

# *An Overview: NASA OCT Space Technology Research Grants Program*

*NAC Technology and Innovation Committee Meeting*

*November 15, 2012*



**Claudia Meyer**  
**Space Technology Research Grants Program Executive**

Office of the Chief Technologist  
Space Technology Program



## *A Lot Has Happened Since We Last Met!*

NSTRF  
STRO

- The NSTRF11 Class completed on-site experiences
- The NSTRF11 Class is generating research results
- The NSTRF12 Class was selected, awarded and each member was paired with a mentor
- The NSTRF13 solicitation was released
  
- The inaugural *Space Technology Research Opportunities for Early Career Faculty* solicitation was
  - Released
  - Selected
  - Awarded
  
- The inaugural *Space Technology Research Opportunities – Early Stage Innovations* solicitation was
  - Released
  - Selected
  - and is almost Awarded



# Space Technology Programs: High-Level View

## NASA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST Space Technology Program

- Technology Demonstration Missions **TDM**
- Small Spacecraft Technologies **SST**
- Flight Opportunities **FO**
- Centennial Challenges **CC**
- Game Changing Development **GCD**
- SBIR/STTR**
- Center Innovation Fund **CIF**
- NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts **NIAC**
- Space Technology Research Grants **STRG**

Communications & Outreach

Innovative Partnerships

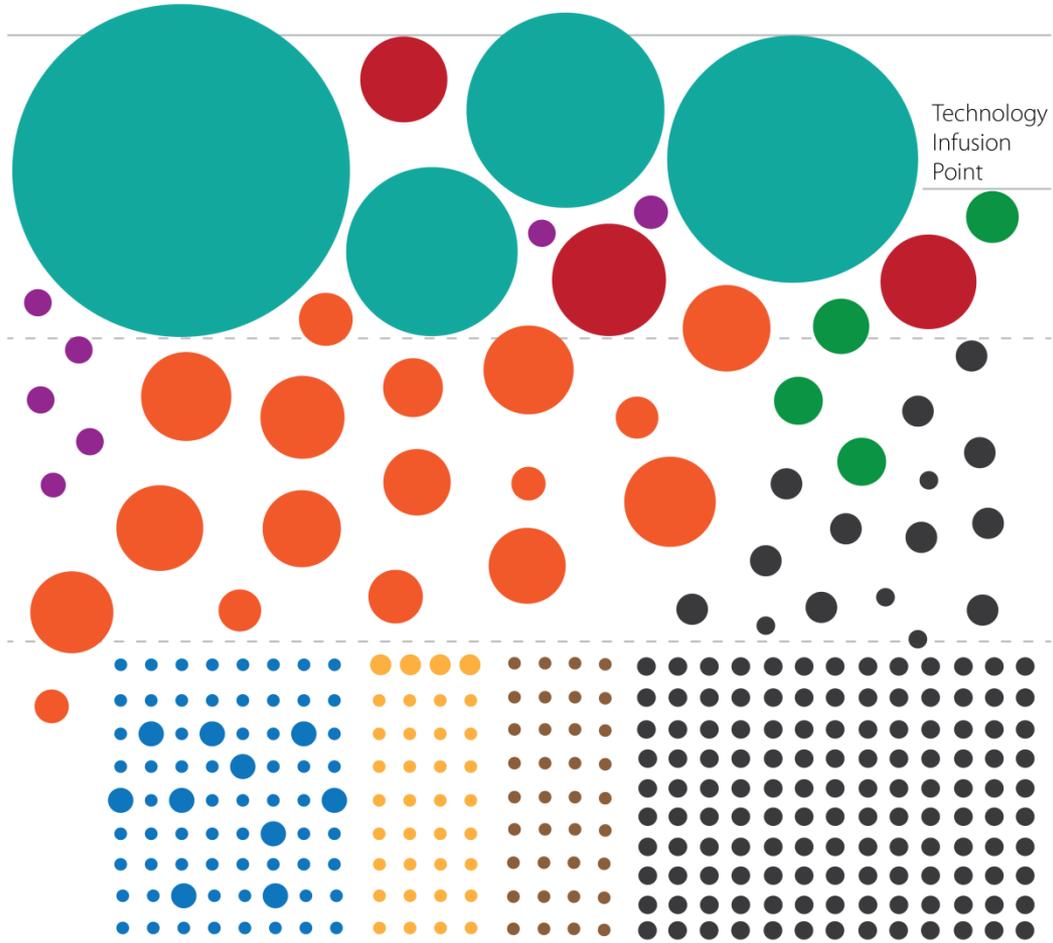
Resource Management

Program Management & Integration

TRL Ranges of Programs

TRL  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1

NASA Mission Directorate Needs - Other Government Agency Needs - National Needs



Notional Number and Size of Projects by Program



# Space Technology Research Grants Program



Level II Program Office: GRC

## Objective

Accelerate the development of push technologies through innovative efforts with high risk/high payoff

- **Space Technology Research Opportunities:** Early stage innovation technology portfolio of groundbreaking research in advanced space technology
- **NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships (NSTRF):** Competitive selection of U.S Citizen / permanent resident graduate students developing promising technologies in support of future NASA missions and strategic goals

## Acquisition Strategy

- **STRO-ESI:** NRA solicitation(s) expected annually. Awards are grants, cooperative agreements, contracts or intra-agency transfers, depending on the scope and focus of the solicitation.
- **NSTRF:** Annual solicitation consistent with academic calendar. Awards are training grants to accredited U.S. universities. Selected candidates perform graduate student research on their respective campuses, at NASA Centers and not-for-profit Research and Development (R&D) labs.

## Awards

- **STRO-ESI:** One year awards with possible renewals; ~\$200K/year
- **NSTRF:** 80 Fellows in inaugural class; NSTRF12 class of 48 is now in place.

## Collaboration

- **STRO-ESI:** Solicitations will vary in terms of eligibility and scope; collaboration will be encouraged
- **NSTRF:** Each student is matched with a professional advisor at NASA Centers or R&D Lab



# STRGP Motivation

## Improving America's Technological and Economic Competitiveness

**WHY?** ➤ Our Nation's universities couple fundamental research with education, encouraging a culture of innovation based on the discovery of knowledge.

**ALSO...** ➤ Universities are ideally positioned to both conduct fundamental space technology research and diffuse newly-found knowledge into society at large.

- graduate students
- faculty
- industrial, government and other partnerships

**SO...** ➤ OCT investments in space technology research at U.S. academic institutions will promote the continued leadership of our universities as an international symbol of the country's scientific innovation, engineering creativity, and technological skill.

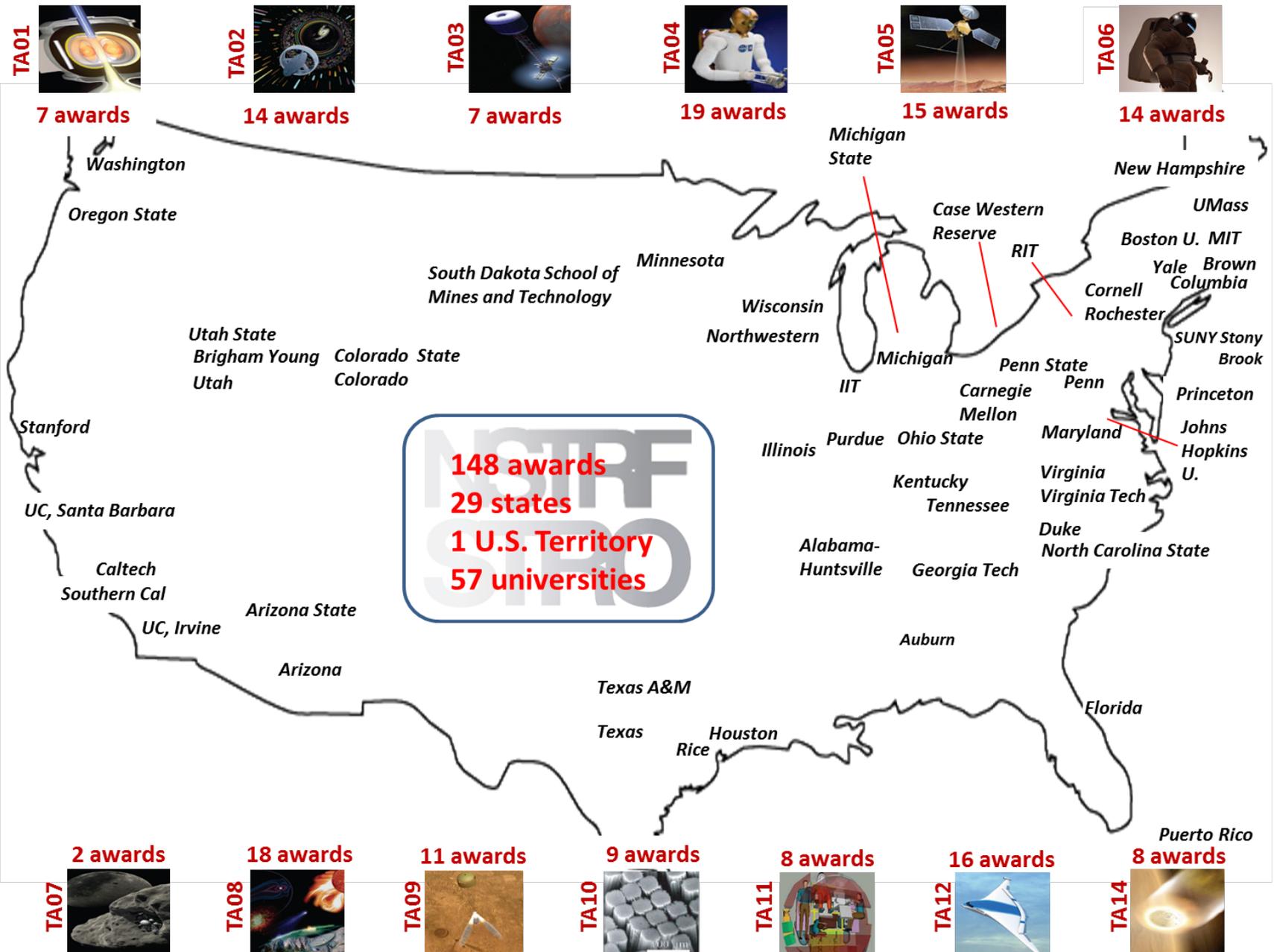
**HOW?** ➤ Tap into the talent base, challenging faculty and graduate students to examine the theoretical feasibility of ideas and approaches that are critical to making science, space travel, and exploration more effective, affordable, and sustainable.



**The Space Technology Research Grants Program endeavors will reinvigorate the pipeline of low TRL technologies and future technological leaders.**



# STRGP Portfolio

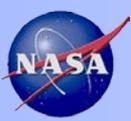




## **Space Technology Research Opportunities Program Element**

### **Annual Solicitation(s)**

- **FY11 – None**
- **FY12**
  - **STRO-Early Career Faculty**
  - **STRO-Early Stage Innovations**



## *2012 STRO Solicitations: Technical Considerations*

As part of STRO's contributions to NASA OCT/Space Technology's sustained, deliberate investment in a low TRL portfolio, these solicitations (ECF and ESI) exclusively sought space technologies that have the potential to lead to dramatic improvements at the system level - performance, weight, cost, reliability, operational simplicity or other figures of merit associated with space flight hardware or missions.

- Directly responds to one or more of the published topic areas
- Is between TRL 1 and 3 at the start of the investigation
- Will advance our understanding or advance the maturity of a technology or concept
- Will investigate a unique, disruptive or transformational space technology or concept

*OCT/ST is not seeking literature searches, survey activities, or incremental improvements of an existing technology or concept.*



# 2012 STRO Solicitations: General Information

## Early Career Faculty

### *Key Dates*

Release Date: March 8, 2012  
Notices of Intent Due: March 30, 2012  
Proposals Due: May 3, 2012  
Selection Announcement: July 30, 2012  
(Target)  
Award Date: September 15, 2012 (Target)

### *Selection Process*

Independent Peer Review

### *Award Details*

Award duration: maximum of three years: one initial year with two possible 1-year renewals. Expected Typical Award Amount: \$200K/per year

### *Selecting Official*

NASA Space Technology Program Director or designee

### *Type of Instrument to Be Used for Awards*

Grants

## Early Stage Innovations

### *Key Dates*

Release Date: May 31, 2012  
Notices of Intent Due: June 21, 2012  
Proposals Due: July 12, 2012  
Selection Announcement: September 14, 2012 (Target)  
Award Date: by late October 2012 (Target)

### *Selection Process*

Independent Peer Review

### *Award Details*

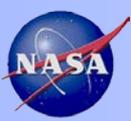
Award duration: maximum of two years: one initial year with one possible 1-year renewal. Typical Award Amount: \$250K/per year

### *Selecting Official*

NASA Space Technology Program Director or designee

### *Type of Instrument to Be Used for Awards*

Grants and cooperative agreements



## 2012 STRO-ECF Solicitations: Applicant Eligibility

Only accredited U.S. universities are eligible to submit proposals on behalf of their outstanding new faculty members who intend to develop academic careers related to space technology.

The proposed research project must be led by a single, eligible Principal Investigator (PI).

- PI must be a recent Ph.D. recipient, defined as having graduated on or after January 1 of the year that is no more than seven years before the issuance date of this STRO-ECF NRA (i.e., after January 1, 2005).
- PI must be an **untenured** Assistant Professor on the tenure track at the sponsoring U.S. university at the time of award.
- PI must be a U.S. citizen or have lawful status of permanent residency (i.e., holder of a U.S. Permanent Resident Card, also referred to as a Green Card).
- PI may submit only one proposal in response to this solicitation. Multiple submissions may result in all being deemed non-compliant.
- PI must be the primary researcher on the effort. Co-Investigators are not permitted. Collaborators are permitted. As specified in the *NASA Guidebook for Proposers*, a collaborator is less critical to the proposal than a Co-Investigator would be; specifically, a collaborator is committed to providing a focused but unfunded contribution for a specific task.
- PI may not be a current or former recipient of a PECASE award.



## 2012 STRO-ESI Solicitations: Applicant Eligibility

Only accredited U.S. universities may submit proposals to this solicitation. Teaming or collaboration with other academic institutions, industry, not-for-profit entities, NASA Centers, other government agencies, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) is permitted, subject to the following restrictions:

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be from the proposing university
2. At least 50% of the proposed budget must go to the proposing university
3. At least 70% of the proposed budget must go to academic institutions
4. NASA Centers, other government agencies, and FFRDCs are permitted to collaborate only.

- Co-Investigators and collaborators are permitted.
- In order to facilitate broad, nationwide participation in this program, a proposal PI or Co-Investigator (Co-I) may participate in no more than two proposals in response to this solicitation.
- When more than one proposal is submitted on behalf of a PI or Co-I, each proposal must be a separate, stand-alone, complete document for evaluation purposes. More than two submissions may result in all being deemed non-compliant.
- There is no limit on the number of proposals which may be submitted by an accredited U.S. university.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Other Minority Universities (OMU) are encouraged to apply.
- Collaboration by non-U.S. organizations in proposed efforts is permitted but subject to NASA's policy on foreign participation. (Please note that NASA is accepting proposals from accredited U.S. universities only.)



# 2012 STRO Solicitations: Technology Areas/Topics

## Early Career Faculty

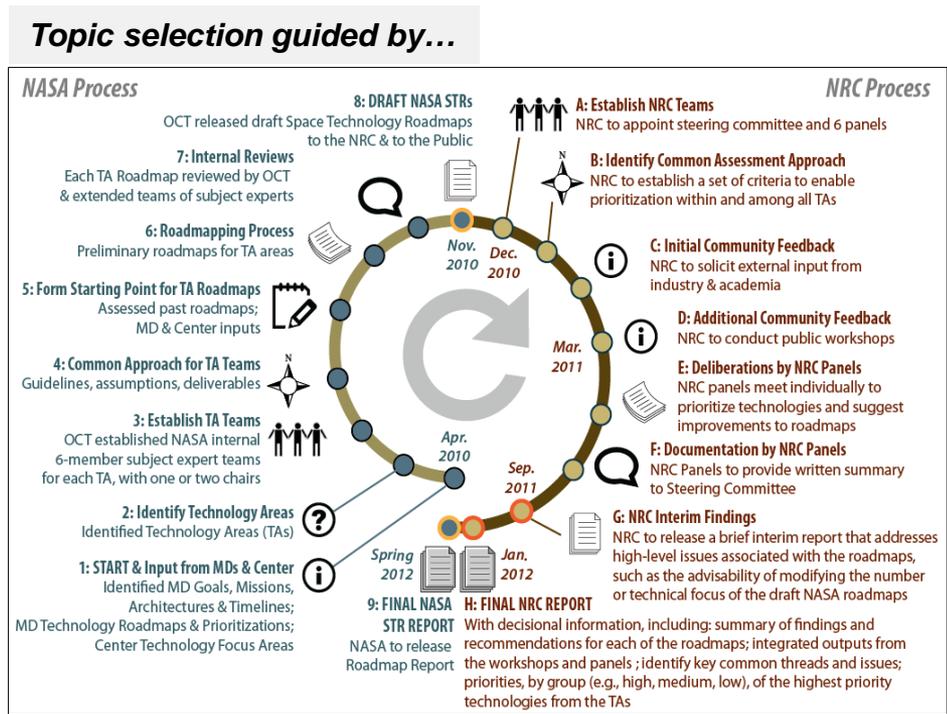
## Early Stage Innovations

- TA05**      **Communication and Navigation Systems**
- 5.3.2      Adaptive Network Topology
- 5.4.1      Timekeeping and Time Distribution
- 5.4.3      Onboard Autonomous Navigation and Maneuvering Systems
  
- TA06**      **Human Health, Life Support, and Habitation Systems**
- 6.1.3      Environmental Control and Life Support Systems: Waste Management
- 6.1.4      Habitation
- 6.5.3      Radiation Protection Systems
- 6.5.5      Radiation Monitoring Technology

- TA06**      **Space Radiation**
- 6.5.3      Topic 1 - Radiation Protection Systems
- 6.5.5      Topic 2 - Radiation Monitoring Technology
  
- TA14**      **Thermal Management Systems**
- 14.1.2      Topic 3 - Active Thermal Control of Cryogenic Systems
- 14.2.3      Topic 4 - Heat Rejection
  
- TA08**      **Optical Systems**
- 8.1.3      Topic 5 - Active Wavefront Control
- 8.1.3      Topic 6 - Grazing-Incidence Optical Systems

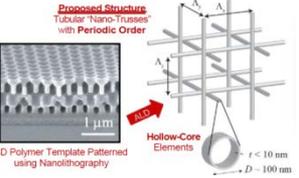
- TA07**      **Human Exploration Destination Systems**
- 7.1.2      In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) Resource Acquisition
- 7.1.3      ISRU Products/Production
- 7.1.4      ISRU Manufacturing & Infrastructure Emplacement

- TA12**      **Materials, Structures, Mechanical Systems, and Manufacturing**
- 12.1.1      Materials: Lightweight Structure
- 12.2.1      Structures: Lightweight Concepts
- 12.2.2      Structures: Design and Certification Methods
- 12.3.5      Mechanical Systems: Reliability / Life Assessment / Health Monitoring





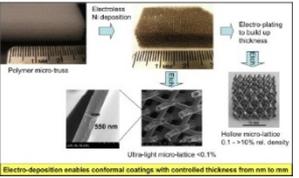
# STRO-ECF (2012) Portfolio



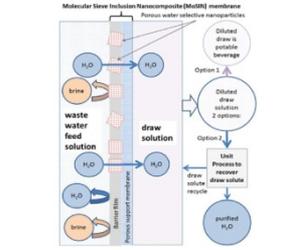
Ultralight Nanolattices with Co-Optimized Mechanical, Thermal, and Optical Properties  
**Chih-Hao Chang** NC STATE UNIVERSITY



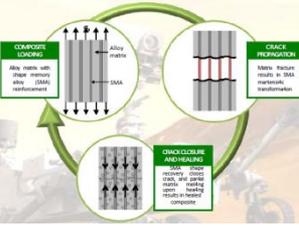
Autonomous Food Production  
**Nikolaus Correll** Colorado University of Colorado Boulder



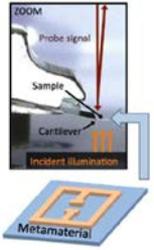
Development of Lightweight, Radiation- and Damage-Tolerant Micro-trusses  
**Julia R. Greer** Caltech



Development of Corrosion-resistant Molecular Sieve Inclusion Nanocomposite (MoSIN) Membranes to Recover Water from Urine Through Osmotic Processes  
**Mary Laura Lind** ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Self-repair and Damage Mitigation of Metallic Structures  
**Michele Manuel** UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

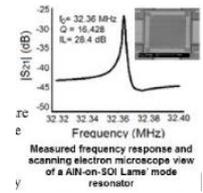


Radiation Pressure on Tunable Optical Metamaterials for Propulsion and Steering Without Moving Parts  
**Jeremy Munday** UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

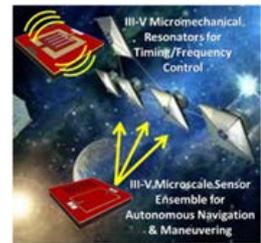


Figure 3: Stanford's space robotics facility

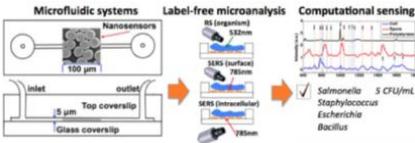
Algorithmic Foundations for Real-Time and Dependable Spacecraft Motion Planning  
**Marco Pavone** STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Chip-Scale Precision Timing Unit for PicoSatellites  
**Mina Raies-Zadeh** UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



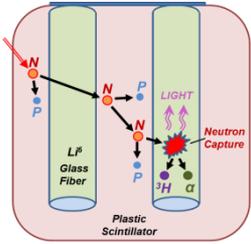
III-V Microsystems Components for Positioning, Navigation and Timing in Extreme Harsh Environments  
**Debbie Senesky** STANFORD UNIVERSITY



Environmental Control & Life-Support Systems  
**Wei-Chuan Shih** UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

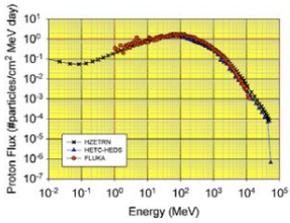


# STRO-ESI (2012) Portfolio



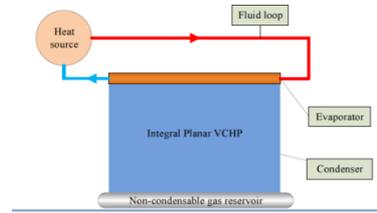
Advanced Scintillating Fiber Technology in High Energy Neutron Spectrometers for Exploration

James Adams



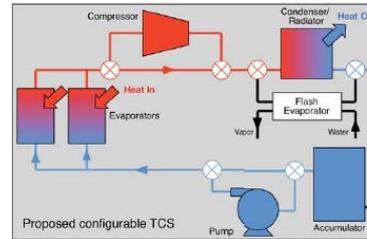
Computational Approaches for Developing Active Radiation Dosimeters for Space Applications Based on New Paradigms for Risk Assessment

Thomas Borak



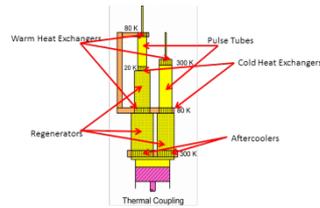
Heat Rejection System for Thermal Management in Space Utilizing a Planar Variable-Conductance Heat Pipe

Yasuhiro Kamotani



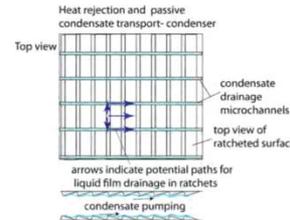
Adaptable Single Active Loop Thermal Control System (TCS) for Future Space Missions

Issam Mudawar



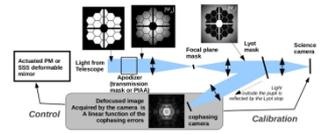
Light Weight, 20 K Pulse Tube Cryocooler for Active Thermal Control on Future Space Exploration Missions

Seyed Ghiaasiaan



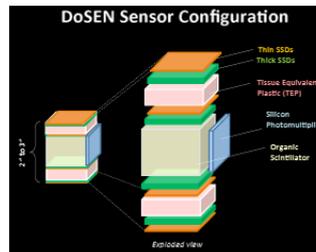
Enabling Self-Propelled Condensate Flow During Phase-Change Heat Rejection Using Surface Texturing

Vinod Narayanan



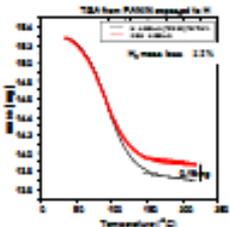
Wavefront Control for High Performance Coronagraphy on Segmented and Centrally Obscured Telescopes

Olivier Guyon



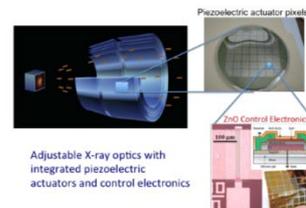
Small Active Readout Device for Dose Spectra from Energetic Particles and Neutrons (Dosen)

Nathan Schwadron



High Hydrogen Content Nanostructured Polymer Radiation Protection System

Alex Ignatiev



Integrated Control Electronics for Adjustable X-Ray Optics

Susan Trolier-Mckinstry



Fig. 1: Grazing incidence optics with piezoelectric actuation and integrated control electronics

# NSTRF

## NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships

### Annual Solicitation

- FY11 - NSTRF11
- FY12 - NSTRF12
- FY13 - NSTRF13



National Aeronautics and Space Administration 

## NASA SPACE TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 2013

**CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**Learn, team, discover, achieve...**

NASA's Space Technology Program seeks to sponsor graduate student researchers pursuing advanced degrees (master's and doctoral) in science, technology, engineering, and math who show significant potential to contribute to the strategic goals and missions of NASA in the area of **space technology**.

Applications will be accepted from students pursuing or planning to pursue master's or doctoral degrees in relevant space technology disciplines. The fellowship awards, worth as much as \$68,000 per year, will coincide with the start of the fall 2013 term. In addition to providing a \$36,000 annual stipend, the fellowship provides generous support for tuition, insurance and a faculty advisor. Also, the fellowship provides support for onsite tenure at **NASA Centers** and U.S. non-profit Research and Development labs.

To date, NASA has awarded these prestigious fellowships to 128 students from 50 universities across 26 states and one U.S. territory. Fellowship recipients are paired with the **Nation's leading experts in space technology** so together we can push the limits of human technological achievement as only NASA can.

The solicitation is now open!  
Student applications are due by 6 p.m. Eastern Time on **December 4, 2012**.

For details on how to apply:  
<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/stp/strg/nstrf13.html>

www.nasa.gov

U.S. citizens and permanent residents only  
PS-00865-1012





# NSTRF13: Application Components

## Minimum Eligibility Requirements for NSTRF13

1. Pursuing or seeking to pursue advanced STEM degrees.
2. U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.
3. Have or will have a bachelor's degree prior to the fall of 2013.
4. Are or will be enrolled in a full-time master's or doctoral degree program at an accredited U.S. university in fall 2013 (awards may not be deferred).
5. In general, students who have completed one or more years in their current master's program (as of October 10, 2012) and doctoral students who have completed three or more years of graduate school (as of October 10, 2012) are not eligible to apply.

*The student shall be the principal author of the Project Narrative, with minimal assistance from the current/prospective faculty advisor.*

**1**

### Proposal Cover Page

- Completed online at NSPIRES
- 43 Program Specific Data Questions

**2**

### Personal Statement

- explain space technology academic and career goals
- rationale in applying to or selecting the university(ies)
- leadership and collaborative potential, communication ability, and potential for investigation and engagement in space technology problems and their solutions
- pertinent background information

**3**

### Project Narrative

- summary of educational program objectives
- research interests with associated relevant hypotheses and possible approaches
- benefits of proposed research
- benefits of on-site R&D lab experience

**4**

### Degree Program Schedule

- proposed start and completion dates
- anticipated milestones



**5**

### Curriculum Vitae (two pages)

- student

**6**

### Transcripts

- undergraduate
- graduate

**7**

### GRE general test scores

**8**

### Three letters of recommendation

- from academic advisor
- from other faculty members or professionals with detailed knowledge of student's abilities

NSTRF11 (inaugural year) documents are available at <http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF11-OCT>.  
NSTRF12 documents are available at <http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF12-OCT>.  
NSTRF13 documents are available at <http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF13>.



# NSTRF13: Annual Award Values



Category	Maximum value *
Student Stipend	\$36,000
Faculty Advisor Allowance	\$9,000
On-site NASA Center/R&D lab experience Allowance	\$10,000
Health Insurance Allowance	\$1,000
Tuition and Fees Allowance	\$12,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,000</b>

*\* from NSTRF13 solicitation*

- A fellowship award is issued as a training grant to the student's host university.
- Separate from the awards, the Program has allocated resources to cover mentor time and costs associated with hosting/interacting with the Fellow.





# NSTRF13: Evaluation Criteria



All eligible fellowship applications undergo a technical review by experts.

## 1. Academic excellence, potential, and commitment to space technology

- Organizational, analytical, and written skills;
- Scientific curiosity, creativity, acumen, and potential for success in research environment as indicated in planned course of study;
- Potential for success in attaining an advanced degree in a space technology-related field; and
- Demonstrated commitment to space technology, a strong potential for pursuing a space technology career and/or potential for leadership in the space technology arena.



## 2. Relevance and Technical Merit of the student applicant's Project Narrative

- Merit of the space technology research area description and knowledge of relevant research literature;
- Relevance of the proposed plan to the student applicant-selected technology area;
- Potential impact of the on-site experience on the student applicant's academic/research plans;
- Appropriateness of the student applicant's choice(s) of institution(s) relative to the proposed plan for graduate study;
- Extent to which the proposed activity represents a potentially innovative space technology idea.





# NSTRF: Current Portfolio

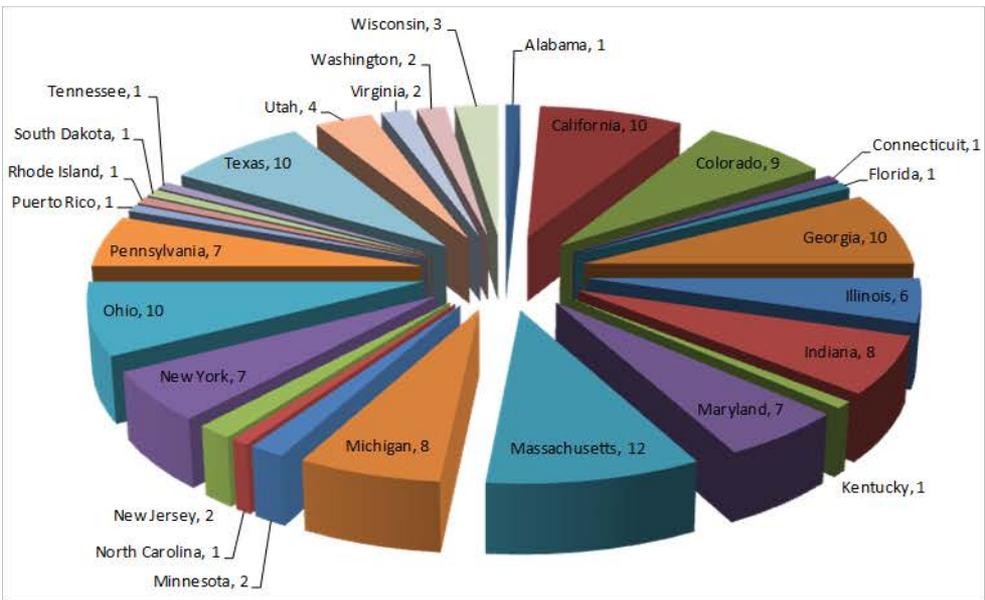
Covering 13 Technology Areas



26 states, 1 U.S. territory...  
and 50 universities



- Auburn
- Boston U
- Brigham Young
- Brown
- Cal Tech
- Carnegie Mellon
- Case Western Reserve
- Colorado State University
- Columbia
- Cornell
- Duke
- Georgia Tech
- Illinois Institute of Tech
- Johns Hopkins
- Michigan State
- MIT
- Northwestern
- Ohio State
- Penn State
- Princeton
- Purdue
- Rice
- Rochester Institute of Tech
- SD School of Mines
- Stanford



- SUNY – Stony Brook
- Texas A&M
- U of Cal – Irvine
- U of Cal – Santa Barbara
- U of Colorado – Boulder
- U of Florida
- U of Illinois
- U of Kentucky
- U of Maryland
- U of Massachusetts
- U of Michigan
- U of Minnesota
- U of Pennsylvania
- U of Puerto Rico
- U of Rochester
- U of Southern California
- U of Tennessee - Knoxville
- U of Texas – Austin
- U of Utah
- U of Washington
- U of Wisconsin
- Utah State
- Virginia
- Virginia Tech
- Yale

**NSTRF 11 and 12**  
**128 graduate students conducting**  
**space technology research**

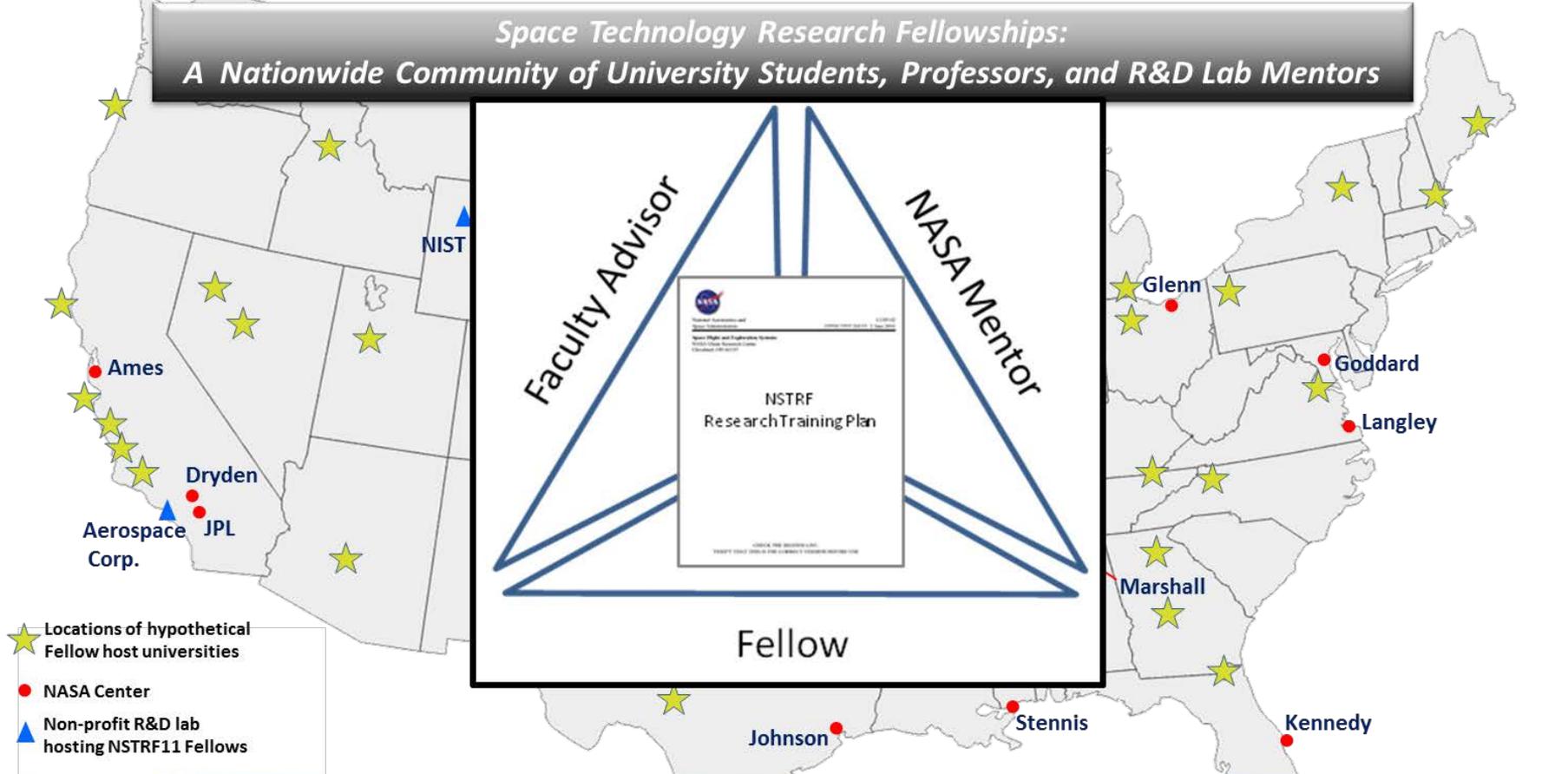




# NSTRF: Implementation Philosophy



*Space Technology Research Fellowships:  
A Nationwide Community of University Students, Professors, and R&D Lab Mentors*





# NSTRF: On-Site Experience Reports

I obtained specialized training and analyzed my nanomaterials using state of the art instrumentation: High Resolution Transmission Electron Microscopy (HRTEM), Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM) and Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). In addition, I gained a great deal of knowledge on gas sensors from my mentor, Dr. Jing Li, a well known leader in the gas sensing field, and her team. During this time I obtained publishable results on the ultralow detection of chlorine gas at room temperature using gas sensors fabricated from some of the nanomaterials I had previously synthesized. --Adriana



ARC: Jing Li



Adriana Popa  
Case Western Reserve U.



JPL: Mimi Aung



Eric Trumbauer  
U. of California, Irvine

Completion of the proof-of-concept design tool...includes the recent integration of a rapid differential corrector into the main program, rather than the use of a previous, stand-alone corrector with a much larger runtime. This would not have been possible without the direction of the team assembled by mentor Mimi Aung, and was an immediate benefit of the on-site portion of the fellowship. --Eric

Recent work has taken place at GRC during my site visit. I have been assigned the task of preparing the High-speed Axial Reciprocating Probe (HARP) system. It is one of the milestones for the Electric Propulsion group at Glenn to demonstrate high-speed plasma diagnostics inside of the thruster channel. Probing within the thruster channel is difficult given that most materials will be quickly ablated by the plasma. I have learned how to operate the HARP stage and have created a LabView program to operate the HARP and the thruster motion stages. I have also assisted with the mechanical buildup within VF5. The HARP has demonstrated high speeds allowing for the probes to be inside the discharge channel for ~100 ms or less. The familiarity gained with operation of Hall thrusters and the NASA vacuum facilities will be invaluable towards the overall goal of my fellowship. --Brian



GRC: Wensheng Huang



Brian Lee  
Colorado State U.



LaRC: Mia Siochi



Jennifer Carpena  
U. of Puerto Rico

I worked with Lindsay Aitchison, Amy Ross, and others in the Space Suit Assembly (SSA) Group on several projects of current interest to the team. I supported an initial investigation into an inertial measurement unit (IMU) body tracking system for ultimate use of tracking limb movements of subjects in future space suit range-of-motion testing. I performed a statistical analysis to develop a new heuristic for predicting soft-good suit component preference based on known anthropometric measurements. I also was given the opportunity to be a test subject in both the Mark-III and EMU; it was an incredible experience to simply try out the space hardware that I've spent years studying and assessing. --Brad



JSC: Lindsay Aitchison



Brad Holschuh  
MIT

Mechanical testing of pristine, acetone treated, amorphous carbon (a-C) modified, heated, stretched and metal decorated CNT paper, tape and yarn has been conducted with a micron-sized-sample tensile tester that can be carried out in air as well as in the chamber of an SEM. These experiments were performed at NASA LaRC. Visualization of the mechanical performance of the CNT paper, tape and yarn is of great importance to the CNT-based composite fabrication team at NASA LaRC, as it allows them to focus their efforts on the modification of the samples to achieve the target mechanical properties for structural aerospace applications. --Jennifer



# NSTRF: Infusion Potential Snapshot



## armd

- Hypersonics
- Supersonics
- Subsonic Fixed Wing
- Environmentally Responsible Aviation Project



## heomd

- ON-OFF Adhesive Feet for Crawling Inspection Robots
- Deep Space Network
- International Space Station (ISS) Research
- Use of Nanoparticle Enhanced Fluids for Active Thermal Control of Spacecraft
- Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN)
- Launch Abort System
- Space Launch System (SLS)
- Physical Science Research
- ISS VASIMR Flight Experiment (VFE)
- Composites for Exploration Project
- Rocket Exhaust Interacting with Soil

While I was not aware of Dr. Quinn and his student's work before this, they are doing very relevant work and I'm already learning a lot from interacting with them. This is going to be an excellent long-term partnership.



## oct

- Manufacturing Innovation Project
- Entry, Descent, and Landing Technology
- Laser Communications Relay Demonstration
- Nanotechnology
- In Space Propulsion
- Human Robotics Systems
- Cryogenic Propellant and Storage Technology (CPST)
- Lightweight Materials and Structures (LMS)
- Nuclear Systems
- Space Synthetic Biology
- Composite Cryogenic Tank Project
- Center of Innovation Fund
- Human Exploration Telerobotics
- High Power Hall Thruster



## smd

- Landsat Data Continuity Mission
- James Webb Space Telescope
- Large Arrays of UV to Near-IR Lumped Element Kinetic Inductance Detectors
- X-ray Astrophysics
- Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution Mission (MAVEN)
- Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe
- Instrument Incubator Program
- High Voltage Hall Accelerator
- Solar Probe
- Solar Wind Electrons Alphas and Protons (SWEAP)
- Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP)
- Planetary Science
- Gravity Wave Observatory Study
- Microwave Radiometer Instrument
- MEDLI Reconstruction
- NASA's Evolutionary Xenon Thruster (NEXT)
- UAV-Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR)
- Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite
- Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL)
- MMEEV Technology Development

"The NSTRF Fellow is performing research and development of computer-aided design tools for multiphysics optimization. This is a cross-disciplinary project that potentially benefits several of the areas in which my organization is actively supporting agency programs...under ARMD (Fundamental Aeronautics, Aviation Safety, and Airspace Systems programs), HEOMD, SMD and OCT. Under the NSTRF program, the Fellow is seeking to advance optimization capabilities in ways that would achieve significant savings in the system design cycle, and would thus improve our ability to rapidly respond to Agency program needs...we intend to pursue proposal opportunities jointly as the technology becomes ready."

(as of spring 2012)

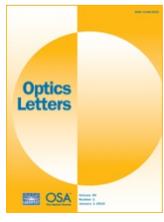


# NSTRF: Technical Accomplishments

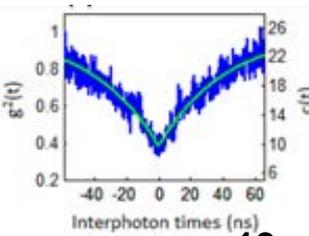
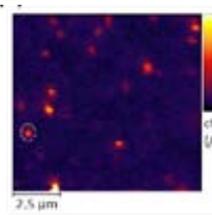
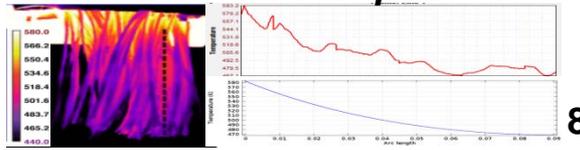
Next chart shows description for each image.



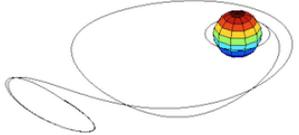
1



2

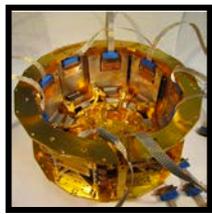
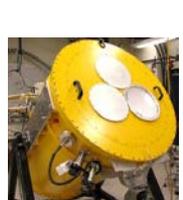
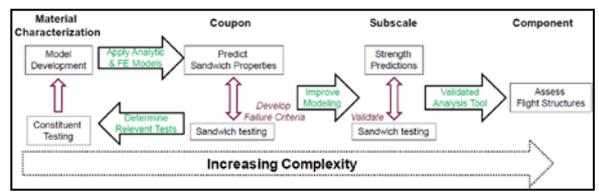


Transfer from updated search

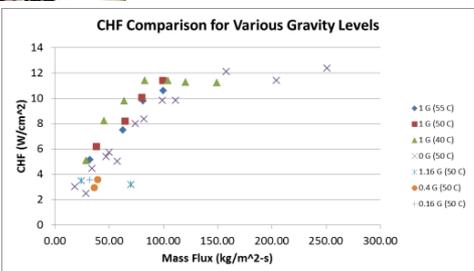


New sequence avoids expensive maneuver, lowering fuel use

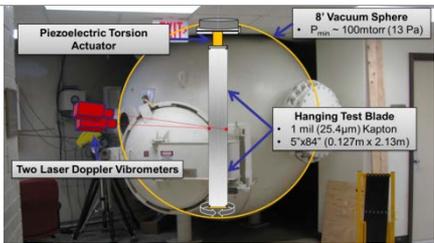
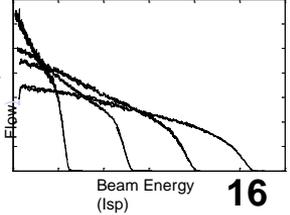
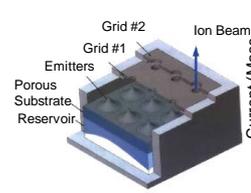
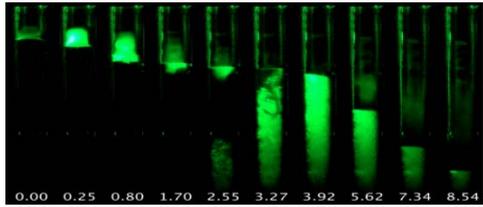
4



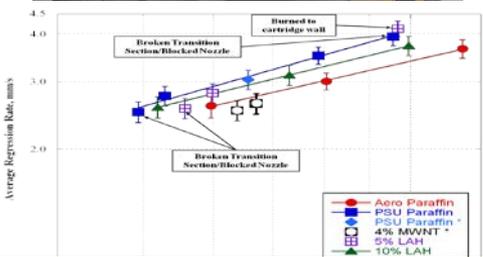
14



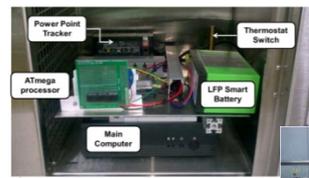
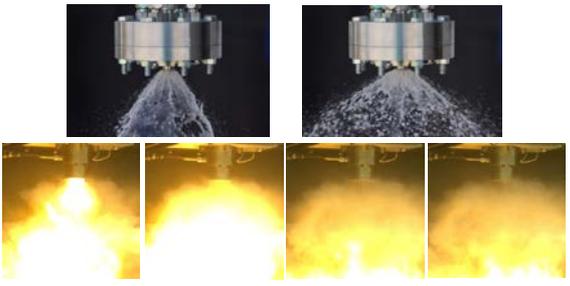
15



6



7



milestones

partnerships

tests



# NSTRF: Technical Accomplishments

Number in lower-right of each box corresponds to image on previous chart.

"A Survey of Communication Sub-systems for Intersatellite Linked Systems," Journal of Communications, Vol. 7, No. 4, 2012. (Paul Muri, University of Florida) **1**

With the Aerospace Corporation, showed that paraffin fuel grains with LiAlH4 particles have enhanced regression rates. (Dan Larson, Penn State University) **7**

Single-photon emission (~800 nm) from CdSeTe quantum dots in photonic-bandgap glassy chiral liquid crystal host. (Justin Winkler, University of Rochester) **13**

"Resonance in Quantum Dot Fluorescence in a Photonic Bandgap Liquid Crystal Host." Optics Letters, 37, N 7, p.1259, 2012. (Justin Winkler, University of Rochester) **2**

Demonstrated temperature profile agreement between test article and finite element fin model. (Briana Tombouliau, UMass, Amherst) **8**

Fully assembled ACTPol array and completed integration of ACTPol receiver with custom dilution refrigeration system. (Emily Grace, Princeton University and Benjamin Schmitt, University of Pennsylvania) **14**

Completed design, construction, testing, and calibration of a position-sensitive diode sun sensor for EBEX. (Kyle Helson, Brown University) **3**

Zach Kier (University of Michigan) and his colleagues received IR&D funding from the Aerospace Corporation for material fabrication, cold temperature testing, and damage tolerance investigation. This will provide critical data for validating the models. **9**

Microgravity testing on airplane yielded what is believed to be the first 0g results where a steady state condensed fueled flame was established on a planar surface in quiescent and ambient conditions. (Michael Bustamante, University of Maryland) **15**

Completed proof-of-concept trajectory redesign tool. Demonstrated the generation of multiple transfers for example system in seconds. (Eric Trumbauer, University of California, Irvine) **4**

Schlieren and PLIF images of the Orion Capsule model at Mach 5. (Christopher Combs, University of Texas, Austin) **10**

As evidenced in proof-of-concept experiments, dual grids allow for the specific impulse to be modulated independent of the engine power (very useful in power-limited applications). (Chase Coffman, MIT) **16**

Two weeks of parabolic flights were completed in April and May 2012 during which various tube sizes and gravity levels were tested. (Alex Scammell, University of Maryland) **5**

Novel experimental apparatus with optical measurements show that previous self-pressurizing propellant systems models' assumptions are incorrect. (Jonah Zimmerman, Stanford University) **11**

Low cost hibernating power system built: battery survived repeated freezes to cryogenic temperature without physical damage or loss of capacity and consumer electronics survived repeated freezes to cryogenic temperature and performed subsequent burn in tests without error. (Ethan Minogue, Carnegie Mellon University) **17**

Collected the frequency response of a hanging heliogyro blade in a vacuum chamber. (Dan Guerrant, University of Colorado, Boulder) **6**

Measurements from cold-flow and hot-fire test series with fabricated hypergolic pintle thruster. <https://vimeo.com/47469840> (Brandon Kan, Purdue University) **12**



# NSTRF Priority: Presenting Results at Technical Conferences

AAS/AIAA Space Flight Mechanics Meeting  
Charleston, SC

Ablation Workshop  
Lexington, KY

AIAA Atmospheric Flight Mechanics Conference  
Minneapolis, MN

**AIAA Fluid Dynamics Conference**  
New Orleans, LA

**AIAA Guidance, Navigation, and Control Conference**  
Minneapolis, MN

**AIAA Space Conference and Exposition**  
Pasadena, CA

**AIAA Structures, Structural Dynamics and Materials Conference**  
Honolulu, HI

**AIAA, Aerospace Sciences Meeting**  
Nashville, TN

**AIAA/AAS Astrodynamics Specialists Conference**  
Minneapolis, MN

**AIAA/AMSE/SAE/ASEE Joint Propulsion Conference & Exhibit**  
Atlanta, GA

**AIAA/Utah State University Small Satellite Conference**  
Logan, UT

**AICHe Annual Meeting**  
Pittsburgh, PA

**American Astronautical Society Guidance, Navigation and Control Conference**  
Breckenridge, CO

American Astronomical Society (AAS) Conference  
Austin, TX

American Society Composites Annual Technical Conference  
American Vacuum Society International Symposium and Exhibition  
Tampa, FL

Annual International Conference & Exposition on Advanced Ceramics & Composites (ICACC)  
Daytona Beach, FL

Annual Materials Science & Technology Conference (MS&T)  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Annual Meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics**  
San Diego, CA

ANS Annual Meeting "Nuclear Science and Technology: Managing the Global Impact of Economic and Natural Events"  
Chicago, IL

ANS Winter Meeting and Nuclear Technology Expo.  
San Diego, CA

Applied Superconductivity Conference  
Portland, OR

ASME International Design Engineering Conference  
Chicago, IL

ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition  
Denver, CO

**ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition**  
Houston, TX

ASME Summer Heat Transfer Conference 2012  
Puerto Rico, USA

Case Western Reserve University Chemistry Retreat  
Cleveland, OH

Central States Section Combustion Meeting  
Dayton, OH

Computational and Theoretical Biology Symposium (CTBS)  
Bioscience Research Collaborative (BRC)  
Rice University

Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics (CLEO)  
San Jose, CA

CubeSat Developers' Workshop  
San Luis Obispo, CA

Earth and Space 2012 Conference  
Pasadena, CA

Electrochemical Society Spring Meeting  
Seattle, WA

Electronic Materials Conference  
The Penn Stater – Pennsylvania State University

European Physical Society Conference on Plasma Physics and the International Congress on Plasma Physics  
Stockholm, Sweden

Frontiers in Optics/XXVIII Laser Science Conference  
Rochester NY

HysPIRI Workshop  
Pasadena, CA

IAA Conference on Dynamics and Controls of Space Systems  
Porto, Portugal

ICMSE 2012  
Xiamen, China

**IEEE Aerospace Conference**  
Big Sky, MT

IEEE AEROSPACE International Conference on Microwaves, Radar Wireless Communications  
Warsaw, Poland

IEEE APS Topical Conference on Antennas and Propagation in Wireless Communications (APWC)  
Cape Town, WP, South Africa

IEEE Bipolar/BiCMOS Circuits and Technology Meeting (BCTM) 2012  
Portland, OR

**IEEE ICRA conference**  
St. Paul, MN

IEEE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTENNAS AND PROPAGATION & USNC/URSI NATIONAL RADIO SCIENCE MEETING  
Chicago, IL

IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)  
International Astronautical Congress  
Naples, Italy

International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (AAMAS)  
Valencia, Spain

International Conference on Diffusion in Solids and Liquids, DSL2012  
Istanbul, Turkey

International Conference on Two-Phase Systems for Ground and Space Applications  
Beijing, China

International Congress on Ceramics (ICC4)  
Chicago, IL

**International Planetary Probe Workshop (IPPW-9)**  
Toulouse, France

International Symposium on Experimental Robotics (ISER)  
Quebec City, Canada

International Symposium on Rarefied Gas Dynamics  
Zaragoza, Spain

International Symposium on Special Topics in Chemical Propulsion (9-ISICP)  
Québec City, Canada

**International Union of Radio Science (URSI) National Radio Science Meeting**  
Boulder, CO

ION GNSS 2012  
Nashville, TN

IUPAC World Polymer Congress  
Virginia Tech

Joint Army Navy NASA Air Force (JANNAF), 6th Spacecraft Propulsion Joint Subcommittee Meeting  
Monterey, CA

Lunar Superconductor Applications 2nd International Workshop (LSA)  
Houston, TX

Materials Research Society (MRS) meeting  
Boston, MA

**Materials Research Society Spring Meeting**  
San Francisco, CA

Military Communications Conference (Milcom) 2012  
Logan, UT

National Space and Missiles Materials Symposium (NSMMS)  
Tampa, FL

Neuroethology 2012  
College Park, MD

New Diamond and Nano Carbon Conference  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

NSMMS 2012  
Tampa, FL

Planetary Probe Workshop  
Toulouse, France

Puerto Rico Interdisciplinary Scientific Meeting/Junior Technical Meeting  
Carolina, Puerto Rico

Robotics: Science and Systems  
Australia

SAMPE 2012  
Baltimore, MD

Scientific and Clinical Applications of Magnetic Carriers  
Minneapolis, MN

Space Propulsion 2012  
Bordeaux, France

Spacecraft Charging Technology Conference  
Kitakyushu, Japan

**SPIE Astronomical Instrumentation Conference**  
Amsterdam

SPIE International Conference for Security and Defence  
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

SPIE Smart Structures/NDE conference  
San Diego, CA

Surface Mount Technology Association (SMTA) International Conference on Soldering and Reliability (ICSR)  
Toronto, Ontario

USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting  
Boulder, CO

Virginia Space Grant Consortium Conference

Blue text = multiple NSTRF researchers planned to attend



## Virtual community of space technology researchers

**SpaceTechConnect**  
OCT Collaborative Research Tool

HOME PROGRAMS PROJECTS PEOPLE MY PROFILE

**STRG-NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships**  
NASA's Office of the Chief Technologist sponsors graduate student researchers who show significant potential to contribute to NASA's strategic goals and missions. NASA's Space Technology Fellows perform innovative space technology research while building the skills necessary to become future technological leaders.

See All Projects (129)

sort by: newest title sort

Compliant Space Mechanisms - [quick view](#)  
Shannon Zirbel (Brigham Young University)  
OBJECTIVES The proposed research will combine the areas of compliant mechanisms and space technology. Compliant mechanisms perform their function through ...  
[Request To Join](#)

In Situ Polymerization Via Environmentally-borne Initiation Stimuli - [quick view](#)  
Scott Zavada (University of Michigan)  
The goal of my research is to develop novel polymeric materials that solidify upon exposure to an environmentally-borne initiation stimulus. ...  
[Request To Join](#)

A Circuit-Level Radiation Hardened-By-Design Approach for Standard CMOS - [quick view](#)  
Austin Womac (University of Tennessee)  
The primary objective of the research inquiry is to validate a circuit-level radiation hardening technique for digital and mixed-signal electronics. ...  
[Request To Join](#)

Development of Design Tools for the Optimization of Biologically Based Control Systems - [quick view](#)  
Nicholas Szczecinski (Case Western Reserve University)  
I plan to develop software that aids in the design of biomimetic control systems by optimizing the properties of the ...  
[Request To Join](#)

Filter Your Results  
by Title or Description  
by Technology Areas  
TA01 Launch Propulsion Systems  
TA02 In-Space Propulsion Technologies  
TA03 Space Power and Energy Storage  
TA04 Robotics, Tele-Robotics and Aut  
by Grand Challenges  
Economical Space Access  
New Tools of Discovery  
Space Health and Medicine  
Telepresence in Space  
Submit

- Collaborative, web-based community.
- Means to reach and interact with like-minded Fellows and their advisor/mentor teams.
  - Discussion forums
  - Resource sharing
    - Papers
    - Presentations
    - Data sets
- All 128 NSTRF projects are loaded. Students are the administrators of their own projects.
-  Program Corner features reporting templates, terms and conditions documents, a customizable calendar and a conference locator.
- STRO-ECF and STRO-ESI are being added.



# Example of an NSTRF Task

*Next-Generation Electronic Systems for Innovative New  
Space Technologies and for the Nation's Science,  
Exploration and Economic Future*



**Jaemi Herzberger, University of Maryland  
NSTRF Student Fellow - 2011 Class**

**Carlton Faller, JSC, mentor  
Abhijit Dasgupta, University of Maryland, faculty advisor  
Jean-Marie Denis, GSFC Parts Analysis Lab, operations manager**



## *GSFC Collaboration with NSTRF*

- The GSFC PA lab provides the following services:
  - Failure analyses of electrical and electromechanical parts and assemblies
  - Destructive physical analyses
  - Incoming test and inspection
  - Screening/flight qualification and evaluation
- I was introduced to Ms. Herzberger in March 2012 as a NSTRF student performing research in my Lab under the guidance and leadership of her mentors Dr. Alexander Teverovsky, and Carlton Faller, and her PI Dr. Abhijit Dasgupta.
- The PA Lab teams with NSTRF by providing Ms. Herzberger the necessary tools required for her research.
- My lab provides Ms. Herzberger the opportunity to use our sophisticated laboratory equipment, i.e. high power microscopes, including our Scanning Electron Microscopy, 3-D X-Ray, XRF, and various other equipment for her research.
- Being an integral part of the PA Lab, Ms. Herzberger has developed necessary skills that directly lead to future job opportunities in the PA Lab.
- Her research is being compiled for the benefit of future space technology at NASA.

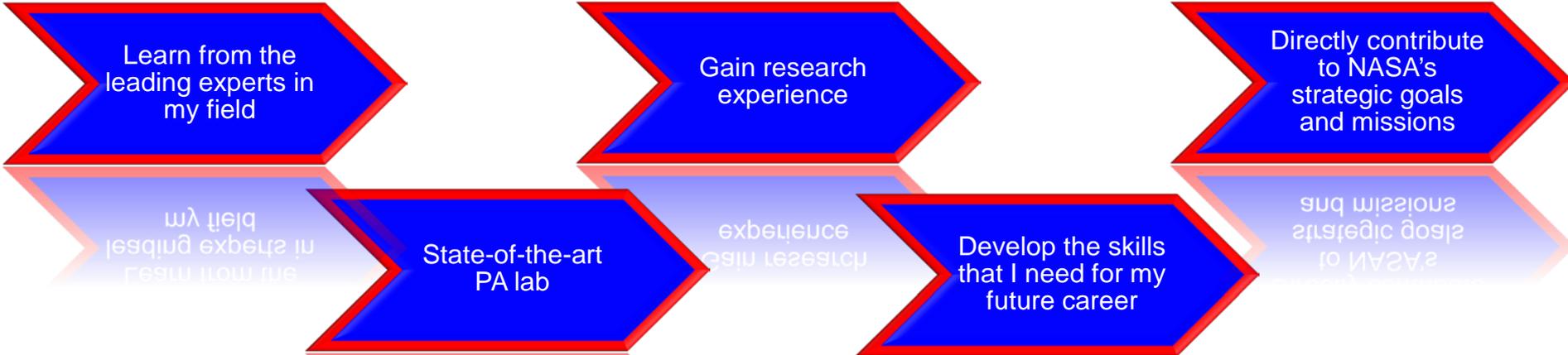


# About Me



- [University of Maryland](#) Master's of Science Mechanical Engineering Candidate, [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#)
- [Center for Advanced Life Cycle Engineering](#)

- Participating in NSTRF program since 2011
- NSTRF has provided me with many opportunities
- Benefits from performing research at GSFC:



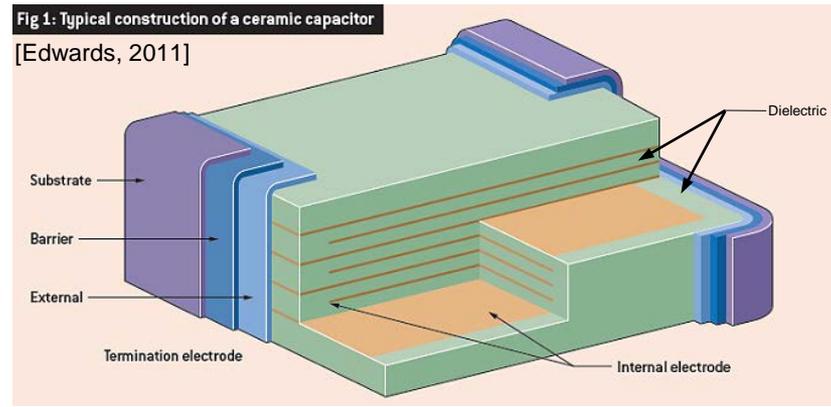


# Research Description (chart 1 of 2)

## Research Title: Electrochemical migration (ECM) and dendrite growth in PME and BME ceramic capacitors

Precious Metal Electrode (PME): Internal electrodes are silver-palladium **(Military)**

Base Metal Electrode (BME): Internal electrodes are nickel **(Commercial)**



NASA uses *thousands of capacitors* in a single electronic system, but they are responsible for more failures than any other component!

**Failure Mechanism:** Dielectric Cracking → ECM and Dendrite Growth → Short Circuit

**Dendrite Growth:** The formation of a conductive pathway through metallic filament migration in the presence of an electric field and an electrolytic solution

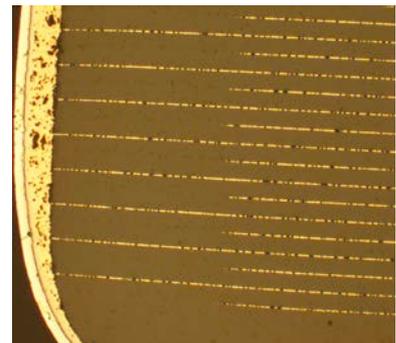


Fig. 2: Capacitor Pre-Test

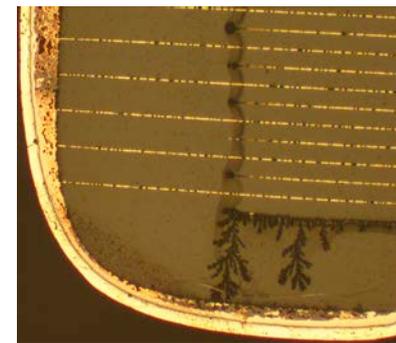


Fig. 3: Dendrite Growth



# Research Description (chart 2 of 2)

## Practical Need:

The most advanced capacitors today are produced with BMEs

- Higher Performance (Capacitance per Volume)
- Cheaper (Nickel vs. Silver-Palladium)

## Background:

- Traditionally, for military PME capacitors, cracks in the dielectric are revealed through (Mil-PRF-123) a low-voltage (LV), steady-state (SS) humidity test using dendrite growth susceptibility
- BME capacitors are a newer technology and little is known about their dielectric crack detection and dendrite growth susceptibility

## Research Goals:

1. Determine if the same test (Mil-PRF-123) can be used for the same purpose in BME capacitors
2. Compare processes of ECM and dendrite growth in PME and BME capacitors (which metals migrate under different conditions)

## Procedure:

1. Expose cracked PME and BME capacitors to LV, SS, humidity tests to determine the time-to-failure (TTF)
2. One technique: Water layer test (WLT), which simulates the condensed moisture observed in dielectric cracks

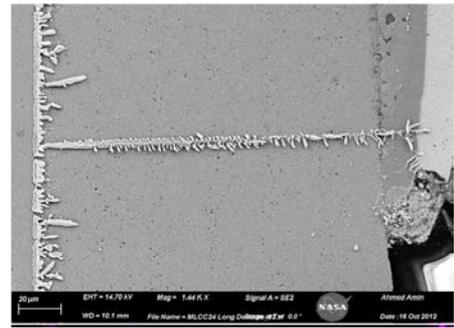


Fig. 4: Tin Dendrite (BME 0.8V WLT, 95 mins)

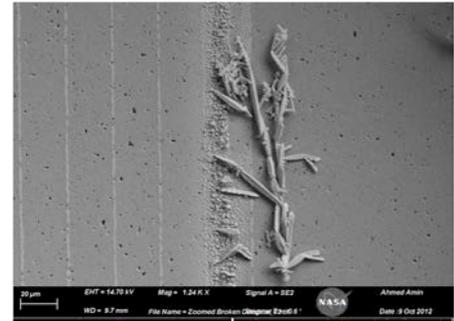


Fig. 5: Tin Dendrite (PME 0.8V WLT, 18 mins)

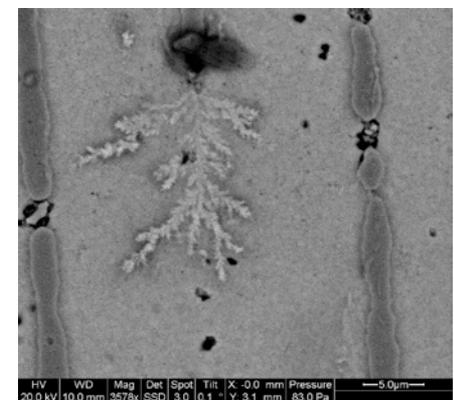
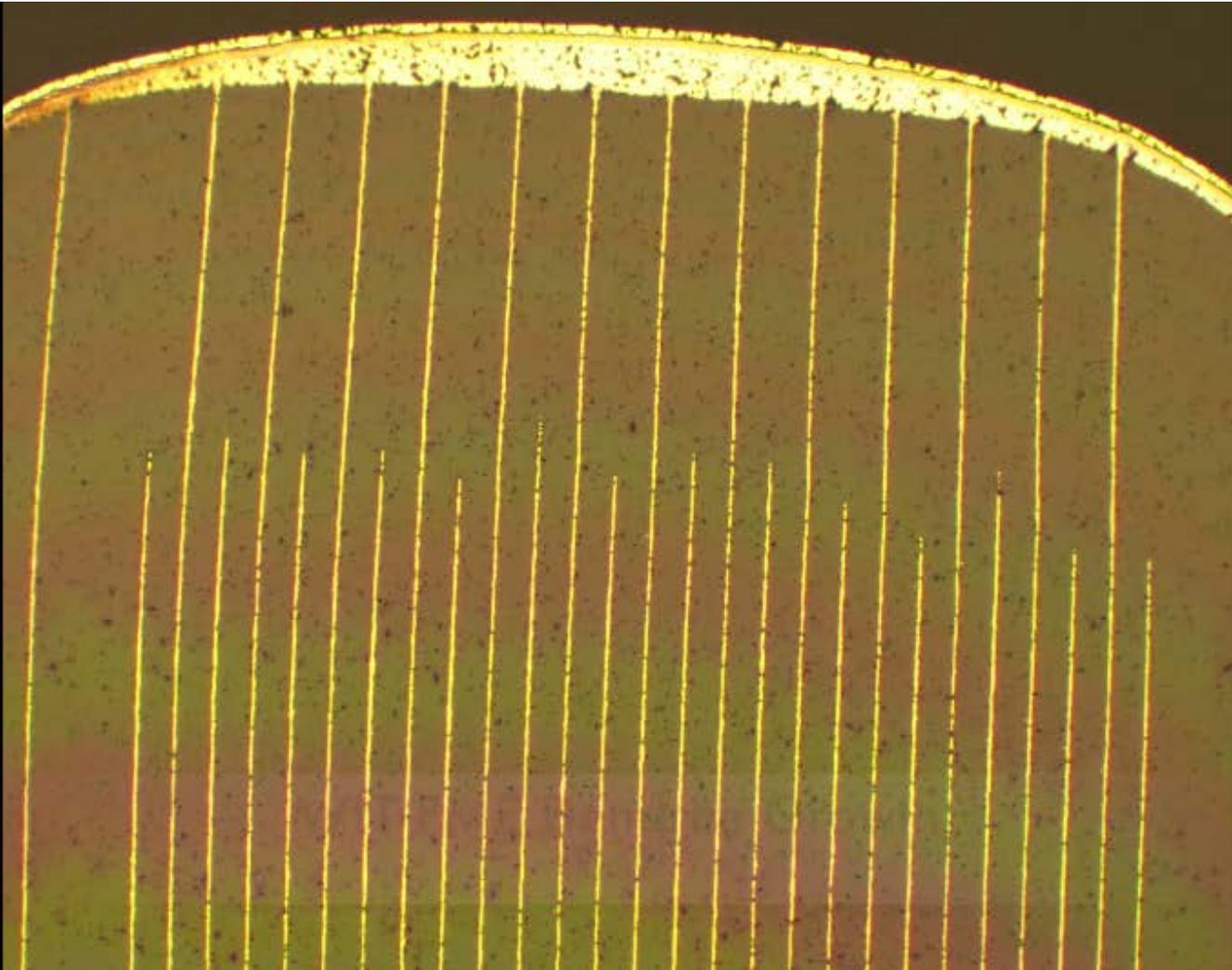


Fig. 6: Silver Dendrite (1.3V, 25°C/85% RH)

## *Optical Microscopy Results - Major Accomplishment*



Captured exactly how dendrites grow in these conditions!

- Termination metals migrate instead of the electrode metals
- Travel long distances



# Snapshots of Typical Dendrite Growth

- Typical Dendrite growth found in BME and PME MLCCs during WLTs
- Different metals migrate based on the use of solder, the substrate finish material, and the thickness of the moisture layer

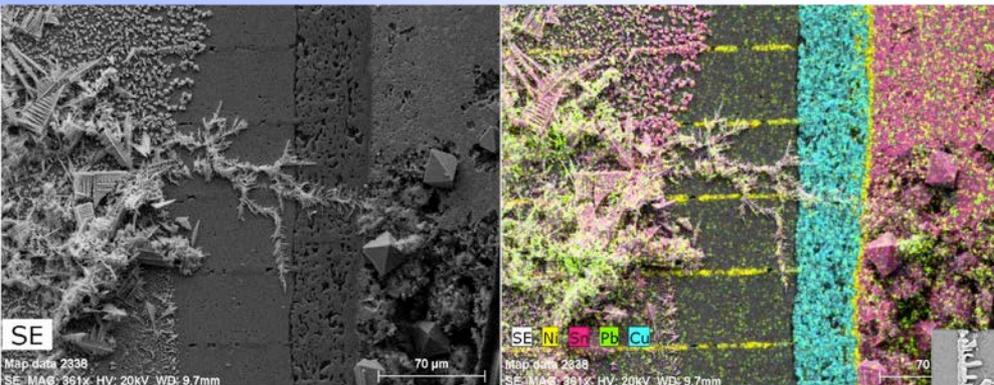


Fig. 9: Pb/Sn Solder Mixture Forming Dendrite Growth, 1.3V WLT

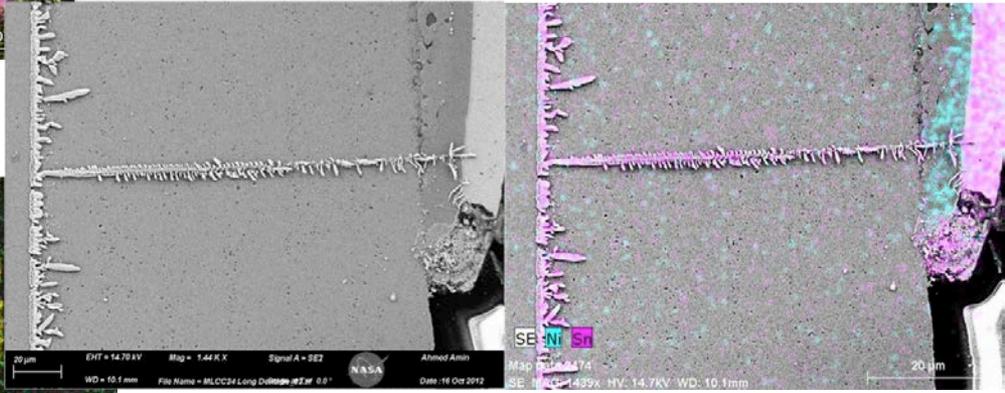


Fig. 10: Sn Dendrite Growth from Substrate 0.8V WLT

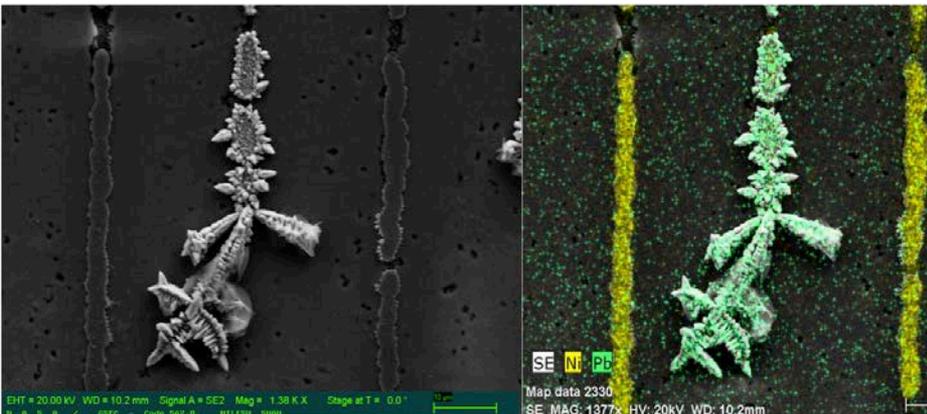


Fig. 11: Pb Dendrite Growth from Substrate, 1.3V WLT

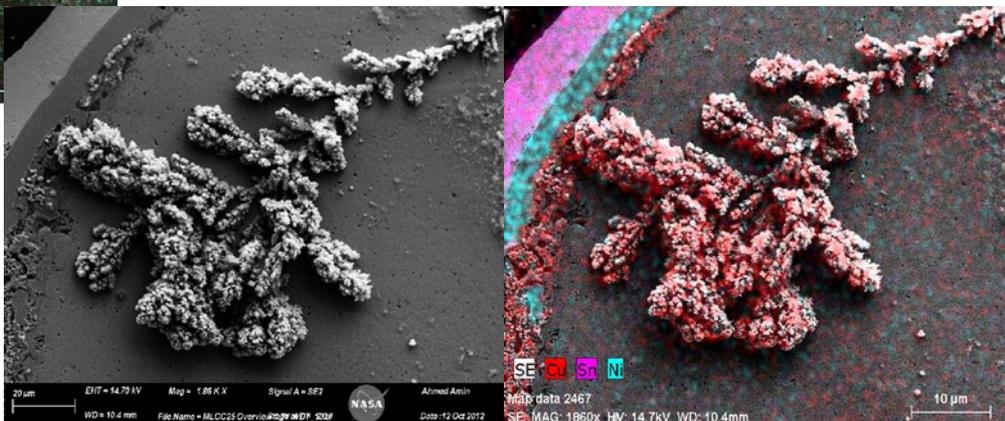


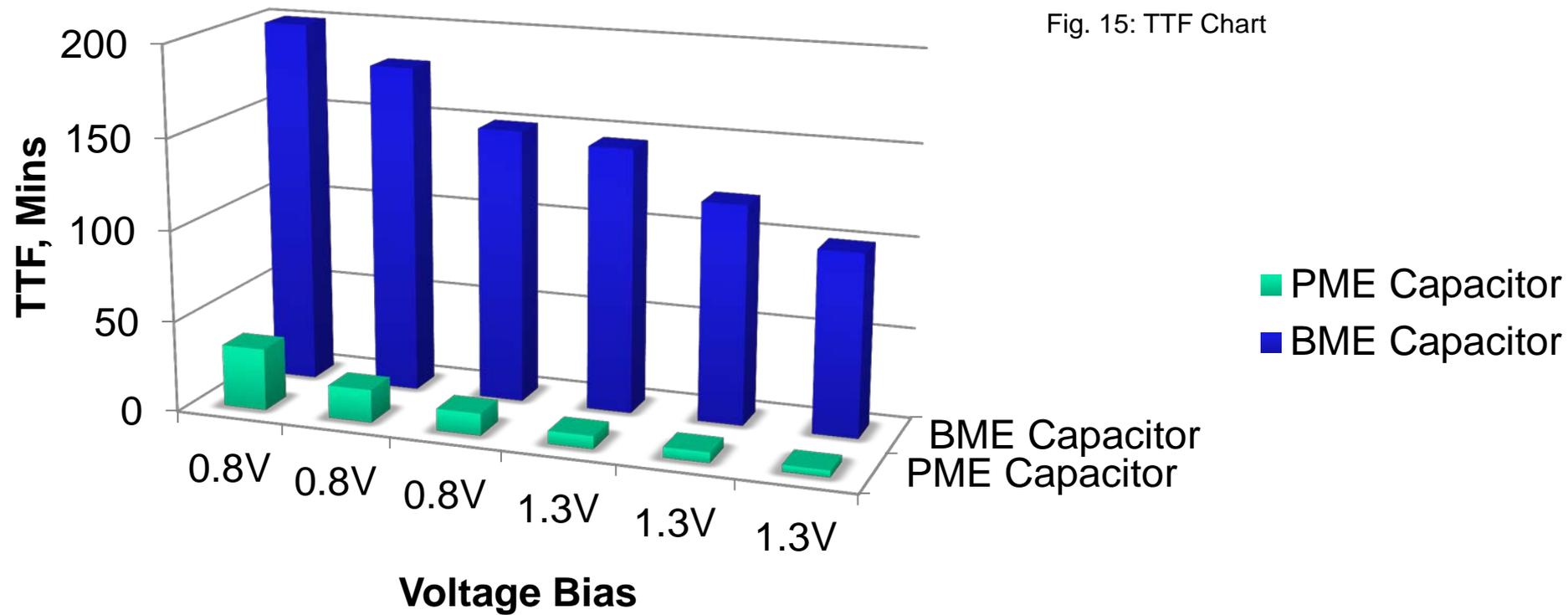
Fig. 12: Cu Dendrite Growth from External Layer in Termination, 1.3V WLT (Thick Moisture Layer)

**SEM:** Scanning Electron Microscopy

**EDS:** Electron Dispersive Spectroscopy



# Time-to-Failure in PME and BME Capacitors due to Substrate Material (Pb/Sn or Sn) Dendrite Growth



Dendrite growth from substrate layer material dominates the migration process in WLTs.

- There is still a difference in the TTF between PMEs and BMEs.



# Preliminary Conclusions/Where We are Now

1. In the current state, the LV, SS, humidity test (Mil-PRF-123) isn't an adequate test to reveal dielectric cracks in BME capacitors.
  - Developing Guidelines
  
1. Metals used to form terminations and solder have a higher propensity for ECM and dendrite growth than the electrode materials.
  - Defining which metals migrate in PME and BME capacitors under various operational and environmental conditions and their TTF

**Humidity Test (33% Complete)**

- PME vs. BME
- Manufacturers
- Voltage Levels
- Capacitance Values and Voltage Ratings
- Fracture Methods (Cleaving, Indenting, Cross-Sectioning)
- Test Conditions (22°C/85% RH, 85°C/85% RH)

**WLT (50% Complete)**

- PME vs. BME
- Manufacturers
- Moisture Film Thicknesses
- Voltage Levels
- Capacitance Values and Voltage Ratings



*Thank you!*



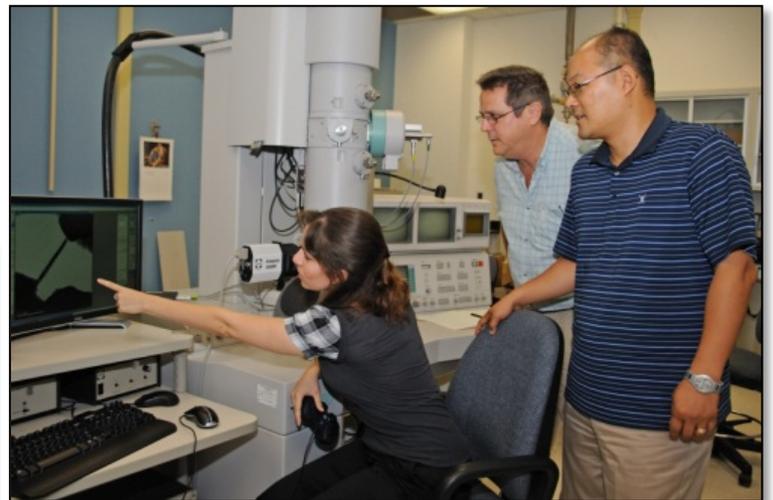


# STRGP: 2013 Plans

- The STRG Program will continue its efforts to develop future technical leaders and facilitate new collaborations while sponsoring the development of new and emerging technologies of high priority to NASA and the aerospace community:
  - **Early Career Faculty** and **Early Stage Innovations researchers** will engage the NASA community through a series of seminars across the Agency.
  - **NSTRF11 Fellows** commence their second on-site experiences.
  - **NSTRF12 Fellows** commence their first on-site experiences.
  - **NSTRF13 Fellows** will be welcomed and paired with mentors.
  - **STRGP researchers** will present their findings at premier technical conferences world-wide.
- New solicitations will target new, high priority technology areas, which, in turn, will increase both the number of participants engaged in space technology development, and the breadth of technologies being worked:
  - The **NSTRF13 solicitation** closes on December 4, 2012 at 6 PM Eastern Time.
  - STRGP plans to release another **STRO-ESI solicitation** early in CY2013.



Benjamin Schmitt at NIST, NSTRF Class of 2011



Jennifer Carpena at LaRC, NSTRF Class of 2011

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

## NASA SPACE TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 2013

**CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**Learn, team, discover, achieve...**

NASA's Space Technology Program seeks to sponsor graduate student researchers pursuing advanced degrees (master's and doctoral) in science, technology, engineering, and math who show significant potential to contribute to the strategic goals and missions of NASA in the area of space technology.

Applications will be accepted from students pursuing or planning to pursue master's or doctoral degrees in relevant space technology disciplines. The fellowship awards, worth as much as \$68,000 per year, will coincide with the start of the fall 2013 term. In addition to providing a \$36,000 annual stipend, the fellowship provides generous support for tuition, insurance and a faculty advisor. Also, the fellowship provides support for onsite tenure at NASA Centers and U.S. non-profit Research and Development labs.

To date, NASA has awarded these prestigious fellowships to 128 students from 50 universities across 26 states and one U.S. territory. Fellowship recipients are paired with the Nation's leading experts in space technology so together we can push the limits of human technological achievement as only NASA can.

The solicitation is now open!  
Student applications are due by 6 p.m. Eastern Time on **December 4, 2012**.

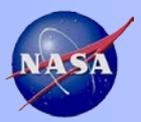
For details on how to apply:  
<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/stp/str/nstrf13.html>

www.nasa.gov

U.S. citizens and permanent residents only  
PS-0705C-1017

Contact the STRG Program Executive

Claudia Meyer  
claudia.m.meyer@nasa.gov



**BACKUP**



*Development and Testing of Compression Technologies Using Advanced Materials for Mechanical Counter-Pressure Planetary Exploration Suits*

NSTRF Fellow: Brad Holschuh, MIT

Mentor: Lindsay Aitchison, JSC

Faculty Advisor: Dava Newman, MIT