



Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test
of an Inflatable Decelerator

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

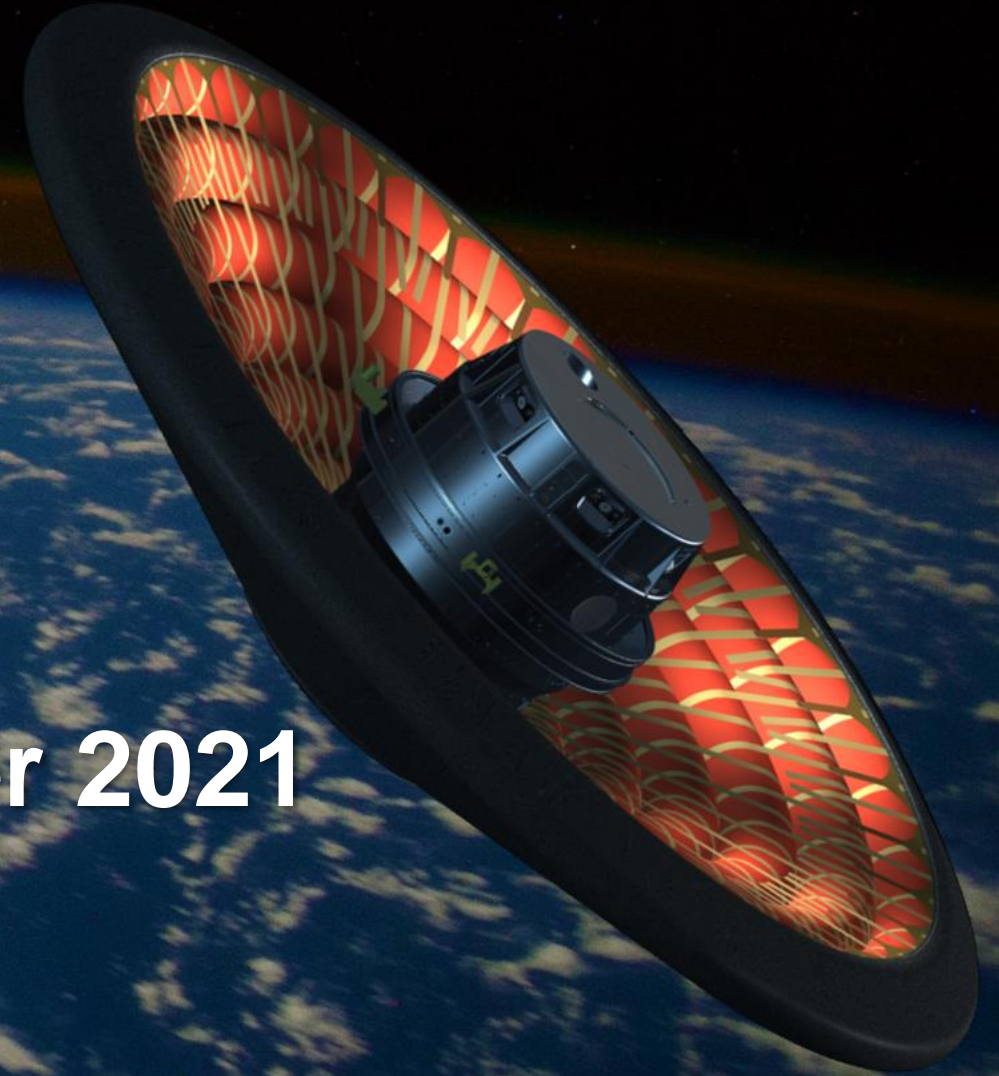


Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator (LOFTID)

EDL Seminar Series Summer 2021

Dr. Neil Cheatwood, Principal Investigator

Greg Swanson, Instrumentation Lead / Aeroshell Development



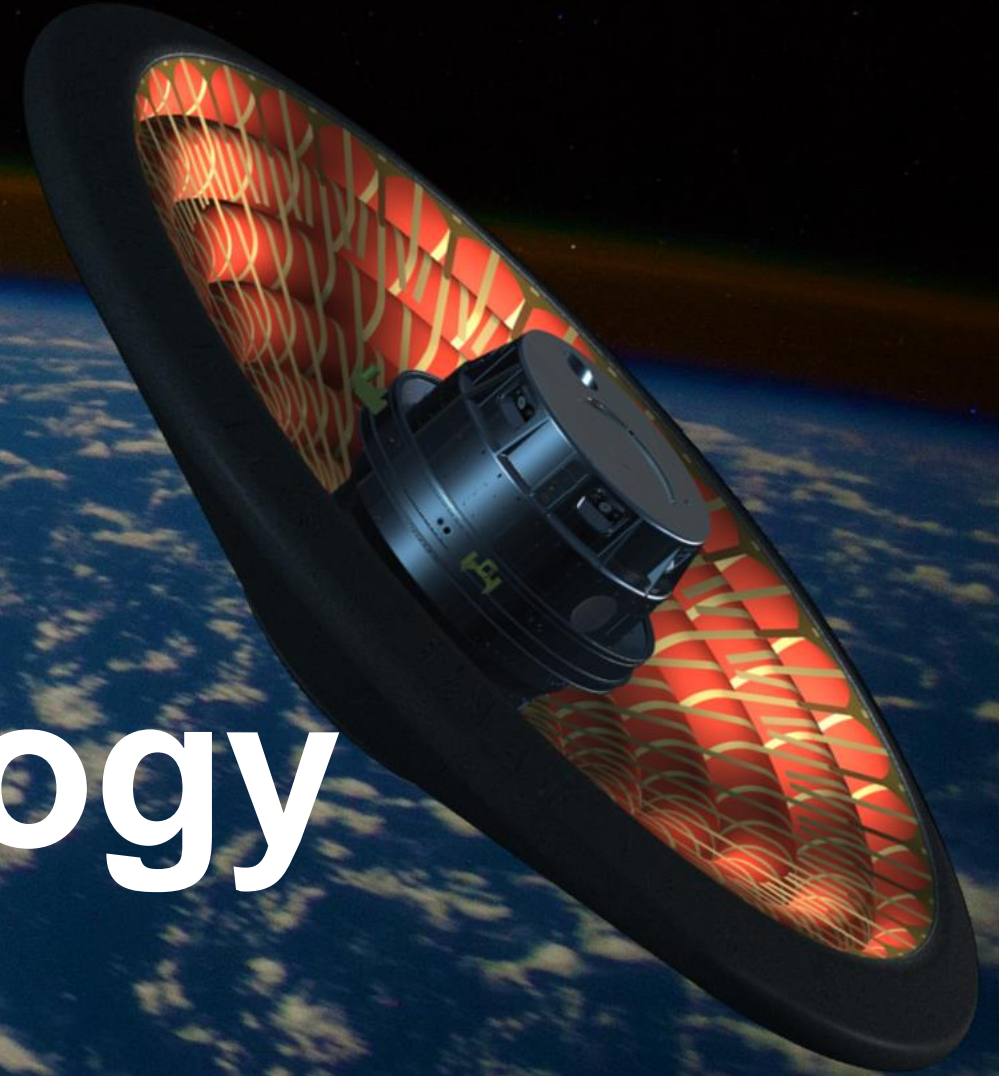


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HIAD Technology





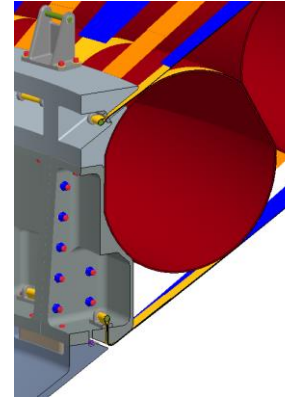
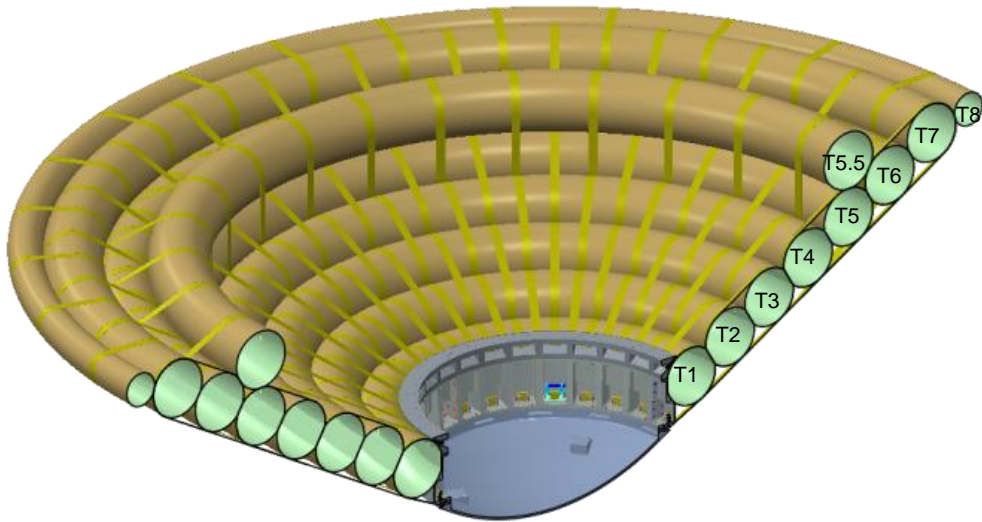
What is a HIAD?



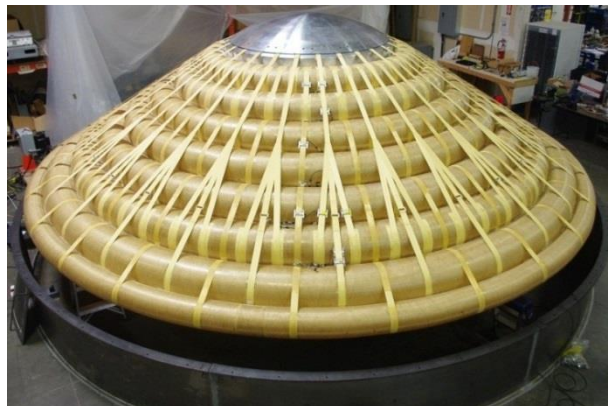
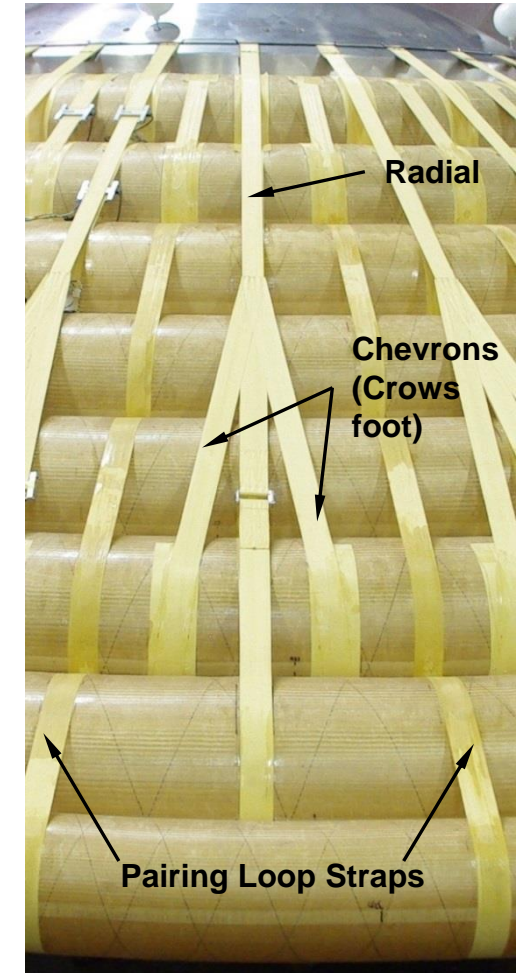
A Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD) is a deployable aeroshell consisting of an Inflatable Structure (IS) that maintains shape during atmospheric flight, and a Flexible Thermal Protection System (FTPS) employed to protect the entry vehicle through hypersonic atmospheric entry.



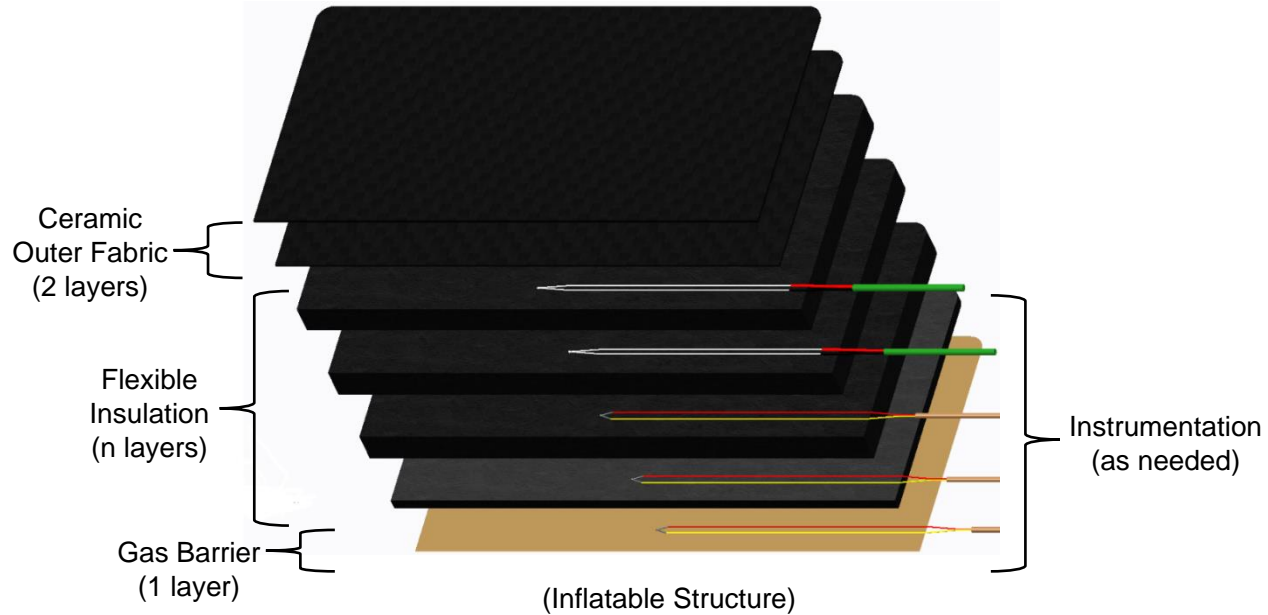
Inflatable Structure (IS): Stacked torus design with straps to establish shape and distribute loads



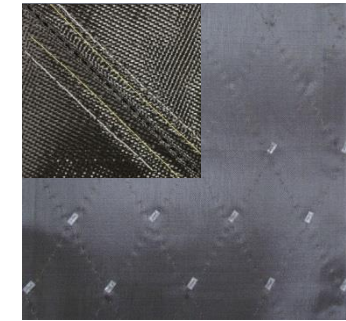
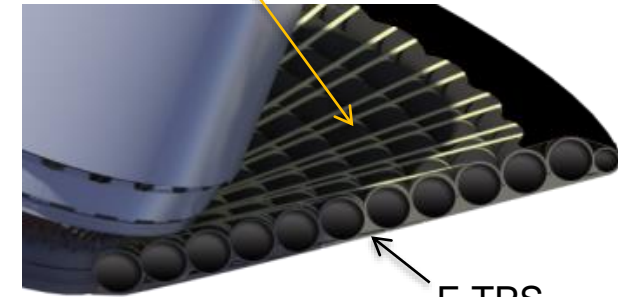
Forward and Aft straps attach IS to centerbody/vehicle



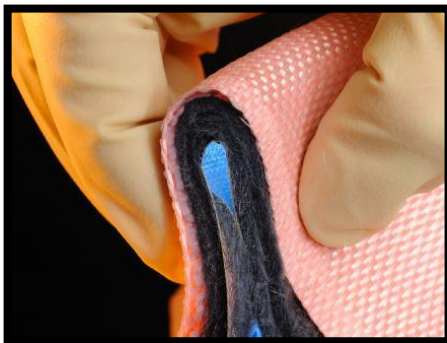
Generic F-TPS



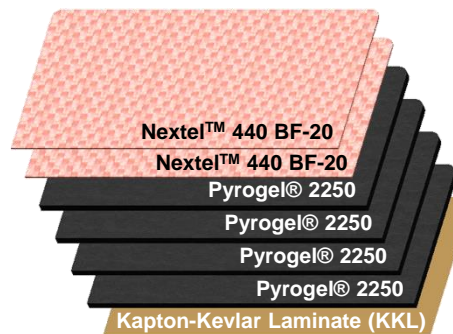
Inlatable Structure



Seams,
Quilting,
Tacking



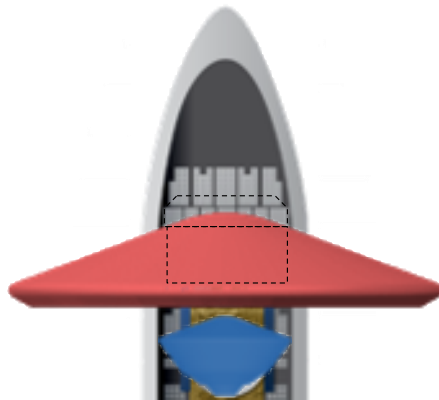
Gen-1



Gen-2



- **Entry mass at Mars, and other destinations with atmospheres, is limited by launch vehicle fairing size**
- **Inflatable technology:**
 - Deploys a large aeroshell before atmospheric interface
 - Enables delivering more payload mass to a larger range of altitudes (including orbit via aerocapture)
 - Reduces peak heat flux by decelerating more in less dense upper reaches of the atmosphere
 - Allows payloads to use the full diameter of the launch fairing (can be stowed forward of payload)
 - Stows into customized shapes for payload attachment and integrated servicing

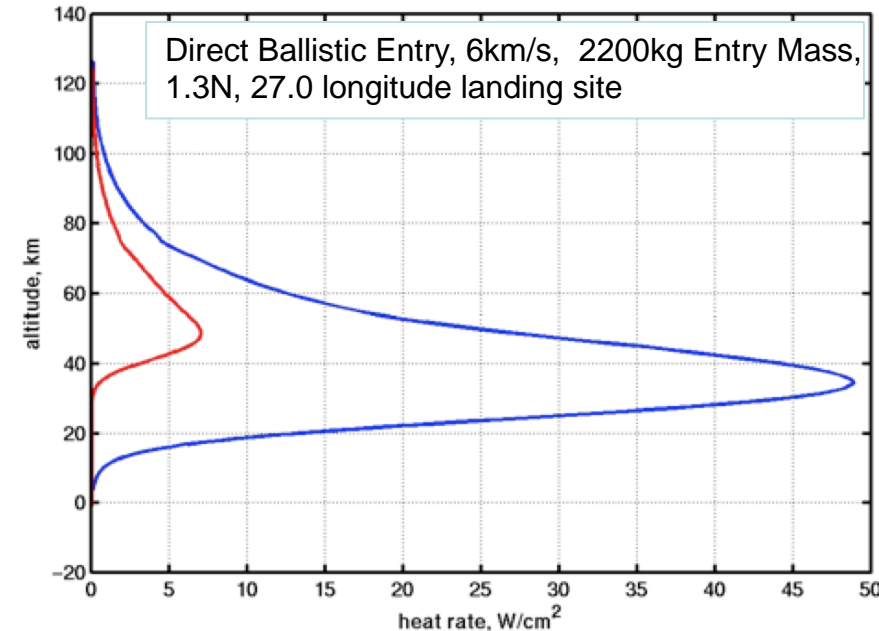
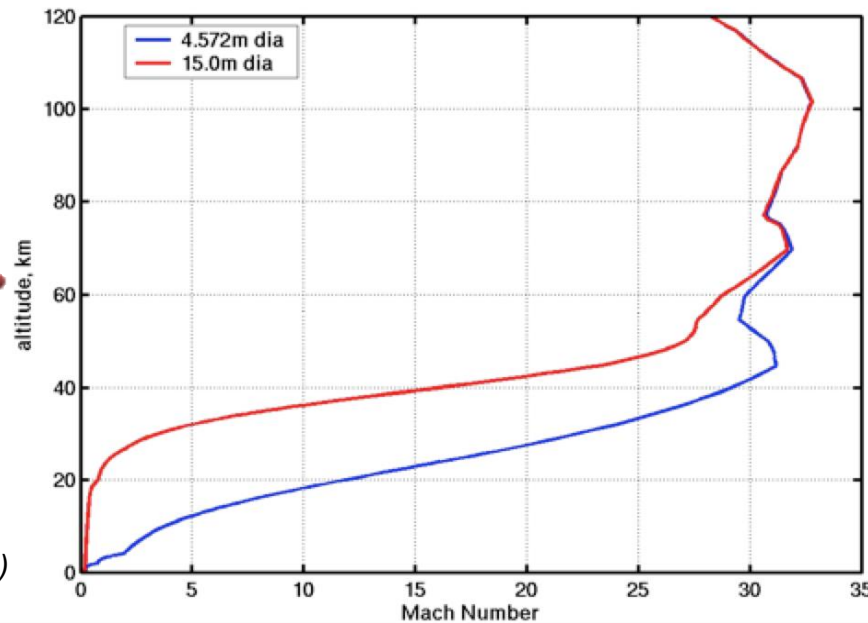


4.57m Rigid



15.0m HIAD

Entry speed: 6km/s, Entry mass: 2200kg (MSL-rover class)



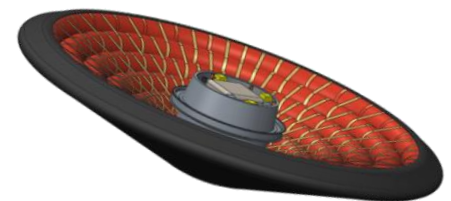
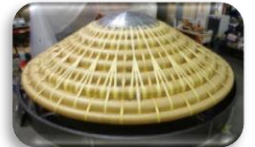
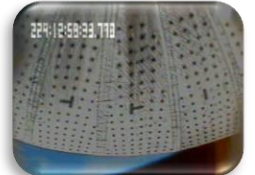
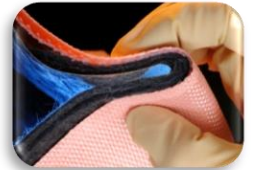


HIAD Technology Investment History



Investments in HIAD Technology

- 2005**
- ✓ **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 & FTPS, higher energy reentry; first controlled lift entry
 - ✓ **Ground Test:** HIAD-2 Project improving on Gen-2 FTPS, evaluating advanced structures, packing, and manufacturability at scales >10m
- 2018**
- ⇒ **LOFTID Flight Test:** HIAD demonstration *at scales and environments relevant to Mars Human EDL Pathfinder*. Leverages 10+ years of NASA investment in HIAD technology development, across ground and flight projects.



Inflatable Structure

Manufacturing

- Define large-scale fabrication methods
- Optimize packed volume and density requirements
- Establish manufacturing processes and quality control standards



Torus Stacking and Alignment

Testing

- Quantify aerodynamic structural response
- Verify load reaction and structural integrity
- Establish structural performance limits



Torus Compression/Torsion Tests

Performance

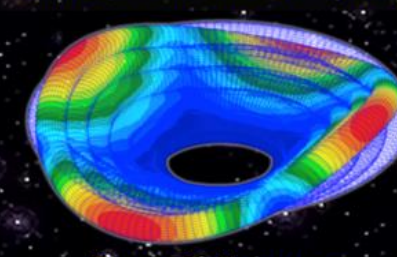
- Qualify structural materials performance capability
- Establish handling and stowage requirement
- Define design methods and safety margins



Static Loading

Modeling

- Validate non-linear structural modeling capability
- Establish structural design procedures and standards
- Define system weight, stiffness, and strength options



Dynamic Response

Flexible TPS

- Establish large-scale fabrication methods
- Define manufacturing processes and quality control standards
- Determine handling and stowage requirements



Fabrication

- Characterize mechanical and thermal physical properties
- Define mission-cycle performance capability
- Establish F-TPS material performance limits



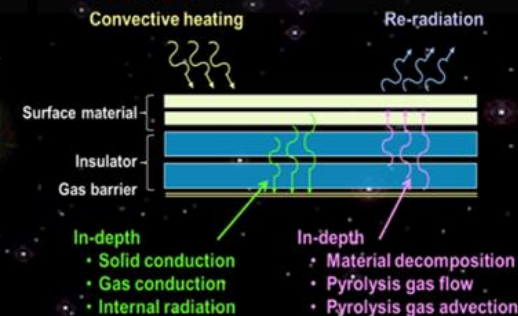
Stagnation

- Extend F-TPS materials performance capability
- Qualify thermal and aero-elastic response
- Define system integration metrics and requirements



Structural Contribution

- Validate a multi-physics thermal response model
- Establish design requirements and safety margins
- Verify integrated system load response



Multi-Physics Model

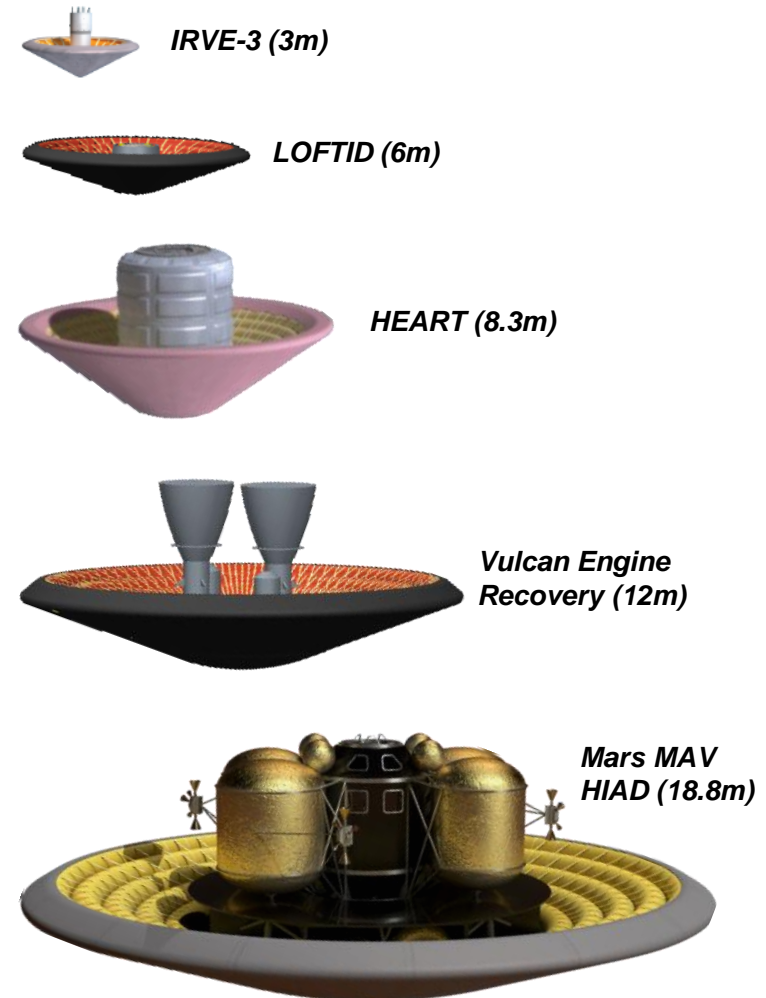


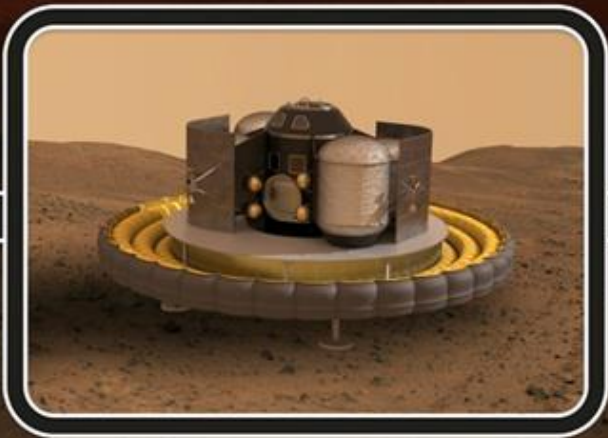
HIAD Applications



- **Robotic missions to any destination with an atmosphere (including sample return to Earth)**
- **ISS down mass (without Shuttle, the U.S. has no large-scale down mass capability)**
- **Lower cost access to space through launch vehicle asset recovery (for example, ULA's booster module)**
- **High mass delivery to high altitudes at Mars (including humans to Mars)**

Relative Scales of HIAD Missions





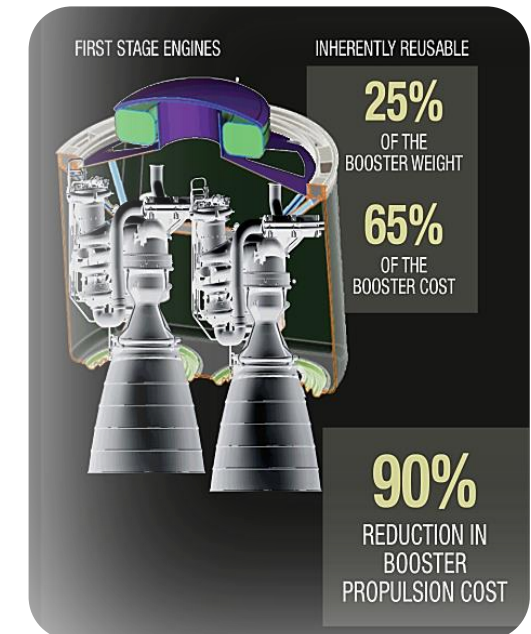
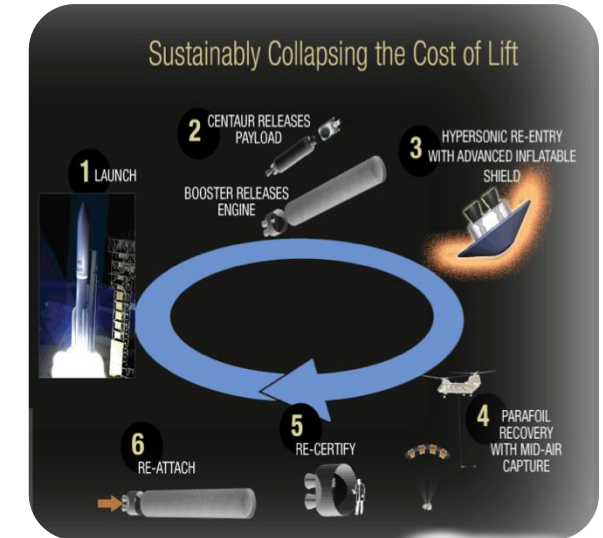
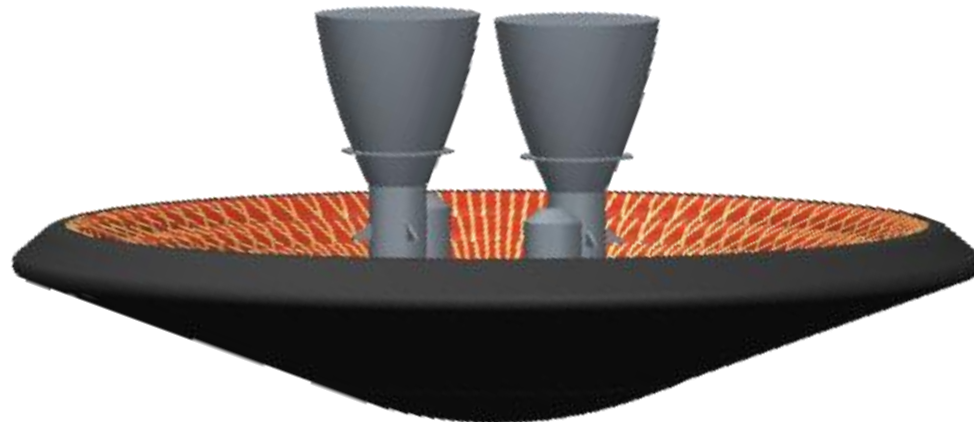


ULA Smart Reuse: Vulcan First-Stage Engine Recovery



ULA initiated discussions with HIAD with potential flight opportunity and technology infusion path.

- Looking to utilize HIAD technology for SMART Reuse capability; they would like to bring back the first stage engines (only the engines) via Mid-Air Recovery (MAR).
- Went public with SMART Reuse option in March 2015, and explicitly identified HIAD as key enabling technology.
- First-stage engine recovery would require 10-12m HIAD; significant step for HIAD technology.
- For risk reduction, 6m HIAD flight test from LEO has been proposed.
- In addition, NASA intends to collect HIAD performance data from multiple engine recoveries, to improve HIAD design/model correlation.





Rocket Lab: Electron First-Stage Recovery



- Currently averaging one launch per month.
- Factory for manufacturing Electron first stage is at capacity.
- Increasing launch frequency would require either significant infrastructure investment OR recovery for reuse.
- Recovering first stage and reusing just once on average doubles their capacity without building a new factory.
- RL conducted in-house trade of recovery options, concluding an inflatable hypersonic decelerator (HD) was best option.
- NASA is currently collaborating with Rocket Lab (RL) in the following ways:
 - Providing V&V of RL aero, aeroheating, and flight dynamics analyses
 - Assessing RL in-house HD design
 - Consulting on instrumentation
 - Advising on high-temperature material selection
 - Trading RL HD against HIAD





IRVE3 YouTube Video



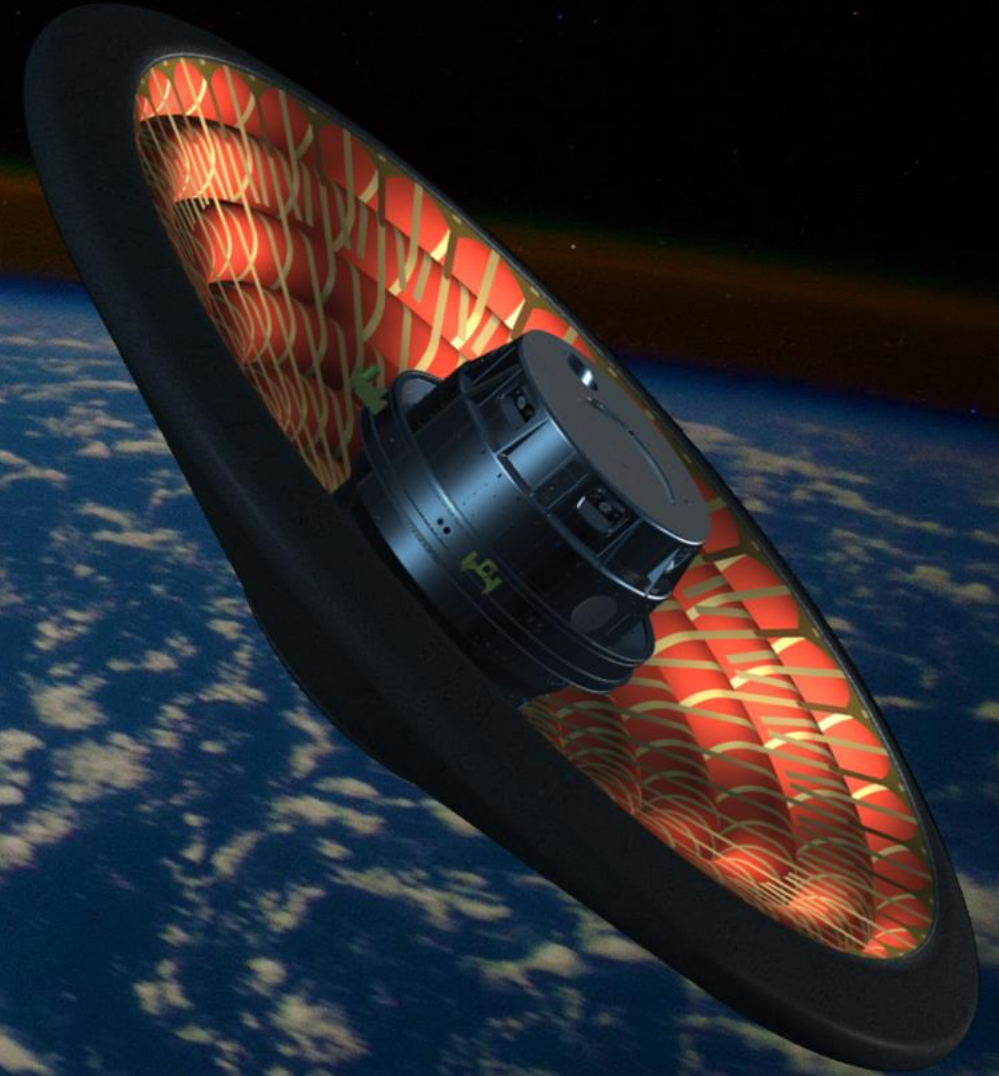


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Why LOFTID?





Shortcomings of Ground-Based Testing Alone



- **F-TPS: Inability to match all environments simultaneously. Those environments are achievable only at coupon scale. Running-length build-up of shear is not captured.**

- **IS: Inability to test at scale with flight-like pressure distributions at elevated temperature**

- **Earth orbital reentry introduces HIAD technology to a design-reference atmospheric entry environment**
 - Similar aeroheating to potential Mars and LEO HIAD entry missions
 - Opportunity to exercise HIAD at temperature with aerodynamic forces
 - F-TPS with shear loading and turbulent heating augmentation
 - Inflatable Structure at temperature with drag loading



Motivation for LOFTID

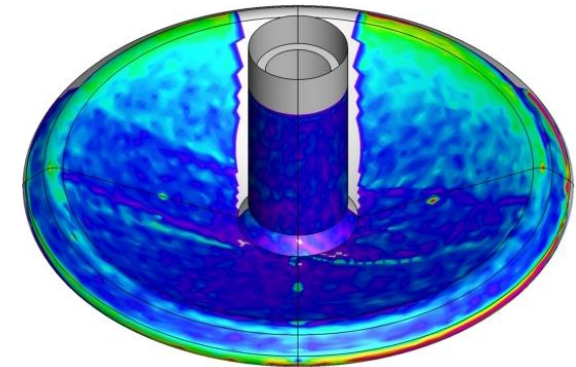
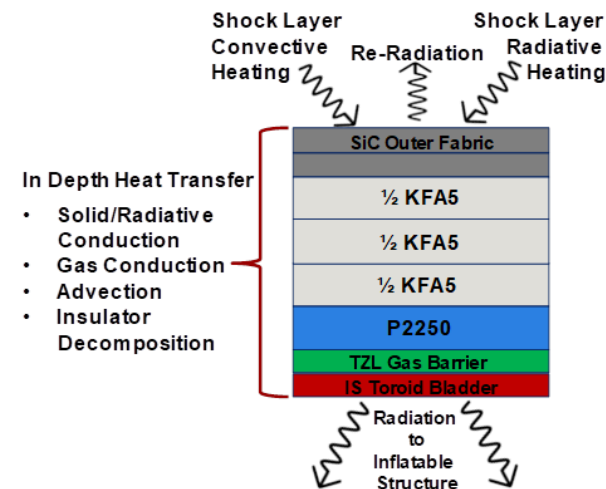
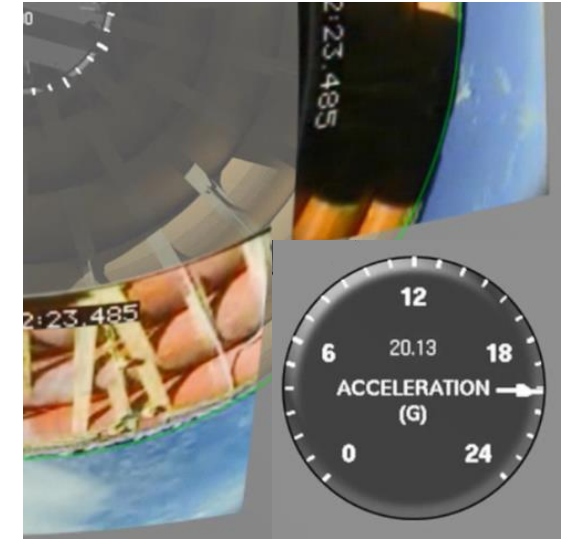
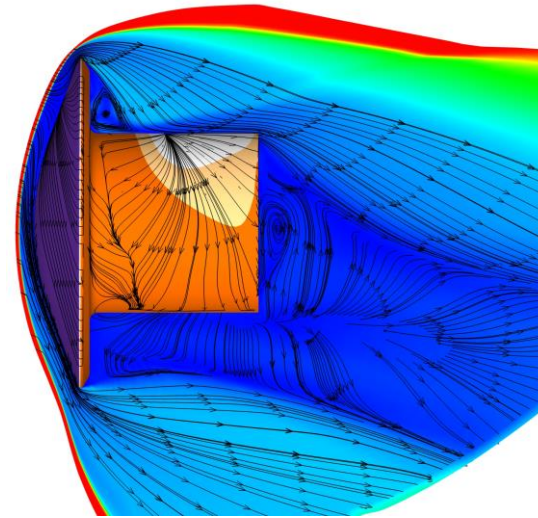


LeO Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator (LOFTID) Objective: Perform an orbital energy reentry experiment of a scaled-up HIAD

- **Earth orbital reentry introduces HIAD technology to a mission-relevant atmospheric entry environment**
 - Similar aeroheating to Mars and LEO HIAD entry missions
 - Opportunity to exercise heat-affected HIAD with aerodynamic forces in real time
 - F-TPS with shear loading and turbulent heating augmentation
 - Inflatable Structure with drag loading that exceeds Mars HIAD entry
- **6m scale largest achievable within mass and volume constraints, while targeting a ballistic coefficient that yields a relevant heat pulse**
- **Builds upon IRVE-3's success from a suborbital trajectory**
 - Triple the expected peak heat flux (from 15 to ~ 45 W/cm²)
 - Order of magnitude increase of the total heat load (from 0.2 to ~ 2 kJ/cm²)
- **Controls costs by simplifying test vehicle (compared to IRVE-3/THOR)**
 - ULA Centaur provides reliable and simplified reentry experiment setup
 - Spin stabilized ballistic entry with no deorbit, attitude control, or lift generation systems required
- **Opportunity for largest diameter blunt body aeroshell reentry**



- Avoiding payload impingement dictates aeroshell diameter and/or payload aspect ratio.
- RV mass and peak g-load informs HIAD structure design.
- Heat flux defines outer surface material. Heat load governs thickness/composition of insulators.
- Convective heating down in bowl dictates aftbody inflatable structure temperature (Zylon™ cords & bladder).





Science Mission vs Tech Demo



➤ Design Philosophy:

- Science Mission: Add margin to aeroshell design to ensure mission success
- Tech Demo: Don't just fly a new technology, exercise it

➤ Design Considerations:

- When aeroshell technology is the science, trim margin to insure aeroshell (layup thermally stressed) performance is demonstrated.
- Higher altitude deceleration means lower velocity at a given atmospheric density (lower heat flux)—lower absolute error in heating environment
- Soft goods are not as precise as metal, and the surface is not impermeable (the gas barrier provides a deadhead)

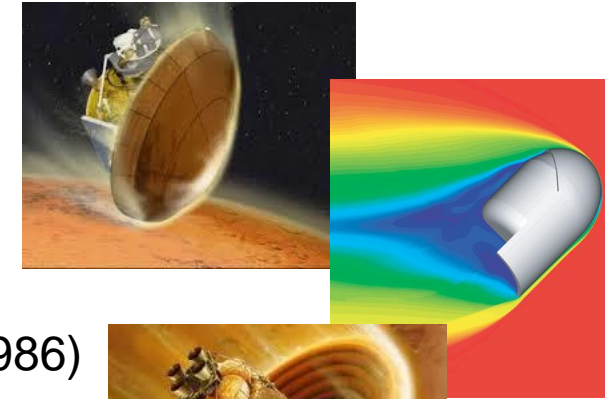


The LOFTID Approach



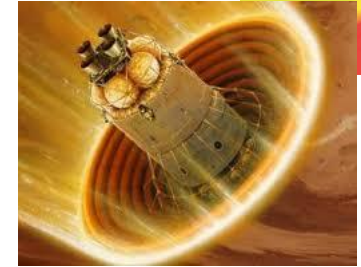
➤ Energy to be managed (LEO vs suborbital)

- Opportunity to get simultaneous aero/aeroheating/shear environments at scale
- Historically, those flight environments then become “heritage” use.



➤ No backshell—reduces mass, improves CG

- Aeroassist Orbit Transfer Vehicle (AOTV) for GEO to LEO transfer (circa 1982)
- Aeroassist Flight Experiment (AFE)—AOTV demo prototype for Shuttle (circa 1986)
- AFE adopted by CNES for 2005 Mars Sample Return Orbiter (circa 1996)
- Ellipsled (Circa 1998)



➤ Nose heatshield tailored to needs (singularities)

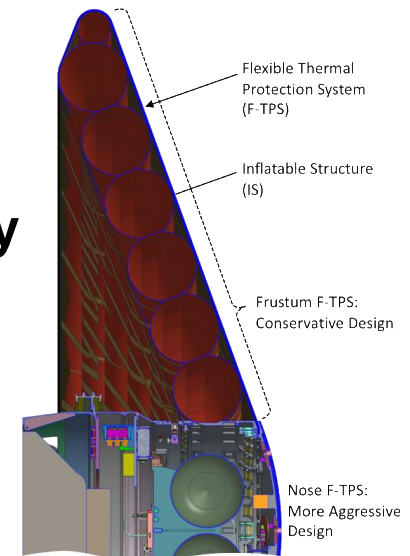
- For sciences missions: radar, lidar, landing gear, etc.
- For tech demo: Experiment within experiment
 - Metallic structure provides fixed reference and thermal sink
 - Insulative “isolation” layers prevent exceeding F-TPS margins

➤ HIAD Gen-2 F-TPS should see environments that exceeds HIAD Gen-1 capability

- Long duration heat pulse provides in-depth temperature rise in insulators
- Elevated gas barrier temperatures (> 250) exceeds traditional rigid structure/TPS design

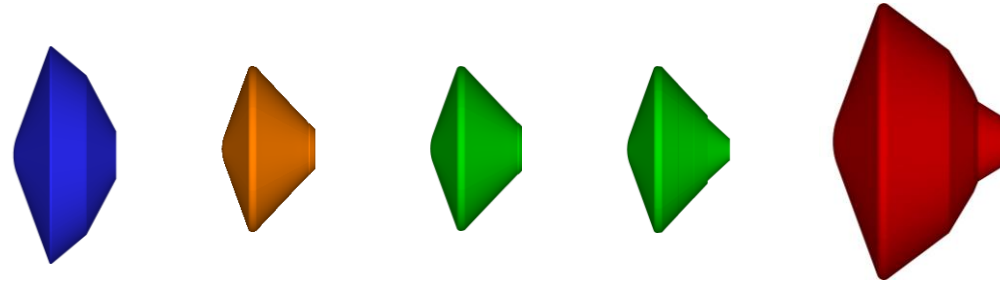
➤ Monte-Carlo-based structure and heatshield thermal performance assessment

Applicable beyond HIAD





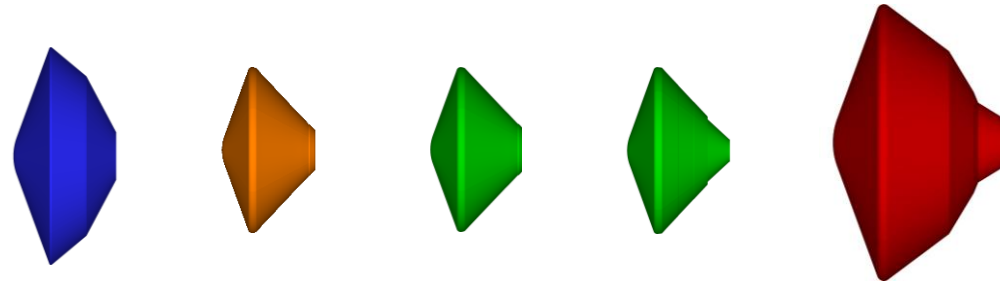
Project Viking



	Viking 1/2	Pathfinder	MER A/B	Phoenix	MSL
Diameter (m)	3.5	2.65	2.65	2.65	4.56
Forebody Geometry (deg)	70	70	70	70	70
Entry Mass (kg)	930	585	840	602	3150
Entry Velocity (km/s)	4.5	7.6	5.5	5.9	5.9
Peak Heat Rate (W/cm ²)	24	106	48	56	225



Analogies Between Project Viking and LOFTID



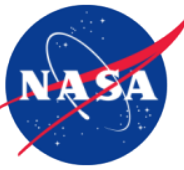
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	IRVE-3	LOFTID	LEO Return	ISS Down Mass	ULA Engine Recovery	Humans to Mars
Diameter (m)	3	6	<6	8-12	12	18.8
Forebody Geometry (deg)	60	70	60-70	60-70	60-70	70
Entry Mass (kg)	330	1700	<1500	<5000	12000	56000
Entry Velocity (km/s)	2.7	7.1	7-7.5	7-7.5	4-6.5	6.2
Peak Heat Rate (W/cm ²)	15	60	<50	30-40	<30	40



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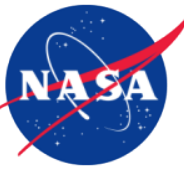
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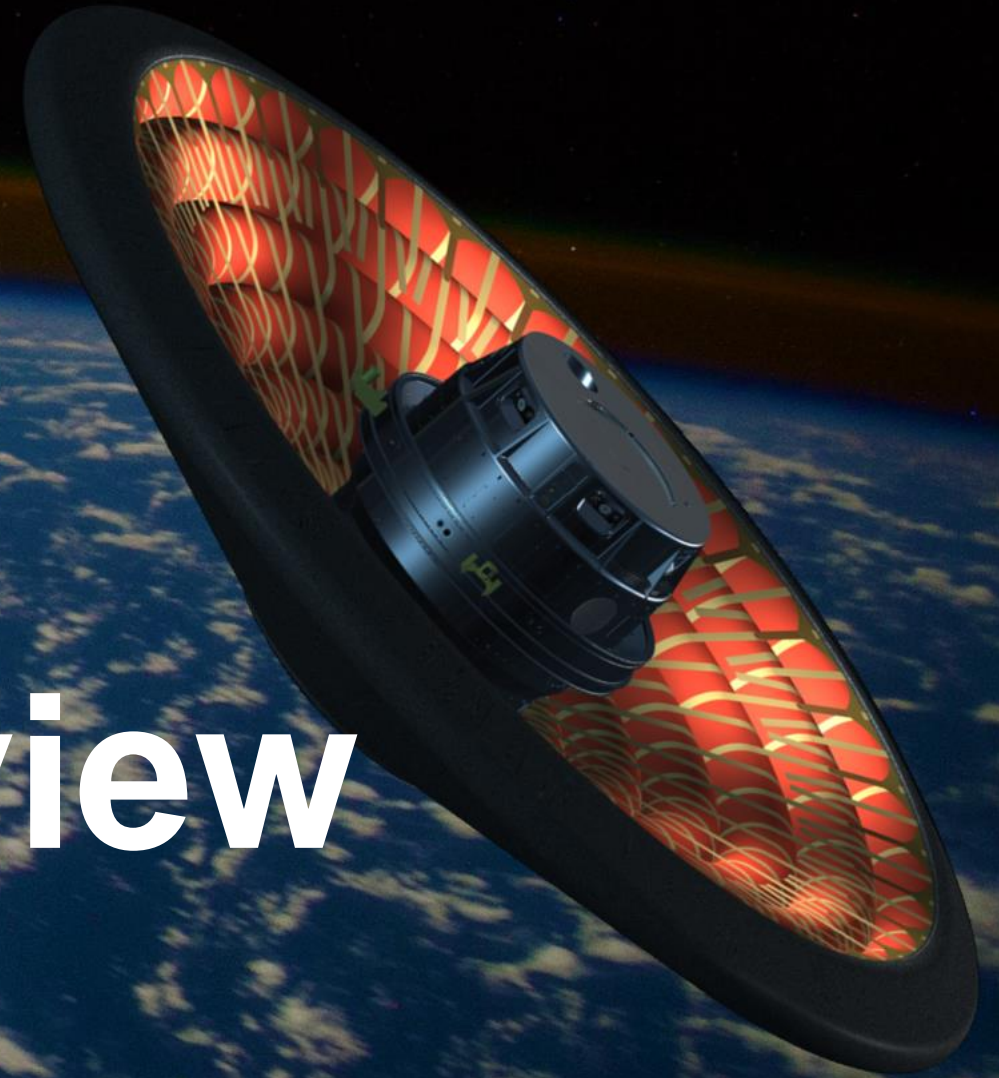


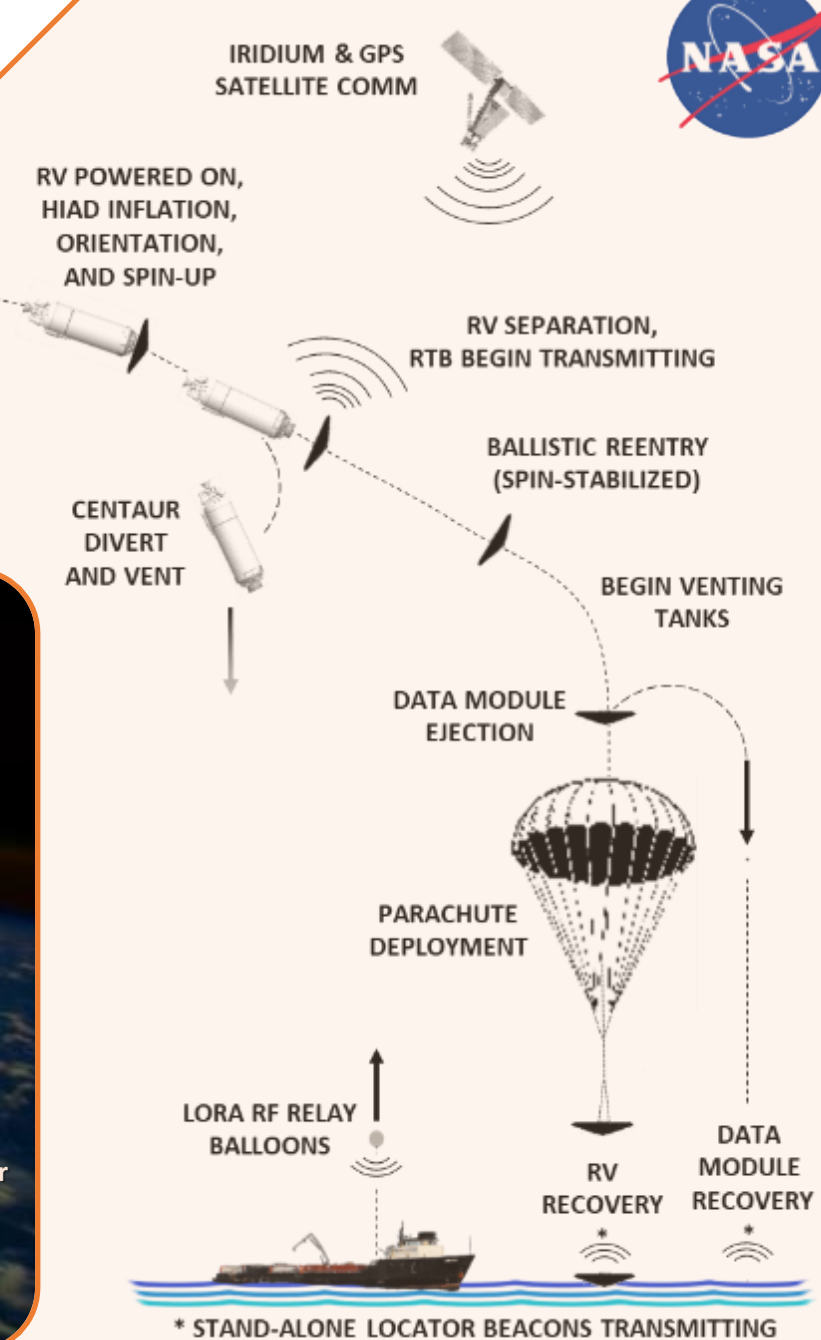
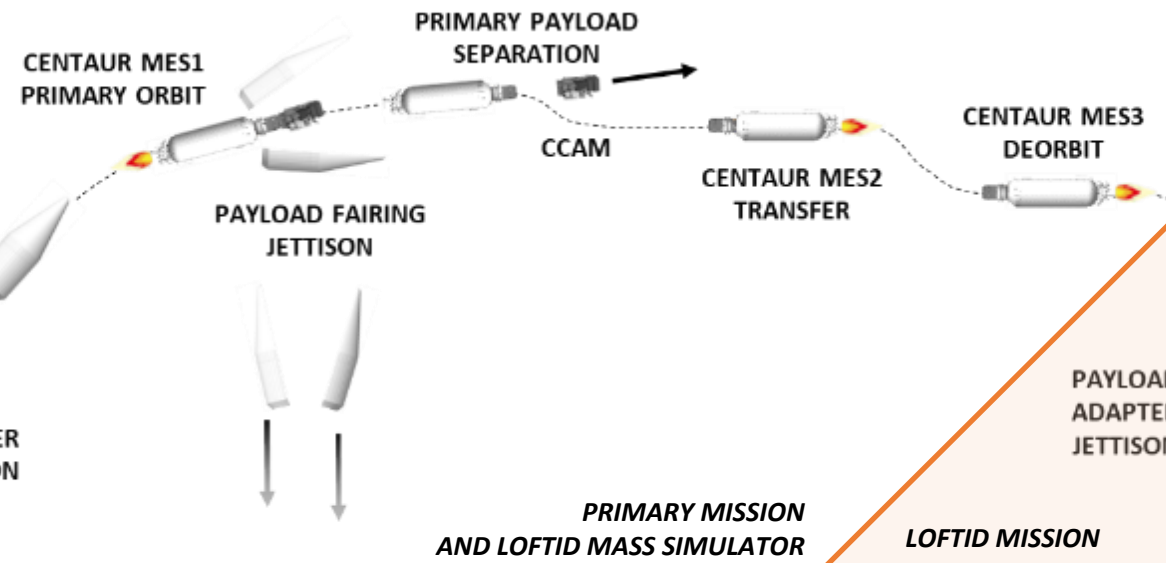
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LOFTID Overview





LOFTID

Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test of an Inflatable Decelerator

ATLAS V LAUNCH

CCAM: Contamination and Collision Avoidance Maneuver
 HIAD: Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator
 MES: Main Engine Start
 RTB: Real Time Beacon
 RV: Reentry Vehicle



LOFTID Mission Requirements



Name	Requirement
Exo-Atmospheric Deployment	LOFTID shall demonstrate the exo-atmospheric deployment of a 6 meter (nominal diameter) Hypersonic Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (HIAD).
Reentry Heat Flux	LOFTID shall perform an atmospheric reentry which yields a minimum peak heat flux of 30 W/cm ² .
Experimental Data	LOFTID shall obtain flight data to measure HIAD atmospheric flight performance.
Reentry Heat Load	LOFTID shall perform an atmospheric reentry which yields a predicted peak heat load of at least 2 kJ/cm ² .
Launch Vehicle	LOFTID shall be constrained to use the launch vehicle provided under the terms of the Space Act Agreement with United Launch Alliance.

- Requirement Levels
 - Level 1 requirements (Mission)
 - Level 2 requirements (System)
 - Level 3+ requirements (Subsystems)
- Over 550 requirements specified for LOFTID, over 600 total including ULA specific requirements
- All but 3 requirements must be verified before the PSR. This is done either through test, analysis, demonstration, and inspection.



Mission Architecture



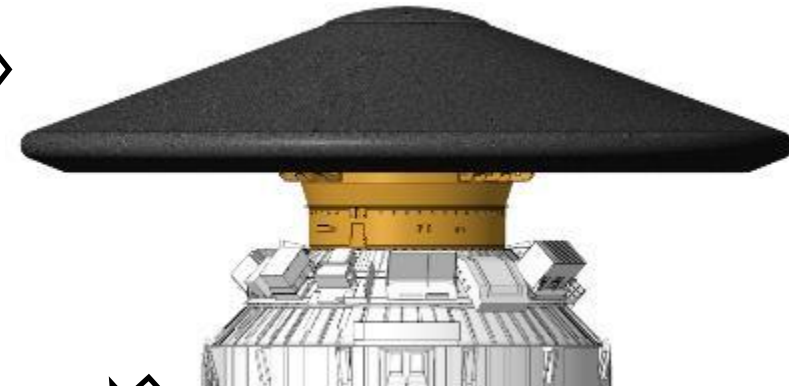
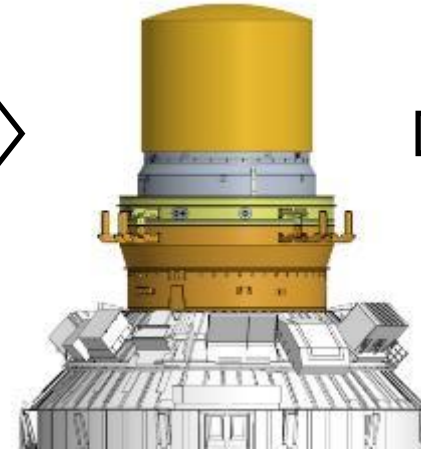
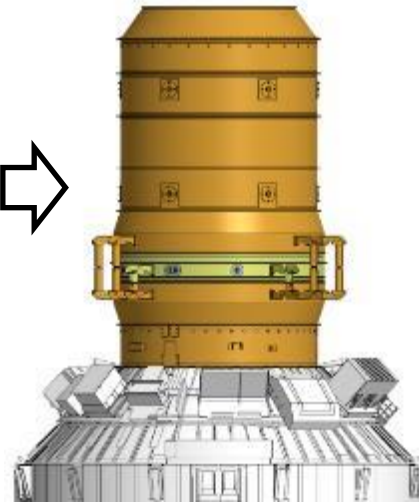
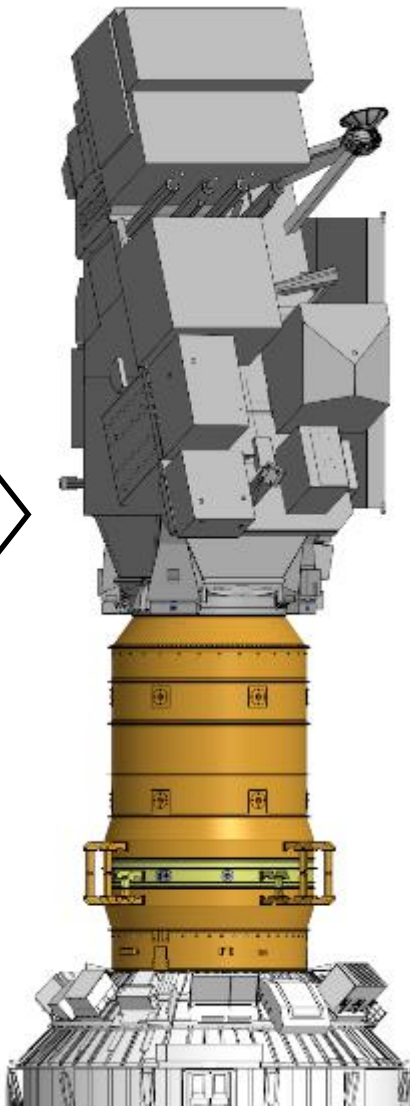
JPSS-2 Primary Mission Second Stage

Extended Payload Fairing (EPF) Jettisoned

Primary Payload (JPSS-2) Separated

Payload Adapter (PLA) Canister Jettisoned

LOFTID Aeroshell Inflated



LOFTID Reentry Vehicle





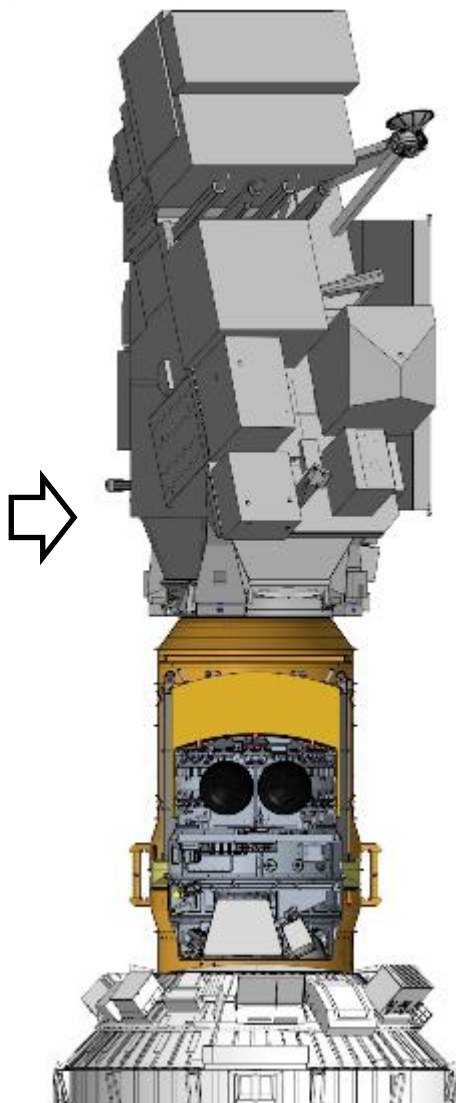
Mission Architecture Cross Section Views



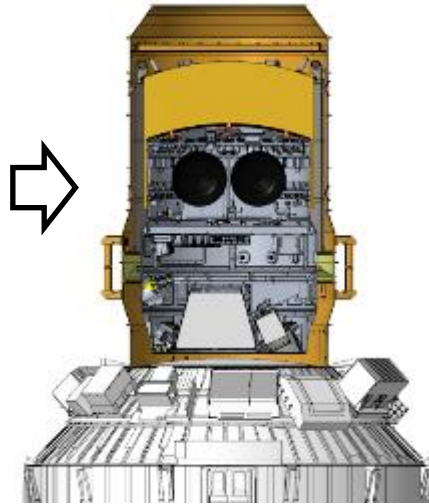
JPSS-2 Primary Mission Second Stage



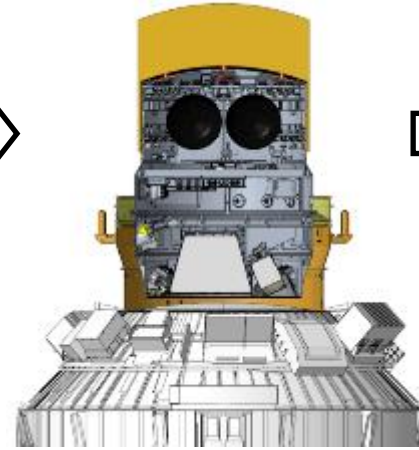
Extended Payload Fairing (EPF) Jettisoned



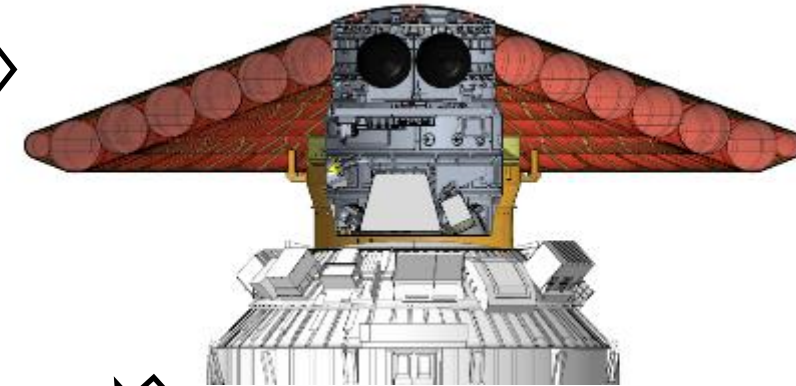
Primary Payload (JPSS-2) Separated



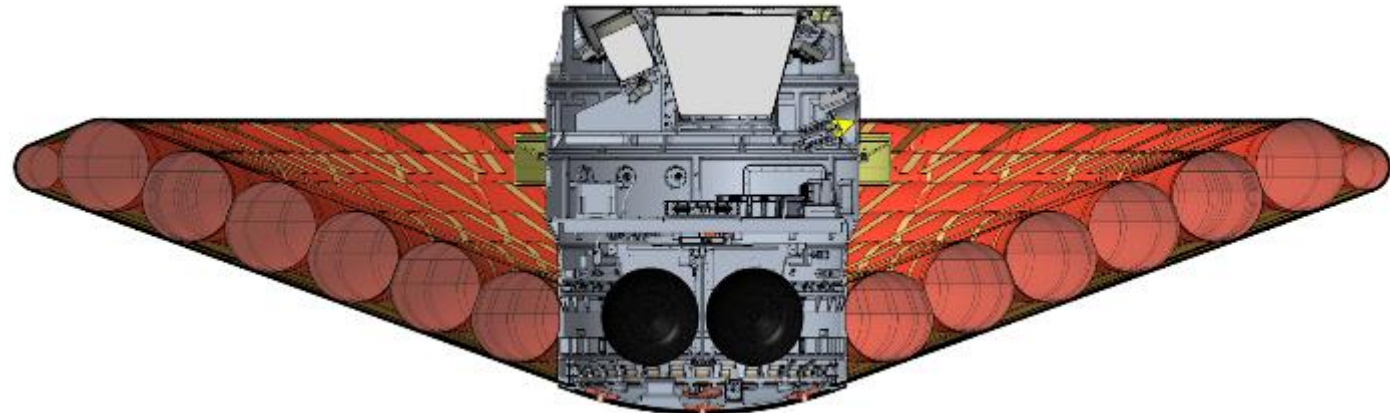
Payload Adapter (PLA) Canister Jettisoned



LOFTID Aeroshell Inflated

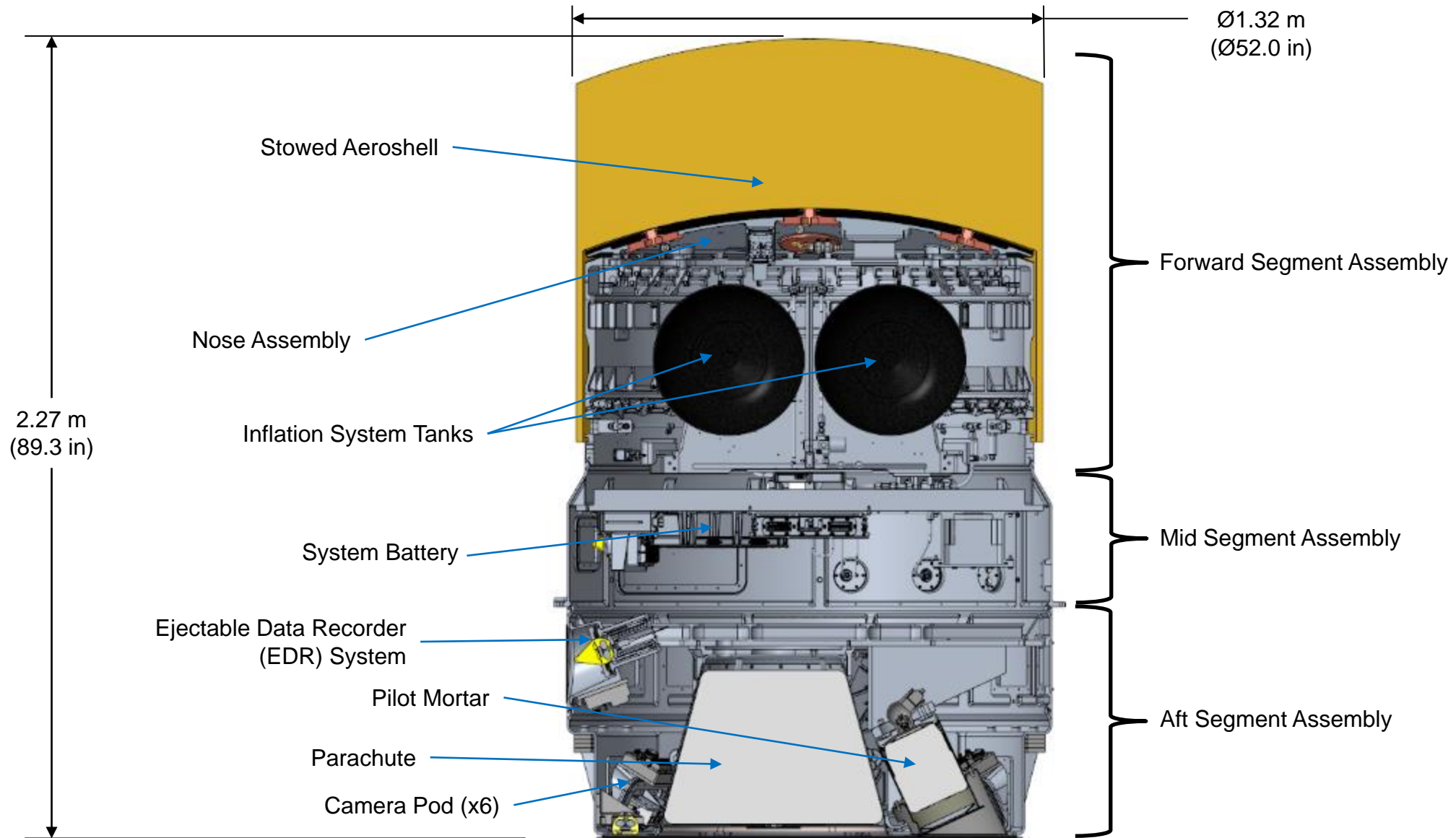


LOFTID Reentry Vehicle



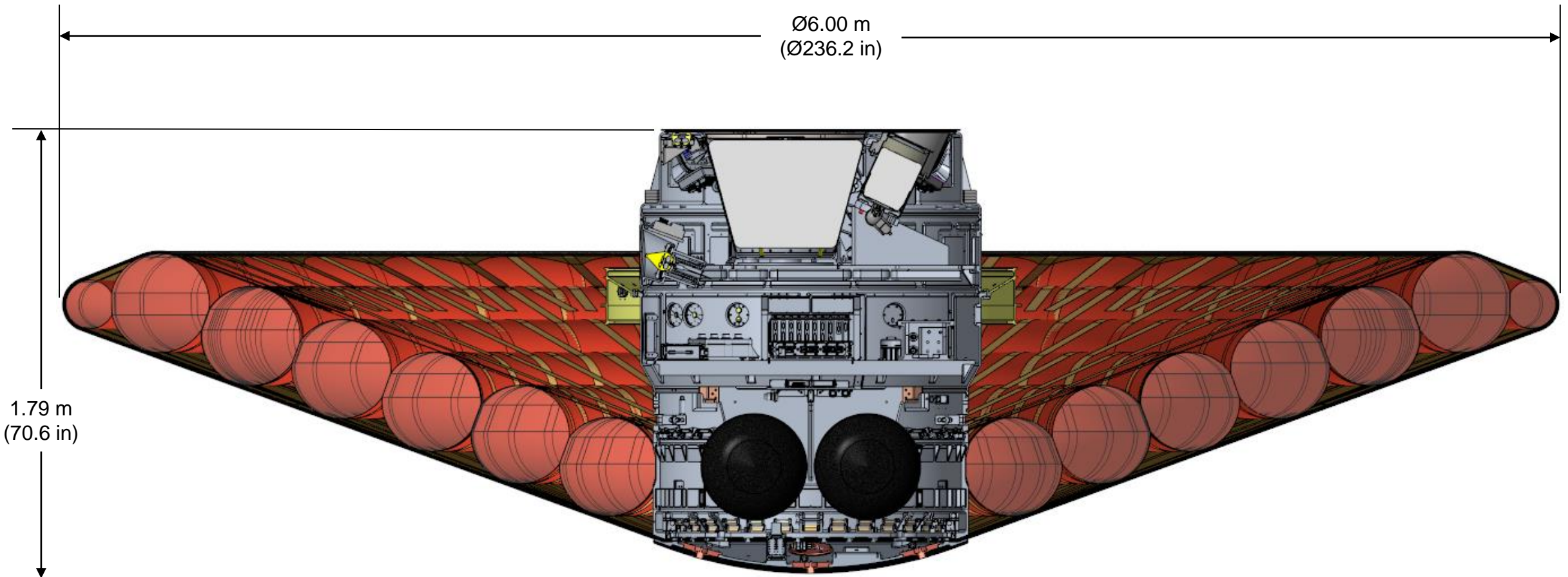


RV at LV Integration





RV at Reentry



6m Diameter, 70-deg Sphere-Cone Stacked Torus Design

Flexible Thermal Protection System (FTPS)

- 2nd Generation Materials
 - Silicon Carbide Outer Layer, Carbon Felt/Pyrogel Insulation, PTFE/Zylon Laminate Gas Barrier
- Successfully Tested to 80 W/cm²
- 50 W/cm² Cold Wall Limit for LOFTID
- 30 W/cm² Minimum Requirement for LOFTID

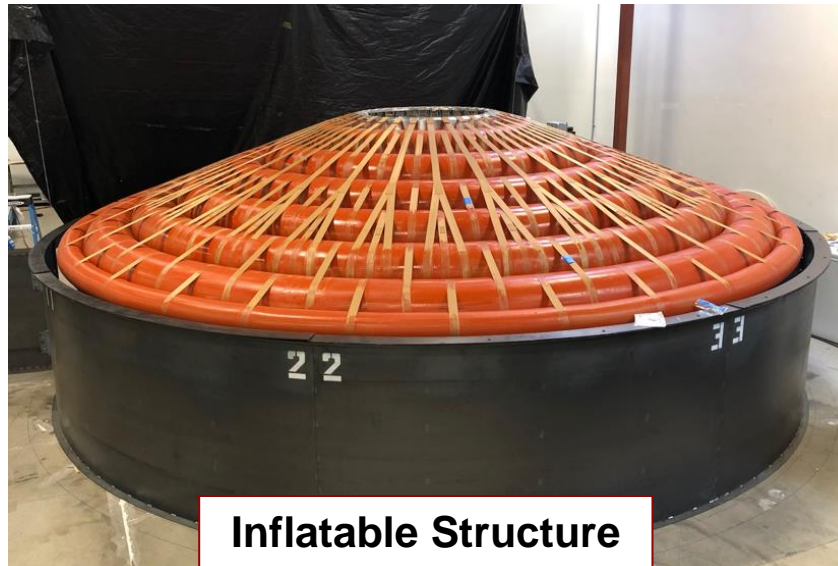
Inflatable Structure (IS)

- 2nd Generation Materials
 - Zylon Structural Elements with PTFE Bladder
- 400 deg C Temperature Capability
- 250 deg C Minimum Requirement, Expected 350 deg C
- 20 PSI Maximum Expected Operating Pressure (MEOP)

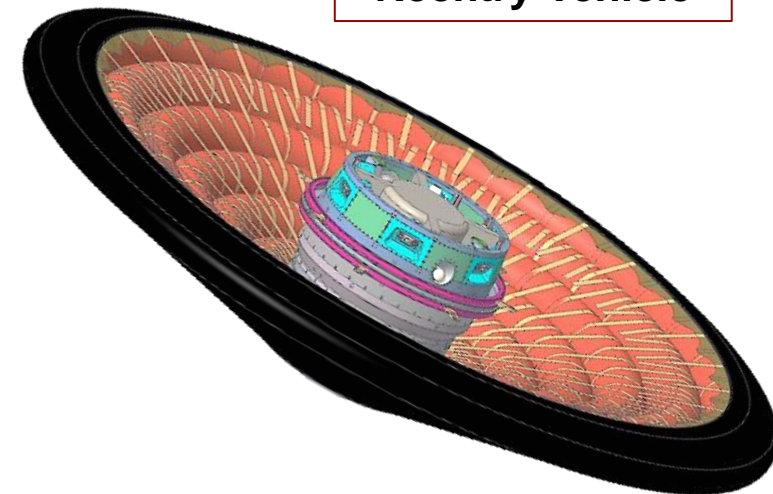
FTPS



Inflatable Structure



Reentry Vehicle





HIAD Flight Test Data Suite



LOFTID is a demonstration flight project that will be used to validate computational models, and advance understanding of the HIAD technology

➤ **Nose and aeroshell instrumentation**

- Pressure transducers, surface and in-depth thermocouples (including aftbody), total heat flux gages, and radiometer
- Loadcell clevis pins on IS straps
- Fiber Optic Sensing System (FOSS)

➤ **Internal instrumentation**

- Inertial measurement unit (IMU)
- Global positioning system (GPS) unit
- Inflation system instrumentation

➤ **Video/Imaging**

- Video (360-deg coverage) for context, structural response, diagnostics
- Infrared (IR) imaging (360-deg) for aft-side temperature distribution on aeroshell
- Up-Look HD Camera

➤ **Data recovery**

- Comprehensive set to ejectable recorder, for primary recovery path
- Second comprehensive data set to on-board recorder—recovered with HIAD entry vehicle
- Beacon utilizes Iridium network to relay minimal “real-time” data set (orientation/status/high priority measurements)
- RV recovery (inspection of HIAD post heat pulse)





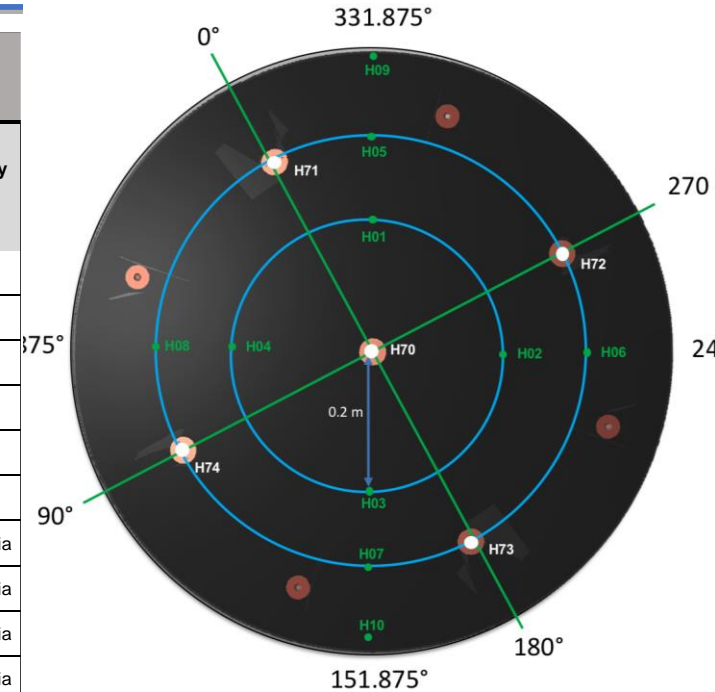
Master Measurements List

(Example Excerpt for Nose)



LOFTID Nose Measurement Requirements

Science Measurement POC	Measurement ID	Analysis Discipline	Priority	Prioritization Comments	Measurement Function Description	Sensor Type	Sensor Description	Sample Rate (SPS)	Units	EU Range	Resolution	Accuracy
Steven Tobin	LTH10-6	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 17	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Steven Tobin	LTH08-1	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 18	Thermocouple	Type R	10	Celsius (°C)	0 to 1600°C	2°C	±20°C*
Steven Tobin	LTH09-1	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 19	Thermocouple	Type R	10	Celsius (°C)	0 to 1600°C	2°C	±20°C*
Steven Tobin	LTH09-2	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 20	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 800°C	2°C	±15°C
Steven Tobin	LTH10-1	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 21	Thermocouple	Type R	10	Celsius (°C)	0 to 1600°C	2°C	±20°C*
Steven Tobin	LTH10-2	F-TPS	2	Nose F-TPS performance	F-TPS TC 22	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 800°C	2°C	±15°C
Chris Karlgaard	LPH70-U	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Aero PT 01	Pressure Transducer	Absolute	10	psi	1.5 psia	0.0004 psia	±0.005 psia
Chris Karlgaard	LPH71-U	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Aero PT 02	Pressure Transducer	Absolute	10	psi	1.5 psia	0.0004 psia	±0.005 psia
Chris Karlgaard	LPH72-U	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Aero PT 03	Pressure Transducer	Absolute	10	psi	1.5 psia	0.0004 psia	±0.005 psia
Chris Karlgaard	LPH73-U	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Aero PT 04	Pressure Transducer	Absolute	10	psi	1.5 psia	0.0004 psia	±0.005 psia
Chris Karlgaard	LPH74-U	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Aero PT 05	Pressure Transducer	Absolute	10	psi	1.5 psia	0.0004 psia	±0.005 psia
Chris Karlgaard	LTH70-B	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	2	Reference for PT to obtain resolution	Aero PT TC 01	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Chris Karlgaard	LTH71-B	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	2	Reference for PT to obtain resolution	Aero PT TC 02	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Chris Karlgaard	LTH72-B	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	2	Reference for PT to obtain resolution	Aero PT TC 03	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Chris Karlgaard	LTH73-B	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	2	Reference for PT to obtain resolution	Aero PT TC 04	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Chris Karlgaard	LTH74-B	Aerodynamics/ Flight Mechanics	2	Reference for PT to obtain resolution	Aero PT TC 05	Thermocouple	Type K	10	Celsius (°C)	-100 to 250°C	1°C	±5°C
Brian Hollis	LTH70-R	Aeroheating	2		Radiation 01	Heat Flux Gage	Radiometer	10	W/cm ²	0 - 3W/cm ²	0.05W/cm ²	±0.2W/cm ²
Brian Hollis	LTH71-G	Aeroheating	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Heat Flux 01	Heat Flux Gage	Total Heat Flux	10	W/cm ²	0 - 70W/cm ²	1W/cm ²	±3.5W/cm ²
Brian Hollis	LTH72-G	Aeroheating	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Heat Flux 02	Heat Flux Gage	Total Heat Flux	10	W/cm ²	0 - 70W/cm ²	1W/cm ²	±3.5W/cm ²
Brian Hollis	LTH73-G	Aeroheating	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Heat Flux 03	Heat Flux Gage	Total Heat Flux	10	W/cm ²	0 - 70W/cm ²	1W/cm ²	±3.5W/cm ²
Brian Hollis	LTH74-G	Aeroheating	1.5	Candidate for beacon	Heat Flux 04	Heat Flux Gage	Total Heat Flux	10	W/cm ²	0 - 70W/cm ²	1W/cm ²	±3.5W/cm ²





Real-Time Beacon Data Set



Data:

- Position, orientation, velocity
- Deceleration, angular rates
- Power status
- Pyrotechnic status
- 5 nose pressure transducers (FADS: dynamic pressure, orientation)
- 4 total heat flux gages (stagnation region heating)
- Radiometer (shock layer radiation component of heating)
- TCs (FTPS, surface & in-depth; IS, cord & wake side; centerbody)
- 3 inflation system pressure transducers (tanks and manifolds)
- 7 toroid pressures
- 3 load cell pins (strap load)

➤ Transmitted every 20 sec to Iridium, data emailed

➤ Viewed “real-time” on computer consoles

Number	Measurement	Priority	Sensor Type	Number	Measurement	Priority	Sensor Type
GPS Position & Time							
1	Time of week		GPS	48	Aeroshell TC (LTH11-2)		Thermocouple
2	Latitude		GPS	49	Aeroshell TC (LTH11-3)		Thermocouple
3	Longitude		GPS	50	Aeroshell TC (LTH17-1)		Thermocouple
4	Altitude		GPS	51	Aeroshell TC (LTH17-2)		Thermocouple
5	Number of GPS satellites tracked during fix		GPS	52	Aeroshell TC (LTH17-3)		Thermocouple
6	Index of Last executed Timeline Event		MACH	53	Aeroshell Aft TC (LTH33-7)		Thermocouple
7	Flight time (internal timer)		MACH	54	Aeroshell TC (LTH13-1)		Thermocouple
NAV Information							
8	Nav Yaw		IMU	55	Aeroshell TC (LTH14-1)		Thermocouple
9	Nav Pitch		IMU	56	Aeroshell TC (LTH14-2)		Thermocouple
10	Nav Roll		IMU	57	Aeroshell TC (LTH14-3)		Thermocouple
11	IMU Only Yaw		IMU	58	Aeroshell TC (LTH15-1)		Thermocouple
12	IMU Only Pitch		IMU	59	Heat Flux 03 (LTH73-G)		Total Heat Flux Gage
13	IMU Only Roll		IMU	60	Heat Flux 04 (LTH74-G)		Total Heat Flux Gage
14	Velocity, X-Axis		IMU	61	Radiometer (LTH70-R)		Radiometer
15	Velocity, Y-Axis		IMU	62	Reference TC for HFG 03 (LTH73-X)		Thermocouple
16	Velocity, Z-Axis		IMU	63	Reference TC for HFG 04 (LTH74-X)		Thermocouple
17	Position X-Axis		IMU	64	Reference TC for Radiometer (LTH70-Y)		Thermocouple
18	Position Y-Axis		IMU	65	Backface TC for HFG 01 (LTH70-6)		Thermocouple
19	Position Z-Axis		IMU	66	Loadcell Pin Fwd (TBD)		Loadcell
20	Angular Rotational Rate, X-Axis		IMU	67	Loadcell Pin Aft (TBD)		Loadcell
21	Angular Rotational Rate, Y-Axis		IMU	68	Loadcell Pin Radial (TBD)		Loadcell
22	Angular Rotational Rate, Z-Axis		IMU	69	Aero PT 04 (LPH73-U)		Pressure Transducer
23	Acceleration, X-Axis, IMU rate in m/s^2		IMU	70	Aero PT 05 (LPH74-U)		Pressure Transducer
24	Acceleration, Y-Axis, IMU rate in m/s^2		IMU	71	Aero PT TC 04 (LTH73-B)		Thermocouple
25	Acceleration, Z-Axis, IMU rate in m/s^2		IMU	72	Aero PT TC 05 (LTH74-B)		Thermocouple
Power Status							
26	Avionics Power Status		MACH	73	Torus PT 1 (LPP20-U)		Pressure Transducer
27	MACH PTM Card 0 Bus A Voltage (LEM50-V)		MACH	74	Torus PT 2 (LPP21-U)		Pressure Transducer
28	Pyro Battery Voltage (LEM74-V)		MACH	75	Torus PT 3 (LPP22-U)		Pressure Transducer
29	EDM Battery Voltage (?)		MACH	76	Torus PT 4 (LPP23-U)		Pressure Transducer
Pyrotechnic Status							
30	Bag Cutter Count		MACH	77	Torus PT 5 (LPP24-U)		Pressure Transducer
31	EDR Eject		MACH	78	Torus PT 6 (LPP25-U)		Pressure Transducer
32	Parachute Count		MACH	79	Torus PT 7 (LPP26-U)		Pressure Transducer
33	Inflation Vent		MACH	80	Aeroshell Aft TC (LTH34-7)		Thermocouple
Science Measurements							
34	Aero PT 01 (LPH70-U)		Pressure Transducer	81	Aeroshell Aft TC (LTH39-7)		Thermocouple
35	Aero PT 02 (LPH71-U)		Pressure Transducer	82	Aeroshell Aft TC (LTH40-7)		Thermocouple
36	Aero PT TC 01 (LTH70-B)		Thermocouple	83	Aeroshell Fwd Cord TC (LTH62-5)		Thermocouple
37	Aero PT TC 02 (LTH71-B)		Thermocouple	84	Aeroshell Fwd Cord TC (LTH61-5)		Thermocouple
38	Heat Flux 01 (LTH71-G)		Total Heat Flux Gage	85	Aeroshell Aft Cord TC (LTH65-5)		Thermocouple
39	Heat Flux 02 (LTH72-G)		Total Heat Flux Gage	86	Nose TC (LTH01-1)		Thermocouple
40	Heat Flux Gage Surface TC 01 (LTH71-X)		Thermocouple	87	Nose TC (LTH01-2)		Thermocouple
41	Heat Flux Gage Surface TC 02 (LTH72-X)		Thermocouple	88	Nose TC (LTH01-3)		Thermocouple
42	Tank Pressure (LPP30-U)		Pressure Transducer	89	Nose TC (LTH03-1)		Thermocouple
43	Manifold 1 Pressure (LPP33-U)		Pressure Transducer	90	Nose TC (LTH03-2)		Thermocouple
44	Manifold 2 Pressure (LPP34-U)		Pressure Transducer	91	Nose TC (LTH03-3)		Thermocouple
45	Nose TC (LTH09-1)		Thermocouple	92	Mid Segment TC (LTM01-6)		Thermocouple
46	Nose TC (LTH09-2)		Thermocouple	93	Aeroshell TC (LTH12-1)		Thermocouple
47	Aeroshell TC (LTH11-1)		Thermocouple	94	Aft Segment TC (LTA01-6)		Thermocouple
				95	Aft Segment TC (LTA02-6)		Thermocouple
				96	Aero PT 03 (LPH72-U)		Pressure Transducer
				97	Aero PT TC 03 (LPH72-B)		Thermocouple
				98	Aeroshell TC (LTH12-2)		Thermocouple
				99	Aeroshell TC (LTH12-3)		Thermocouple

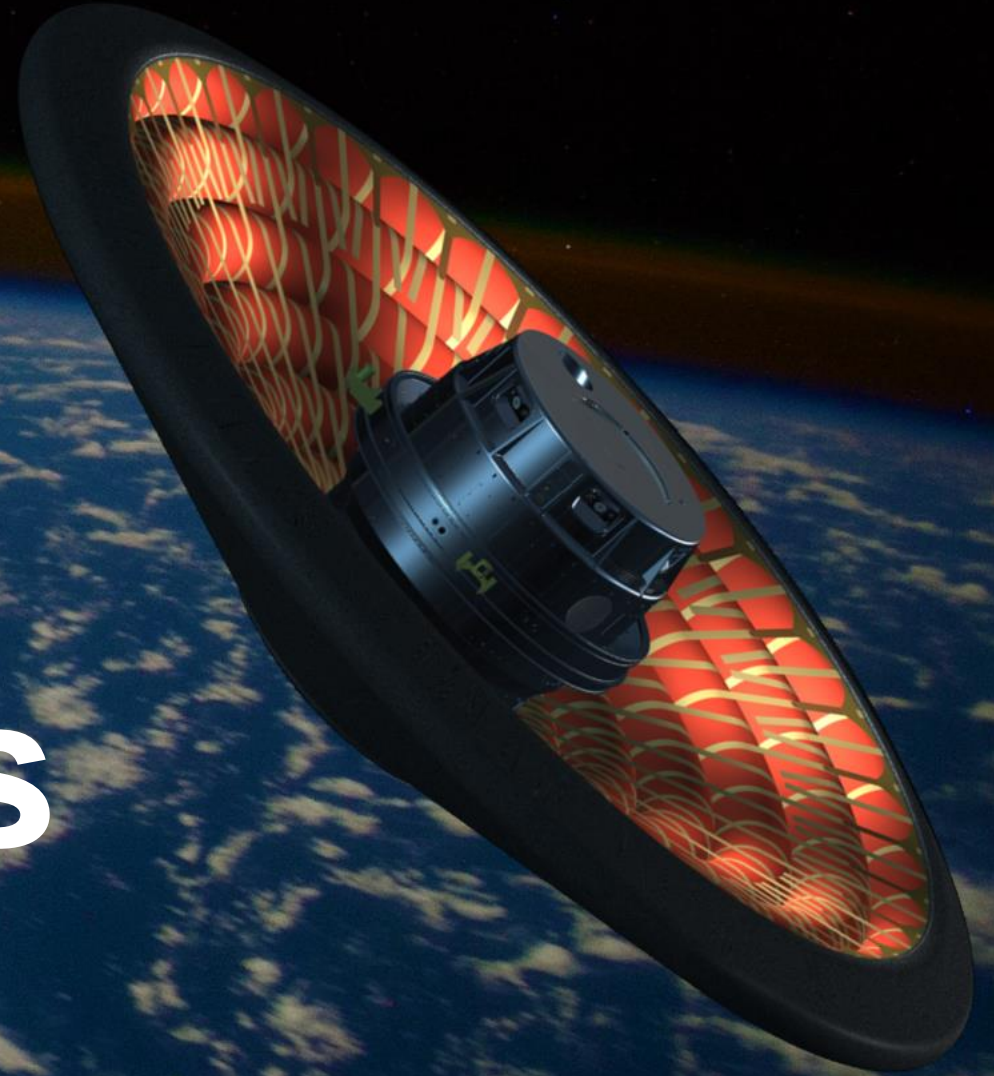


Low-Earth Orbit Flight Test
of an Inflatable Decelerator

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



LOFTID Status



Liner Fabrication



Braid Layout



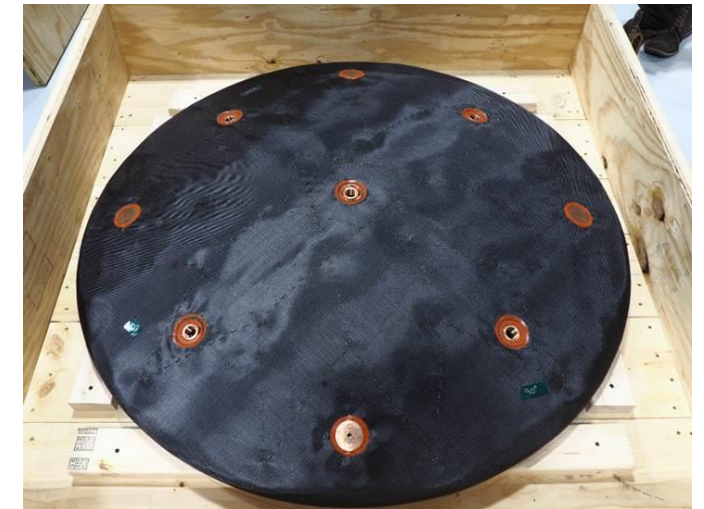
Torus Coating



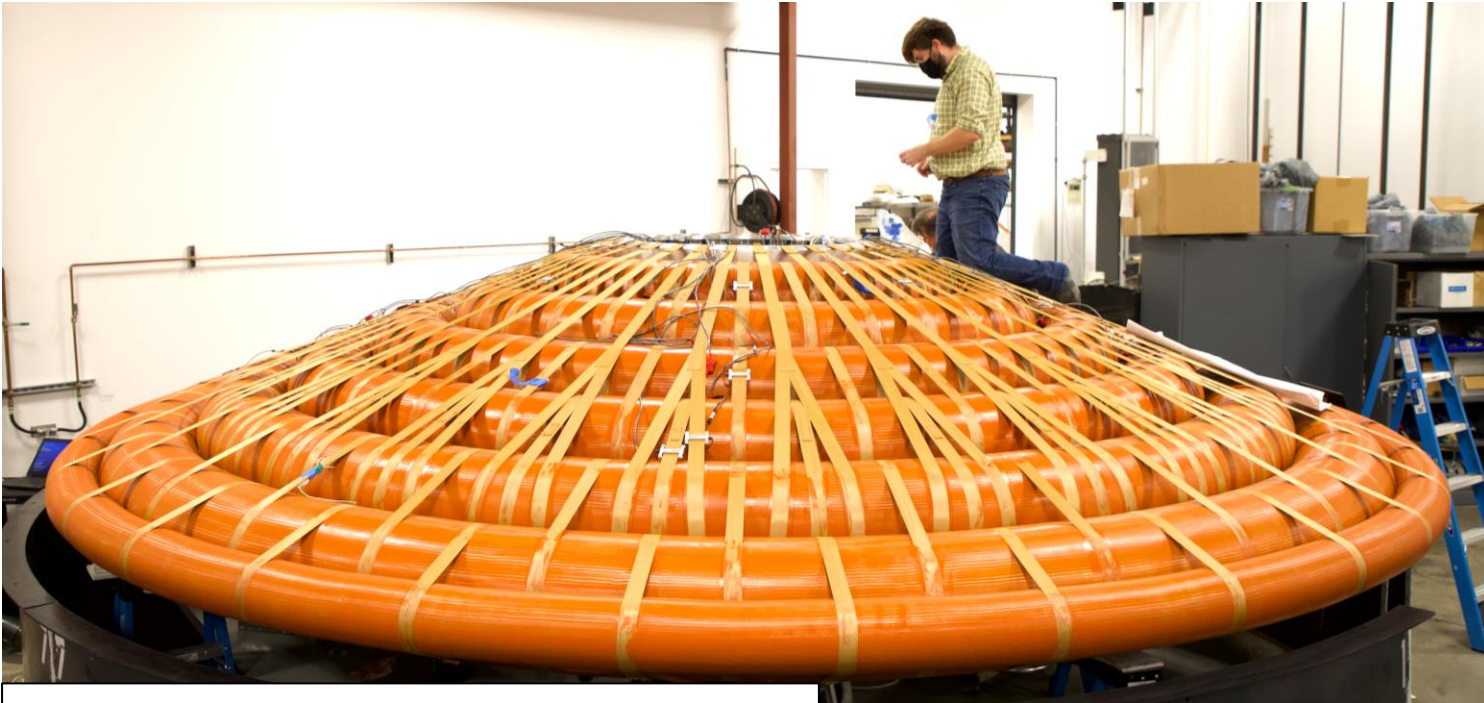
Stacking and Strapping



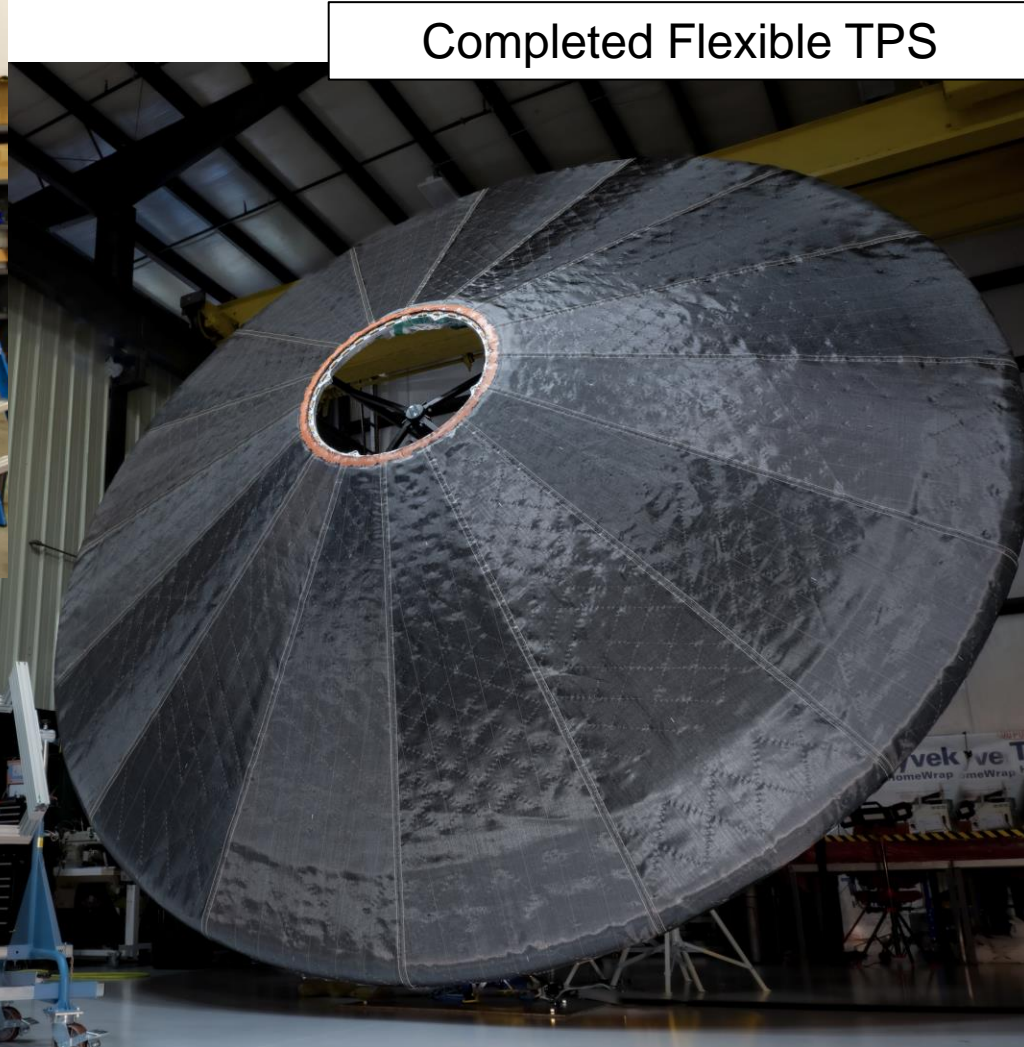
FTPS Fabrication



Rigid Nose and FTPS



Completed Inflatable Structure



Completed Flexible TPS



Completed Nose

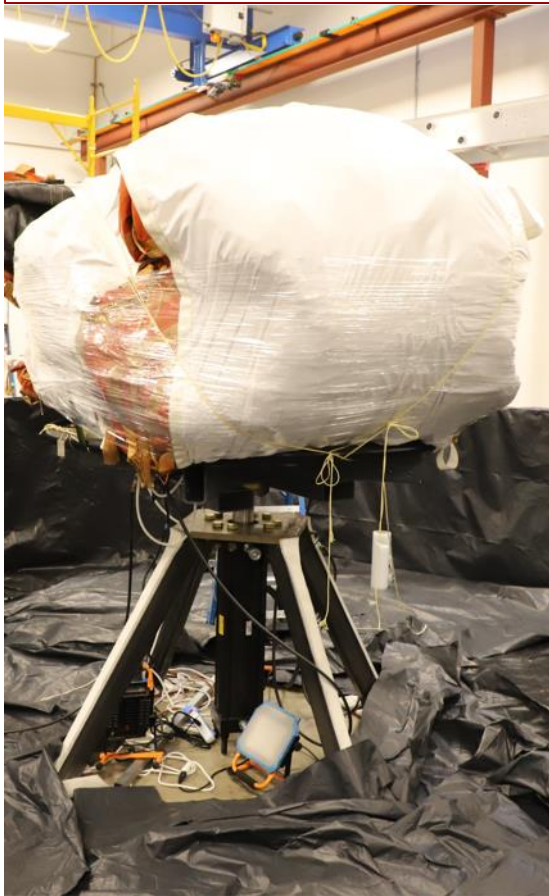


Static Load Test Video



Pack and Deployment Testing

Rough Pack



Organize Soft Goods



Suspension Fixture



Initial Pack



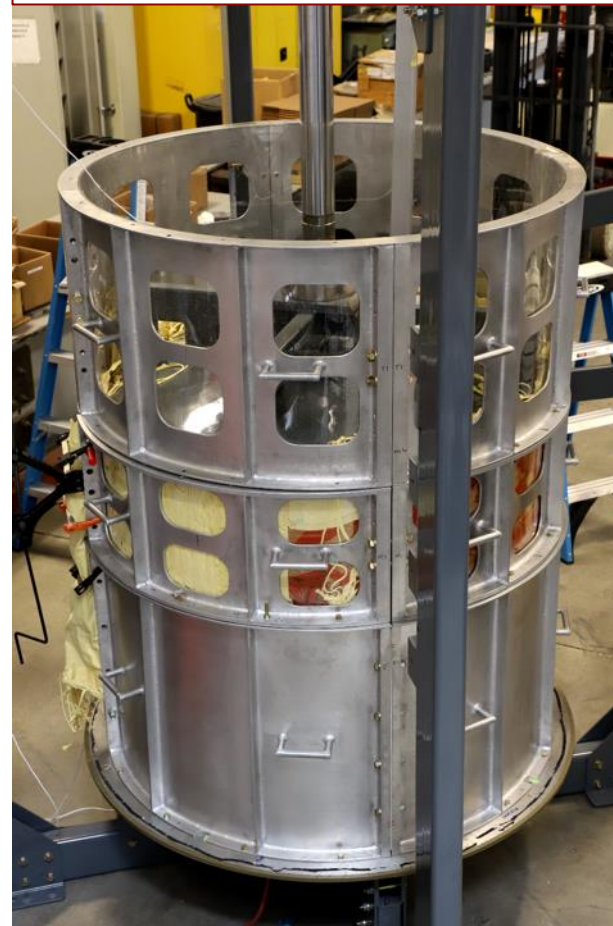
Turn Over



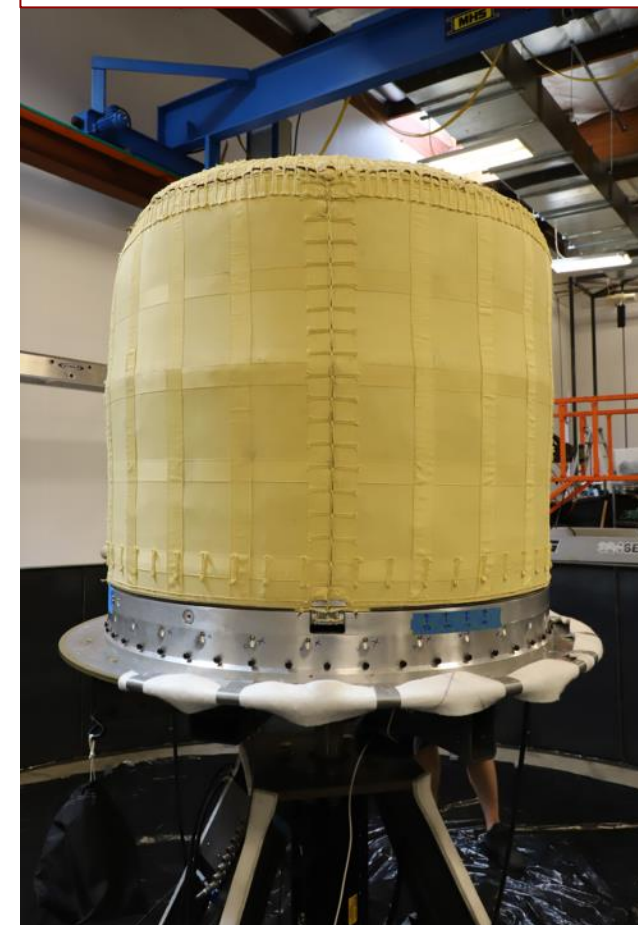
Packing Fixture



Ram Packed



Final Pack



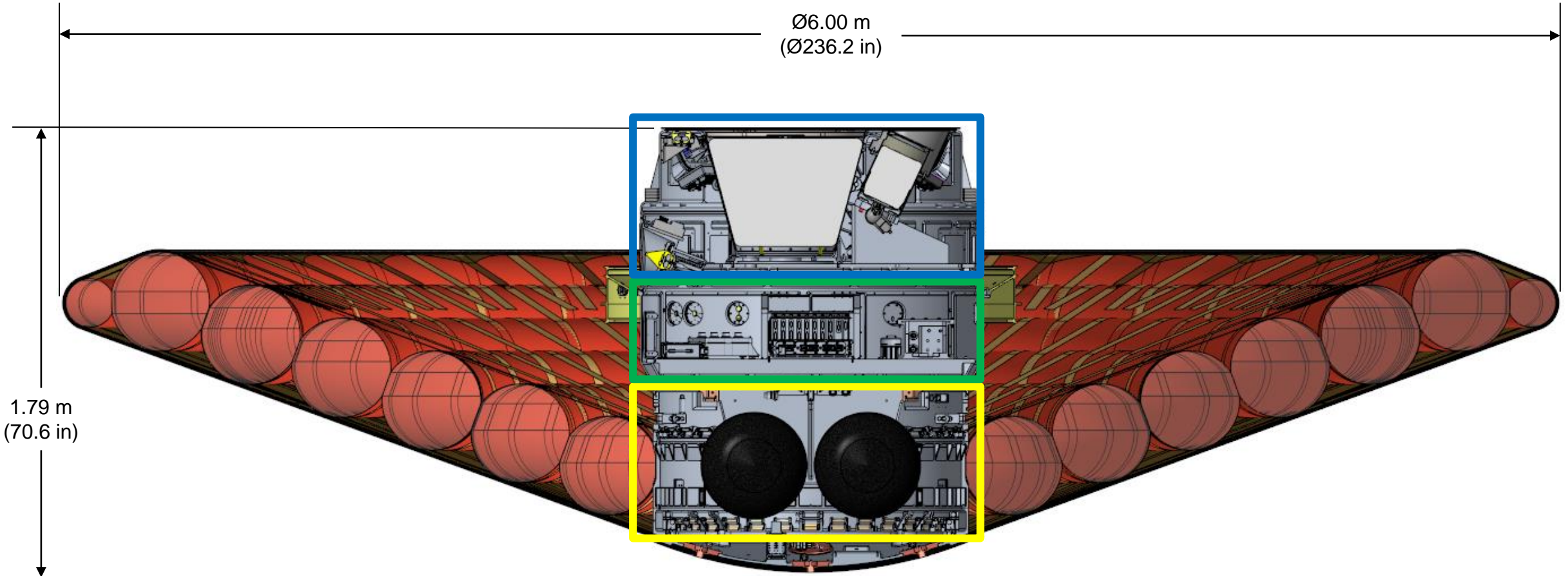


Time Lapse Deployment Video





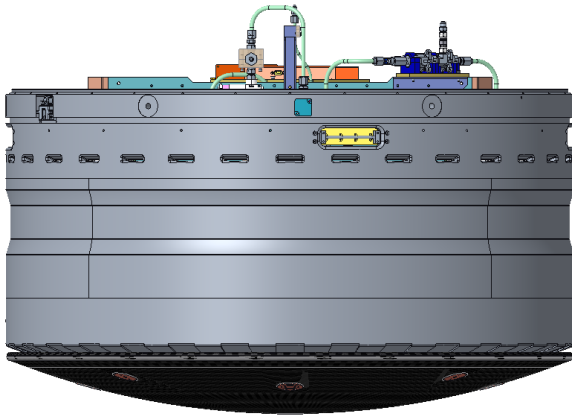
Rigid Structures



Rigid Structures

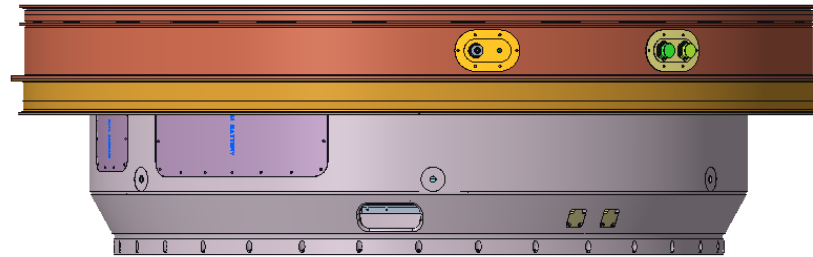
Forward Interface

- Forward Segment Radax Joint
- Inflation System and Mid-Segment Pass-Thru
- Aeroshell interface



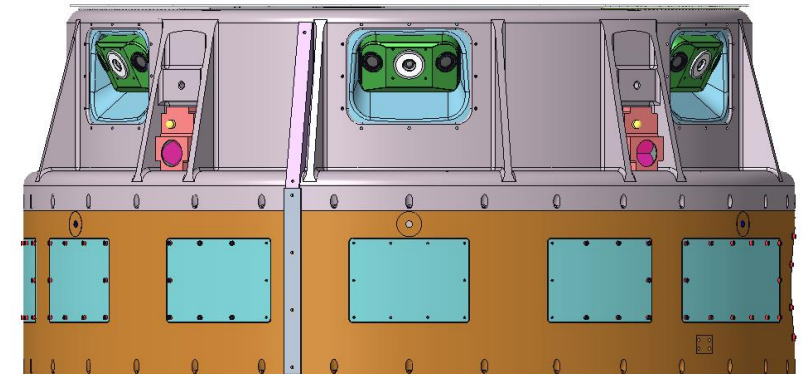
Mid Interface

- Forward Segment Radax Joint
- Aft Segment Radax Joint
- Electrical pass throughs
- RV/LV interface



Aft Interface

- Aft Segment Radax Joint
- Parachute System



Status

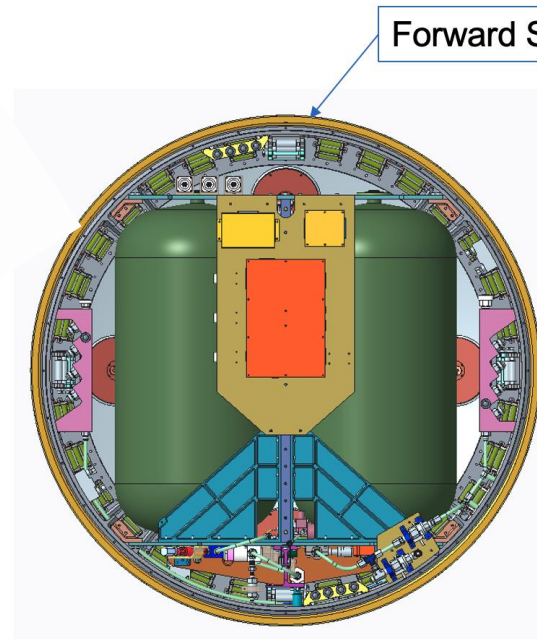
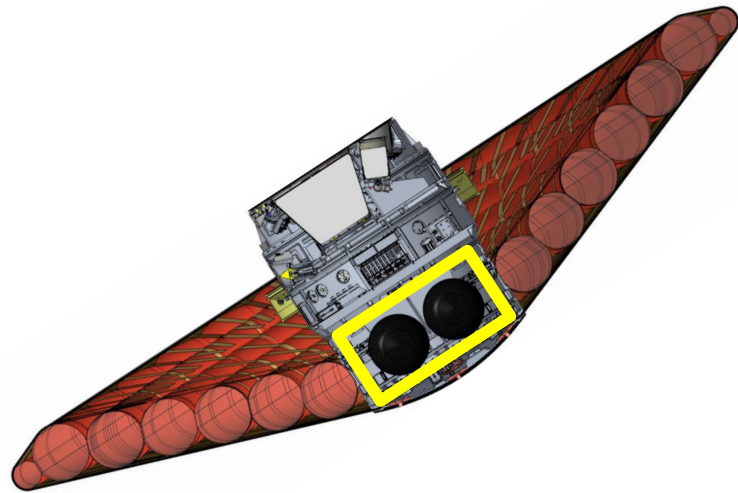
- Primary Structure assembled
- Secondary structures almost finished

Status

- Primary Structure fabricated
- Majority of Secondary structures fabricated with a few components starting final review

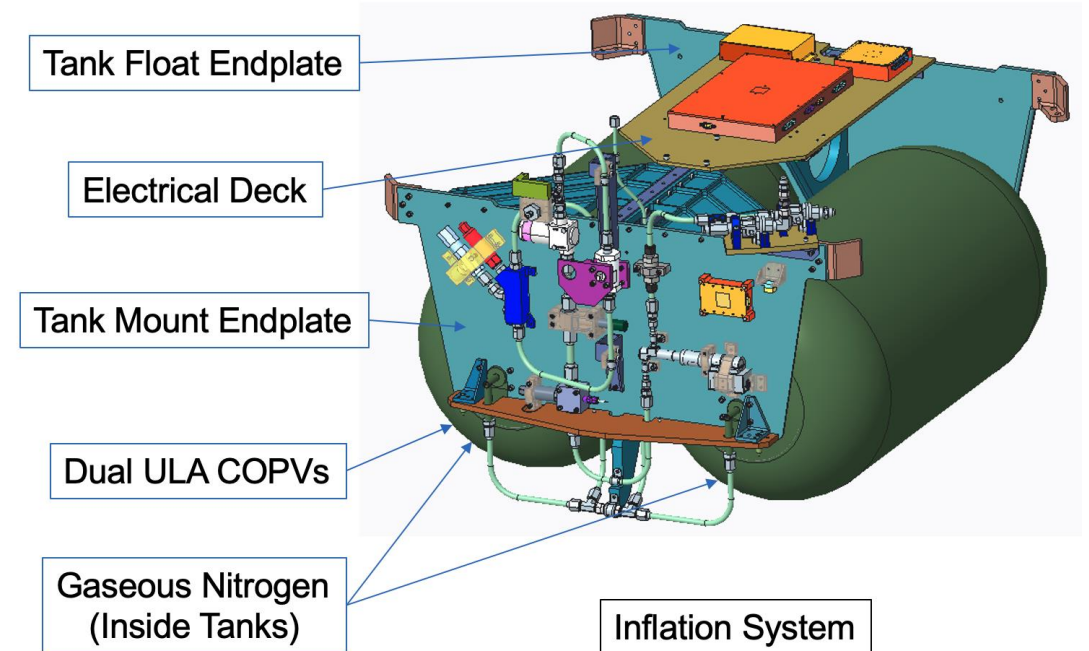
Status

- Primary Structure in fabrication
- Some secondary structures fabricated
- Finishing secondary structure designs



Forward Segment Top View

Forward Segment Aft Ring



Tank Float Endplate

Electrical Deck

Tank Mount Endplate

Dual ULA COPVs

Gaseous Nitrogen
(Inside Tanks)

Inflation System

Status:

- The Inflation System pneumatic components were assembled and leak tested at Langley Research Center.
- The system underwent flow characterization testing, during which GN2 flowed through the system into both vacuum and sea-level-static environments to characterize flow over the full spectrum of the flight mission.
- Up next, the Inflation System will complete its assembly of instrumentation, electronics, and wiring harness to prepare it for inflation testing with a mock-HIAD and vibration testing at Goddard Space Flight Center.

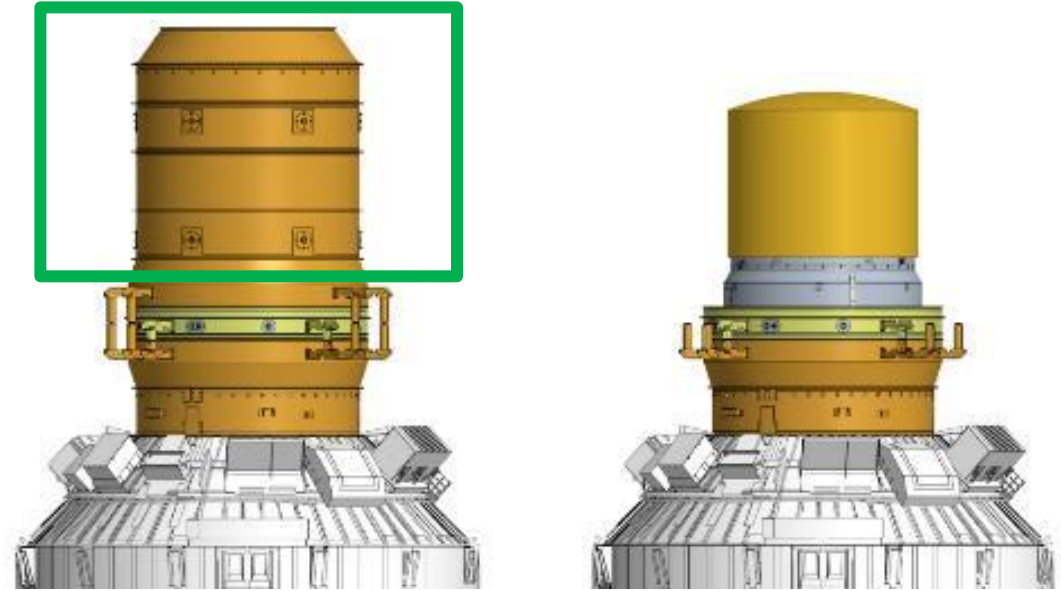
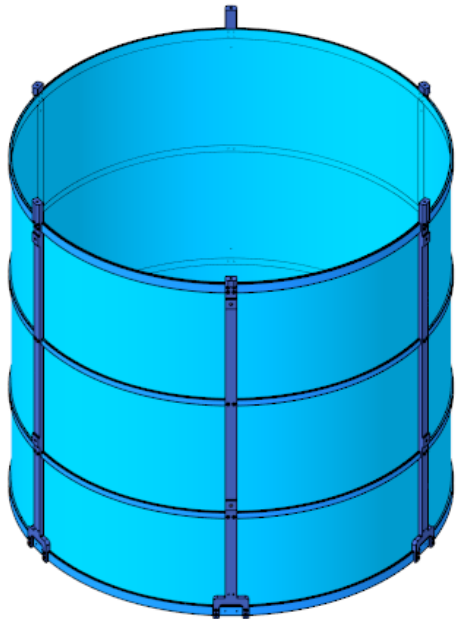


Payload Adapter Separation System



➤ Long Stroke Separation System

- Provided by LaRC
- Inner Shroud
 - Mounts inside of PLA
 - Provides smooth surface for separation
- Halo
 - Hosts 6 long-stroke constant force springs
 - Reacts separation springs against RV

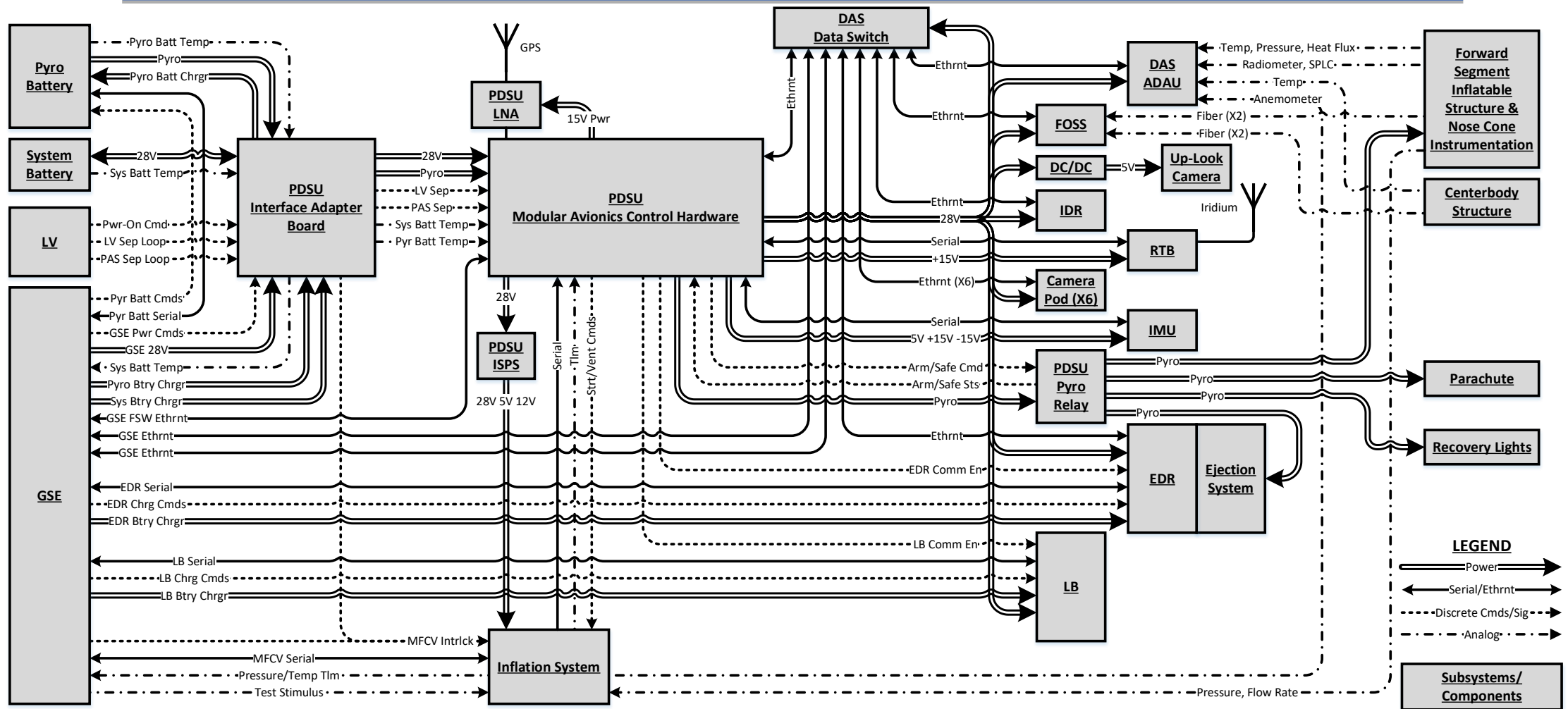


Status:

- LSSS EDU fabrication complete
- Halo load testing complete
- PASS CF Spring characterization in process
- Assembly planned for week of 7/19/21
- EDU qualification testing planned to begin week of 7/26/21



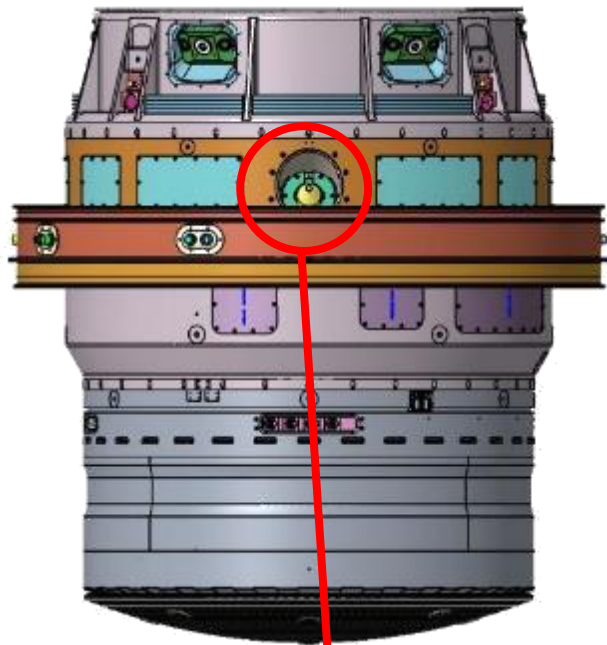
Avionics Introduction Interaction Diagram



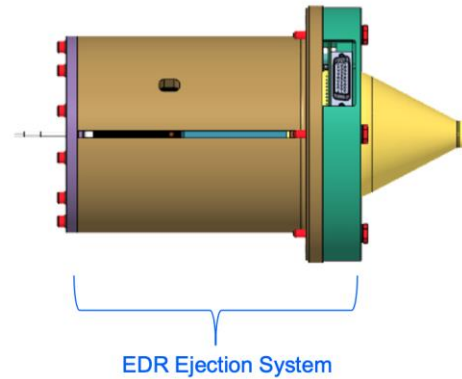
STATUS:

- A ton going on right now: thermal testing, cable design and fab, spread system testing, software testing, EGSE test rack builds, and on and on..
- Uncontrolled Entry System – and still a huge avionics suite!

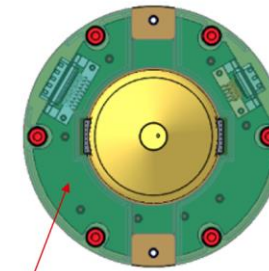
LOFTID Re-entry Vehicle
Aeroshell Removed



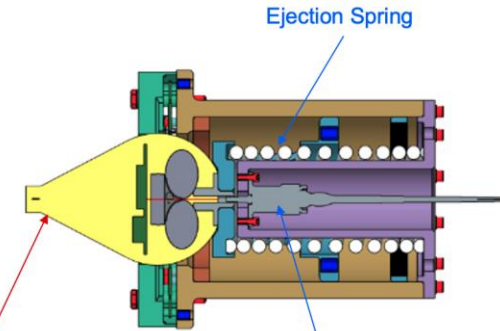
EDR



EDR Ejection System



EDMIB

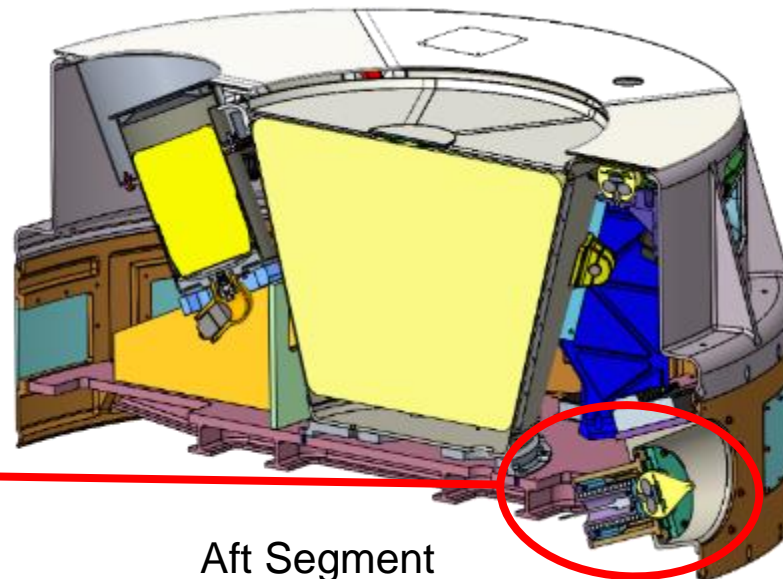


EDM

Ejection Spring

Tension-Release Mechanism

■ LaRC
■ DSS



Aft Segment

Status

- EDU completed all functional and environmental testing which included:
 - Functional and Performance Testing
 - Random Vibration Testing
 - Thermal Vacuum Testing
 - High Temperature Functional/Performance Test
- Mechanism is now fully qualified for flight
- Flight unit build is currently in fabrication

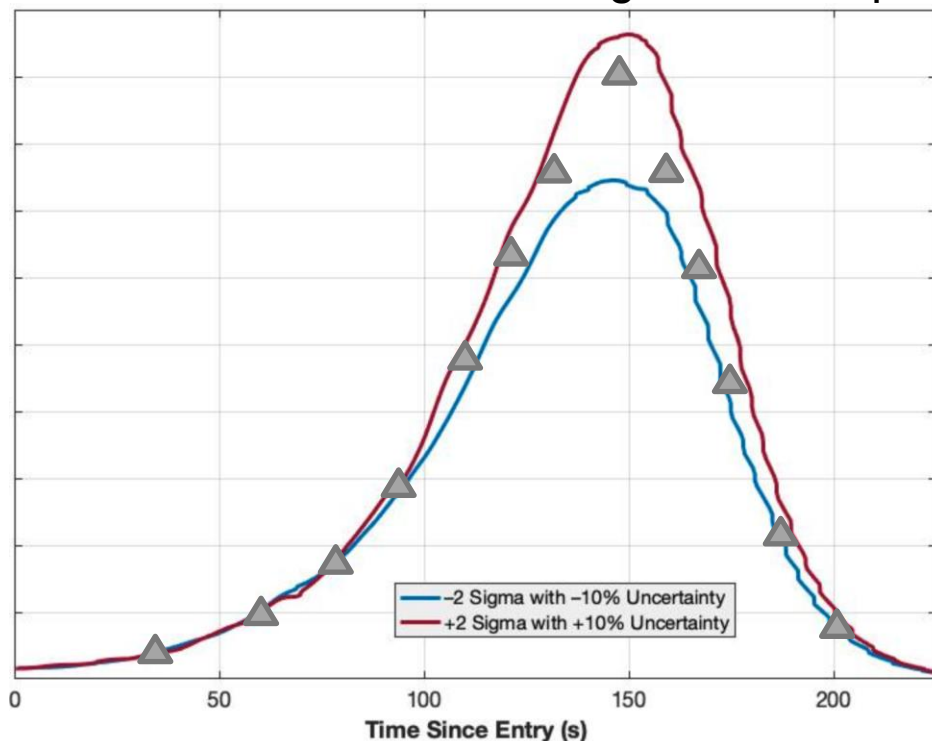


Day of Flight

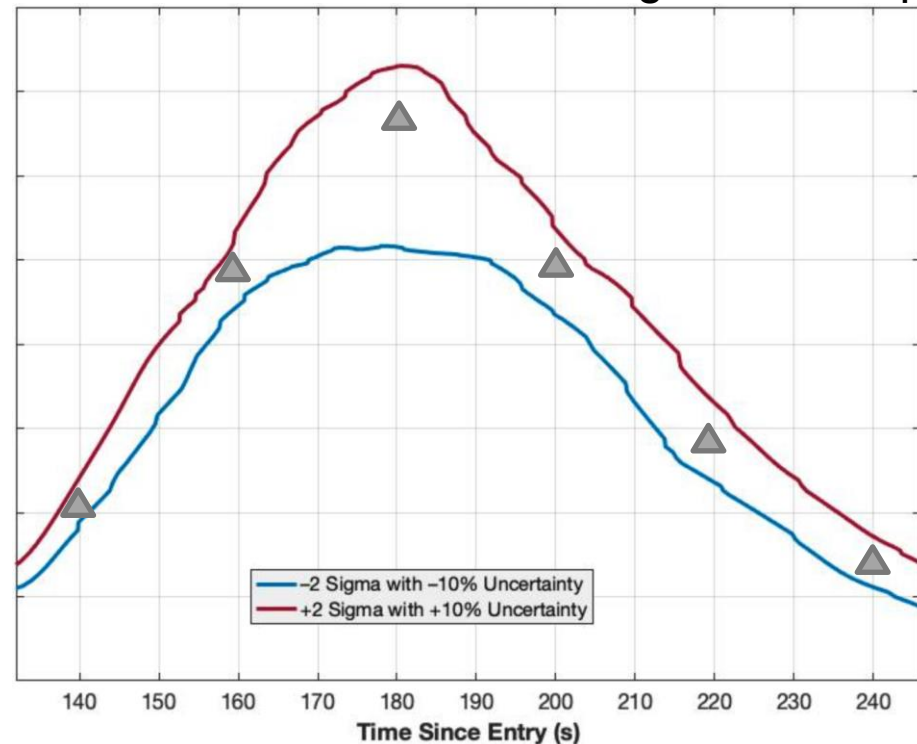


- Unfortunately, we won't get the real-time data we got for IRVE-3
 - Don't have the ground station coverage, FTPS not RF transparent, more data overall
- We will have real-time plotting of RTB data
 - Over half of our primary measurements at a much-reduced sample rate
- Recovery of EDR and/or RV to get full dataset and video

Heat Flux Real-Time Plotting Tool Example



Surface Pressure Real-Time Plotting Tool Example





Forward Work

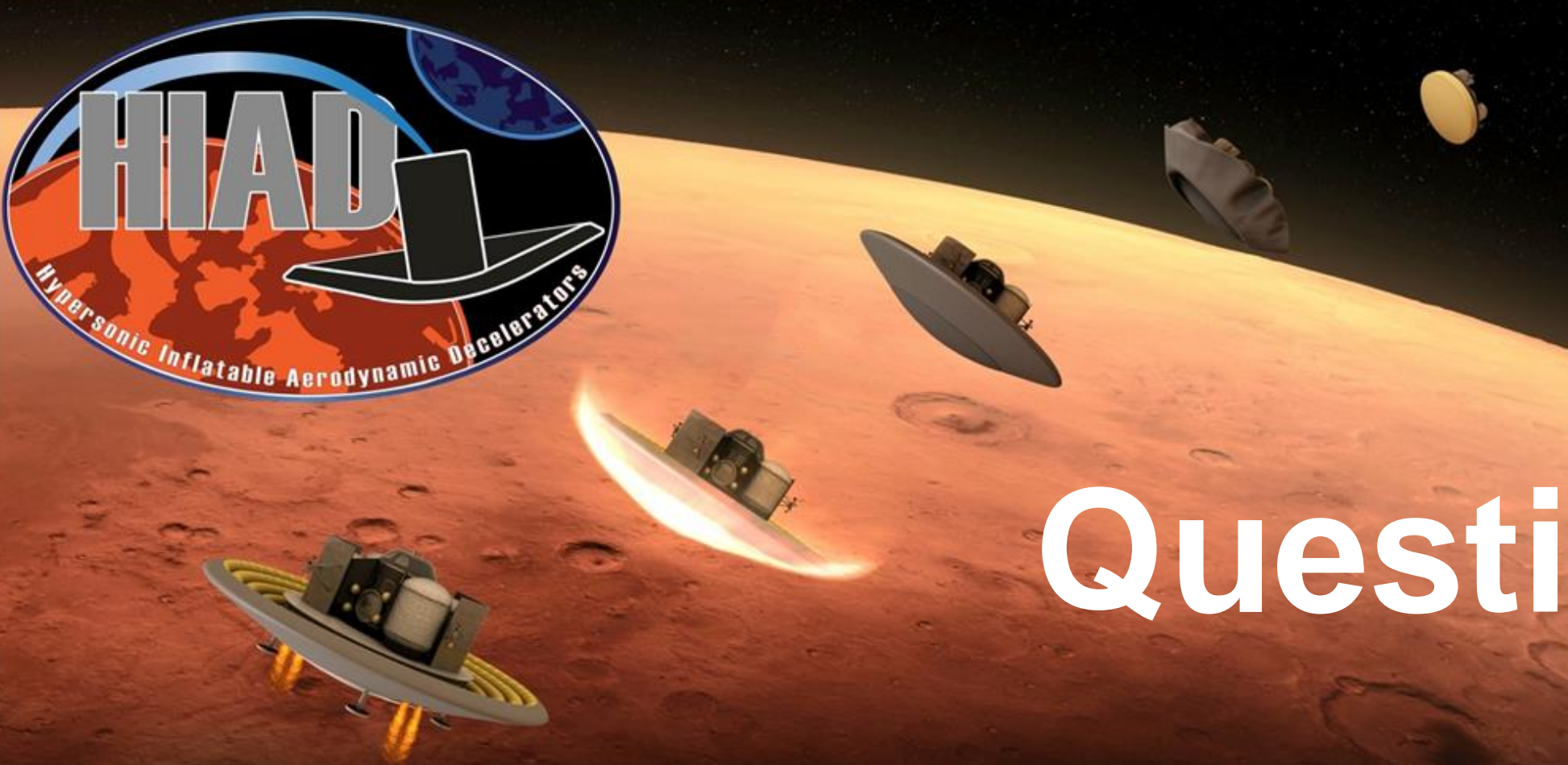


- **Component Level Thermal Testing, Now–Aug 2021**
- **Segment Assembly, Aug-Sept 2021**
- **Integrated Segment Vibration Testing, Oct-Nov 2021**
- **Reentry Vehicle Assembly, Nov 2021**
- **EMI/EMC Testing, Dec 2021**
- **Complete System Test (CST) in LaRC 60ft Vacuum Sphere, Feb 2022**
- **Final Aeroshell Pack, April 2022**
- **Full Reentry Vehicle Acceptance Vibe at GSFC, May 2022**
- **Delivery to Launch Facility, Jun 2022**
- **Launch, Sept 2022**



LOFTID Video





Questions?

