

# Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology (DART)

Case Study Transcript

**Schedule**

It was said that the original 2nd Gen Program was a horse race with competing projects racing to reach the initial milestone gates to avoid being cancelled. So – make no mistake – schedule pressure existed early-on in the project life-cycle. In addition, the target spacecraft MUBLCOM was experiencing control problems. Loss of MUBLCOM would have meant DART had no dancing partner.

While schedule driven, it is important to note that the DART project chose to absorb two 6 month delays – first to add additional testing after the Critical Design Review and then again, another 6 months just before launch to re-analyze structural margins of safety and re-qualify selected components for the higher coupled loads environment defined (at the last minute) by the Pegasus launch vehicle.