

Demonstration of Autonomous Rendezvous Technology (DART)

Case Study Transcript

Rendezvous Phase

Several key points are important to note.

The excessive thruster firing and higher than expected fuel burn foreshadowed trouble ahead. Clearly the flight computer was attempting to correct in perceived errors in the spacecraft position. The SIGI GPS, the Surrey GPS and the Inertial Navigation sensors were at war with each other. Nothing good could result from this.

As you may note in the next chart it was a miracle that DART came so close to hitting the switch-over way point gate.