

A large, circular inset image on the left side of the slide shows a close-up of a multi-layered, conical telescope mirror. The mirror has a complex, multi-faceted structure with a central point, and it is set against a dark blue background with a subtle light flare.

# Freeform Monolithic Multi-Surface Telescope Manufacturing

NASA Mirror Tech Days  
15 November 2017

Presented By:  
Brian Myer, Todd Blalock

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Prototype Optics In One Week

# Optimax Overview



Inc 5000 Top Growing Business



- **Founded 1991**
- **Ontario NY**
- **65,000 ft<sup>2</sup> facility**
- **280 employees**
- **ISO 9001:Certified**
- **ITAR compliant**



# Optimax Systems, Inc. – Custom Precision Optics

*Committed to Small Volume, High Quality, Quick Delivery*



- Materials
  - Glass Materials
  - Ceramics
  - Crystals
  - Fused Silica
  - Low Expansion
- Shapes
  - Aspheres
  - Conformal & Freeform
  - Cylinders
  - Domes
  - Flats
  - Prisms
  - Spheres

# Optimax Overview

## *Markets We Serve*

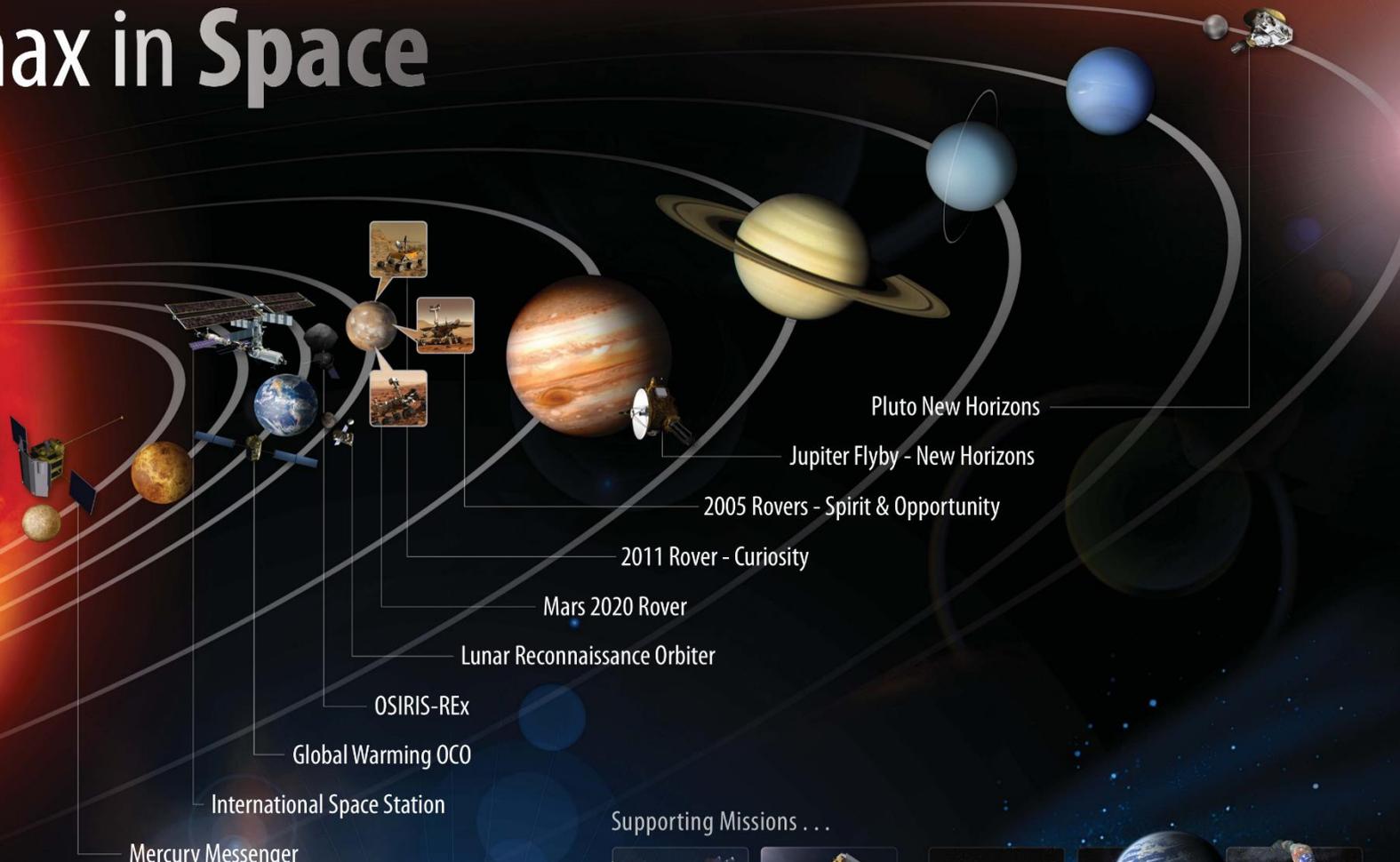


- Semiconductor
- Aerospace & Defense



- Commercial
- Medical

# Optimax in Space



## Supporting Missions . . .



OMPS

Polar Orbiting



JPSS



TESS



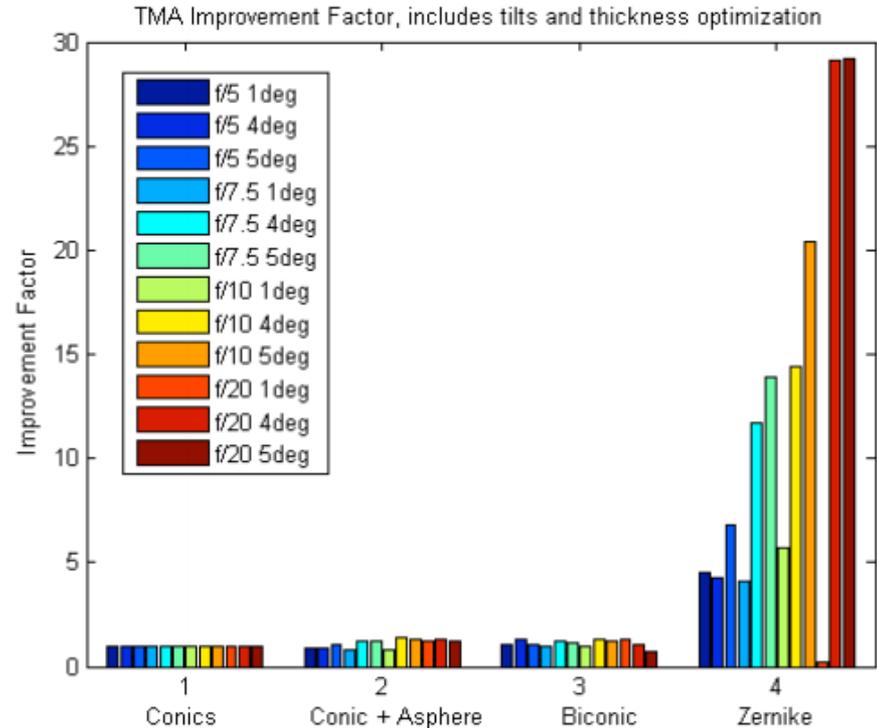
SPIRou

TAIPAN

Searching for Earth Like Planets

# Freeform Optics Overview

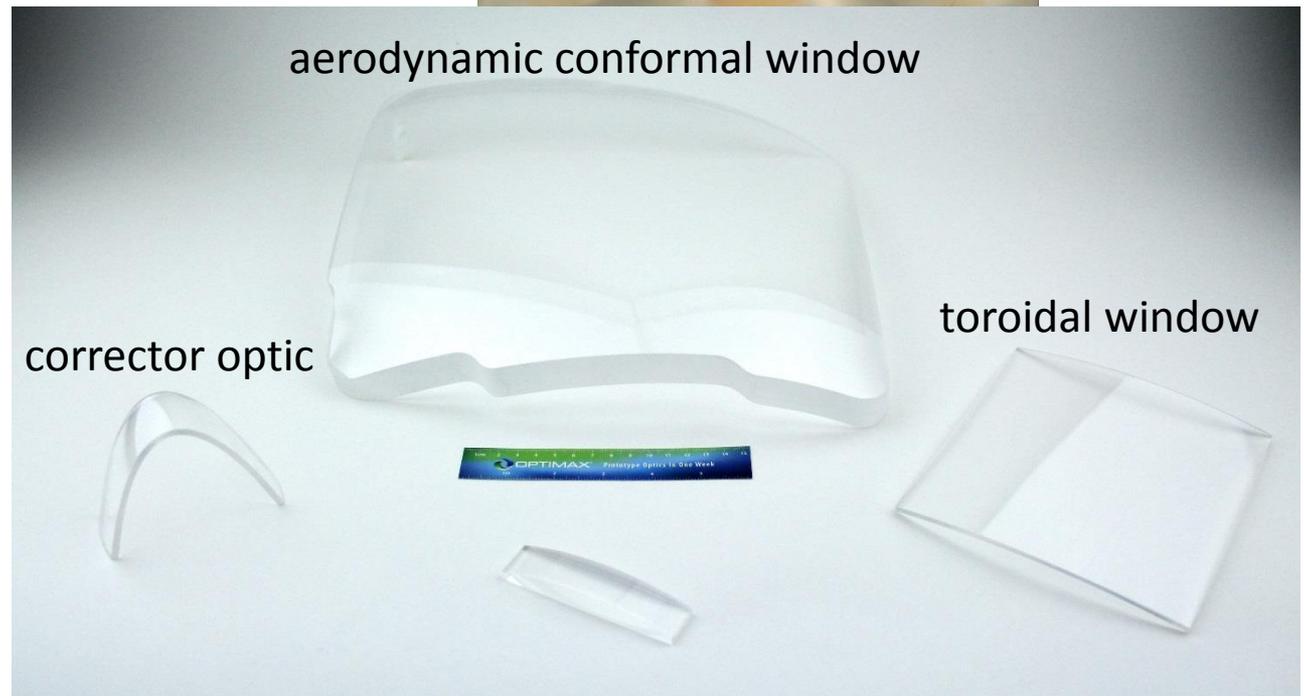
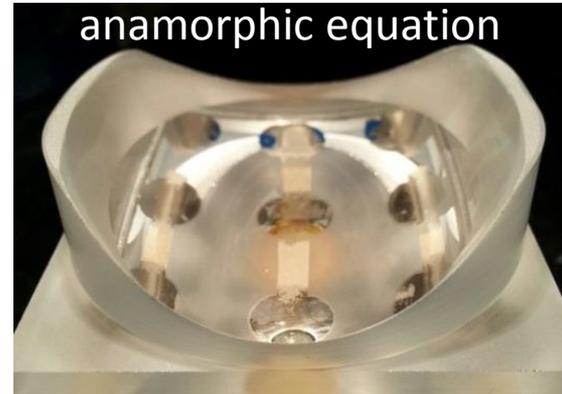
- Freeforms: optics manufactured without using an axis of rotational symmetry.
- Benefits Include:
  - Lighter weight
  - Reduced number of components (less complexity)
  - Reduced aberrations
- Common Freeform Designs
  - Off-axis asphere
  - Toroids, biconics
  - Polynomial functions
  - Anamorphic equations
  - Zernikes
  - Other equation based models
  - Solid models



J M Howard and S Wolbach, "Improving the performance of three-mirror imaging systems with Freeform Optics," OSA Freeform Optics Conference, November 2013

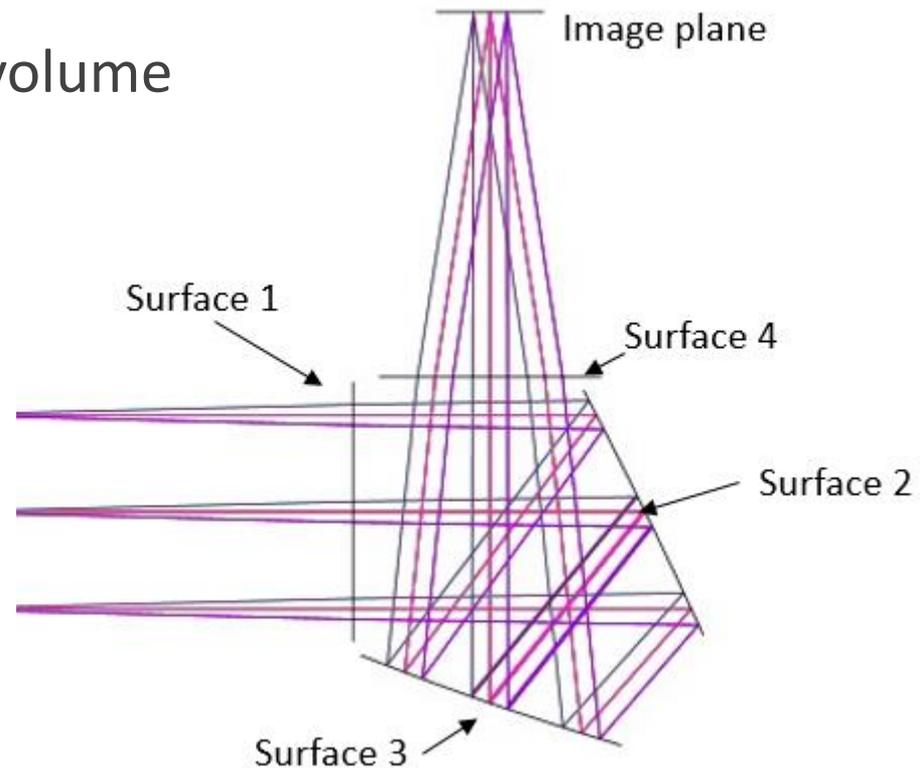
# Freeforms are now a product offering at Optimax

- Since January 2015, freeform optics are a standard product offering for Optimax
- Leverages SBIR-developed technology
- Many different shapes and sizes
- Optics are currently being used by customers in their optical systems



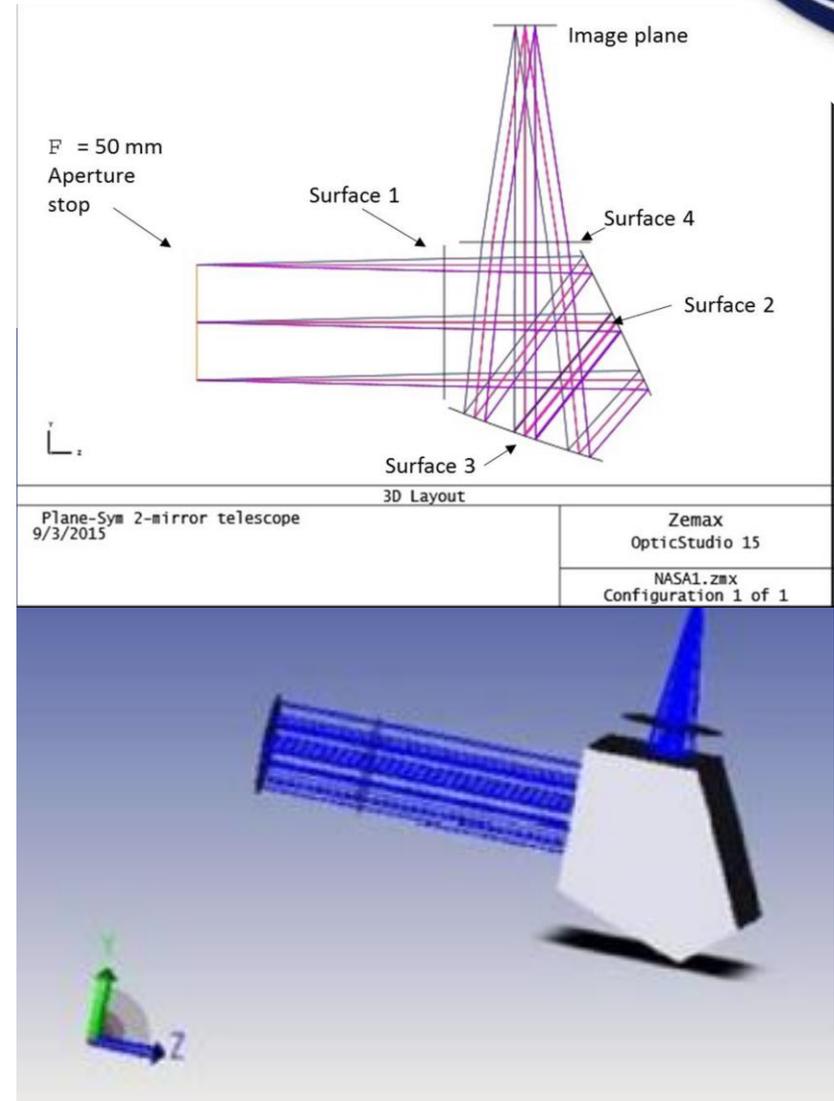
# Our first monolith design featured two freeform surfaces

- This provides an extremely rugged optomechanical design
- We incorporated assembly tolerances into the manufacturing tolerances
- Fits in a 1U, 4 inch cubesat volume



# Freeform Monolithic Telescope Concept.

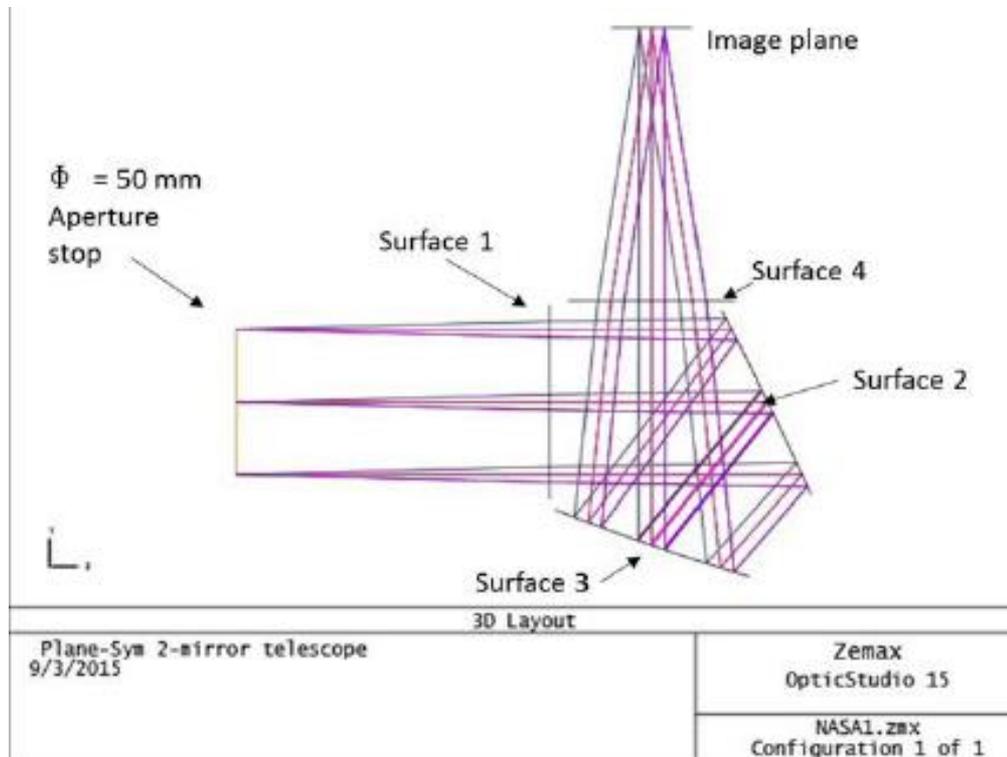
- Multiple surfaces are polished onto a single block of glass.
- Overall volume is targeted for CubeSat applications.
- Freeforms are used to compensate off axis aberrations.
- Leads to a significant reduction in payload.
- Extremely rugged optomechanical design.
- Assembly tolerances are merged into the manufacturing tolerances



# Phase I Monolith Design

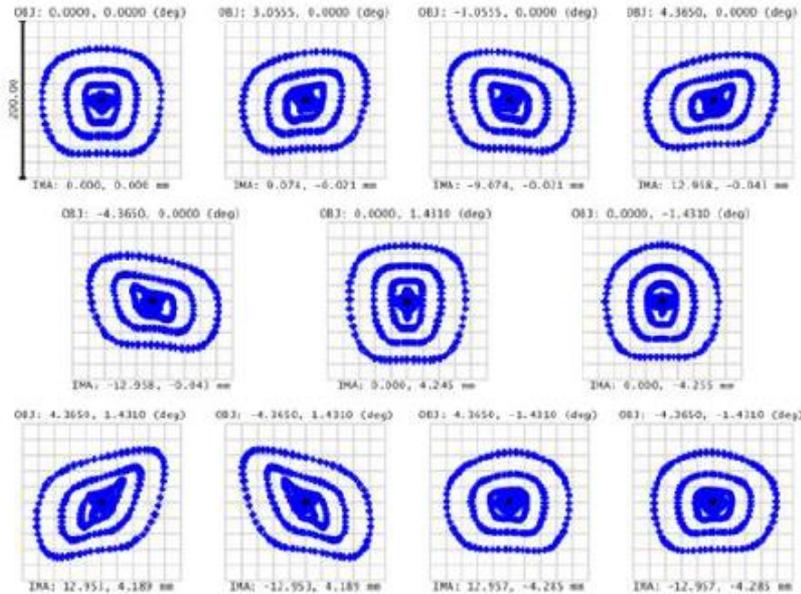
Both freeform surfaces are defined by xy polynomials of the same form:

$$f(x, y) = c_1x^2 + c_2y^2 + c_3x^2y + c_4y^3 + c_5x^4 + c_6x^2y^2 + c_7y^4$$



- Effective focal length of 183 mm at f/3.4
- Tolerance level was “best effort”

# Phase I Monolith Design



Surface: IMA

Spot Diagram

Plane Sum 2-mirror telescope											
12/18/2015											
Units are um.											
Field	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Airy Radius	2.629										
RMS radius	38.490	37.930	37.910	37.580	37.180	40.930	38.310	40.240	40.240	36.160	36.080
CEO radius	80.830	84.867	84.867	86.853	86.863	84.190	80.660	84.875	84.875	79.183	79.183
Scale bar	200										
Reference	Chief Ray										

Zemax  
OpticStudio 15

20150716\_FF 2mir XY\_2MP\_pre1ts\_monolith.zmx  
Configuration 1 of 1

- Diffraction limited spot has a diameter of 2.6  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- rms radius is approximately 35  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- The given design is over an order of magnitude off of diffraction limit.
- Field of view modeled at:
  - $\pm 1.431^\circ$  along x-direction
  - $\pm 4.365^\circ$  along y-direction

# Standard Freeform Optical Manufacturing Process

## General Optical Manufacturing Process

CNC Generate

Pre-Polish

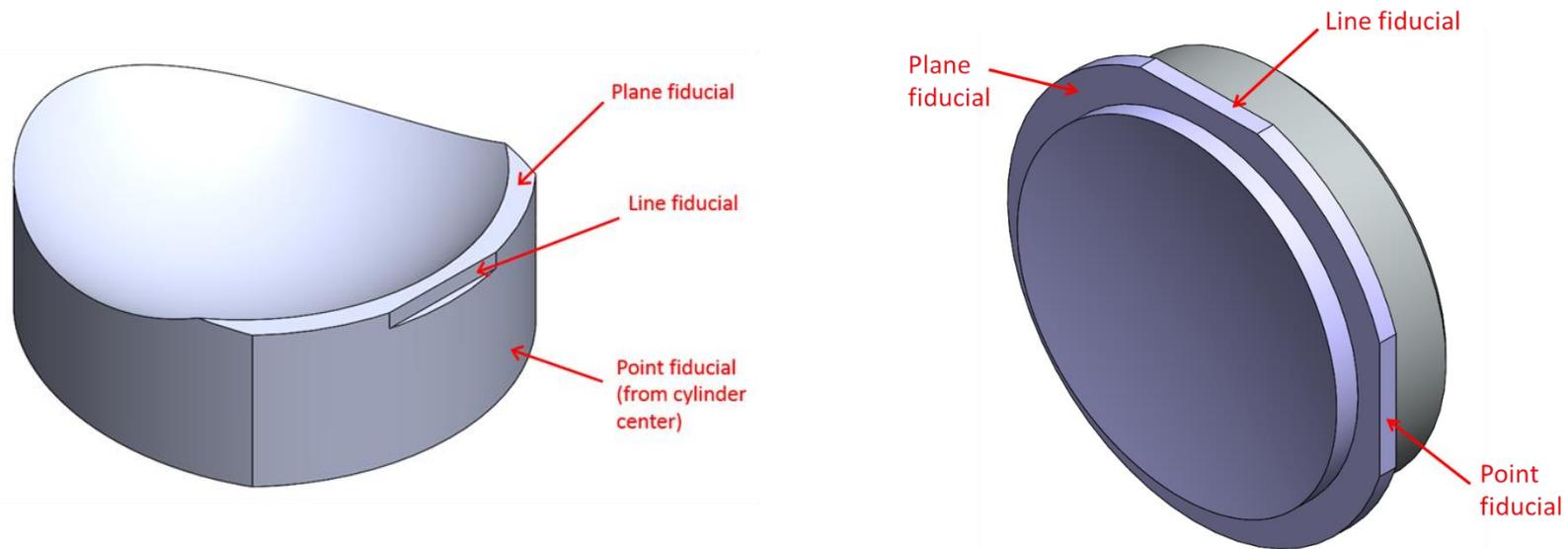
Measurement

Deterministic Figure  
Correction

Smoothing

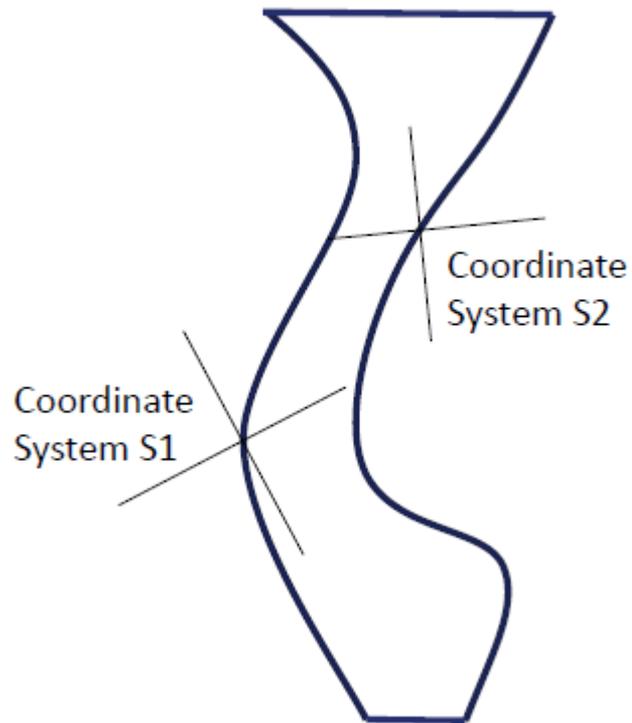
- Deterministic processing : sub-aperture tools
- Iterative Processing : metrology  $\leftrightarrow$  fine finishing tools
- Fabrication process for Phase I and Phase II monoliths are analogous.

# Detour: Optical fiducials



- There must be some reference that defines the location of the freeform surface.
- Three orthogonal planes are common, but must define 6 DOF.
- Fiducial surfaces could act as alignment features.
- Datum features may have an impact on the system volumetric constraints.

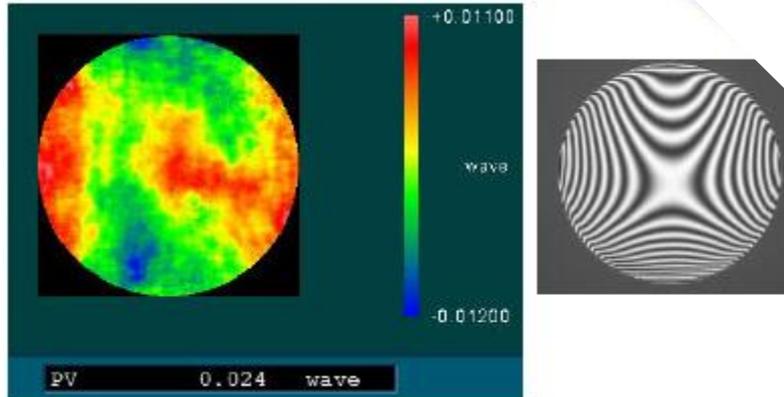
# Locating freeform surface(s) in space



- Optical equations are relative to some coordinate system
- Surfaces on same optic may have different coordinate systems
- Coordinate systems may not be orthogonal to optics' edges

# Monolithic Telescopes *Require* Tactile measurements

Interferometer  
Off-axis parabola  
30 mm CA  
 $\lambda/40$  PV



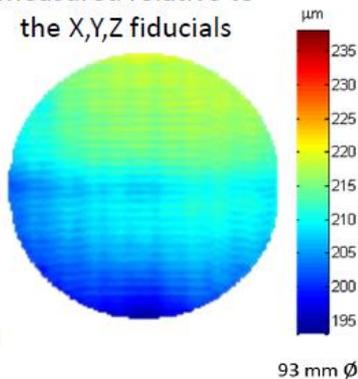
Interferometer measurements using CGHs only measure the surface under test.

Optical system errors – tip, tilt, decentering – are not identified.

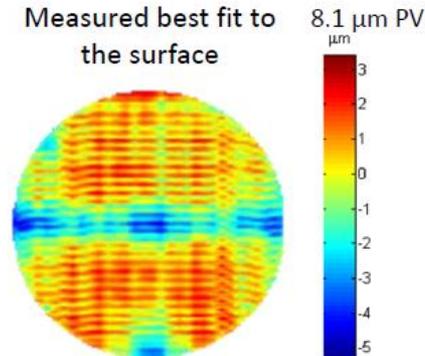
In order to locate each surface with respect to a global coordinate system, each surface must be referenced to the global fiducials.



Measured relative to the X,Y,Z fiducials



Measured best fit to the surface



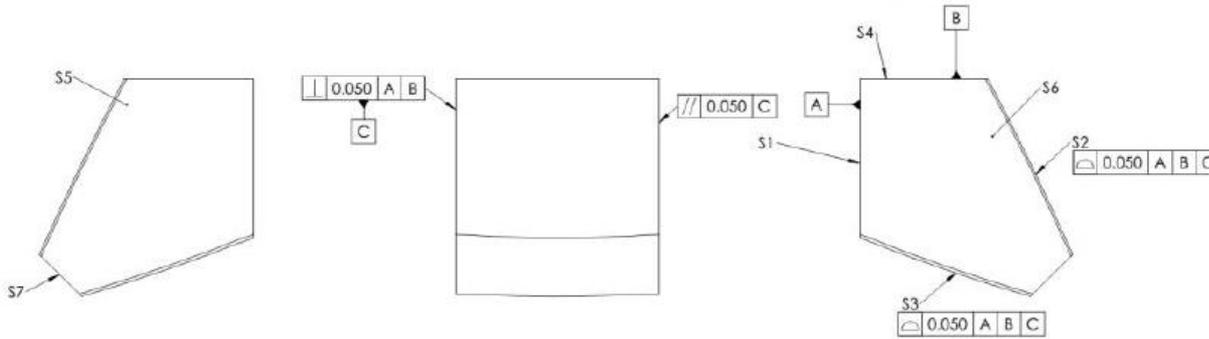
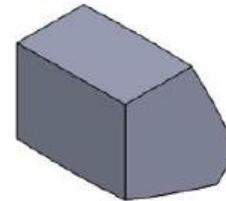
2

# Phase I Monolith Fiducials

Notes:

1. All Dimensions are in MM unless specified
2. Surfaces 1,2,3,4 have optical polish free of grey
3. Surfaces 5,6,7 are fine ground
4. Freeform Surfaces should have best-fit irregularity <5 µm PV and non-best fit of <50 µm with respect to datums A,B and C
5. Break all edges to 0.5mm max FW
6. Clear Apertures are to within 4mm of edge unless otherwise specified
7. **Keep Datum B to Datum A by less than 5 minutes**
8. Coating Specifications:
  - a. Coat S2 and S3 with aluminum with possible silica overcoat (Second Surface)
  - b. S1 and S4 Rove<0.5% 400-800 nm
9. S2 and S3 as defined by 15-16088-01\_SurfaceDefinitions.m

Surface	Shape	Irregularity
1	Plano	3(0.5)
2	CX FreeForm	Note 4
3	CX FreeForm	Note 4
4	Plano	3(0.5)



UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:		NAME	DATE	OPTIMAX
DIMENSIONS ARE IN MM	TOLERANCES:	DRYNTS	SJP	
TWO PLACES DECIMAL	0.100	CHECKED		
THREE PLACES DECIMAL	0.000	ENG APPR		
		WFO APPR		
		QA		
		COMMENTS		
MATERIAL: FUSED SILICA		TITLE: Datum Callouts		
FINISH: Note 2		SIZE	DWG. NO.	REV
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING		B	15-16088-01	-
		SCALE: 2:3	WEIGHT:	SHEET 1 OF 3

Phase I monolith used three orthogonal plane fiducials.

Datums A and B are polished entrance and exit surfaces.

Datum C is find ground.

Both freeform surfaces reference the same datum features.

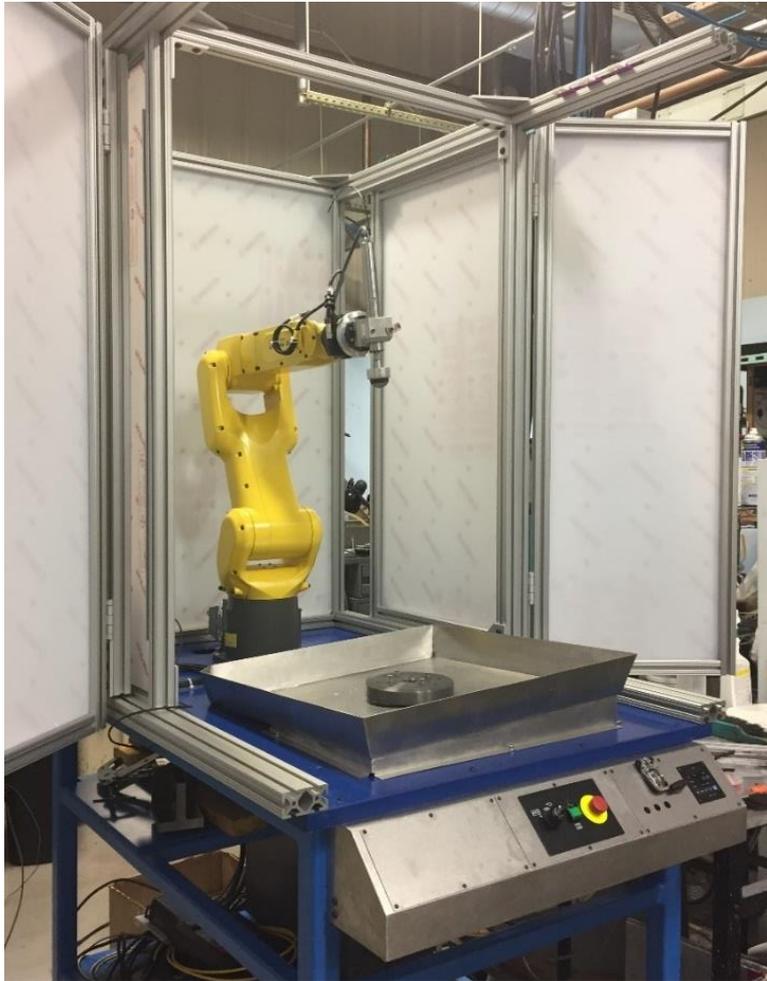
Entrance face is a polished plano enabling easy alignment for system level testing.

# Manufacturing Process: Monolith Generation



- Ultrasonic grinding with ball diamond tooling.
- Leaves a fine ground surface finish.
- After generation, the monolith had 5  $\mu\text{m}$  of form error and 50  $\mu\text{m}$  of positioning error (tilt)

# Manufacturing Process: Monolith Polishing



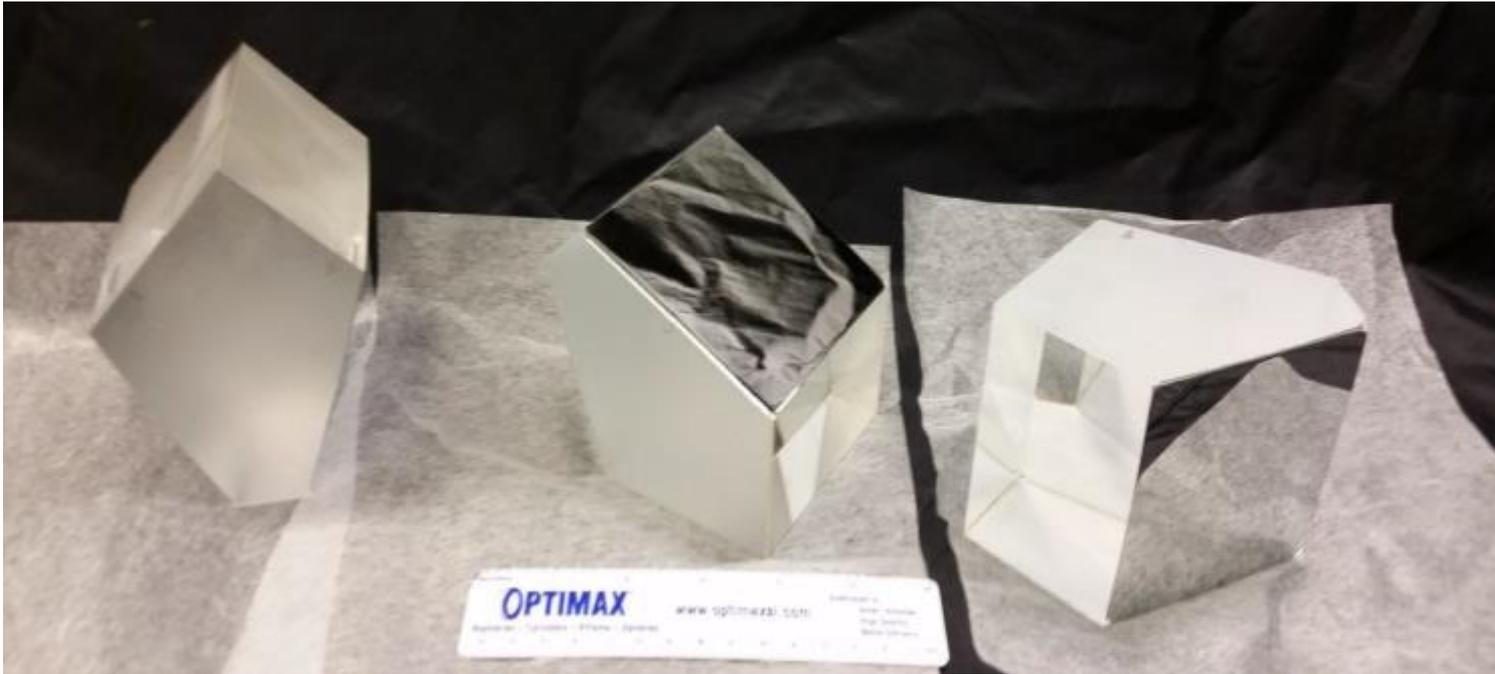
- Industrial robot with proprietary software and tooling.
- Robot provides flexibility with size shape and control.
- For Phase I monolith, polishing completed when the surface error was less than 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

# Manufacturing Process: Metrology



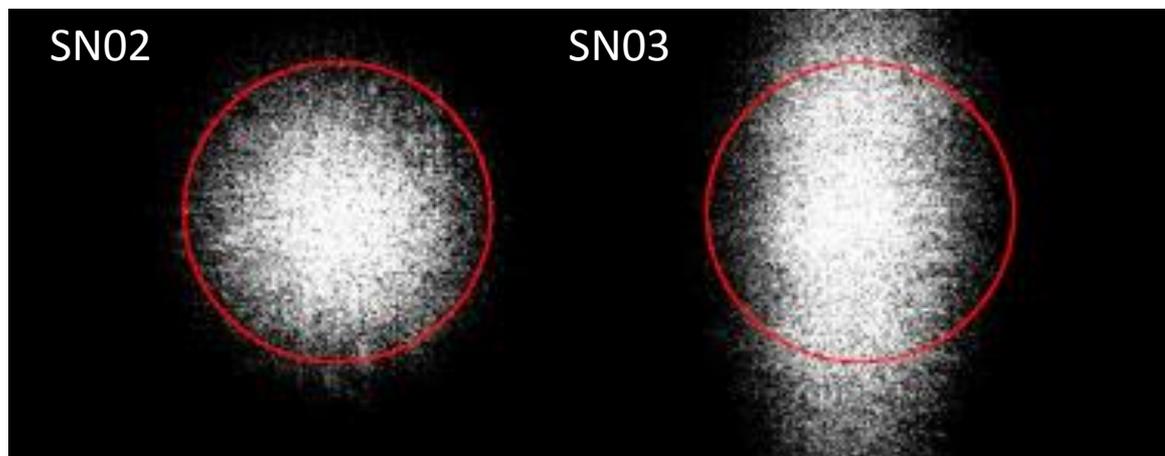
- All surfaces were verified using a Leitz coordinate measuring machine (CMM).
- Micron level positioning accuracy
- Higher accuracy would require CGH investment.
- Optimax is actively working to bridge metrology gap between CMM and CGH

# Manufacturing Process: Surface Coating



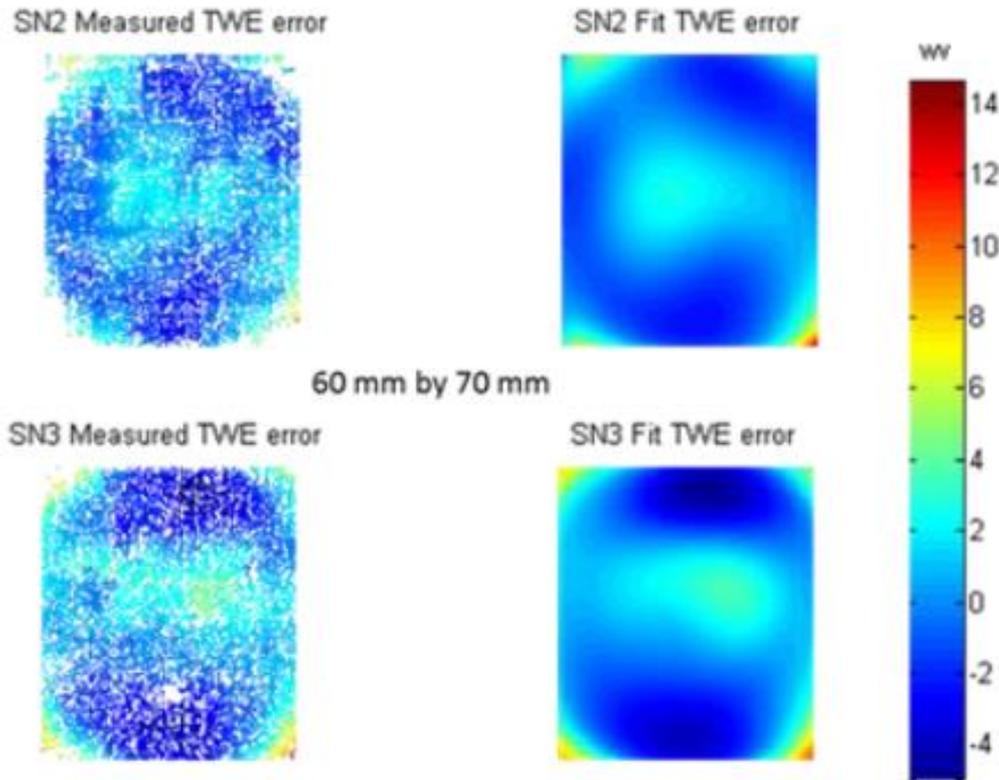
- All freeform surfaces are coated with protected aluminum in-house

# System Testing – optical bench

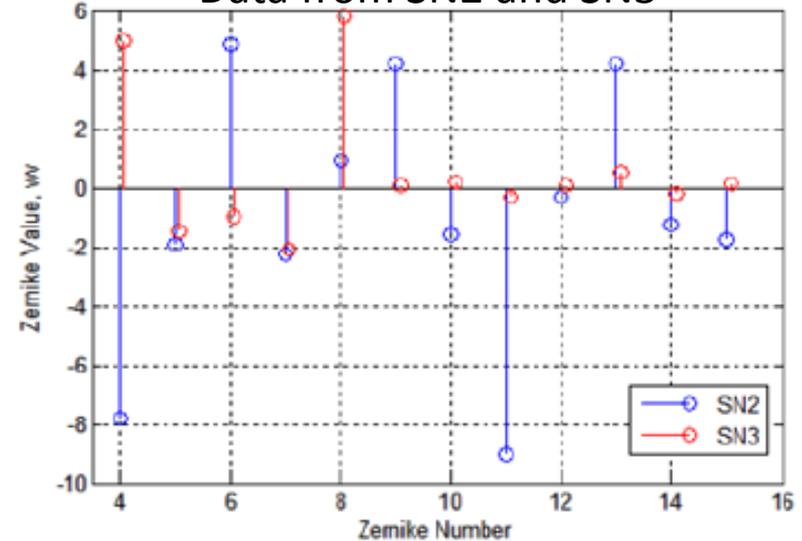


- Spot size measurements were collected on all finished monoliths.
- SN03 had noticeable astigmatism error.
- Performance issues will be resolved by improvements that we have made from this project and will integrate into Phase II

# System Testing

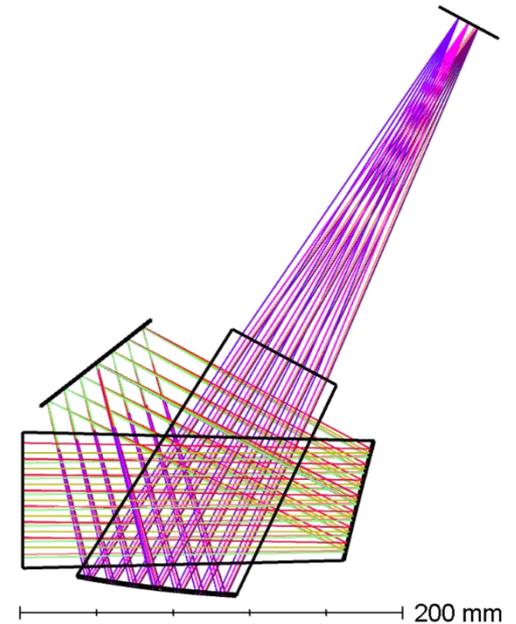
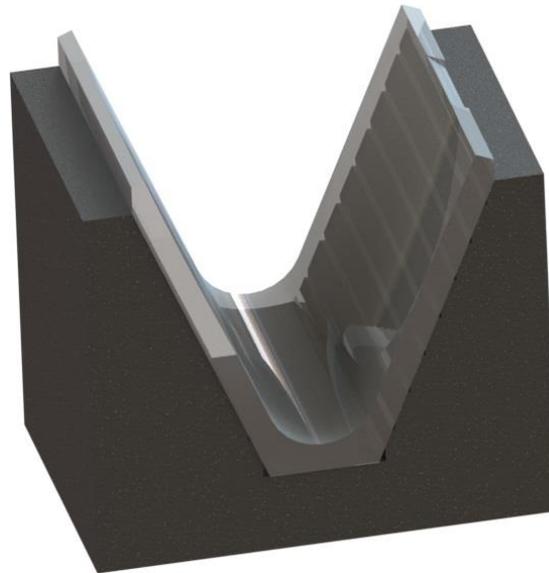
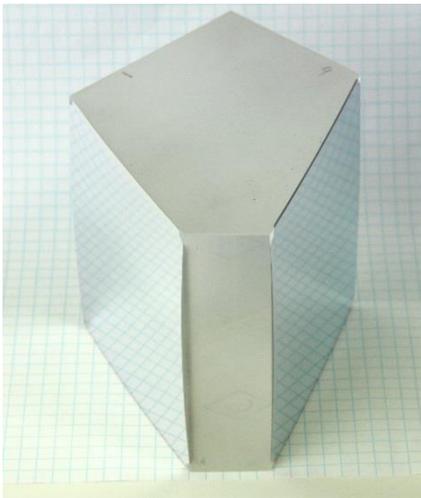
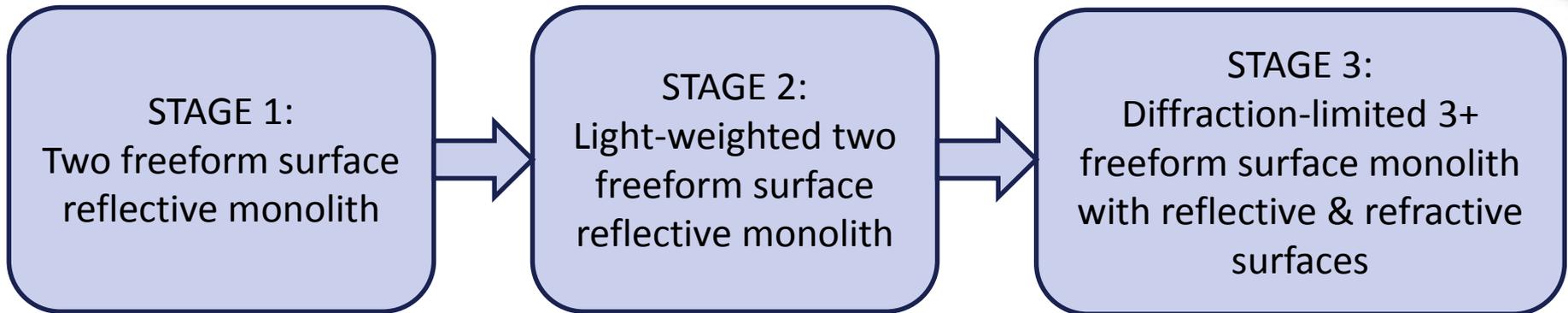


System Test Zernike Fit  
Data from SN2 and SN3

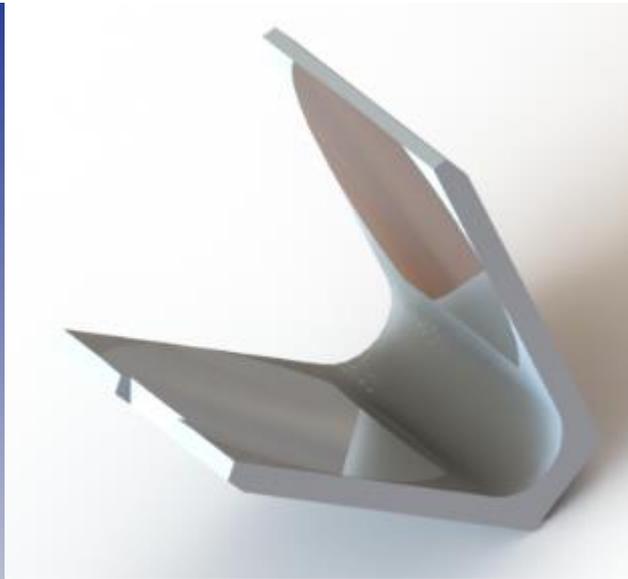
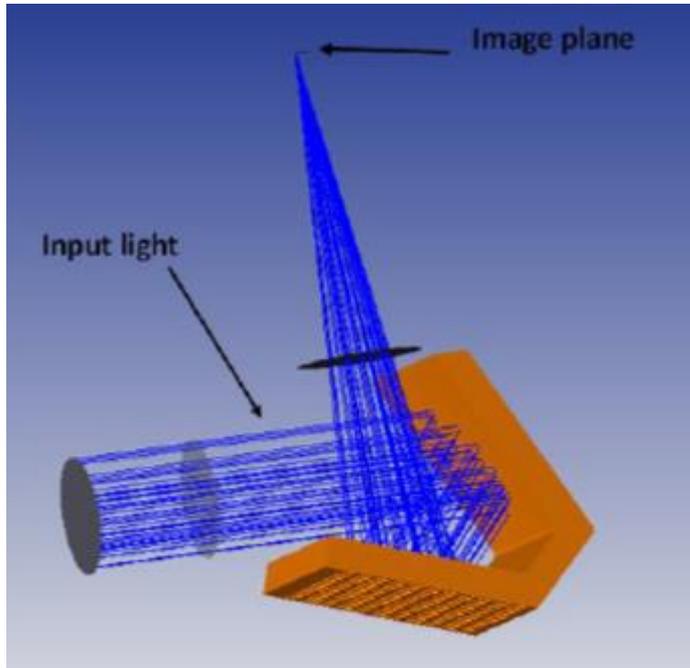


- System measurements collected with a standard Fizeau Interferometer.
- Additional work would be needed to separate systemic and manufacturing errors (The nominal design is not diffraction-limited)

# Design evolution of monolithic telescopes

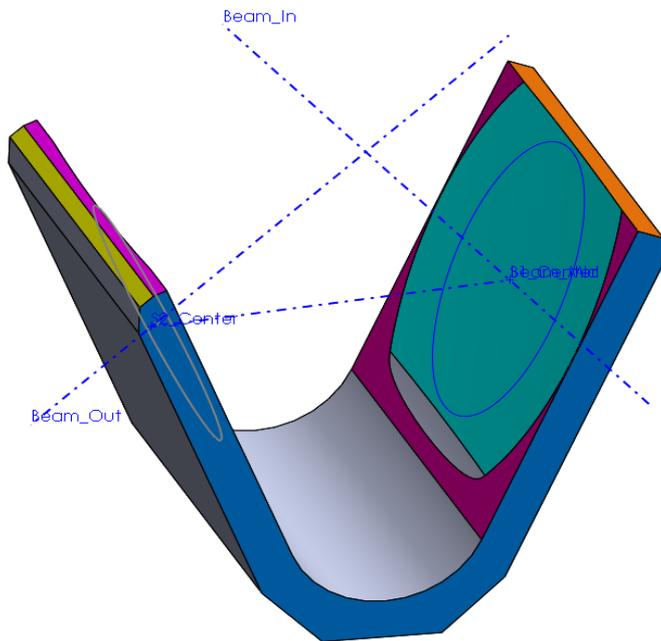


# Lightweight, LW, or “open jaw” Monolith

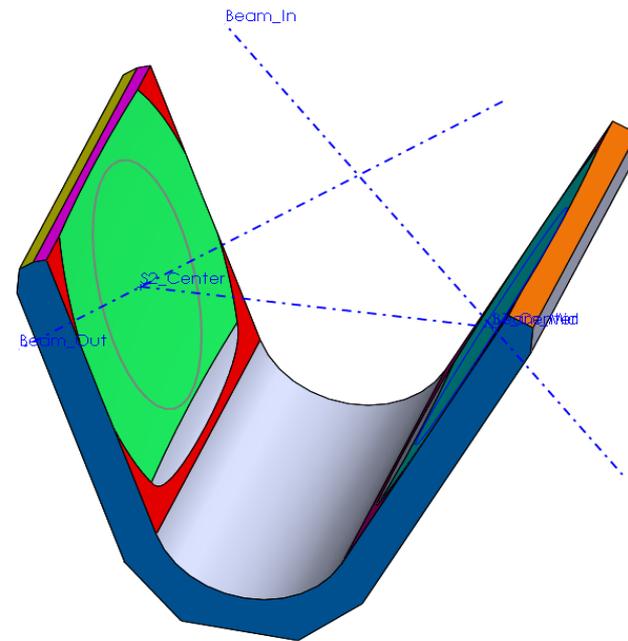


- 183 mm effective focal length at  $f/3.4$
  - “Best Effort” surface irregularity.
- Lightweight design is based on the same freeform surface prescription as the previous monoliths.
  - Instead of polishing the exterior of the monolithic block, the telescope is given a “clam-shell” or “open jaw” design.

# Light Weight Monolith Fiducials



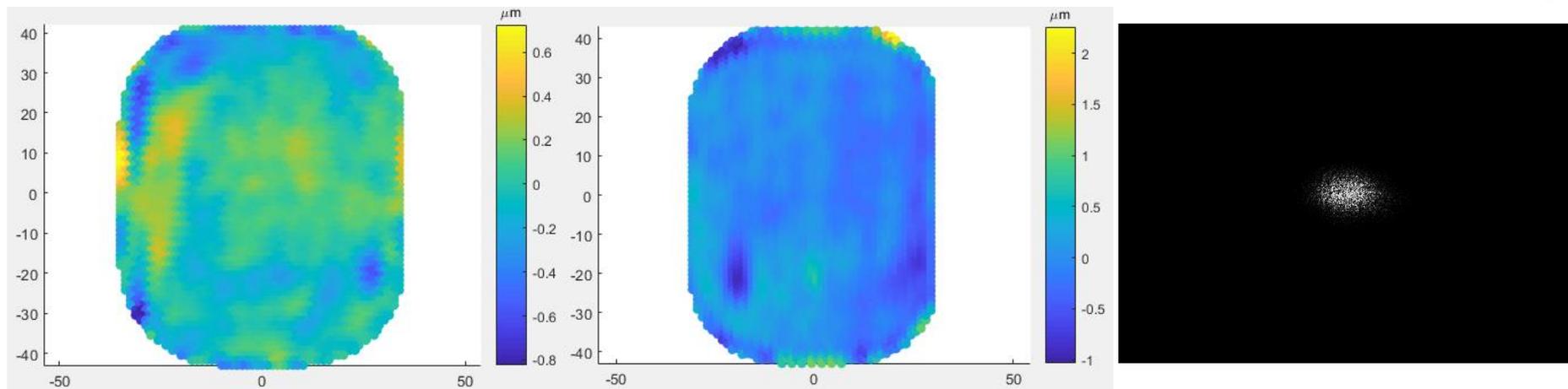
Side 1: (Right Side)  
Teal is optical face  
Magenta is Z-Alignment face  
Blue is Y-Alignment face  
Orange is X-Alignment face



Both:  
Yellow is  
Optical  
Alignment  
face

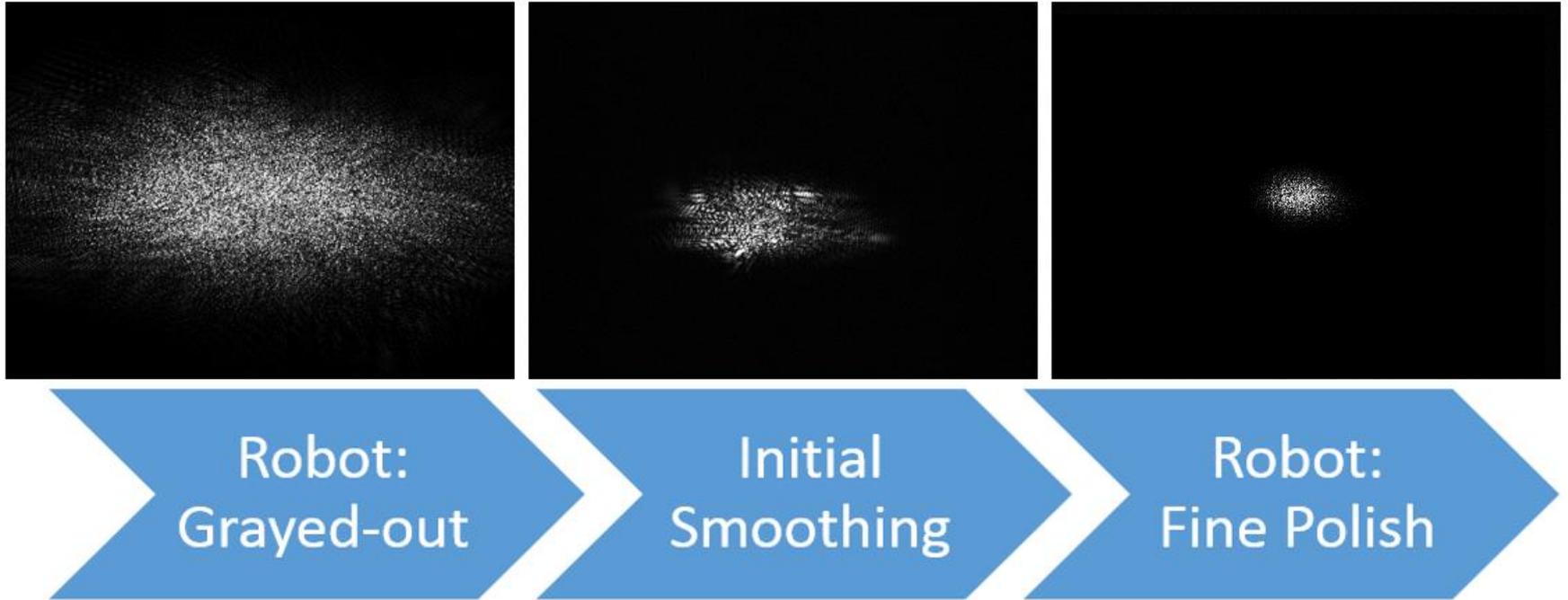
Side 2: (Left Side)  
Green is optical face  
Red is Z-Alignment face  
Blue is Y-Alignment face  
Purple is X-Alignment face

# Surface quality requirement



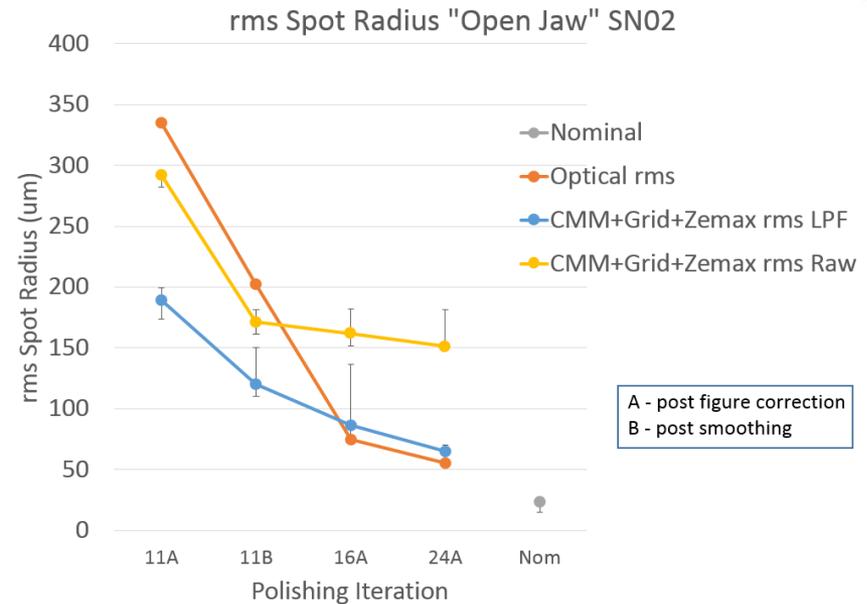
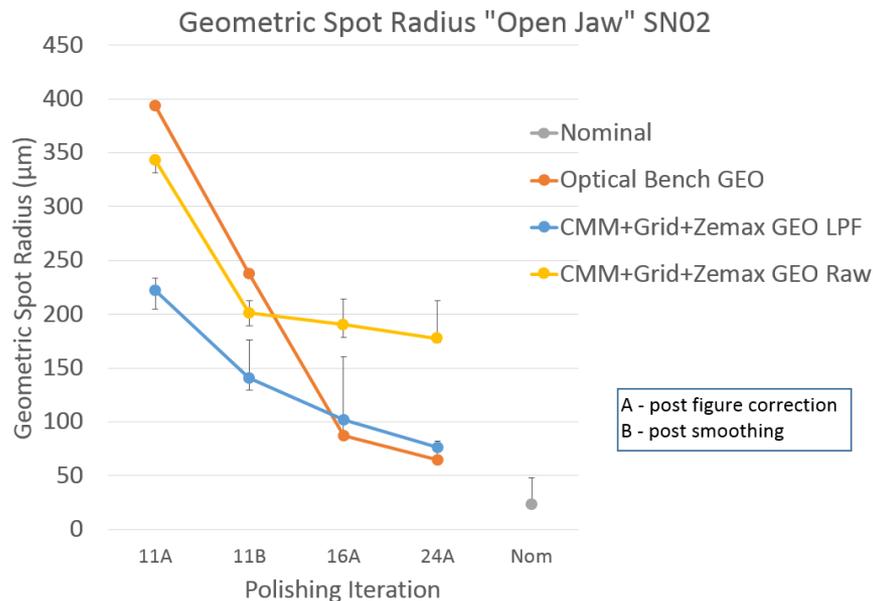
Current state of the open-jaw monolith SN02. Each surface has a P-V error of 1.5 to 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  with RMS of 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ . Zemax model using measured surface data used as comparison with spot measurement.

# LW Monolith – spot size measurements



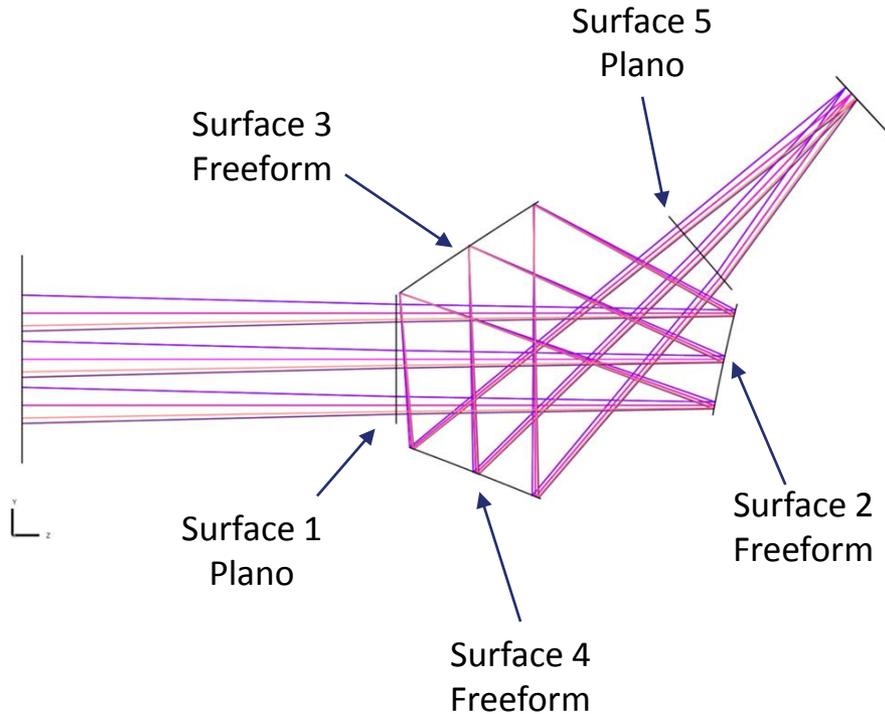
Difficulty modeling imaging performance with as-built errors. Optical bench test monitors spot size and provides validation to predictive models.

# Modeling as-built performance



Once scattering due to MSF was reduced, we noticed periodic signature in measurement was due to CMM limitations.  
Good news: the surfaces are as good as possible with CMM.  
Bad news: we need a better metrology tool for this design!

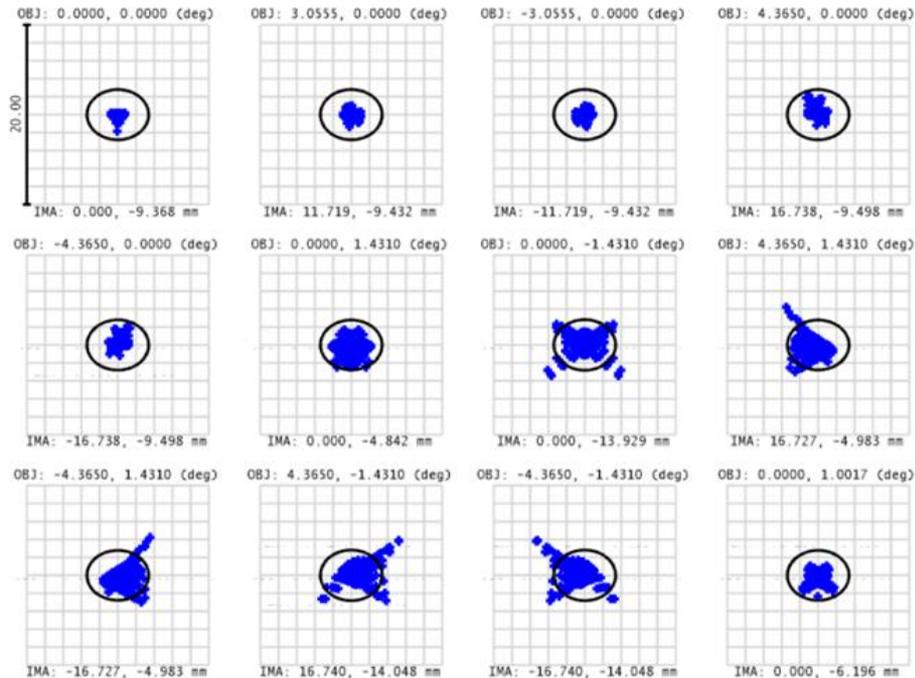
# Future outlook: High Resolution Freeform Monolith



- $\text{efl} = 223 \text{ mm}$
- $f/4$

- Telescope contains 3+ freeform surfaces. Telescope contains 3+ freeform surfaces.
- Reflector design; similar to initial monolith
- Objective is to achieve diffraction limited performance.
- Requires many additional manufacturing improvements which are rolled in from Phase I
- Optical design and requirements have not been finalized

# Future outlook: High Resolution Freeform Monolith



Surface: IMA

Spot Diagram

Freeform TMP SBIR												
10/27/2016												
Units are $\mu\text{m}$ .												
Field :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
RMS radius :	0.521	0.595	0.595	0.696	0.696	1.341	1.602	1.667	1.667	1.844	1.844	0.840
CEO radius :	1.843	1.384	1.384	2.398	2.398	2.931	4.987	5.526	5.526	6.513	6.513	2.388
Scale bar : 20	Reference : Chief Ray											

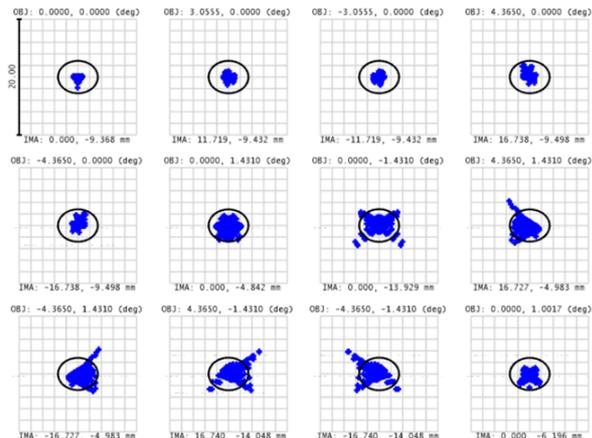
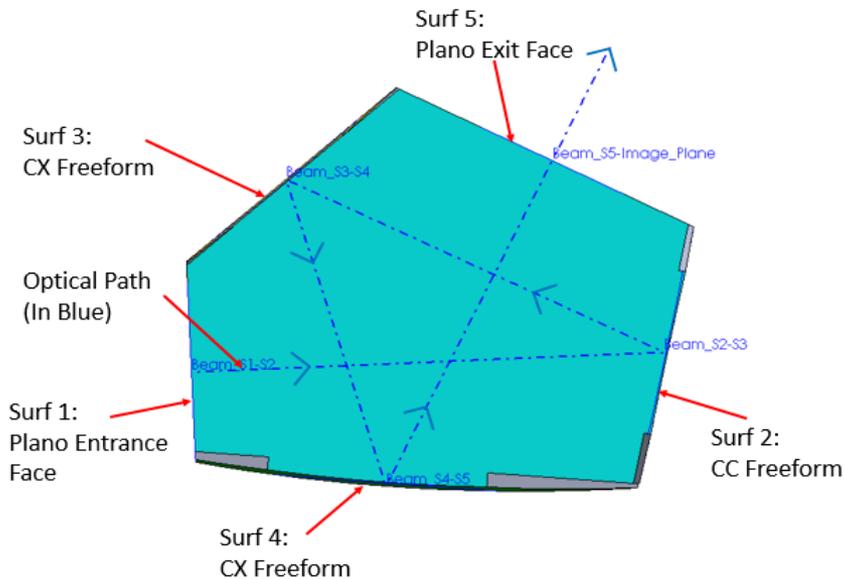
Zemax  
OpticStudio 15

SBIR\_HR\_monolith\_v2.zmx  
Configuration 1 of 1

Field of view modeled at:

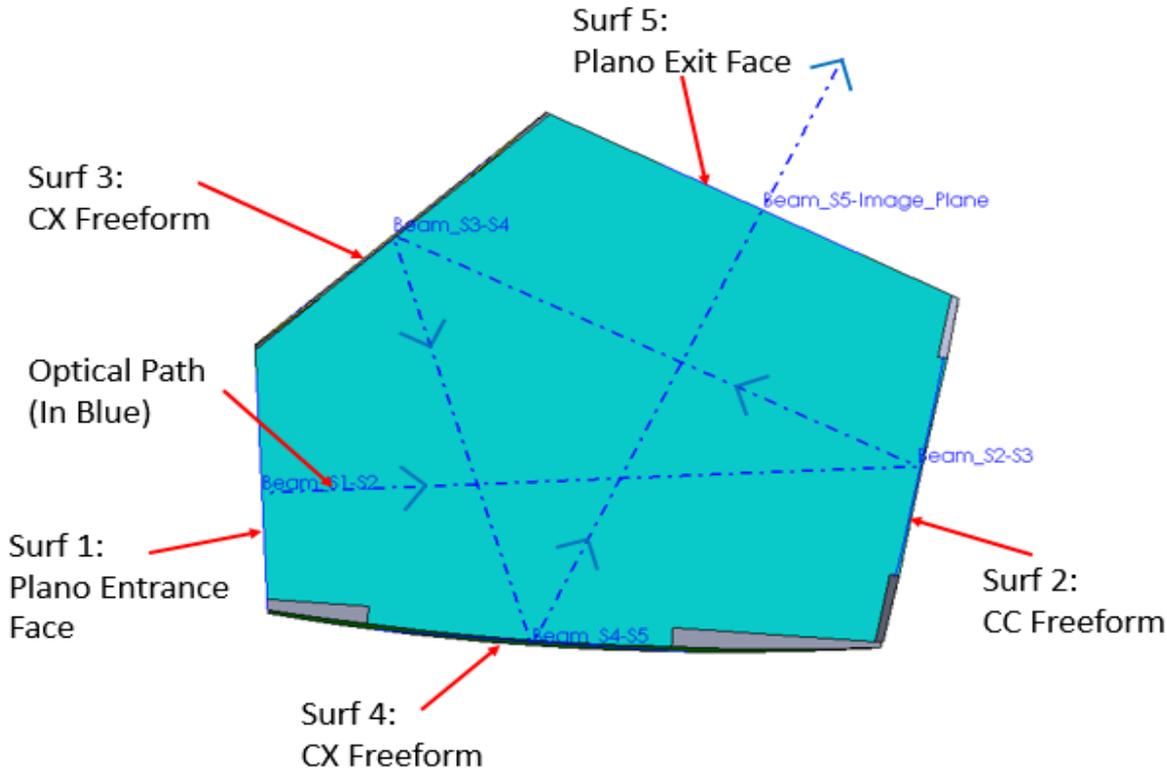
- $\pm 1.4^\circ$  in x-direction
- $\pm 4.3^\circ$  in y-direction

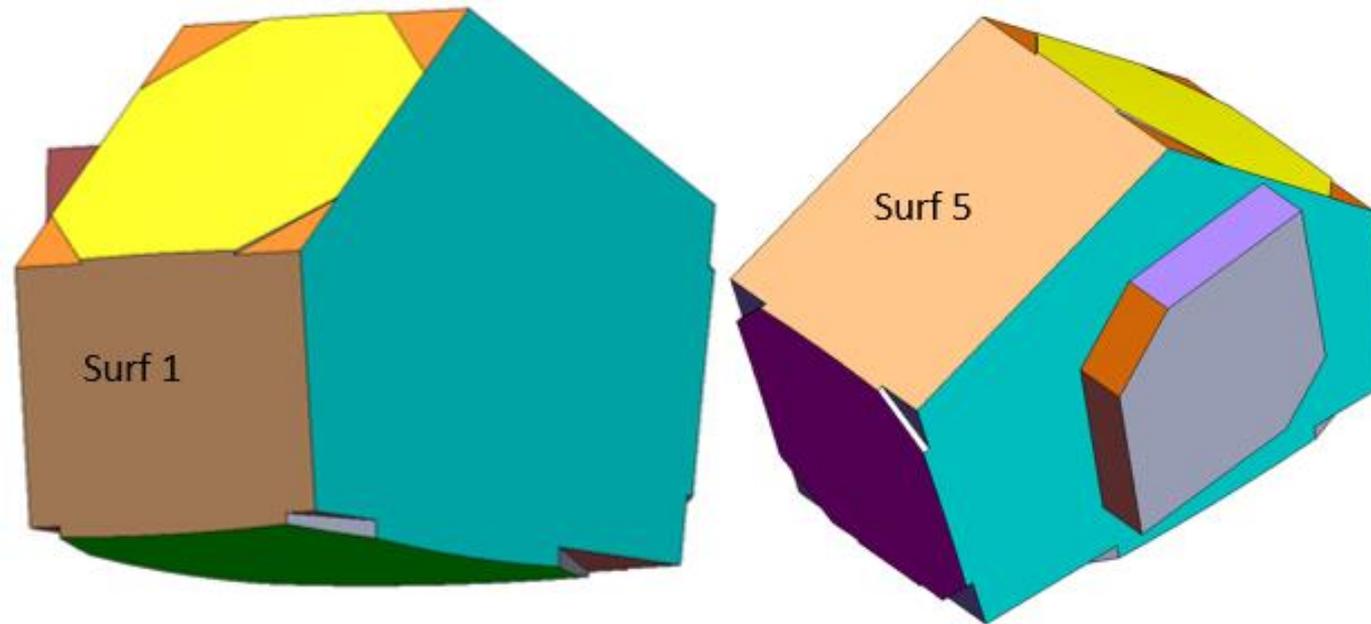
# “High-resolution” monolith predicted performance – optical models



- Wide field of view:
  - $\pm 4.3^\circ$  in Y
  - $\pm 1.4^\circ$  in X
- Simulations show diffraction-limited nominal performance
- Analysis shows high sensitivity to mid-spatial frequency errors (MSF)

# Surface Identification

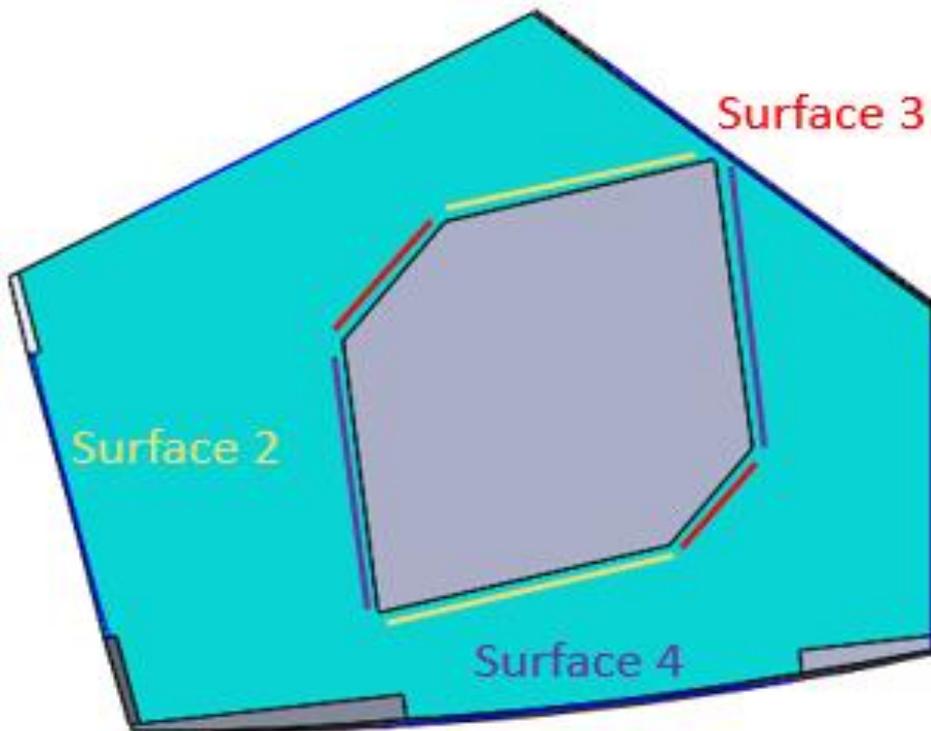




Surfaces 1 and 5 will be fully polished before generating any freeform surfaces.

All surfaces will use the side faces (shown in teal) as the y-fiducial features.

All freeform surfaces have a z-fiducial recess located in the corner region of the face.



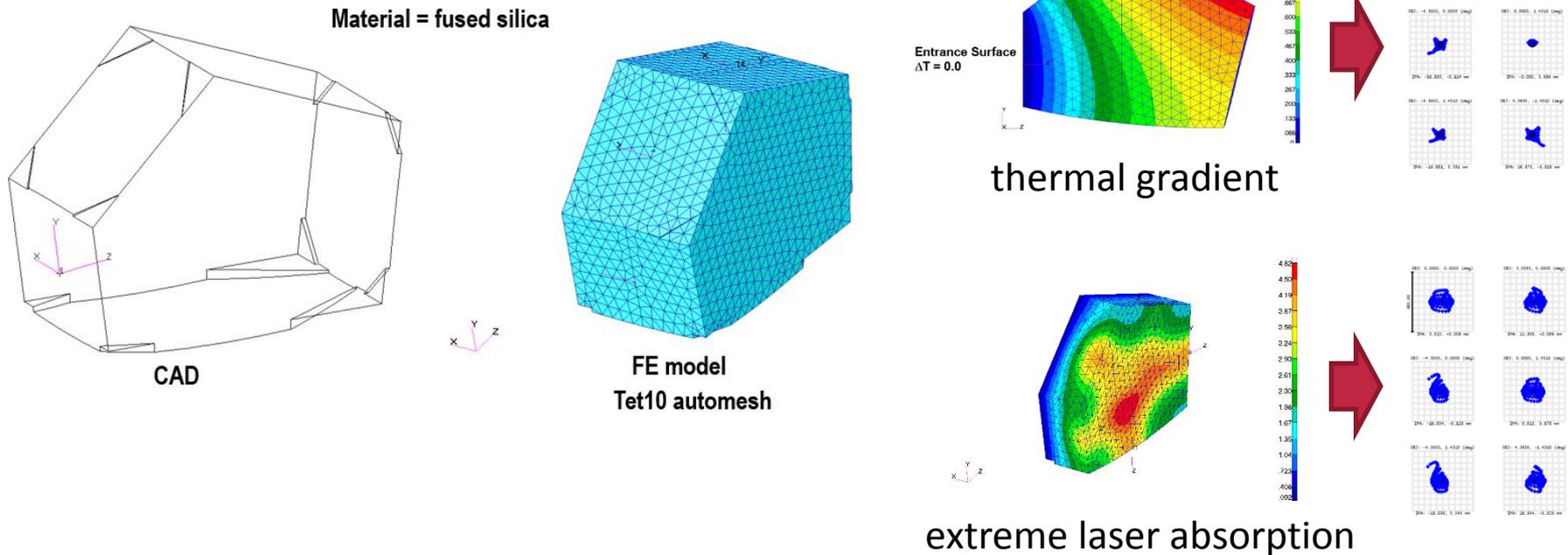
An alignment block will be glued to the monolith and plano features will be generated at the same time as the faces.

One pair of surfaces will act as the x-fiducials for each freeform surface.

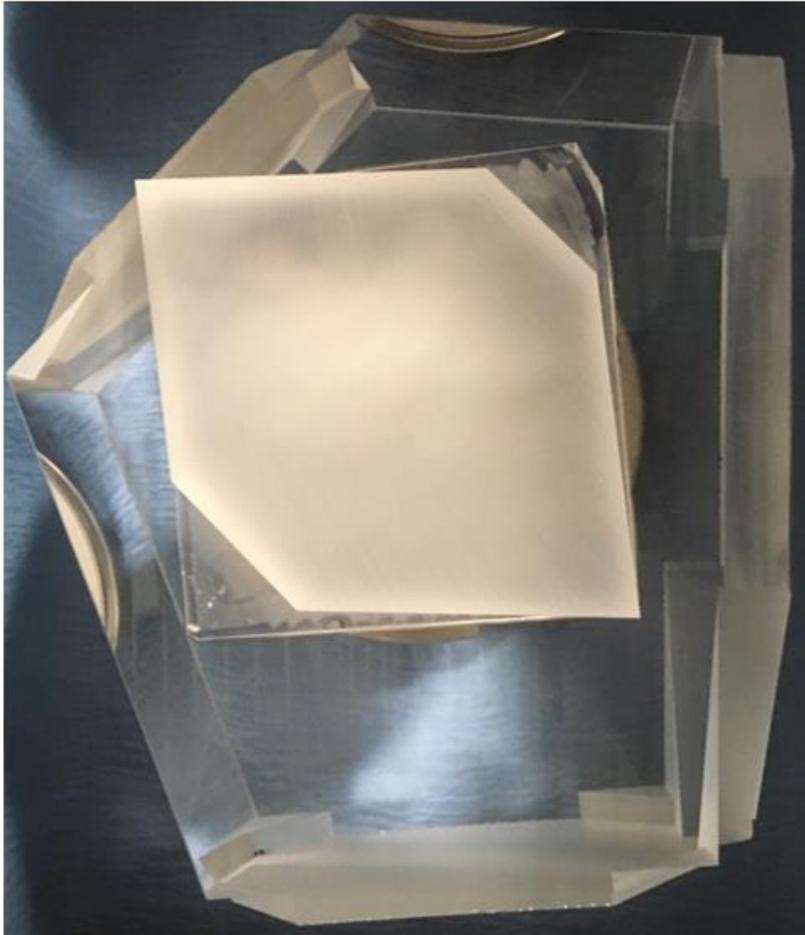
A glass has been ordered and generation will begin once it arrives.

# Manufacture of the “high-resolution” monoliths has just begun

- We collaborated with Vic Genberg at Sigmadyne to model thermal and optical loading cases of interest to our NASA TPOCs

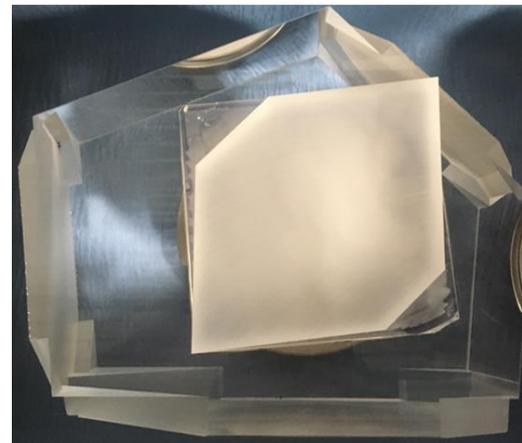
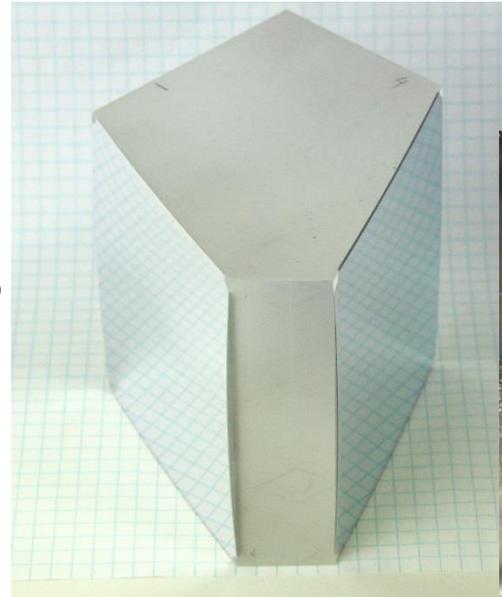


# HR Monolith – surface shape generation



# Monoliths open up new possibilities

- Monoliths have the ability to reduce assembly needs
- What advantages can be gained by breaking into the third plane?
- Combining with diffractives for spectral sensing
- Color correction may need to be studied in designs with refraction



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