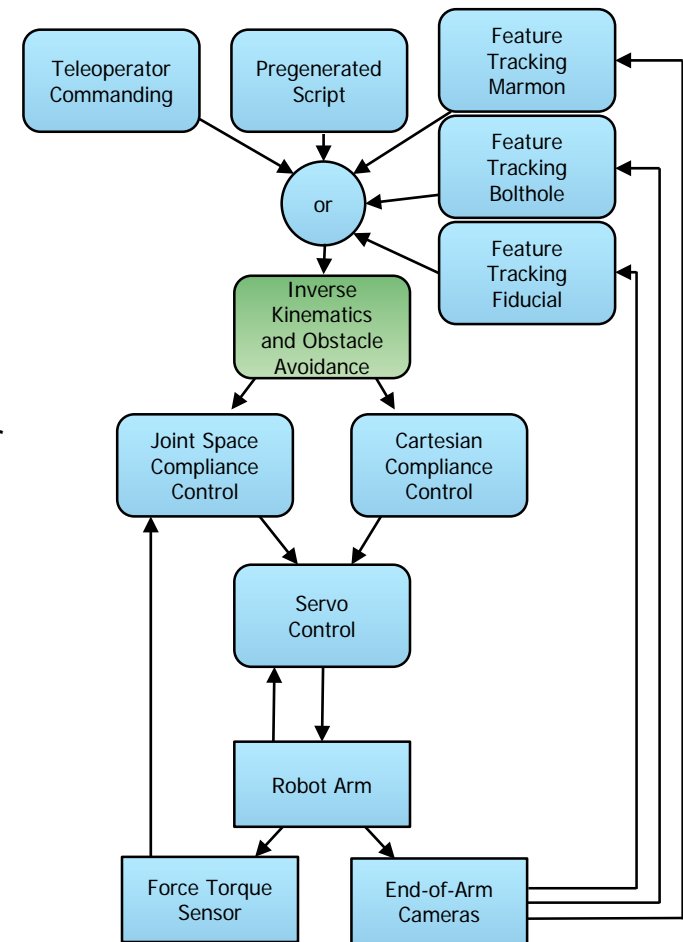


**Obstacle avoidance algorithm enhances system safety**

- Developed by NRL
- Each machine vision algorithm is custom-written to identify a specific type of feature
- Output is location of feature in robot arm end-of-arm frame
- Machine vision output is fed back to the kinematics algorithm to align EoA with feature
- Prototype algorithms used during 8 years of testing
- Flight development efforts are underway
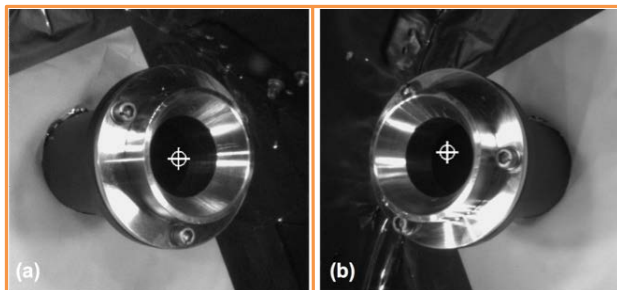


**Raw Camera Imagery**
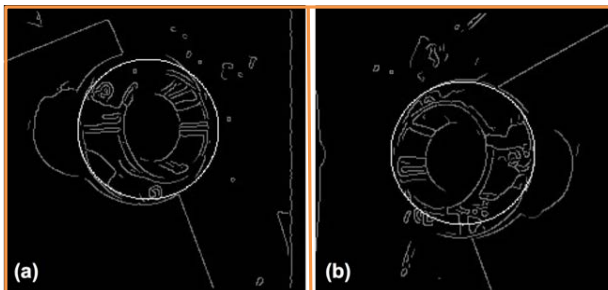
**Machine Vision Solution**

Diagram nodes:
Teleoperator Commanding, Pregenerated Script, Feature Tracking Marmon, Feature Tracking Bolthole, Feature Tracking Fiducial, or, Inverse Kinematics and Obstacle Avoidance, Joint Space Compliance Control, Cartesian Compliance Control, Servo Control, Robot Arm, Force Torque Sensor, End-of-Arm Cameras
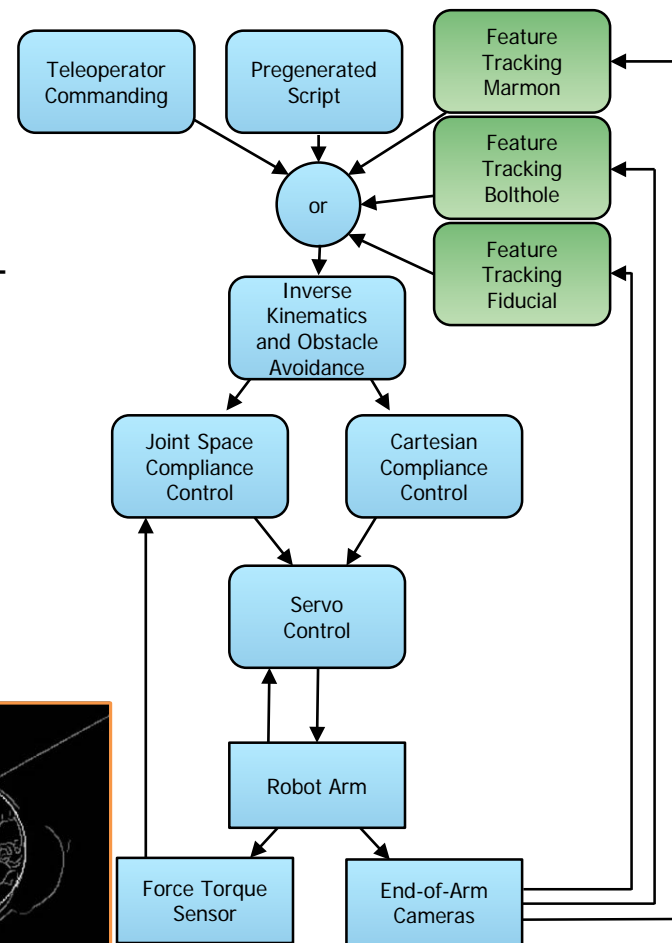
## Machine vision provides fine alignments for robust operations

- Developed by NRL to manage all of the other payload components
  - Turns on/off, changes states depending on current mission mode
  - Detects and responds to faults
- Using a state machine, we attach "telemetry monitors" that detect state changes and inform the state machine
- Prototype algorithms used extensively during 8 years of testing
- Flight development efforts are underway
- Interactions with spacecraft bus mission management software to be defined after partner selection
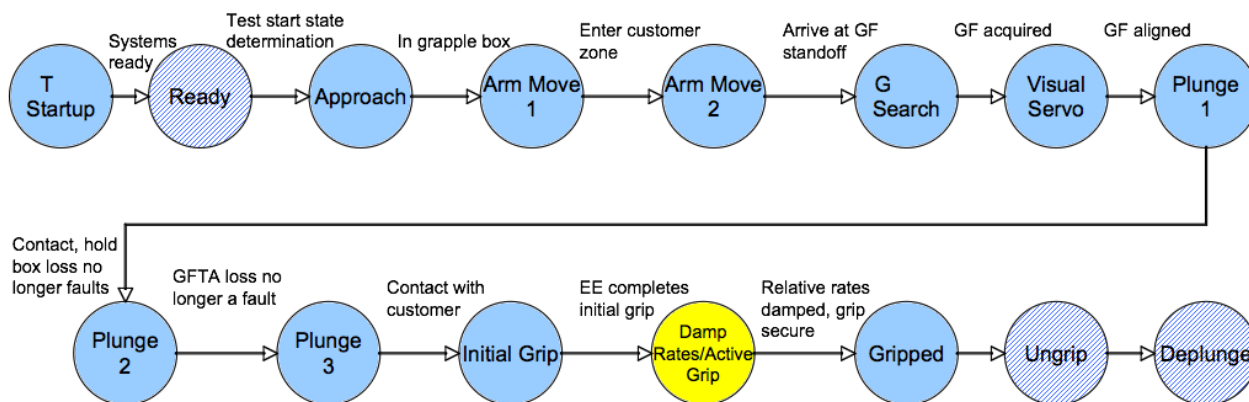


**Payload Mission Manager would constantly verify safe payload operation**

# Payload Flight Software (FSW)

# Payload FSW

- **Payload FSW Status**
  - Under development at NRL
  - Prototype code has been used extensively during system testing
  - Build 1 flight code development is underway

| **Payload Flight Software Functions** | |
|---|---|
| • Robotic arm control of multiple arms<br>   o Compliance control<br>   o Inverse kinematics<br>   o Collision avoidance<br>• Arm trajectory planning<br>   o Cartesian spline trajectory plan<br>   o Joint spline trajectory plan<br>• Tele-ops control<br>• Autonomous control using machine vision<br>• End-effecter tool control<br>• Rendezvous sensor processing | • Proximity awareness sensing<br>• Fault detection, isolation, and recovery<br>• Thermal and power control<br>• Framework<br>   o Command and telemetry management<br>   o OS abstraction<br>   o Event logging<br>   o File system management<br>   o Time management<br>   o MMU management |

## Payload FSW architecture supports mission flexibility

# Payload FSW Functional Breakdown

## Compliance & Resource (0000)

### PFSW Application CSCI

#### Payload Management (1000)

| | |
|---|---|
| PFSW Modes | Scripts and Rules |
| FDIR | Scheduled Cmds |

#### Robotic Control (2000)

| | |
|---|---|
| Arm Operations | Arm Position Control |
| Arm Joint Control | Tool Control |
| Tool Changing | |

#### CT&DH (5000)

| | |
|---|---|
| Commands | Telemetry |
| Data Storage | Thermal and Power |
| CT&DH Management | IRW & Bus Interface |

#### Vision (3000)

| | |
|---|---|
| Marman Ring | Bolt Hole |
| PODs | PAS |
| Camera Control | |

#### RPO (4000)

| |
|---|
| RPO Control |

#### Framework (8000)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| App Mgmt | Events | Memory Mgmt |
| Config | Time | Logging |
| Objects | Diagnostics | Reset |
| Interrupt | Patch | |

### SUROM CSCI (9000)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Initialization | Application Load | Diagnostics | Exceptions |

FSW

GRB
- NCST-ICD-GR_GRB_TBD

MMU
- NCST-ICD-GR_MMU_TBD

**Legend**
- ICD or Spec
- N/A ICD or Spec
- Pass-thru
- ◆ Separable I/F

**Tools**

Marman Ring Tool
- NCST-S-GR016

Bolt Hole Tool
- NCST-S-GR017

LAE Tool
- NCST-S-GR015

POD Capture Tool
- NCST-S-GR_PCT_TBD
- V_PCT_TBD

AR Tool
- NCST-S-GR_ART_TBD

SPACEHAND
- NCST-S-GR_SPH_TBD

RSV PL DA&R Spec (NCST-S-GR028)

CRE
- NCST-ICD-GR_CRE_TBD

EoA Cams
- V_EOACAM ICD

RPO LiDAR
- V_LIDAR ICD

RPO WFOV
- V_WFOV ICD

RPO NFOV
- V_NFOV ICD

RPO IR
- V_IRCAM ICD

PAS B&W Cams
- V_PASBCAM ICD

PAS Color Cam
- V_PASCCAM ICD

PAS 4π Sensor
- V_PAS4PI ICD

EACB
- NCST-ICD-GR_EACB_TBD

POD
- NCST-ICD-GR005

SPACEHAND
- V_SPH ICD

Test Port
- NCST-ICD-GR001
- NCST-D-GR032

PDS

REU

MRE

RSV Bus
- NCST-ICD-GR004

Lights & Power
- NCST-S-GR_PDS_TBD

RA Joints & Tool Drive
- NCST-S-GR020
- MBRE #20017311
- MBRE DICD10381000-11

Tools in Tool Holder

Ground
- NCST-ICD-GR001
- NCST-D-GR032

Tool Changer Mech.

Launch Locks (mech)

Pin Pullers (mech)

Tool Holder Mech.

Tools on RA

F/T Sensor

GSE

# RSV Bus Assumptions and Expected Interfaces

# Top-Level Bus Assumptions

- Provide and maintain vehicle attitude and electrical power using:
  - Propulsion and attitude control electronics
  - Command and telemetry uplink and downlink electronics
  - Solar conversion and energy storage

- Interface with the payload to provide:
  - Power
  - Uplink command path
  - Downlink telemetry path
  - Payload initialization
  - Vehicle safe mode in response to certain fault scenarios

Bus assumptions are a point of reference for negotiation

- Provide 6-DOF control

- Maintain Center of Mass (CM) position within a small control box in close vicinity to a Client with the control box fixed to the Client as it rotates up to 0.5 deg/sec about any axis
  - 20 cm x 20 cm x 10 cm position control box
  - 2 deg x 2 deg x 2 deg attitude control box

- Maintain a small relative velocity while limit cycling within the control box

- Provide minimum RF uplink data rate of 10 kbps for payload commanding during teleoperations

- Provide minimum RF downlink data rate of 10 Mbps for payload data during high-resolution inspections and robotic teleoperations

# Bus Propulsion Assumptions

- NRL has developed propulsion point design for evaluation of payload requirements against government mission concept of operations
- Notional RSV:
  - 4,500 kg (wet mass)
  - 1,000 kg Robotic Payload
  - RSV Propulsion System
  - Chemical and Electric Propulsion systems (N2H4/Xe), 1,000 kg each)
- Notional mission delta-V budget supports:
  - RSV executing GTO to GEO burn
  - RSV checkout and commissioning demonstration
  - Ensures robust ΔV capability remains for commercial operations after government demonstration
  - RSV servicing assumptions:
    - RSV parking orbit at GEO +300 km, 0 deg inclination
    - Servicing missions take place in GEO and RSV returns to parking orbit upon mission completion
    - Orbit-modification missions include N/S station-keeping and/or retirement burns
    - Inspection and anomaly resolution missions include far/near RPO surveys and potentially grappled operations
- Important to ensure bus propulsion is able to meet both government and commercial mission requirements

# Bus Power Interface Assumptions

- Support payload power interface

|  | Baseline Payload |
|---|---|
| Payload Operational Voltage | 30 V – 34 V |
| Average Operational Power | 3 kW |
| Peak Operational Power* | 5 kW |
| Average Survival Power | 1.5 kW |
| Peak Survival Power | 3.3 kW |

* Peak power duration < 30 seconds for autonomous grapple operations

- Payload energy storage requirement: 300 amp-hours above 28 V

# Bus Mechanical Interface Assumptions

- Current NRL point design created so that payload development could begin ahead of partner selection
  - Point design intended to be able to be accommodated by a variety of commercial GEO spacecraft
  - Alternate interface approaches and/or more tightly coupled payload interfaces for improved system performance are invited

- Provide surface for mounting of payload components (robotic arms, electronics boxes, sensors, etc.)
  - 7-8 m$^2$ of payload component mounting area
  - All components could be bolted on bus external surfaces or some combination of internal and external surfaces of an existing bus structure
  - The baseline dedicated payload structure is estimated at 200 kg

- Support payload component height
  - <0.6 m for stowed robotic arms
  - <0.4 m for all other components

- Support payload Non-Explosive Actuator (NEA) drive signals

- Provide full-duplex differential serial communications link
  - 10 Mbps telemetry
  - 10 kbps command

- Support temperature sensors
  - ~50 PRT type
  - ~32 Thermistor type

- Provide PPS signal

- Support differential for command and HK: 32 kbps in each direction

- Payload passes 1,000 W of thermal energy to the bus
  - Alternate approaches with minimal thermal exchange are feasible with increased payload mass

- Support temperature range for interface: 10°C - 50°C

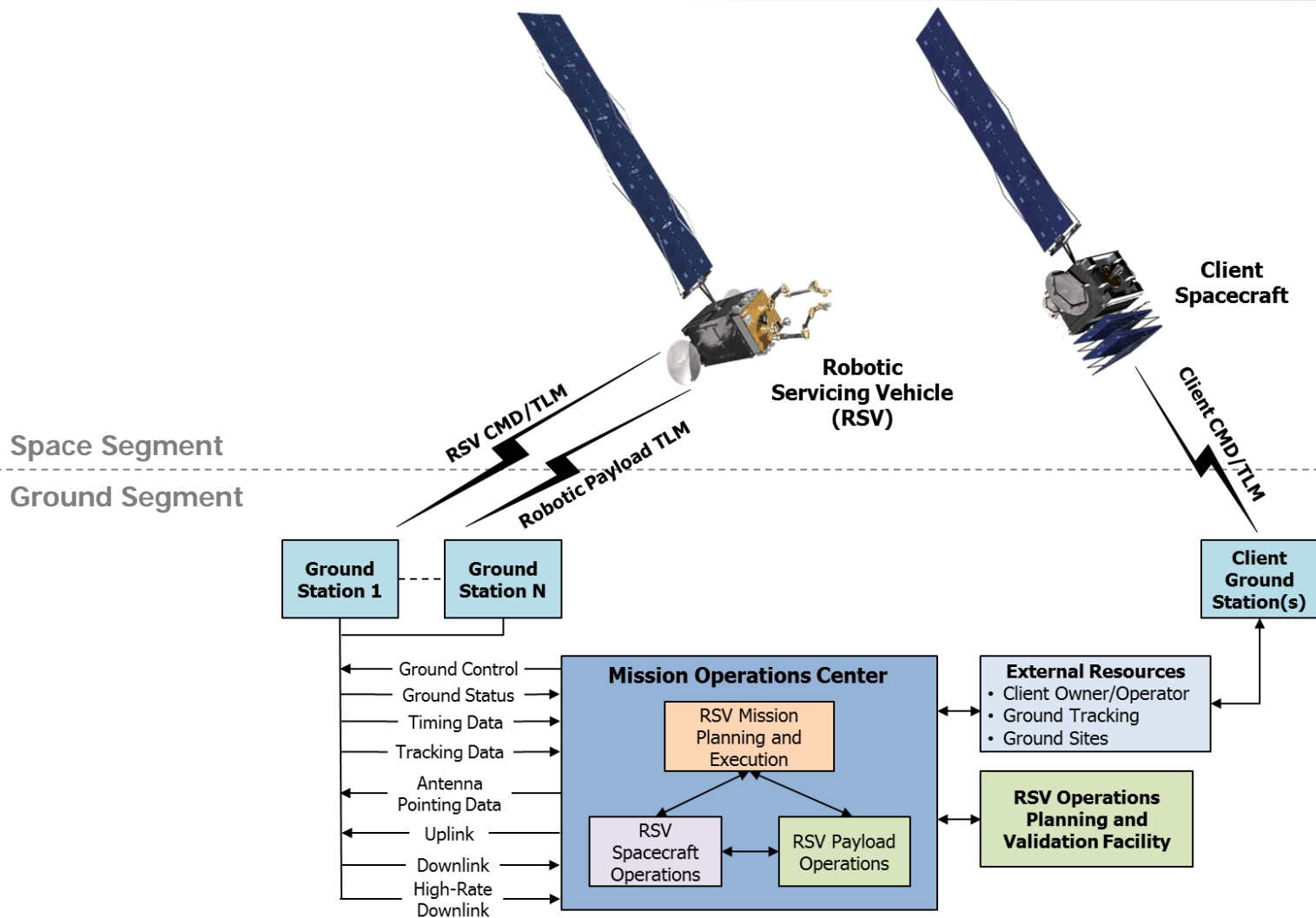- Accommodate blankets mounted across the interface

# Ground System

Artist's Concept

**Client Spacecraft**

**Robotic Servicing Vehicle (RSV)**

RSV CMD/TLM

Robotic Payload TLM

Client CMD/TLM

**Space Segment**

**Ground Segment**

**Ground Station 1**

**Ground Station N**

**Client Ground Station(s)**

Ground Control
Ground Status
Timing Data
Tracking Data
Antenna Pointing Data
Uplink
Downlink
High-Rate Downlink

**Mission Operations Center**

RSV Mission Planning and Execution

RSV Spacecraft Operations

RSV Payload Operations

**External Resources**
- Client Owner/Operator
- Ground Tracking
- Ground Sites

**RSV Operations Planning and Validation Facility**

## Point design used to evaluate government mission CONOPS, pending availability of partner solution

# Integrated Robotics Workstation (IRW)

- NRL is developing the Integrated Robotics Workstation (IRW) as the ground control station for both robotics mission planning and robotics mission execution

- For mission planning, the IRW permits ground team to develop, rehearse, and validate planned operations

- For mission execution, the IRW provides displays for both simulated views and downlinked telemetry views, including on-board and on-arm cameras

- For teleoperation execution, IRW provides means of sending direct robotics controls, either via hand-controller input or other means

- Information on partner-developed solutions is welcome
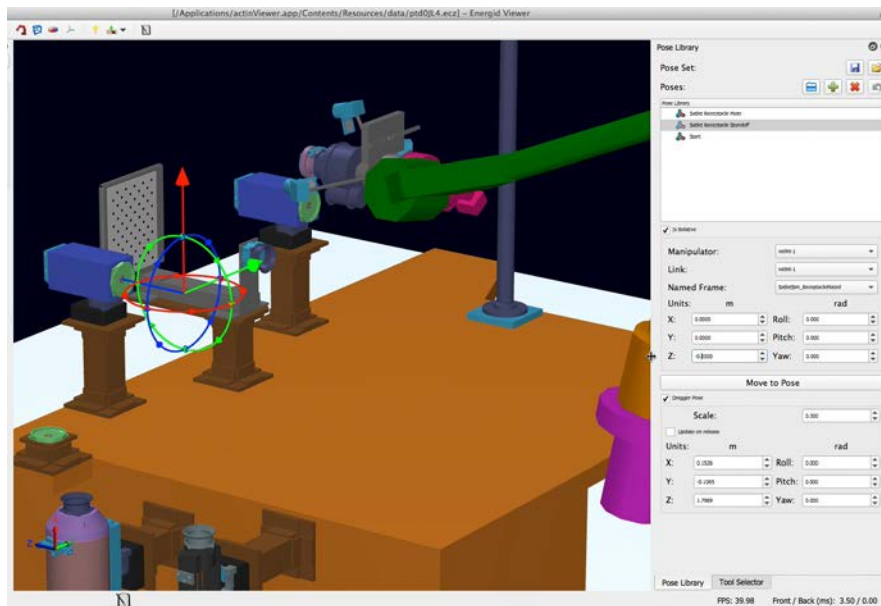
# Test and Development Capabilities

- Advanced dual-platform motion simulator
  - Allows full three-dimensional (6-DOF) replication of two spacecraft for rendezvous and docking under realistic dynamic conditions
  - Allows developmental testing with hardware-in-the-loop robotic sensors, mechanisms, and flight code prior to launch
  - Allows full scale mission rehearsal with realistic satellite hardware

- Pre-launch, extensive operator training could be performed with client models
- On-orbit inspection data could facilitate rapid creation of an "as-is" model of client spacecraft for finalization of servicing plans
- Post-launch training and rehearsals for new clients and unique missions could be performed at NRL
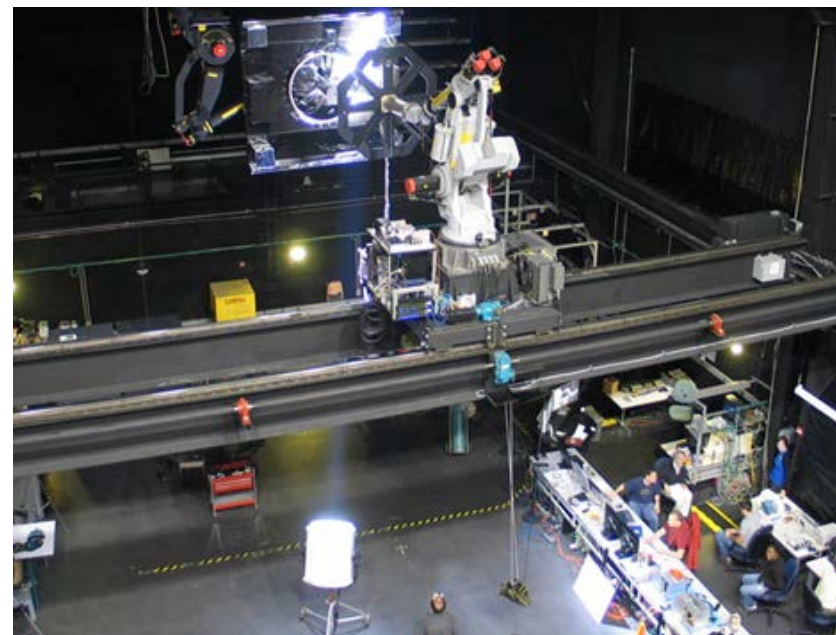


## World-class facility used for system development testing

- 3-DOF, very low friction air-bearing facility
- Allows high-fidelity contact dynamics simulation to ensure ability to grapple in simulated zero-G conditions
- Realistic customer mass and inertias
- Used for developing, characterizing and validating
  - Robotics compliance control sensors and algorithms
  - End-of-arm hardware design
  - Grapple-control software
- Used for system integration and characterization of grapple-related subsystems
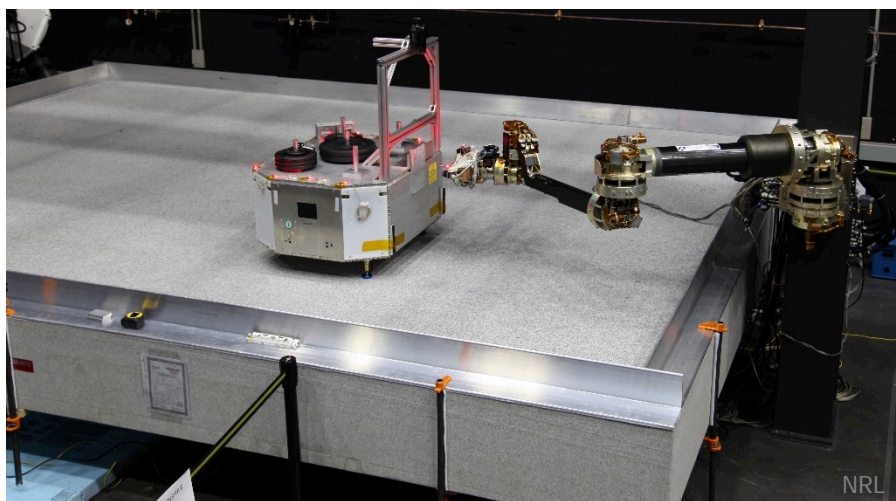


## Supports contact dynamic system testing and model correlations

- Optical testbed for development and characterization facility for flight machine vision sensors, illuminators, and algorithms
- Allows high-fidelity orbital lighting simulation
- Testing against wide range of grapple features, blanketing materials, and lighting conditions
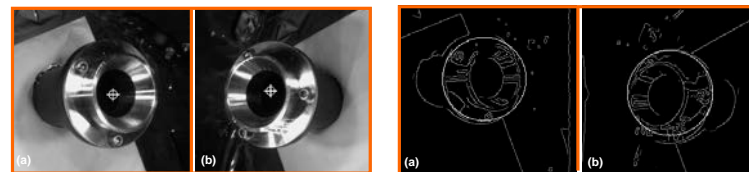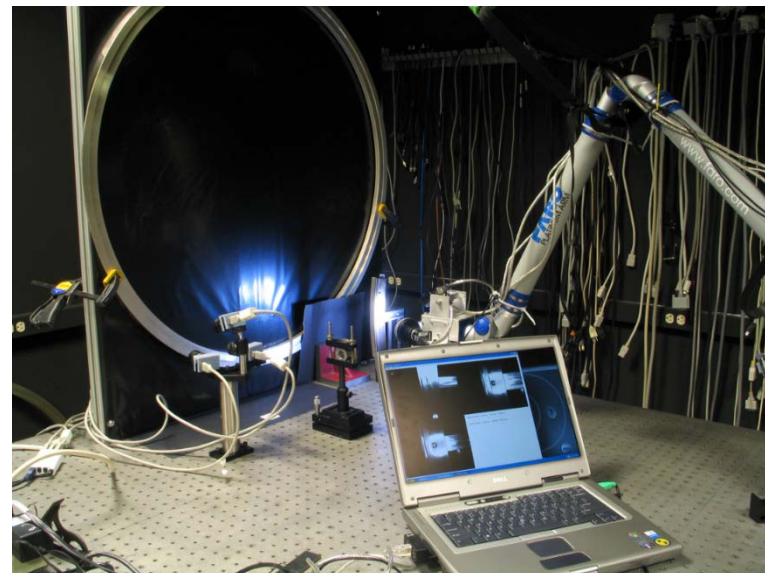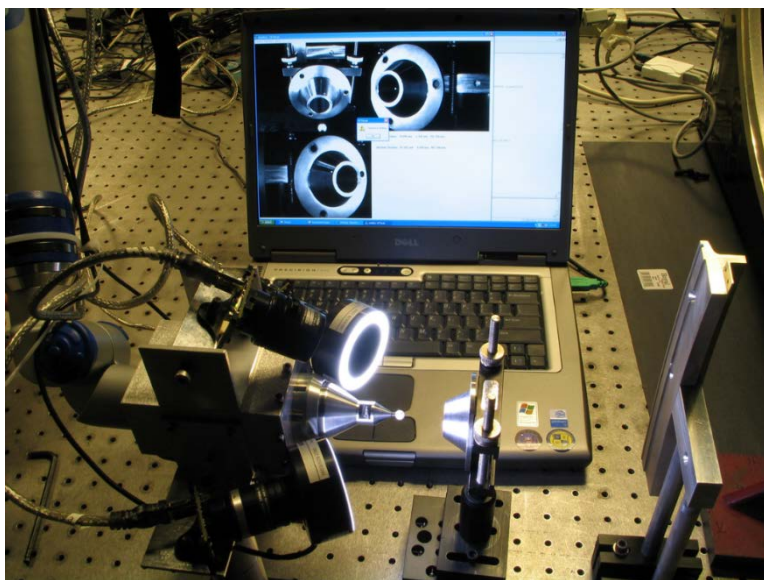


NRL Images

**Supports testing of a wide range of grapple features and algorithms**

- **Full system dynamics simulation**
  - Including sensors and lighting
- **Software-in-loop (ultimately)**
- **Allows complete end-to-end scenario validation**
- **Validates results from other test facilities**
- **Development in progress**
  - Currently has full system dynamics
  - Does not yet have sensor simulation capability
  - Not yet software-in-loop
- **Supports mission training and operations rehearsals**
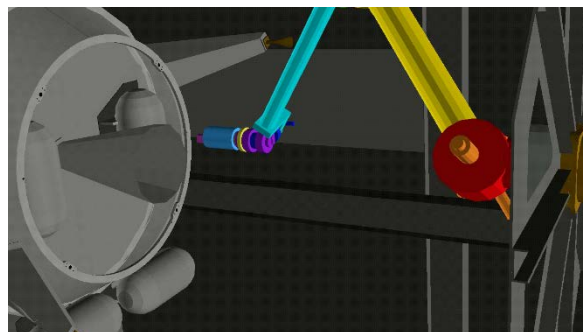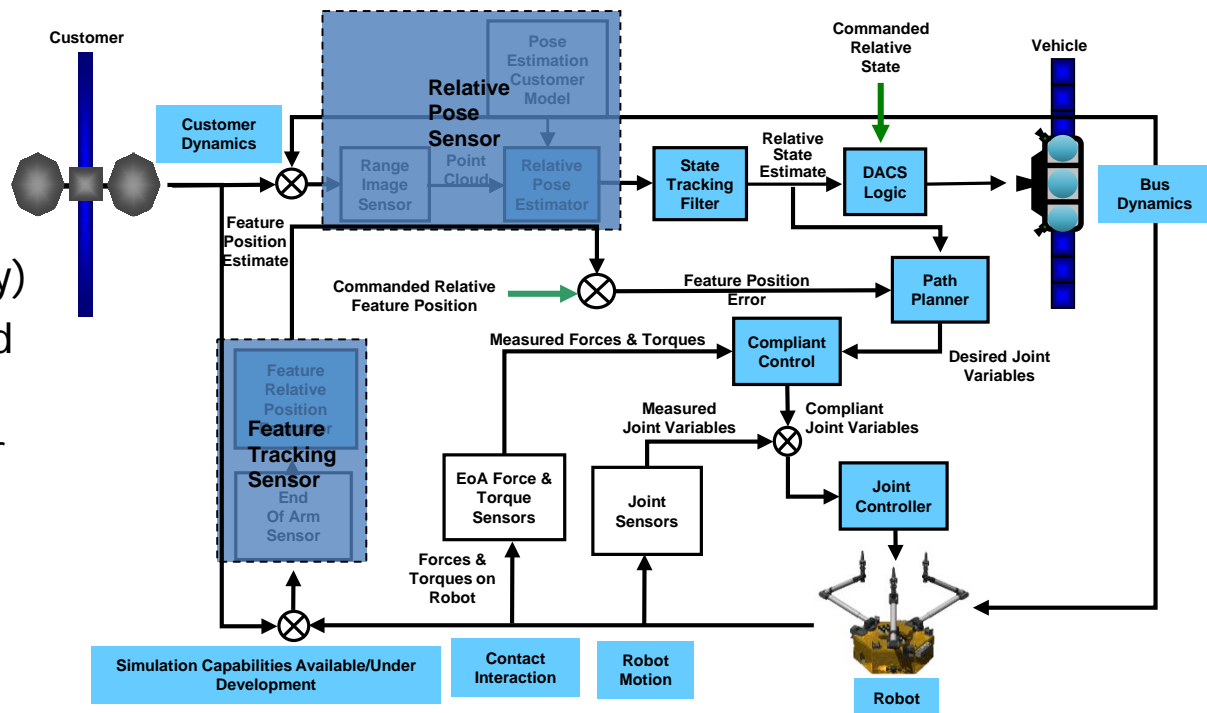


## Modeling and simulation is required to validate all operation regimes

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# Mission Areas: "What Could the Payload Do?"

- Servicer would perform cooperative survey of client space vehicle, collecting necessary data for ground-planned approach and grapple
  - Using ground-based design documentation
  - Using on-orbit data collected from the RPO suite
  - Using ground-developed 3-D models generated from LIDAR data
- Approach and grapple would be performed using partial (supervised) autonomy to maximize mission safety for both vehicles
  - Using RPO suite for relative pose solution
  - Relative pose solution would be used by bus to hold capture box
  - Relative pose solution would be used by payload for arm positioning during grapple
  - End-of-arm cameras with lights would provide input into machine vision algorithms
  - Machine vision would track grapple location and provide precise corrections to guide arm to contact
  - Force/Torque Sensor would detect grapple contact and provide compliance control input
  - Compliance control algorithm would minimize contact forces while avionics command tool actuation would provide positive mechanical attachment
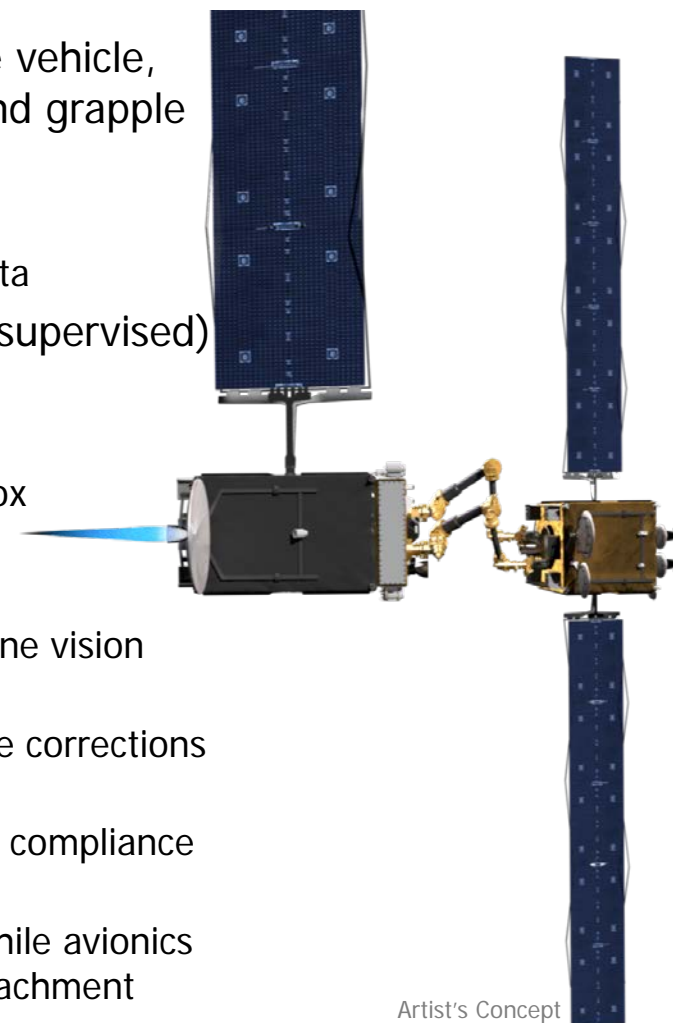
Artist's Concept

**Payload must have the flexibility and capability necessary to accommodate many missions**

Artist's Concept

- Ground-controlled orbit modification capabilities would include North-South inclination correction, orbital slot change, and repositioning into or out of Geosynchronous belt, including transit to/from the GEO graveyard
  - Structural analysis and controls analysis have been performed to show that a single arm attachment is sufficient for stack control
  - Multiple arm grapples could be used to increase stack stability
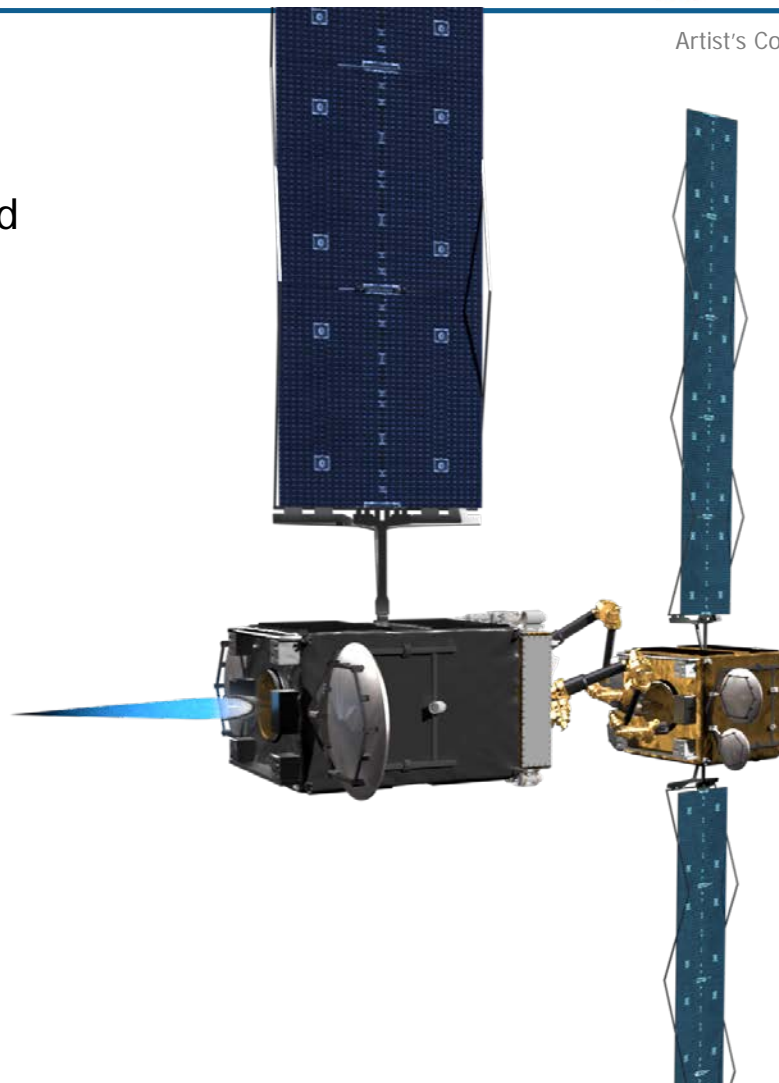
Orbit modification would enable significant fleet maintenance options

- Without contact, cooperative inspections could be performed at ranges from kilometers to centimeters
  - Using NFOV visual and IR RPO sensors at long range (<1 km)
  - Using WFOV visual, LIDAR, and PAS cameras at short range (<100 m)
  - Using EoA cameras and lighting at very short range (<1 m)
- After cooperative grappling, inspection could be performed with second robot arm
  - Using PAS cameras for workspace awareness
  - Using second arm EoA cameras for extremely close detailed inspections (<10 cm)

NASA Image

NASA Image

NRL

NRL

NRL

Artist's Concept
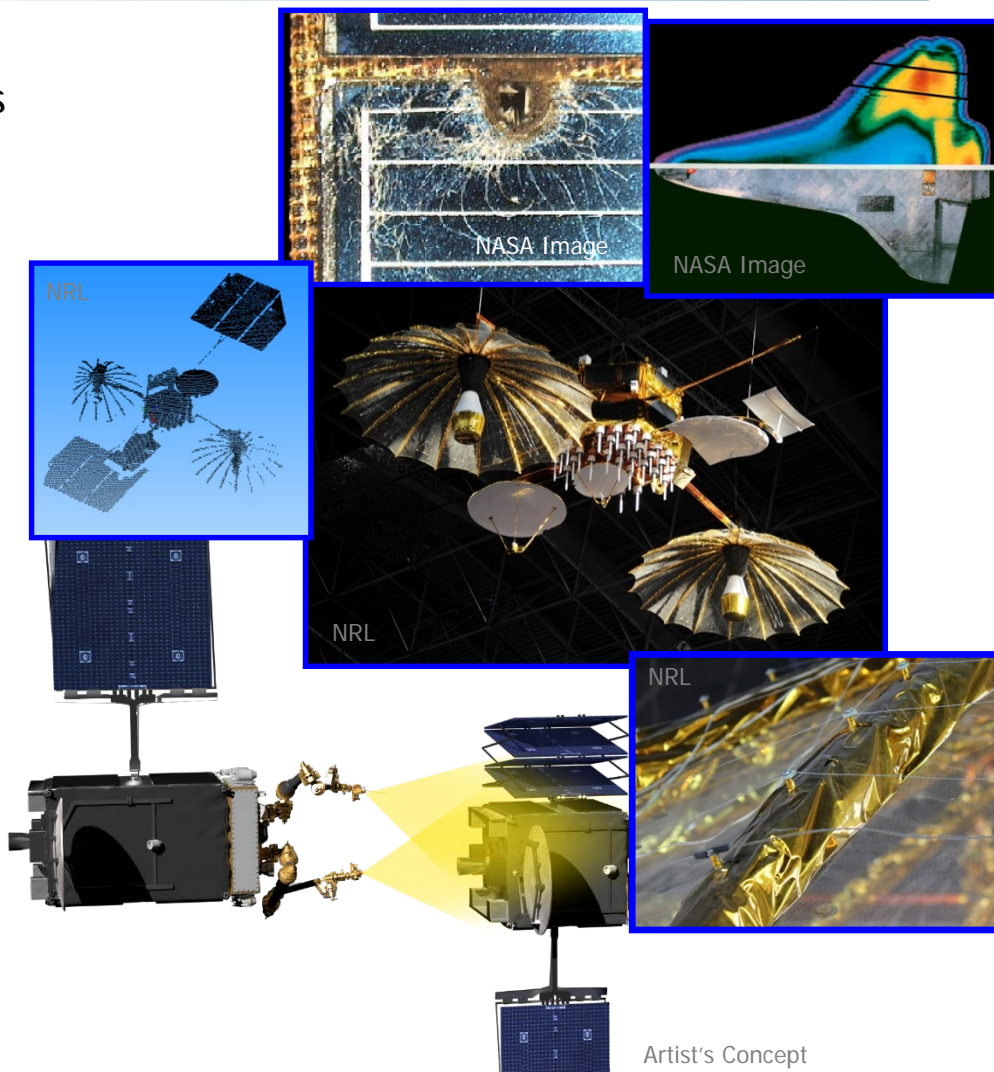
## Inspection would enable transformational attribution and troubleshooting

# Anomaly Resolution Capability

- Close inspection provides an inherent anomaly resolution capability by providing detailed situational awareness to the ground
- On-board robotics would provide ability to provide controlled contact forces at appropriate locations
  - Using RPO sensors to hold capture box when required
  - Using robotic arm with force/torque sensor to apply controlled forces
  - Using partial autonomy or teleoperated arm control
- Analysis of past anomalies has found that very low force levels applied at the appropriate location could be sufficient to free many stuck-deployable problems
- Anomaly resolution would be episodic, but would have very high value

Stowed Configuration

NASA Image
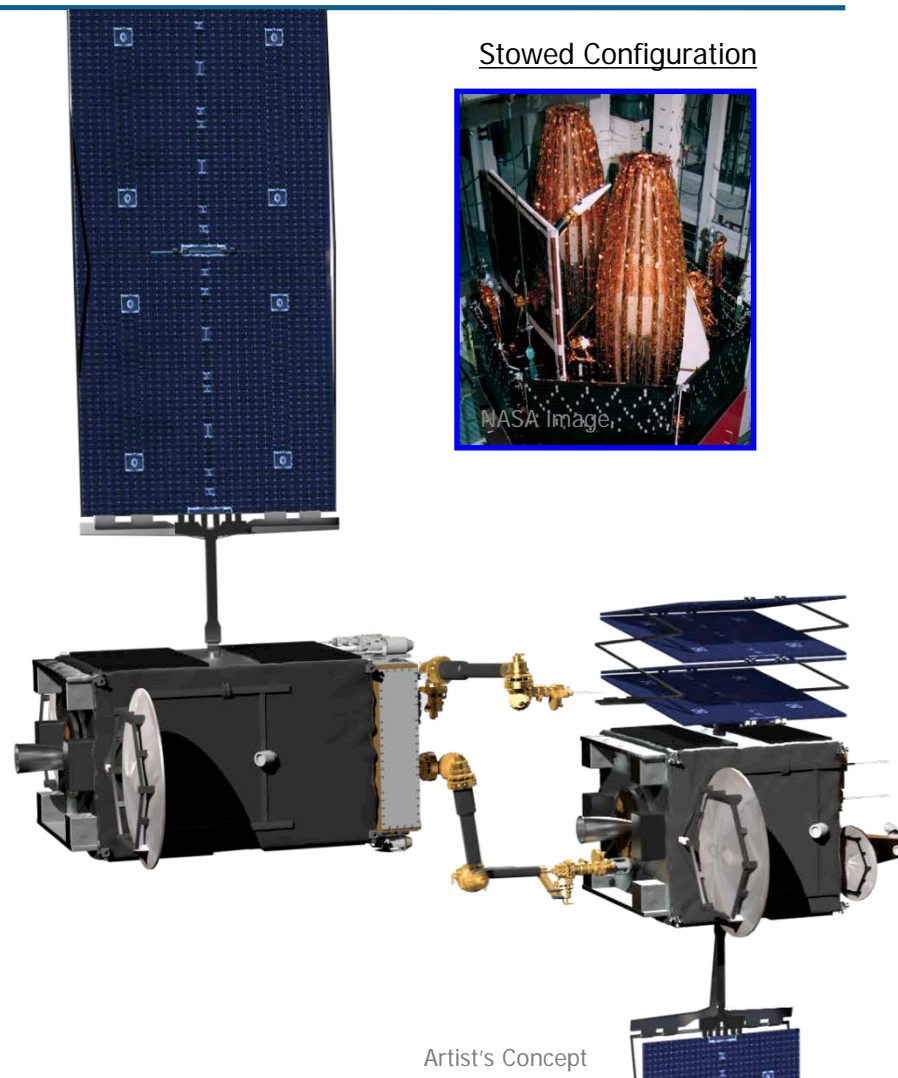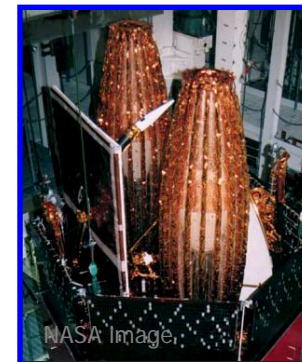
Artist's Concept

## Anomaly resolution is a revolutionary capability

- Ability to deliver new attached capabilities would provide a breadth of new mission capabilities to U.S. space vehicles already on orbit

- Installation of upgrades would need no accommodation from host vehicle other than structural hard point for attachment

- Initial analysis shows potential viability of small external payloads with independent communications, sensing and power

- Future space vehicles could be designed to provide docking ports with power/data links to/from external upgrade payloads

Artist's Concept
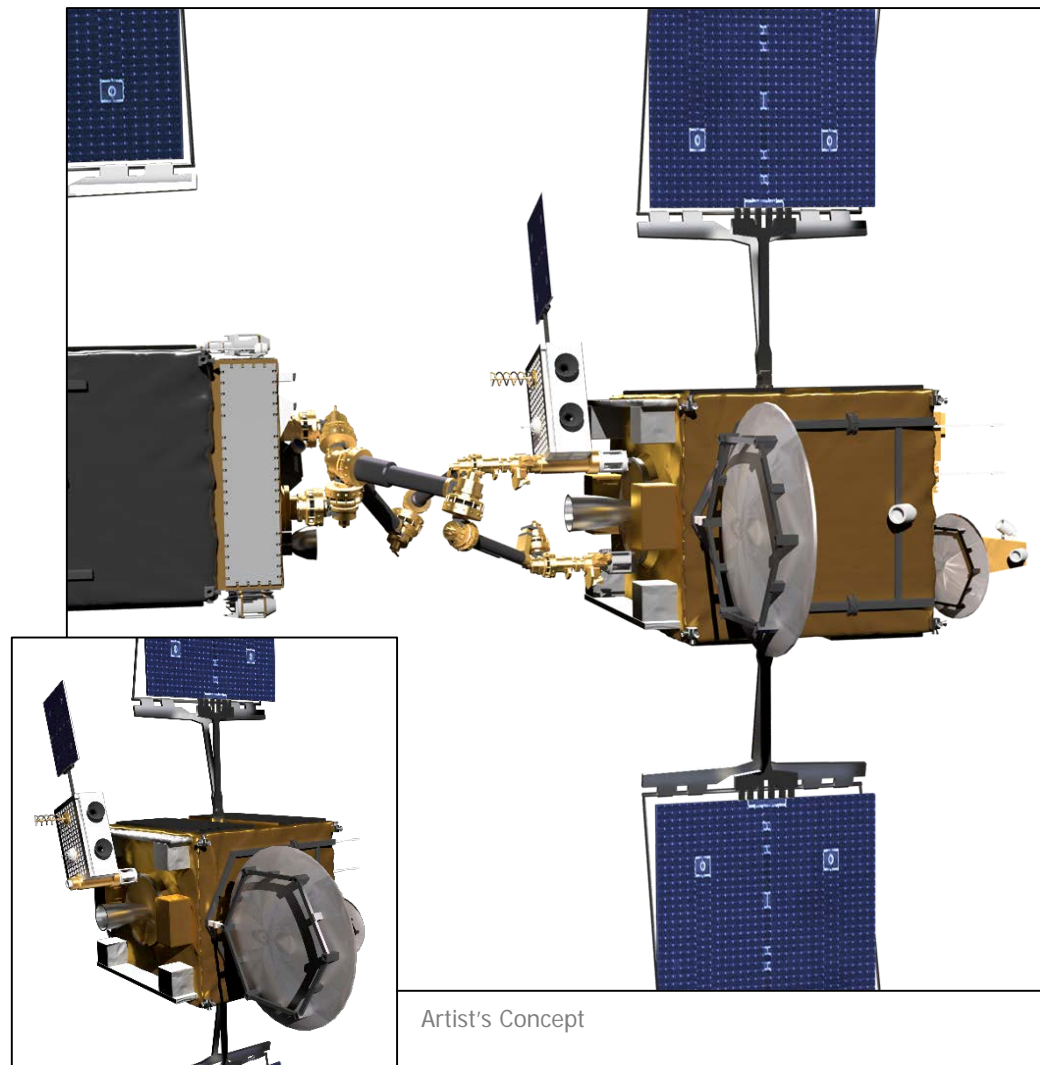
**Delivering on-orbit upgrades would support space architecture transformation**

# Future Mission Areas

- Beyond the government mission areas envisioned at this time, a robust robotic servicing vehicle at GEO would inherently be a "Swiss Army Knife" in space

- Additional commercial missions would be welcomed

- New mission areas could be devised post launch, validated in hardware and software simulation on the ground, have operators trained and be able to execute in a timely manner

- These mission areas could involve new tools or test articles being delivered to the robotic servicer post launch and be a means of meeting new national needs to evolve rapidly or new robotic experimentation concepts

- Operating a robotic servicer on-orbit in the near-term would allow future mission areas to be designed to better be maintained by a robotic vehicle, leading to transformative impact in national capability in space

Artist's Concept

## Resilience, transformation, revolution

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# Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) Proposers Day

Dr. Gordon Roesler, Program Manager

DARPA Tactical Technology Office

Briefing prepared for Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) Proposers Day

May 26, 2016

# A Future Space Vision

Dr. Gordon Roesler

RSGS Program Manager

May 26, 2016

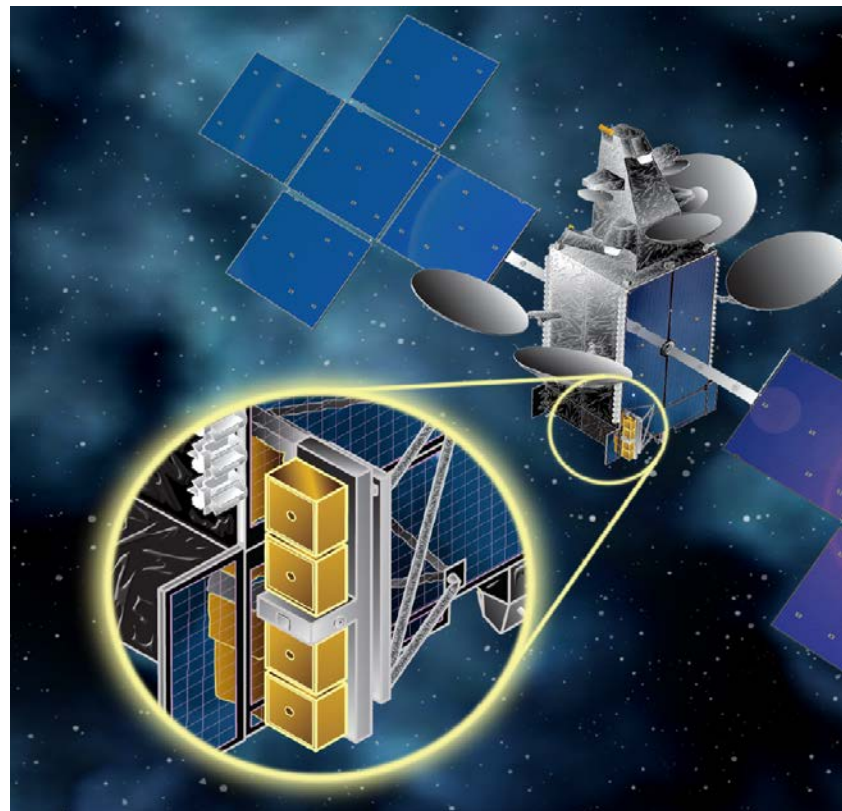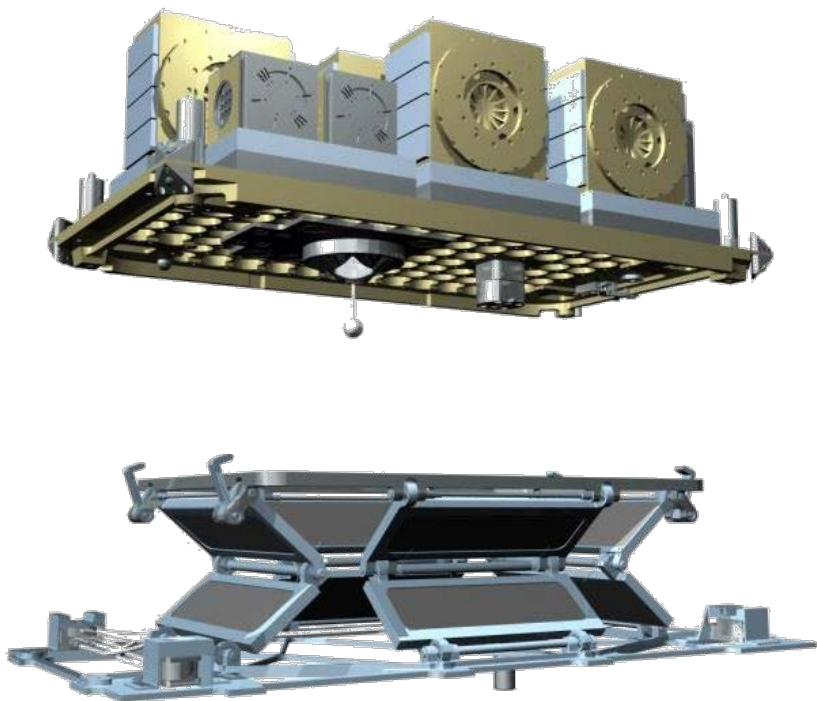# Once RSGS is on orbit, everything is going to change

# RSGS paves way for:

- Servicing by design

- Modular repair / upgrade

- New commercial services in GEO

- On-orbit assembly of large structures / apertures

**RSV docks**

**Present-day GEO asset**

**Future small satellite**

**Future GEO asset**

**Spacecraft maneuver**

**RSV restores orbit, conserves asset propellant**

**RSV captures & unpacks POD**

**RSV captures & transports expendables**

*RSV attaches new GEO payloads*

*RSV replenishes expendables*

**Deliveries to GEO via PODs (hosted on commercial satellite)**

**Deliveries to GEO via ESPA, secondary, or dedicated launch**

Robotic Servicing Vehicle (RSV)

Payload Orbital Delivery (POD) System
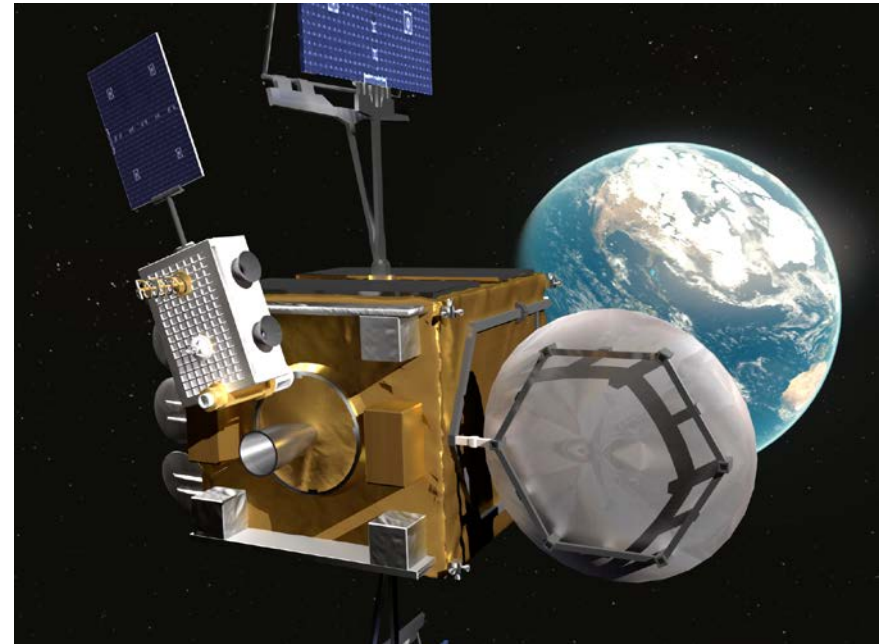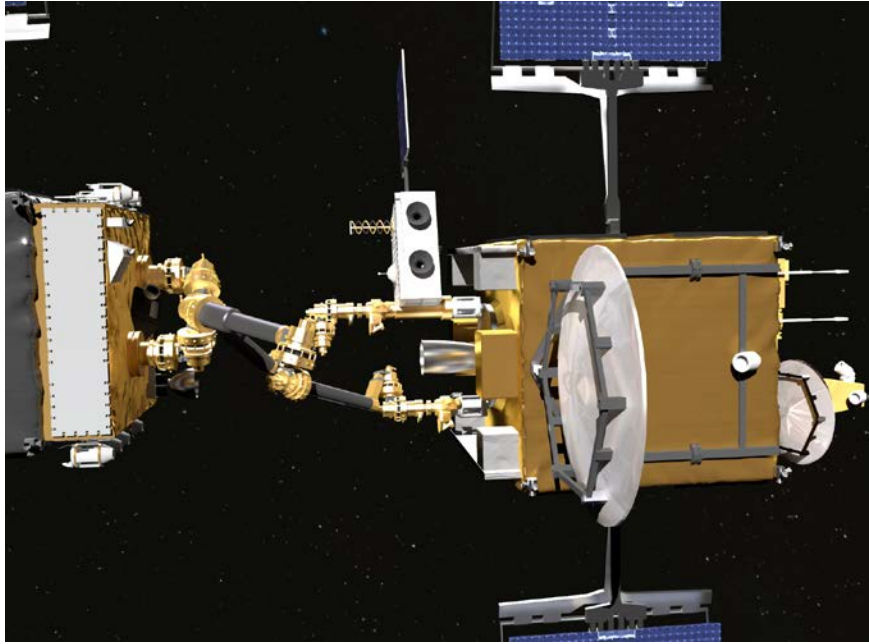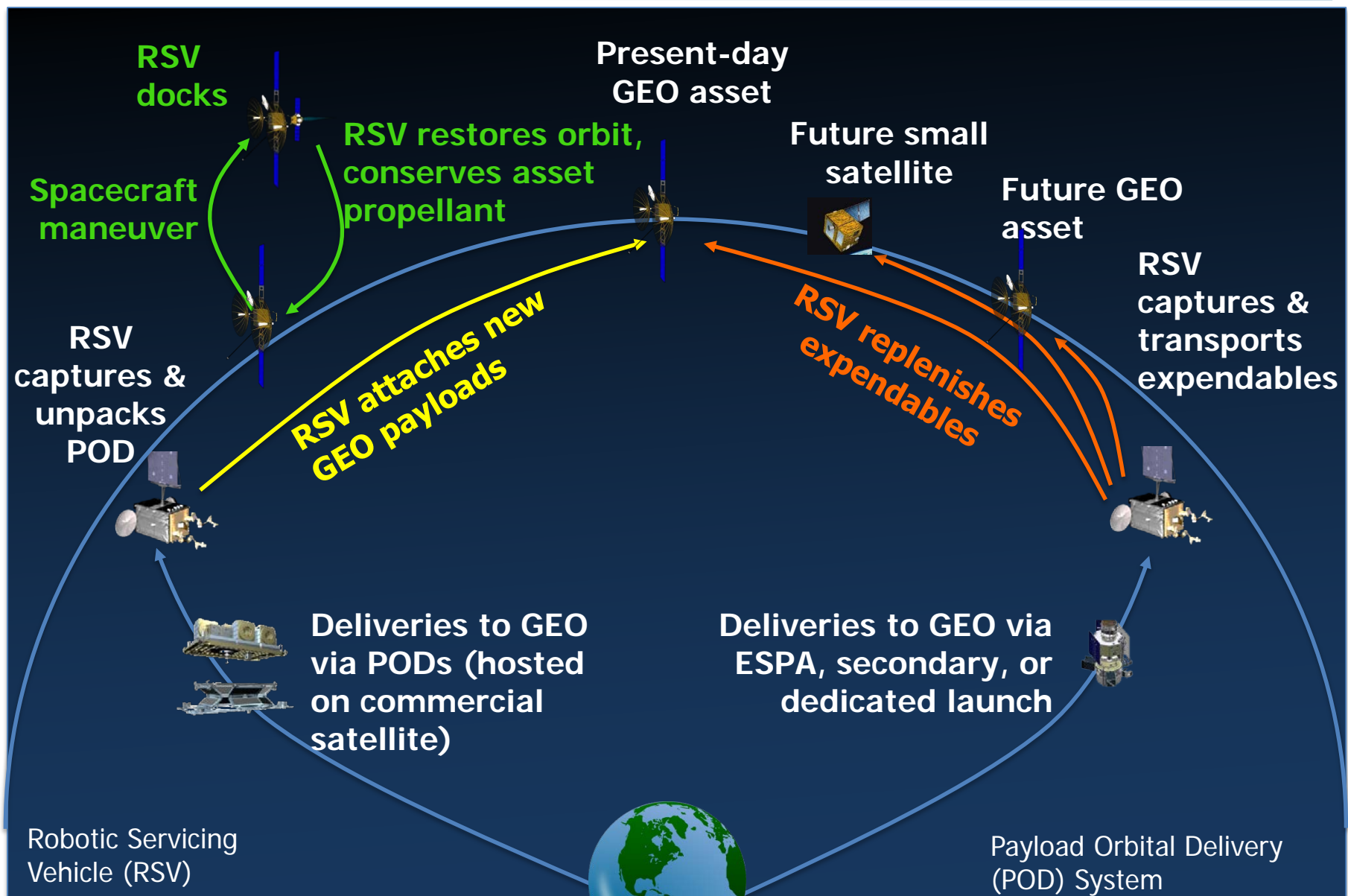
# Robotics are the core technology for *transforming the entire space architecture*

**GRAPPLING/DOCKING**

Multi-mission demonstrations in GEO

*1st step in transformation*

Artist Concept

Commercial providers expand coverage

Artist Concept
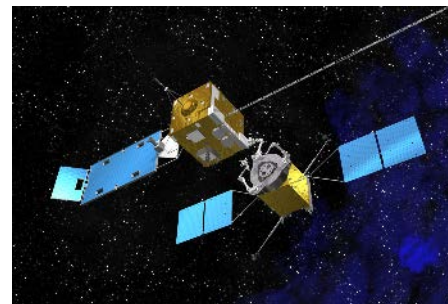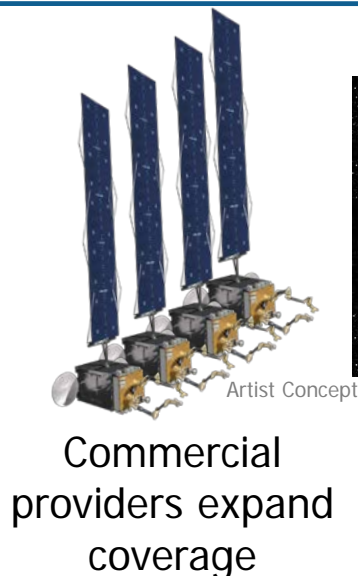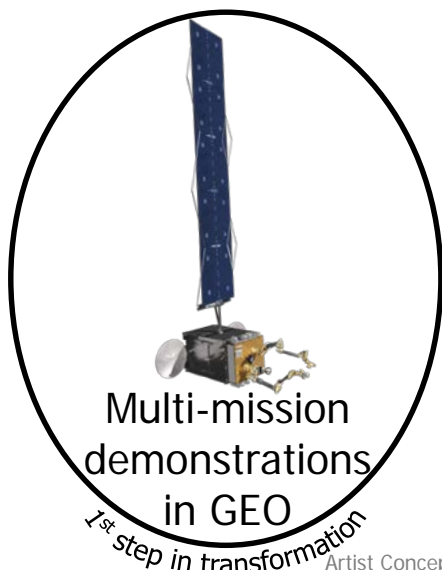
Automated, scheduled refueling
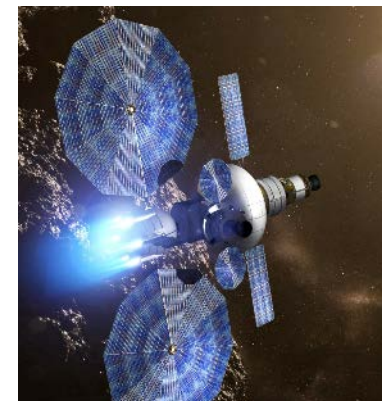
LEO-to-GEO space tug

**Technology development and investment**

**MANIPULATION**

- On-orbit replaceable units
  - Modular spacecraft

- Reduced redundancy

- Lightly fueled at launch

- Assembly experiments

Large apertures, structures, and bases

All other images: NASA

www.darpa.mil

# NRL's Programmatic View of the Partnership

Bill Vincent

NRL RSGS Program Manager

- Mission systems engineering for RSGS missions – inspection, orbit modification, anomaly resolution, and attachable payloads
  - Plan to transition lead role to commercial partner when appropriate and shift to a support role
- Space vehicle systems engineering for RSV:
  - Initial mission-to-space vehicle requirement allocations
  - Initial space vehicle-to-bus and -payload requirement allocations
  - Draft bus-to-payload ICD
  - Draft bus capabilities document
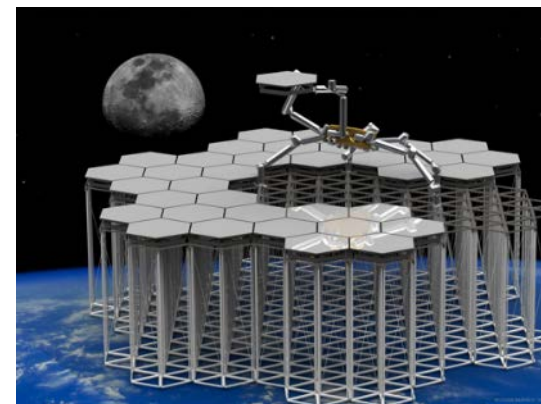  - Initial space vehicle mass budgets for launch vehicle efforts and initial propellant loading allocations for mission analyses
  - Plan to transition lead role to commercial partner when appropriate and shift to a support role
- GEO robotics payload lead:
  - Lead role for all payload systems engineering, design, development, integration, and test
- GEO robotics – integrated robotic workstation lead:
  - Lead for all payload ground control terminal development, integration, and test
- GEO robotics mission operations simulation and training environment lead:
  - Develop and support all necessary simulation and training testbeds necessary to develop and rehearse GEO Robotics payload operations
- RSGS technical SMEs supporting DARPA

- Mission systems engineering for RSGS and commercial missions:
  - Assume lead RSGS role from NRL when appropriate

- Space vehicle systems engineering for RSV:
  - Final mission-to-space vehicle requirement allocations
  - Final space vehicle-to-bus and -payload requirement allocations
  - Final bus-to-payload ICD
  - Final bus capabilities document
  - Final space vehicle mass budgets for launch vehicle efforts and propellant loading allocations for mission analyses
  - Assume lead RSGS role from NRL when appropriate

- Commercial payload lead (if applicable):
  - Lead role for all commercial payload systems engineering, design, development, integration, and test

- Commercial bus provider:
  - Includes payload systems engineering, design, development, integration, test, delivery, and support

- RSV integration and test lead

- RSV launch integration lead

- Mission operations and ground system provider

# NRL Staffing Insights

- Of the current 18 lead engineers at NRL:
  - The average professional experience is 20 years
  - The average tenure at NRL is 17 years

  - 50% have a bachelors of science as their highest degree (9 of 18)
  - 22% have a masters (4 of 18)
  - 28% have a doctorate (5 of 18)

  - 83% are NRL government employees (15 of 18)
  - 17% are NRL contractor employees (3 of 18)

- Currently at 65 FTEs
  - 15 FTEs at the mission/SV level
  - 50 FTEs at the payload and ground system development level

- By December 2017, staffing levels are expected to be:
  - 22 FTEs at the mission/SV Level
  - 124 FTEs at the payload and ground system development level

- On-site interface staffing should be discussed
  - Partner may provide on-site support at NRL for deep insight into payload progress and facilitate communication
  - USG may provide on-site liaison(s) at partner location for deep insight into bus progress and facilitate communications

# Current System Engineering Processes

# Program Documentation Approach

- Documentation approach
  - Supports initial steps for mission and payload technology transfer to commercial partner
  - Supports anticipated needs for servicing clients to vet safety of servicing vehicle

- Requirements traceability from mission requirements to payload requirements to component requirements using configuration-controlled database

- Standard CDRL/SDRL documentation planned across all payload components

- Formal document release procedures and configuration management

Mission, SV, and Payload level documentation is mature

Requirements are configuration managed and linked via Jama requirements tracking database

**Key**
- Released
- Revision In Work
- Initial Release In Work
- Planned
- System Architecture Block
- Placeholder

175
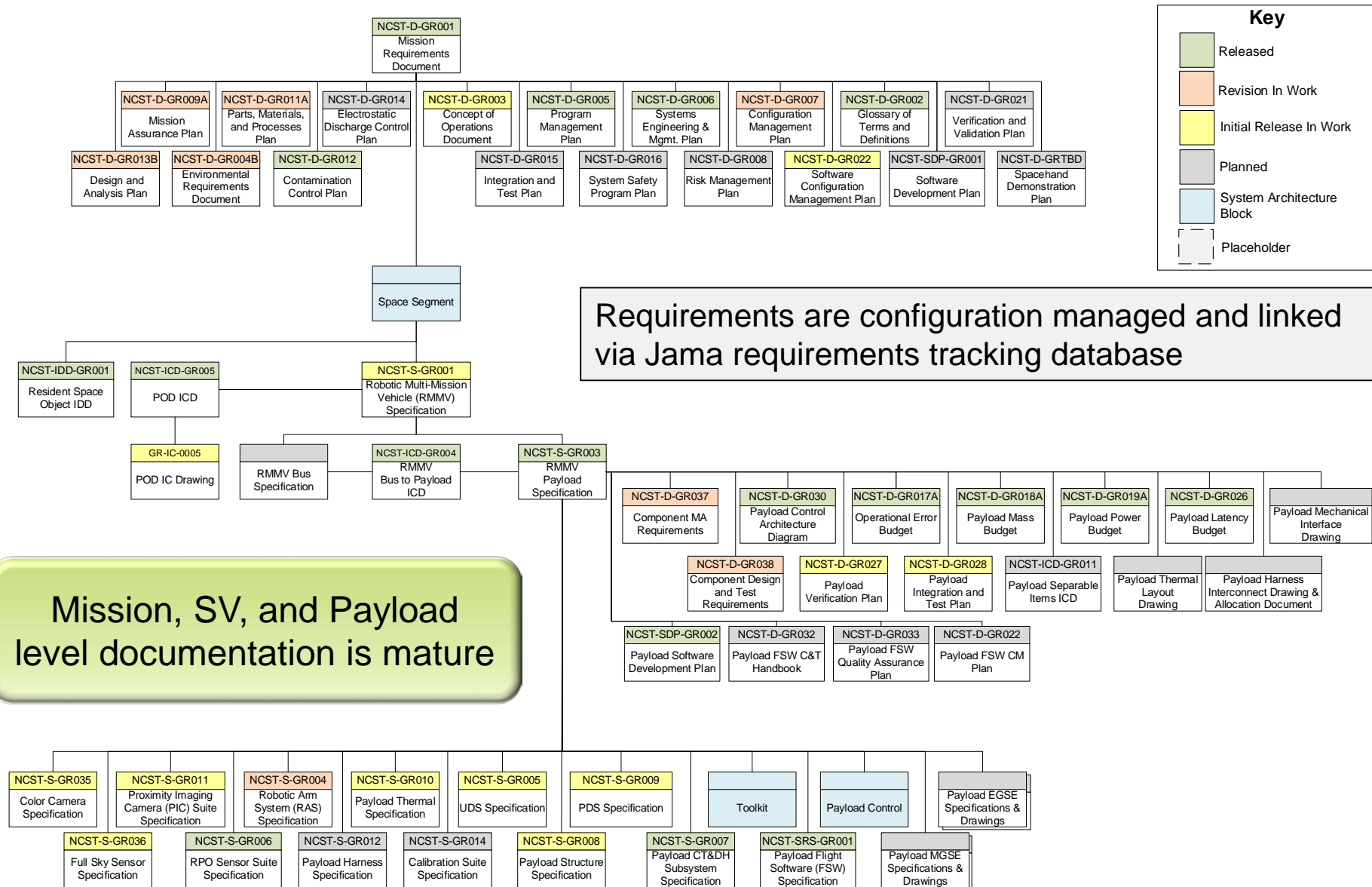
# Current Program Development Status

- December 2014 - Mission Concept Review
- September 2015 – Payload SRR
- December 2015 – Algorithms SRR
- December 2015 – Payload CT&DH SRR
- Feb 2016 – Payload FSW SRR
- February 2016 - RPO SRR
- March 2016 – End-of-Arm Control Board SRDR
- April 2016 – Proximity Awareness Suite SRR
- April 2016 – Initial Payload FMECA Completed
- May 2016 – Payload Structures SRR
- May 2016 – Payload Thermal SRR

- June 2016 – End-of-Arm Camera SRR
- June 2016 – Payload Power Distribution System SRR
- July 2016 – Harness SRR
- July 2016 – Payload Ground Support Equipment SRR
- July 2016 – Payload Calibration Suite SRR
- August 2016 – Payload Lighting SRR
- September 2016 – FREND Mark II Arm System PDR
- October 2016 – Tool Changer Delta-PDR
- Feb 2018 – Payload PDR
- Feb 2019 – Payload CDR
- April 2020 – Payload Delivery

- 2017 – Mission SRR, Space Vehicle SRR, Bus-to-Payload ICD, Bus SRR, Bus PDR
- 2018 – RSV PDR, Bus CDR
- 2019 – RSV CDR, Bus Delivery
- 2020 – RSV AI&T
- 2021 – RSV Launch

- FREND Mark II Robotic Arm Assemblies (RAAs) – MDA-US in Pasadena, CA
  - RAA consists of robotic arm, arm control electronics, motor filter box, power filter box, and associated harnessing
  - On contract to deliver 2 flight RAAs by November 2018
  - PDR planned for September 2016
  - CDR planned for March 2017

- Tool Changer – Oceaneering Space Systems in Houston, TX
  - On contract to deliver:
    - 2 Flight units
    - 1 Flight spare
    - 4 Engineering models
    - 19 Flight Common Receptacle Subassemblies (CRS)
    - 19 EM CRS
  - Delta-PDR planned for October

- RPO sensors
  - LIDAR, NFOV Visible, WFOV Visible, IR

- Proximity awareness sensors
  - Proximity imaging cameras
  - Color documentation cameras
  - Full sky coverage sensor

- End-of-Arm cameras

- Tool Holder/POD Holder

- Tools

**Most components planned to be on contract by early 2017**

# System Trades

- Several key system-level trades are expected to be worked once the commercial partner is selected
- These trades are intended to define roles and responsibilities between NRL and the Commercial Partner and to define detailed interfaces between the bus and the payload
- Partnership proposals should provide initial expectations for these trades
- Negotiation phase should finalize these trades

- Full two-arm payload (baseline)

- One-arm payload delivered as an integrated unit

- One-arm payload delivered as components to be integrated on the partner spacecraft
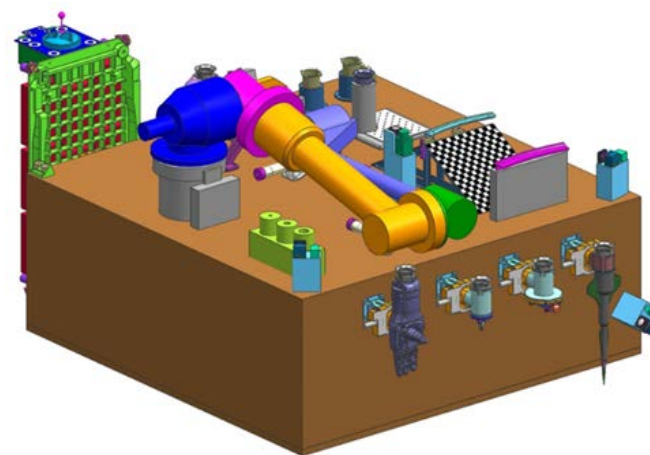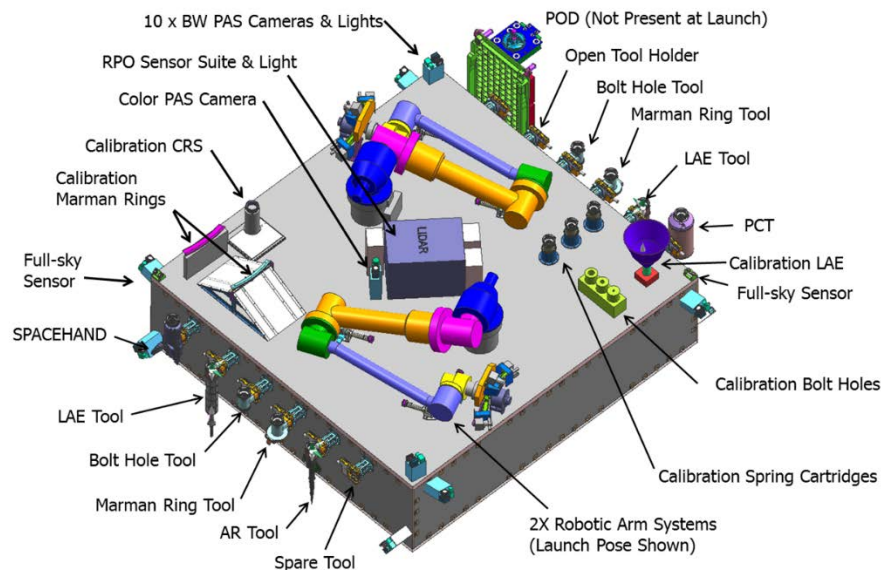


NRL Images

- Baseline RPO sensor suite and processing plan
  - Baseline Sensors hosted on payload deck:
    - LIDAR that produces 6DOF pose
    - NFOV Camera
    - WFOV Camera
    - IR Camera
  - Baseline processing in payload avionics:
    - 2-DOF range and bearing solution for single NFOV, WFOV, or IR images
    - 3-DOF position solution for single WFOV or IR images
    - 6-DOF pose solution is provided from single WFOV images
    - 6-DOF pose solution is provided from LIDAR sensor
  - Baseline processing in partner-provided bus avionics:
    - Filtered RPO guidance solution to support bus RPO control and Payload robotics control

- Potential trades:
  - Alternate sensor suites
  - Hosting partner provided RPO sensors on the payload
  - Processing raw payload sensor data in bus avionics
  - Payload avionics provides filtered RPO guidance solution based on raw bus sensor data

- Structures – Payload layout compatibility with bus
- Thermal – Conductive (baseline) vs Isothermal
- Power – Unregulated bus power (baseline) vs. regulated power services (preferred)
- Communications – SpaceWire (baseline), LVDS, RS422, 1553
- Mission Management Functionality – Split between bus and payload (baseline), fully run by bus, or fully run by payload

- NRL has a long history in developing first-of-a-kind systems and supporting technology transfer to industry
  - NRL aspires for robotic servicing to be another success story

- NRL-developed products for RSGS include:
  - Full Set of Mission Development Documentation
  - Developmental Requirements
    - FREND arm requirements
    - Circa 2005 – Initial requirements used to develop FREND arm
    - Circa 2015 – FREND MK2 updated requirements
    - Spacecraft bus requirements for RSGS Government missions
    - Full payload development and component requirements
  - Full set of Mission, Environmental, Test Requirements
  - ICDs
  - System Engineering
    - Concept of operations
    - Trade studies
    - Error budgets
  - NRL Algorithms
    - Control schemes and design analysis
  - NRL Flight Software
  - NRL Electronics Board Design/Layouts/ Schematics
  - NRL Mechanical/Structural Design Information
  - NRL Ground Control System/IRW
  - NRL Simulations
  - Test Reports
  - Parts Lists

**Partner-developed components under contract in baseline with Government Purpose Rights:**

- MDA-US:
  - FREND arm
- Oceaneering
  - Tool Changer
  - Common Receptacle Subassembly (CRS)

**Partner-developed components under contract in baseline with Limited Rights:**

- Moog Broad Reach (subcontractor to MDA-US)
  - Rikishi control electronics, subset of the software was not developed under DARPA/USG funding
- MDA Canada:
  - PODS capture tool, design developed under MDA/CSA cofunding for Orbital Express

**Partner-developed components in baseline under CRADA:**

- DLR Institute of Robotics and Mechatronics
  - Spacehand is fully developed under DLR funding
    - Design rights are not transferred between DARPA and DLR
    - CRADA covers use rights on-orbit only during the USG demonstration period

# Conclusion

- Our goal is to help the DARPA mission succeed by delivering a payload that meets mission needs AND allows our commercial partner to create a successful satellite servicing business

- The RSGS Mission and GEO Robotics Payload development is well underway and making good progress toward launch

- NRL developments to date provide a unique combination of technologies that makes the RSGS mission transformational

# CONFERS:
# Consortium For Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations

Todd R. Master

TTO Program Manager

May 26, 2016

Government and commercial industry have mutual interests in safe and continuous utilization of the geosynchronous orbit regime due to its unique benefits and strategic nature.

In addition to DARPA's Robotic Servicing of Geosynchronous Satellites (RSGS) program, other commercial and government programs have plans to conduct servicing operations in geosynchronous orbit, which offers tremendous potential opportunities for advancing our use of space, but...

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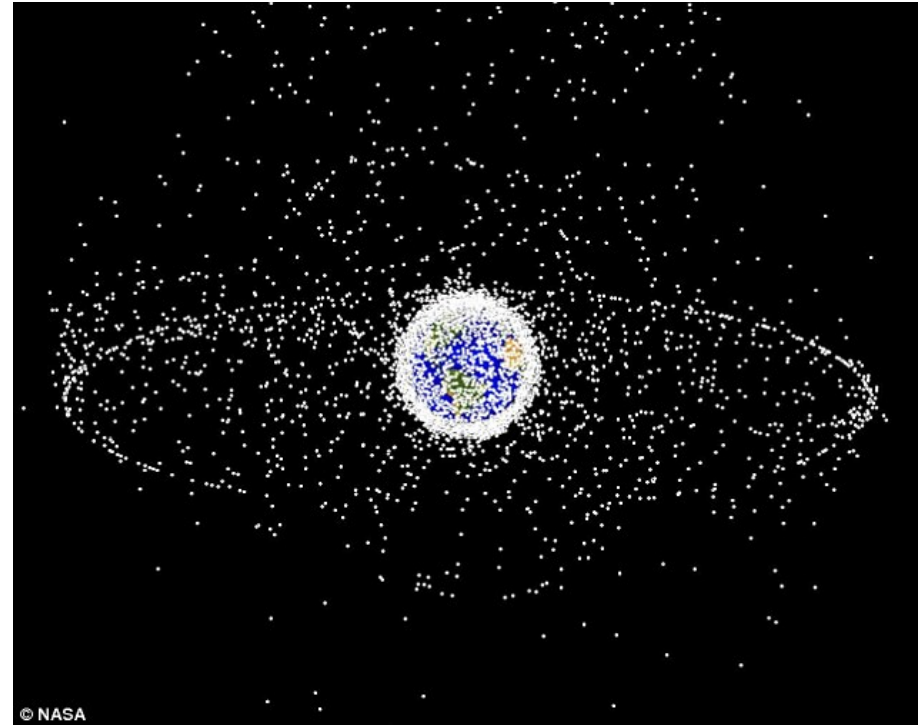
- *There is no clear regulatory authority to allow or disallow such operations to take place*
- *There is no clear definition for safe and responsible servicing operations*
- *There are many stakeholders, both commercial and government, potentially affected by these operations*

Today, U.S. Government regulatory authority for space operations falls into three categories:

- <u>Frequency licensing:</u> FCC manages the U.S. licensing process for utilization of RF spectrum in space

- <u>Remote sensing licensing:</u> NOAA manages Commercial Remote Sensing (CRS) licenses for space systems utilizing remote sensing systems, focused around earth observation

- <u>Launch licensing:</u> FAA manages the licensing process for launch systems and conducts payload reviews (with a focus on launch safety and liability)

**None of the government processes above directly address the unique aspects of on-orbit servicing and its supporting rendezvous and proximity operations**

# Proposed regulatory authority for space

- There are major pushes within both the executive and legislative branch to create a space "mission authorization" approval
  - The goal of these proposals is to allow for the expansion of commercial activities, while allowing for compliance with the Outer Space Treaty
- The responsible agency for mission authorization is not yet defined – but has been proposed to fall under the Department of Transportation, with extensive coordination throughout government
  - DoD and NASA are not regulatory agencies
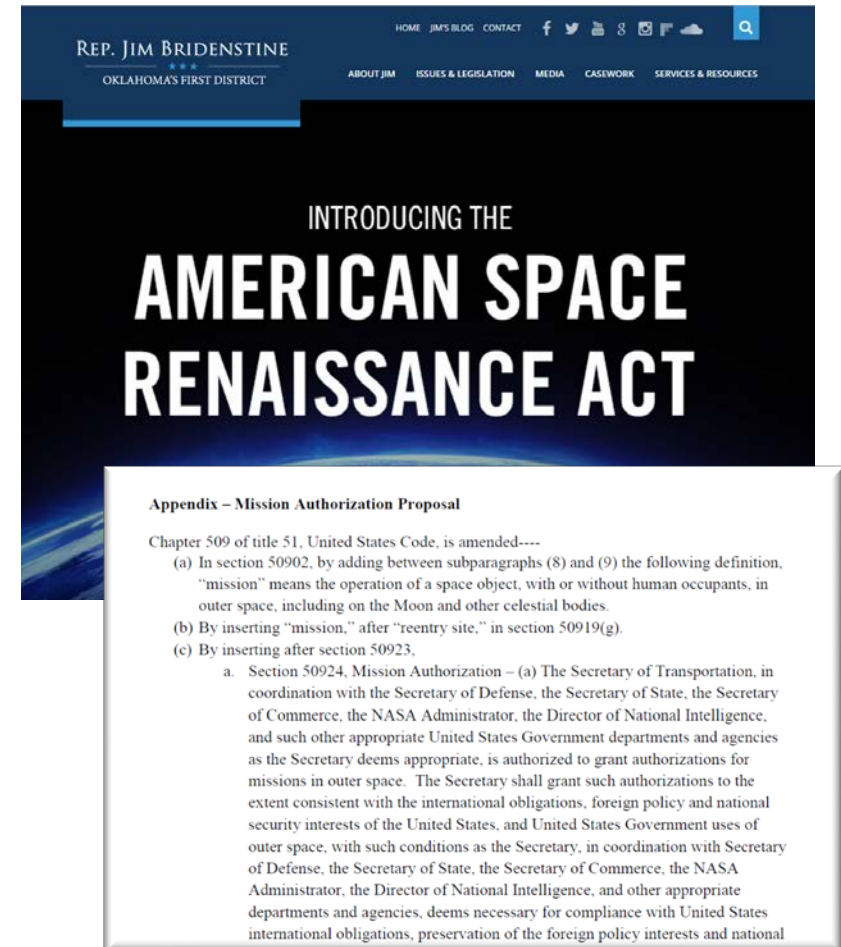


**Any USG body granted regulatory authority today over on-orbit servicing operations would likely be challenged to execute such authority due to lack of standards or norms**

# Creation of a new consortium

- In the absence of clear legal or policy precedents for these operations, DARPA is using its unique domain expertise and position within the US Government to facilitate the creation of a government / industry consortium to address these issues:

**<u>Con</u>sortium <u>F</u>or <u>E</u>xecution of <u>R</u>endezvous and <u>S</u>ervicing Operations (CONFERS)**

The initial goals of CONFERS:

- Develop *non-binding industry consensus standards* for safe operational techniques, including rendezvous and proximity operations, and robotic servicing operations

- Serve as a forum to discuss related policy issues, simplifying USG collaboration with industry

- Develop means to share data and experience between participants while protecting participants' financial and/or strategic advantages

# CONFERS membership

- CONFERS membership is anticipated to include, at a minimum:

| U.S. GOVERNMENT | INSURANCE INDUSTRY | SERVICING ENTITIES | COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS |
|---|---|---|---|

-DARPA   -OSD
-NASA    -Dept of State
-OSTP    -FAA/OST

-RSGS Owner/operator*
-Other servicing companies

*Participation is mandatory for RSGS award

- Members and stakeholders' degree of interest, involvement, and impact is variable, and expected to change over time
- Wide USG involvement would allow for one-stop-shopping for industry

# Standards development

- In the interest of safe operations and streamlining of future regulatory authority, CONFERS seeks to develop non-binding consensus standards
  - Would allow commercial industry to continue to develop their businesses prior to regulations coming into place

**Immediate**
- CONFERS members would convene and seek consensus best practices based on USG and commercial expertise, existing policies, and proposed commercial business plans

**Near-term (next year)**
- CONFERS best practices would be codified into a set of published standard, to which conforming entities could demonstrate adherence

**Future**
- USG "mission authorization" regulatory body could leverage or adopt published standard as the basis for its approval authority – streamlining its process

# CONFERS next steps and takeaways

- In the coming weeks, DARPA will work to investigate best practices from other analogous government/industry consortium constructs (nuclear safety industry, food safety industry, etc.)

- DARPA is soliciting industry and government feedback – particularly relevant to concerns, such that they can be mitigated early
  - Containment of IP between consortium members is noted as a concern and the CONFERS construct will be planned to address this

- **CONFERS is a separate, complementary effort from RSGS**

- **CONFERS success is critical to the execution of the RSGS program**

- **CONFERS relies on strong participation from industry**

- **CONFERS is anticipated to be a key element in enabling future commercial on-orbit servicing activities**

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