

# Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology (DART)

Case Study Transcript

## Other Constraints

In the video on this slide Chris Calfee discusses challenges the DART team faced in terms of staffing size and experience as well as the need for program managers to push-back on unreasonable demands to do more with less.

Other constraints facing the DART team included contract management.

Once the contract has been issued, the die is cast - it becomes costly and difficult to add-in additional process, assurance, and oversight requirements. Furthermore adding additional assurance provisions would be seen as inconsistent with a Class D technology demonstrator project.

Another challenge involved systems engineering. The principal tasks of systems engineering include integration, worrying about interfaces, requirements management, and systems-level testing and verification. To a very large extent this was left to the contractor with limited DART management oversight.

Finally, late changes also occurred in both software and launch vehicle loads. A stronger systems engineering role which would have included more thorough configuration management, and more rigorous testing and evaluation of software changes.