



# **NASA Langley Research Center Space Technology and Exploration Portfolio Overview**

**Presented to NASA Advisory Council (NAC),  
Technology, Innovation and Engineering Committee  
Meeting**

**David Dress  
Associate Director, Space Technology and Exploration Directorate  
July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

# NASA Langley at a Glance 2017

Langley  
Research  
Center



Data as of 6/30/17

## Langley's Economic Impact (FY 2016)

National economic output of ~\$3b and generates over 15,900 high-tech jobs

Virginia economic output of ~\$1.2b and generates over 7,300 high-tech jobs

Hampton Roads economic output of ~\$1b and generates over 6,500 high-tech jobs

Within Virginia, executed \$184m or 57% of obligations to small businesses

FY2017 Budget Estimate.....\$922m

NASA Langley Budget.....\$900m  
External Business.....\$22m

Workforce Estimate.....3,400  
Civil Servants.....1,800  
Contractors (on/near-site).....1,600

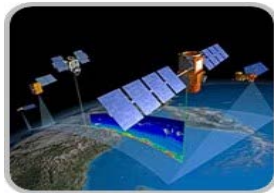
## Infrastructure/Facilities

189 Buildings.....764 acres  
Replacement Value.....\$3.7b

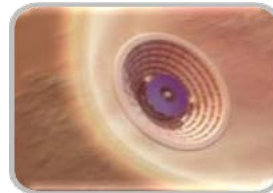
**AERONAUTICS**  
\$238m



**SCIENCE**  
\$250m



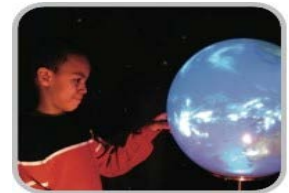
**SPACE TECH**  
\$40m



**HUMAN  
EXPLORATION**  
\$54m



**EDUCATION**  
\$5m



## SAFETY, SECURITY AND MISSION SERVICES

**CENTER MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**  
(Facilities, IT, Engineering, Tech Authority, B&P, IRAD, Safety/Mission Assurance, Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources)

**AGENCY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**  
(NASA Engineering & Safety Center, Office of the Chief Engineer, Agency IT)

**CONSTRUCTION &  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE  
AND RESTORATION**  
(Revitalization Plan)



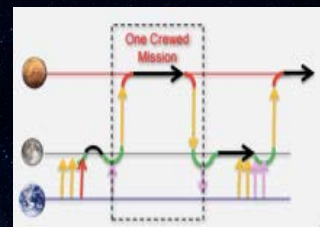
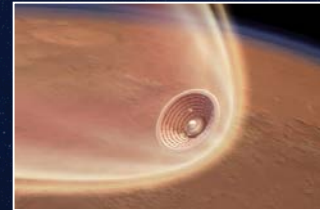
- The NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) roots date back to 1917 as the nation's first civilian aeronautics R&D laboratory (under the N.A.C.A., as the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Laboratory)
- We have since served as a critical national R&D center, supporting the NACA (1917-1958) and NASA (1958-present) missions in aeronautics, science and space.
- Our goal is to innovate, develop, and deliver mission enabling space technologies for science and exploration in this century, just as we did for the aviation industry in the last.
- Today, the Space Technology and Exploration Directorate (STED) is the LaRC interface for both the STMD and HEOMD, and for industry, academia and other government agencies with interests in LaRC space technologies, test facilities, and applications.
- LaRC Space Technology and Exploration Directorate oversees a LaRC direct budget of approximately **\$90M/yr** in direct and reimbursable work for STMD, HEOMD
- LaRC also manages the operations (selection and awards) of approximately **\$70M** worth of phase I and II SBIRs for HEOMD and STMD





## Concepts and Enabling Technologies for...

- **Entry, Descent, and Landing Systems**
  - Technologies for human and robotic exploration (HIAD, SRP, Navigational Doppler LIDAR, aerosciences, landing systems)
- **Space Habitation Systems**
  - Includes deep space radiation shielding and mitigation, lightweight structures and materials, and systems analysis
- **Lightweight and Affordable Space Transportation Systems**
  - Includes lightweight structures and materials, advanced manufacturing, aerosciences and environments
- **In Space Assembly, Construction, and Operations**
  - On orbit autonomous assembly and aggregation of large space structures, modular designs, and interfaces
- **Exploration Architectures and Systems Analysis Assessments**
  - Used to develop concepts, guide technology investments, and influence agency solutions



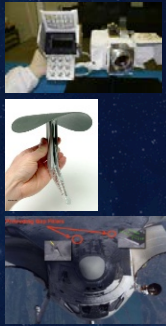




# Recent LaRC Successes in Exploration and Space Technology



Space Shuttle Return to Flight



Flight Test Articles



Ares I-X



Pad Abort 1



IRVE



Mars Science Laboratory



MEDLI/MSL



STORM LIDAR



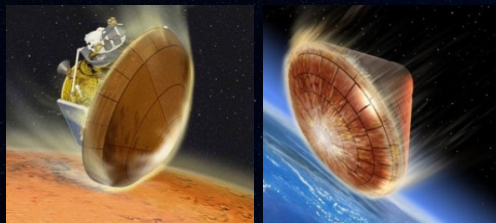
ALHAT/NDL



Exploration Flight Test #1



Composites for Exploration



Aerocapture and MMEEV Technology Development



Launch Abort System Development



Human Architecture Team Leadership





# FY17 Space Technology and Exploration Portfolio



## Space Technology

### *EDL Systems*

- HIAD2
- Entry Systems Modeling
- PDT SpaceX Red Dragon
- EDL Architecture Study
- COBALT Flight Demo (NDL)
- ADEPT

### *Radiation Protection and Habitation*

- Advanced Radiation Protection

### *Lightweight Structures and Materials for Space Systems*

- GO-1 Composite Tank
- Deployable Composite Booms
- Composites Tech. for Exploration
- Advanced Near Net Shape Tech.
- MISSE-9 Flights
- LCUSP/BMG

### *In-Space Robotic Manufacturing & Assembly (IRMA)*

- CIRAS
- Dragonfly

- Seedling Studies (SLWDT/SAWS/In-Space Assy. Sys. Study)

- STMD/OCT Strategic Analysis

SBIR/STTR/CIF/RED/STRG/Tech. Transfer

## Human Exploration and Operations

### Systems Analysis (Exploration and Mars Study Teams)

### Orion MPCV

### SLS

### Advanced Exploration Systems

- NextSTEP Habitation
- Radiation Sensors
- Composite Boom RR
- NEA Scout

### Human Research Program

## Commercial and Reimbursable

### Space Act Agreements

- Boeing
- Space-X
- Sierra-Nevada

### SCAN/ISS Commercial Crew Support

## Flight Projects

### LAS

### MEDLI-2

### ARRM CRS

### AA-2









# Human & Robotic Exploration/STED Roadmap

## Stakeholder Driven Portfolio

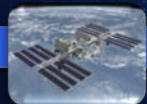


**Earth Reliant**  
Now to 2021

**Proving Ground**  
2020's

**Earth Independent**  
2030's+

**ISS Operation**

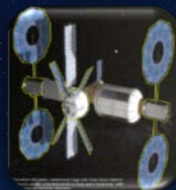
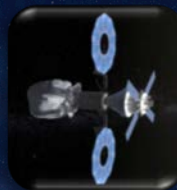


**Commercial  
Capability  
Development**



**SLS and MPCV  
Block 1**

**Missions to Earth-Moon Space**



- SLS Block 1B
- Commercial Crew
- Mars 2020
- Short Duration Hab
- Commercial LEO
- Mars Sample Return
- 1-Year Mission
- Multi-Year Mission
- Private-Sector Space Operations
- Mars Robotic Precursor (20+ mton)

**Deep Space Missions**



**Lightweight and Affordable Transportation Systems**

*Human-Rated Composites*

*Evolved Heat Shield*

*Prototype Lander/MAV*

*Extreme Environment Materials*

*Advanced Lightweight/High-Strength Materials*

**Habitation Systems**

*Prototype Habitat*

*Prototype SPE Storm Shelter*

*GCR Mitigation/Solutions*

*Surface Habitation*

*Lightweight Structures*

*Multi-Functional Materials*

*Large Solar Array Structures*

**In-Space Assembly, Construction, and Manufacturing**

*Ground-Based Demo*

*Flight Demonstration*

*Autonomous Assembly Capability*

*ISRU Adv Manufacturing*

**Human-Scale/Cross-Cutting EDL Systems**

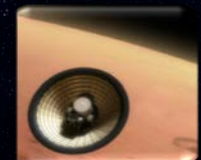
*HIAD Tech Development*

*Flight Demonstrations: HIAD, SRP*

*Integrated EDL System Demonstrations*

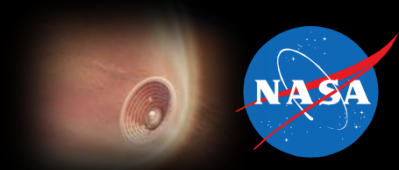
*MMEEV Development*

*Planetary Entry Systems*



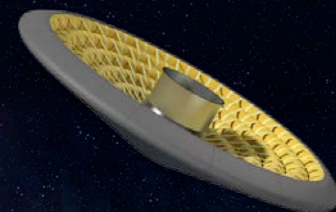
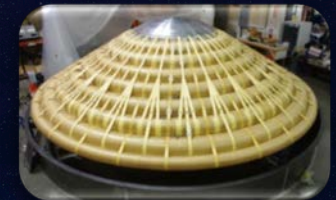


# Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator Technology Development



## ■ Systematic and stepwise technology advancement

- ✓ **Ground Test:** Project to Advance Inflatable Decelerators for Atmospheric Entry (PAI-DAE)—Soft goods technology breakthrough
- ✓ **Flight Test:** Inflatable Reentry Vehicle Experiment (IRVE), 2007: LV anomaly—no experiment
- ✓ **Flight Test:** IRVE-II, 2009—IRVE “build-to-print” re-flight; first successful HIAD flight
- ✓ **Ground Test:** HIAD Project improving structural and thermal system performance (Gen-1 & Gen-2)—Extensive work on entire aeroshell assembly
- ✓ **Flight Test:** IRVE-3, 2012—Improved (Gen-1) 3m IS & F-TPS, higher energy reentry; first controlled lift entry
- ✓ **Ground Test:** HIAD-2 Project improving on Gen-2 F-TPS, evaluating advanced structures, packing, and manufacturability at scales >10m



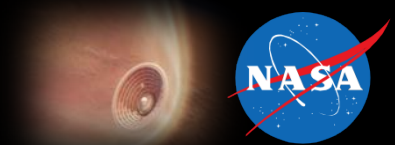
## ■ Next Steps

- ⇒ **Ground Effort:** Continue developing *Gen-3 F-TPS, advanced structures, packing, manufacturability at scale >10m, controllability, and demonstrated staging to secondary decelerator. Prepares for large-scale flight test and readiness for Mars mission.*
- ⇒ **Flight Test Possibilities:** *United Launch Alliance (ULA) flight test, and booster recovery at scales and environments relevant to Mars Human EDL precursor (~1/3 scale of human Mars mission).*





# HIAD Engine Recovery Operation Technology Infusion with ULA Vulcan Launch Vehicle



## ULA initiated discussions with NASA HIAD team, on a potential flight opportunity and technology infusion path.

- Desire to utilize HIAD technology for SMART Reuse capability; intent to bring back the first stage engines.
- Went public with SMART Reuse option in March 2015, and explicitly identified HIAD as key enabling technology
- First stage engines recovery – would require 10-12m HIAD; next step in development and qualification path to Mars
- Several TIMs with ULA and Orbital-ATK to work HIAD technology commercial applications. Strong public-private partnership opportunities
- NASA intends to collect HIAD performance data from multiple engine recoveries, to improve HIAD design/model correlation

**ULA Touts Midair Recovery as More Cost-effective than SpaceX Plan**

By Peter, in ISS/ISS, PARIS

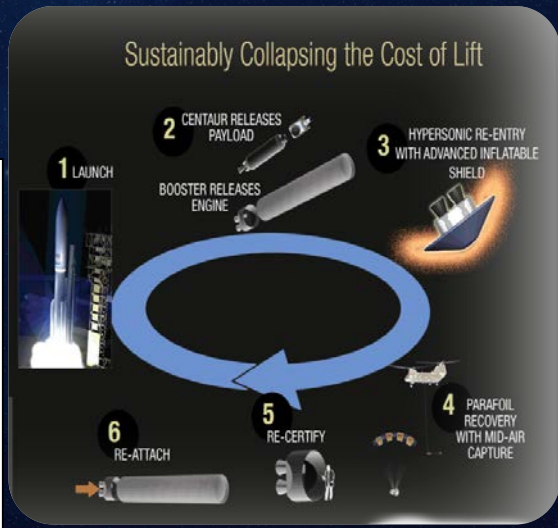
United Launch Alliance announced its latest Vulcan rocket's first stage engines recovery plan, which ULA says could bring the cost of spaceflight down by 25%.

The plan, which ULA says is "a game-changer" for the industry, involves recovering the first stage engines after they are jettisoned from the rocket. The engines are then transported back to Earth and reused.

ULA says this plan would require the use of a 10-12m HIAD (Horizontal Inflation Air Defense) system, which would allow the engines to be recovered in a controlled manner.

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**FIRST STAGE ENGINES**

**INHERENTLY REUSABLE**

- 25%** OF THE BOOSTER WEIGHT
- 65%** OF THE BOOSTER COST
- 90%** REDUCTION IN BOOSTER PROPULSION COST



# Recent Advances in Long Reach Space Manipulators for Spacecraft & Satellite Servicing



- **State of Art: Shuttle and Space Station Remote Manipulator Systems (SRMS & SSRMS)**
  - **Conventional Robotic Architecture**
  - **Massive joints (co-located joint and motor)**
  - **High compliance**
- **Goal - to improve the state-of-the-art (SOA) in space robotic manipulators by increasing:**
  - **Dexterity**
  - **Reach**
  - **Packaging Efficiency**
  - **Structural Efficiency**
  - **Extend to In-Space Assembly**

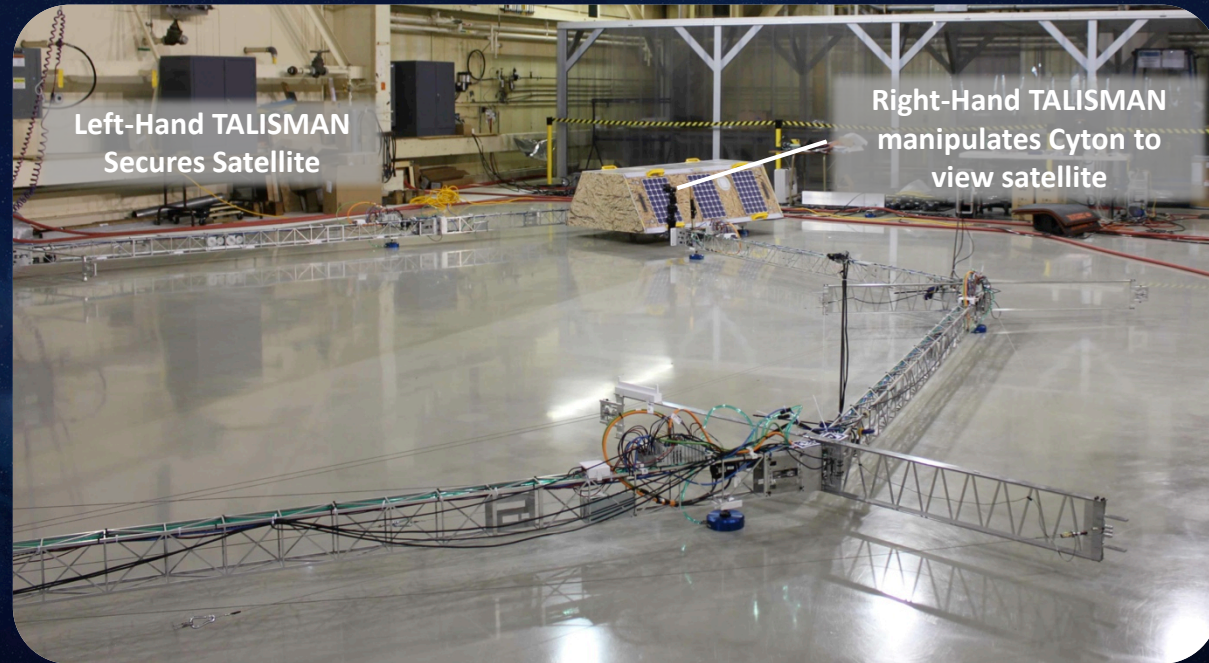




# Satellite Servicing Demonstration Using Two Tendon Actuated Lightweight In-Space MANipulators (TALISMANs)



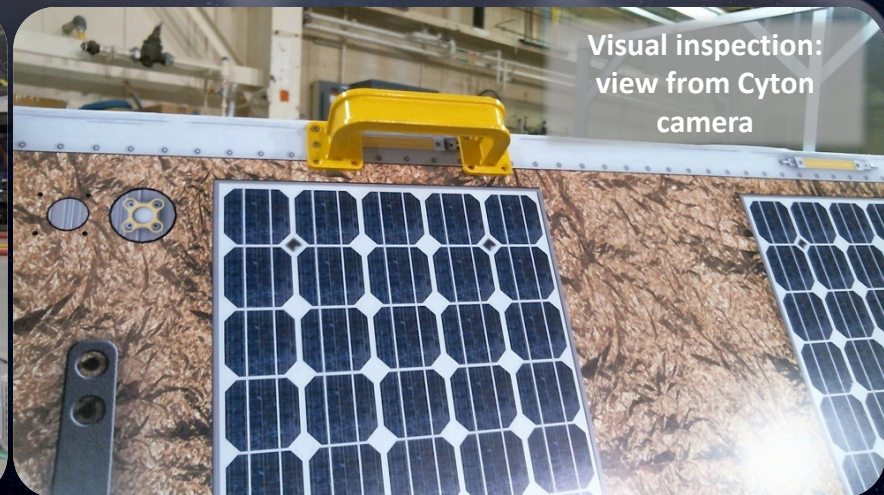
**TALISMAN manipulates Cyton 1500 dexterous manipulator and demonstrates satellite inspection capability**



Satellite Mockup

Cyton 1500 mounted to  
TALISMAN wrist

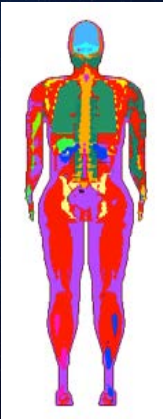
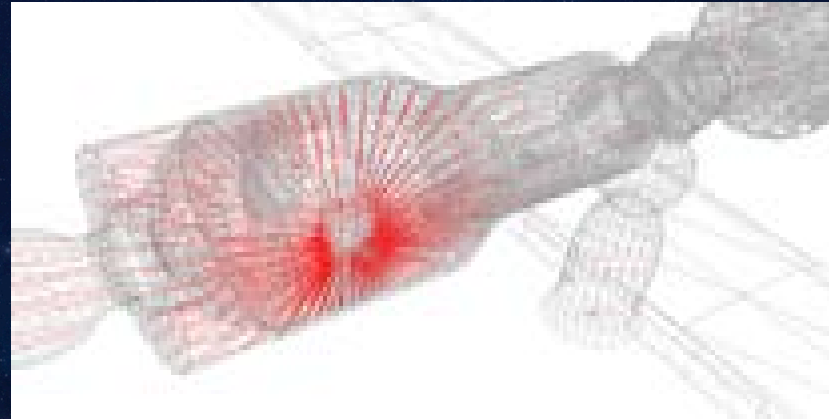
Visual inspection:  
view from Cyton  
camera





## Technical Accomplishments/Highlights: Physics and Transports

- ✓ April '16 Public release of the updated HZETRN code (High charge (Z) and Energy TRANsport) radiation analysis tool developed to analyze the effects of harmful galactic cosmic rays (GCR) and solar particle events on mission planning and shielding for astronauts and instrumentation. (HEOMD/HRP)
- ✓ Leveraging data and results from the STMD/GCD Thick Shield test at NSRL/BNL (2015-16). HRP is leveraging detector equipment and set-up to fill gaps in light ion double differential cross section measurements data bases (critical to understanding of uncertainties in predicting mixed fields behind shielding in deep space and on the surface of Mars)



NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) at Brookhaven National Labs (Long Island, NY)

Validated calculations indicating Shield depth minimum will change design paradigm affecting cis-lunar habitats

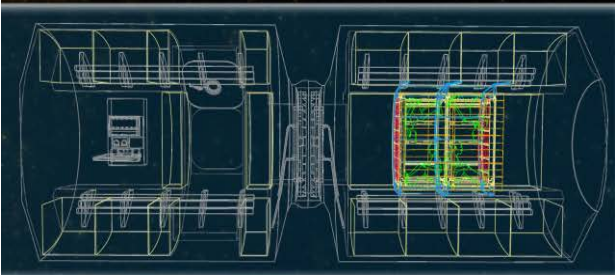


# AES RadWorks Storm Shelter Project



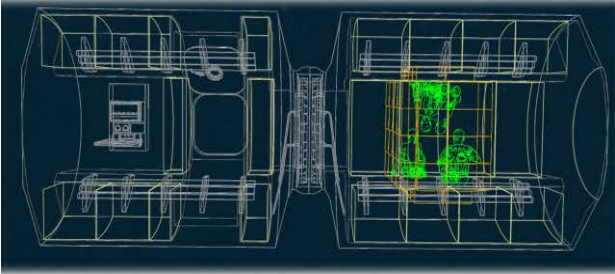
Characterizing Mass Efficient Radiation Protection Systems for Deep Space Exploration

## SPE Protection- Developed at LaRC Crew Quarters-based Shelter Concept



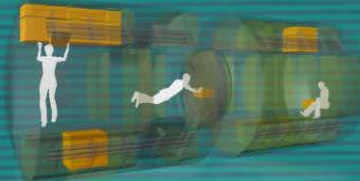
Shielding existing crew quarters regions provides a familiar and comfortable working / resting location

## Reconfigurable Logistics Concept

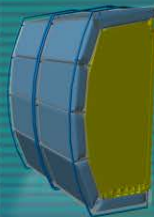


Structural panels may be designed as "Dual Use" components and repositioned to protect additional crewed regions from SPE radiation damage

### CTB Storage

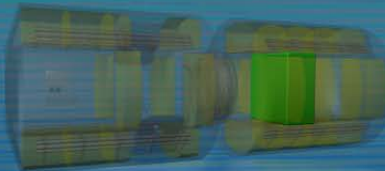


Move cargo bags from storage to shelter location



### Water Wall

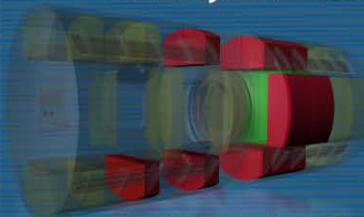
Fill integrated waterwall designed for microgravity



### Shelter

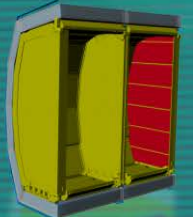
Locate shelter in central aisle for group protection

### Subsystems

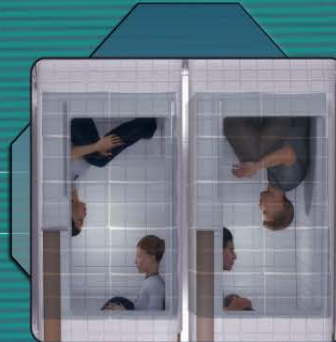


Leverage dense stationary subsystems to reduce parasitic mass

### Protective Walls

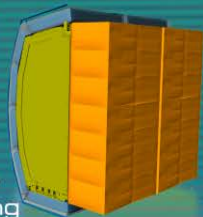


Top off logistics protecting side walls



### CTB Wall

Maneuver cargo bags to protect front opening



### Hang CTB

Hang unfolded cargo bags to serve as frame for attaching logistics

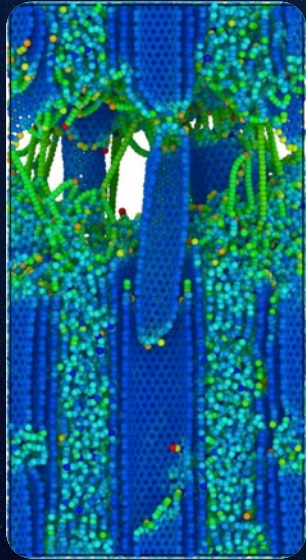
### Relocate Logistics



Relocate logistics to increase local protection



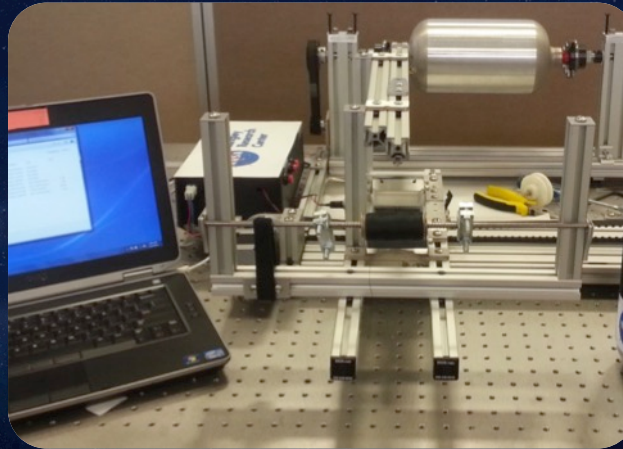
# Developing Next-Gen Structural Materials



Computational model  
of CNT composite



CNT composite  
wound 1.5" ring



In-house developed CNT  
filament winder



Demonstrate winding a 4"  
diameter pressure vessel

- Computational modeling of carbon nanotube (CNT) composites to determine axial and transverse tensile properties confirming validity of project goal.
- CNT composite wound ring with tensile properties exceeding equivalent carbon fiber composite wrapped ring.
- Scale-up of CNT filament winder to allow winding of CNT yarn composite around size of pressure vessel to be used in flight test.
- Demonstrate CNT Composite Overwrapped Pressure Vessel performance in ground tests and in sounding rocket flight tests

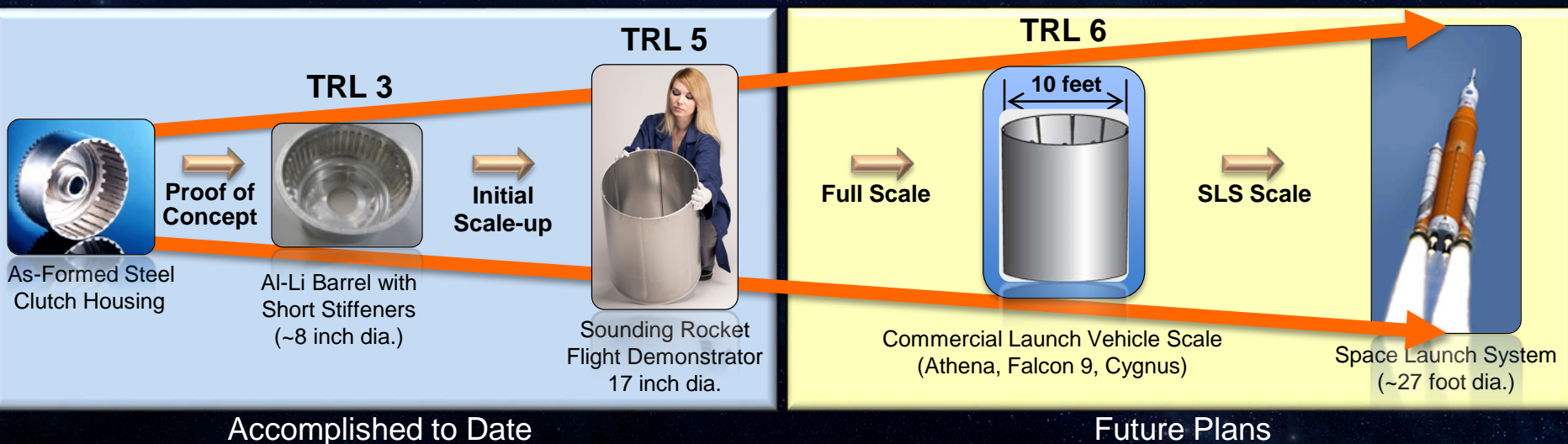


# Metallic Shell Structures — Integrally Stiffened Cylinder (ISC) Process Development



## Accomplishments and Technology Firsts:

- Established the ISC process to successfully form single-piece Al-Li alloy 2195 cylinders with cryogenic tank scale stiffeners (up to 1.0 inch tall).
- Cost / benefit analysis shows that using ISC for fabrication of cryogenic tank barrels can reduce manufacturing cost by 50% and mass by ~10%.
- Developed strategy for scale-up and technology infusion.
  - Successful process scale-up, fabrication and flight demonstration of Sounding Rocket primary structure (17 inch diameter).
  - Fabrication of 10 foot diameter ISC (summer 2017).
  - Identified potential vendor to establish ISC capability in the U.S.
  - Partnering with ESA, DLR, MT Aerospace, Leifeld Metal Spinning, Lockheed Martin.





NASA LaRC, as one of the government's first R&D Laboratories, remains a vital contributor to the nation's aeronautics and space exploration enterprise.

Our "LaRC Value Proposition" to the Agency and the nation is to innovate, develop, and deliver mission enabling aeronautics and space technologies for science and exploration.

Our goal is to deliver concepts and enable technologies to impact and enable the broadest range of government and commercial space exploration in this century just as we did for the aviation industry in the last.

Langley's contributions to the STMD enterprise, in particular in the low to mid-TRL technology development and demonstration, and the infusion to government and industry missions is an essential part of our strategy and our value to the Agency.

Partnerships with other NASA centers, industry, academia and other Government agencies are critical elements to our current and future success.

