

# **Development of a Parabolic Reflector Radiator (PRR) for the LuSEE-Night Mission**

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Approved for Unlimited Release

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# Outline

- **Overview** ... *project, mission, teams, responsibilities*
- **Background** ... *parabolic reflector radiator (PRR) details*
- **History** ... *PRRs that have flown in the past*
- **Requirements** ... *agreed to by JPL and LuSEE-Night*
- **Trades** ... *in support of PRR design, build, and test*
- **Design** ... *CAD models of flight and subscale PRRs*
- **Development** ... *developmental activities prior to design/build/test*
- **Analysis** ... *thermal/structural analyses of PRR in test/flight*
- **Fabrication** ... *how full-size and subscale PRRs were made*
- **Testing** ... *subscale PRR RV/TVAC, flight reflector acceptance*
- **Summary** ... *overall results summary and mission impact*
- **Acknowledgments** ... *project organization chart of key contributors*

# Overview

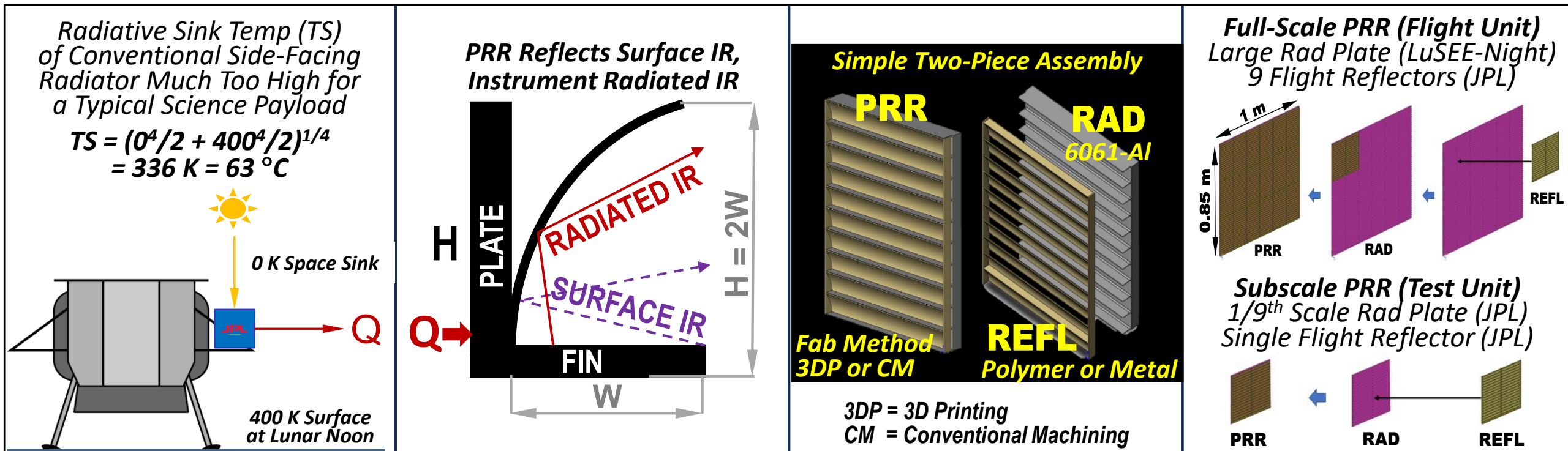
## *Project Start to Flight Hardware Delivery in Just 10 Months (Aug 2023 → June 2024)*

- **PROJECT:** PALETTE PRR for LuSEE-Night is a FY23-24 NASA GCD follow-on project to FY20-23 NASA GCD PALETTE project, which developed new thermal tools for extreme environments. One of those tools is an ***affordable, two-piece (radiator + reflector) parabolic reflector radiator (PRR)***.
- **MISSION:** In 2026, a CLPS lander will carry **LuSEE-Night** to a 20° S lunar farside site. From that RF-quiet location, it will perform radio astronomy (21 cm cosmology) for 24 lunar day/night cycles (2 Earth years). ***A daytime surface temp of 385 K and a side-facing radiator view necessitate a PRR.***
- **TEAMS:** University of California, Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory (SSL), Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). LuSEE-Night mission jointly funded by NASA SMD and DOE Office of Science. ***PALETTE PRR for LuSEE-Night project funded by NASA STMD/GCD.***
- **ROLES:** UCB/SSL and BNL to produce the LuSEE-Night instrument, which includes the flight PRR radiator plate. JPL to produce ***9 flight PRR reflectors*** that mate with PRR radiator plate to form the flight PRR. JPL also responsible for ***design/build/test of a (1/9<sup>th</sup> full-size) subscale PRR.***



# Background

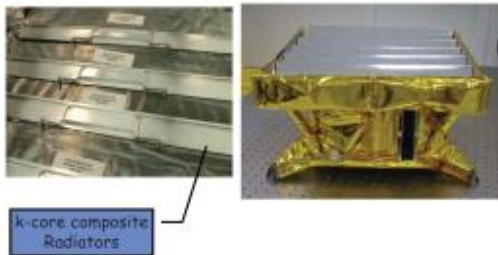
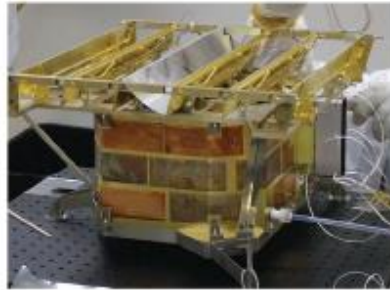
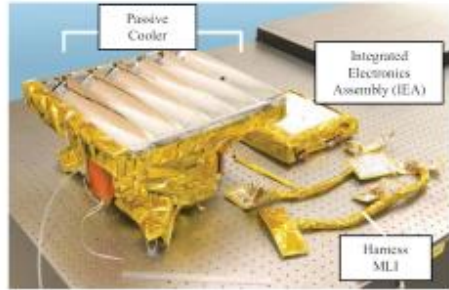
For a side-facing radiator on a hot lunar surface, the **parabolic reflector radiator (PRR)** provides a low sink temperature by reflecting away a large fraction of lunar surface IR. An affordable PRR design was developed on PALETTE that is being adapted for the PALETTE PRR for LuSEE-Night Project.



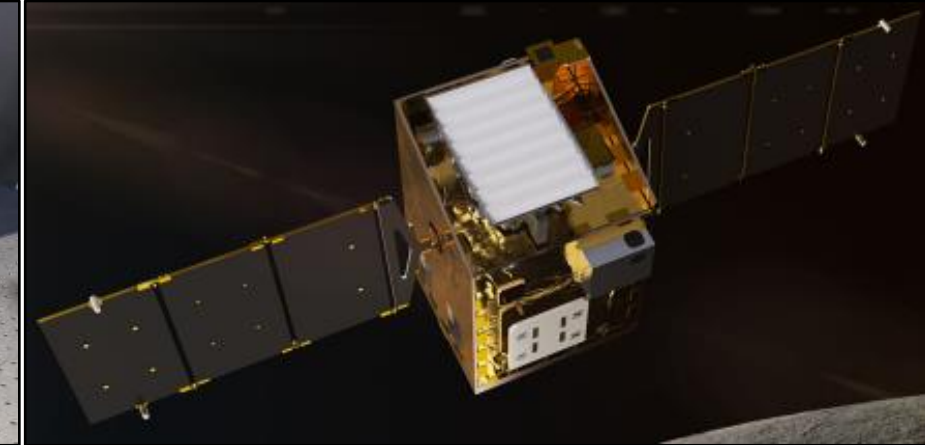
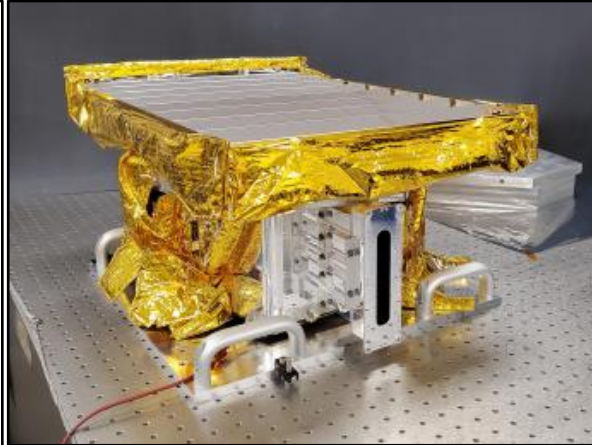
# History

Outline

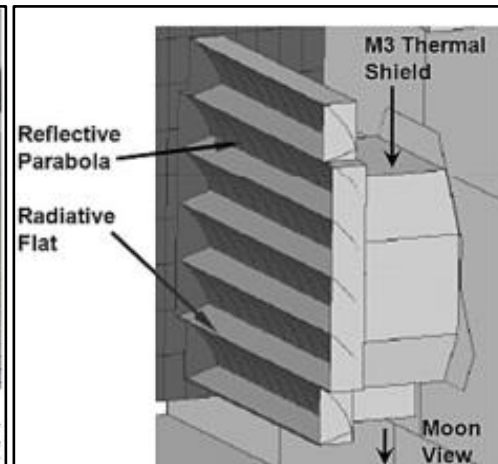
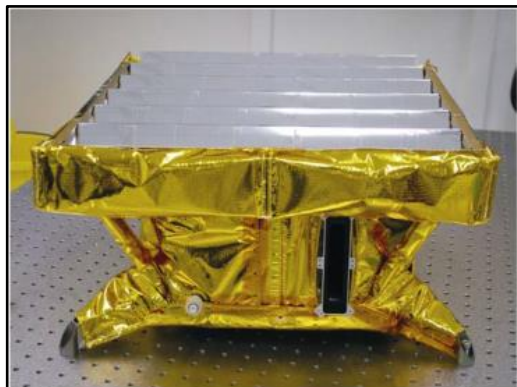
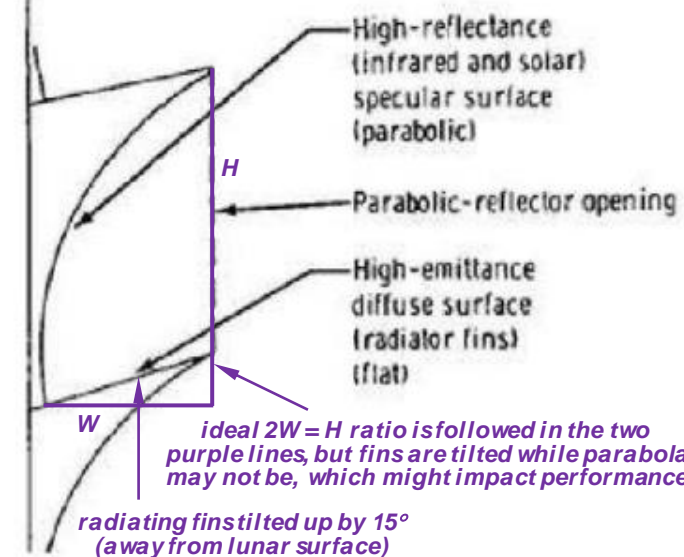
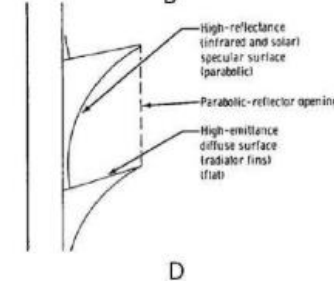
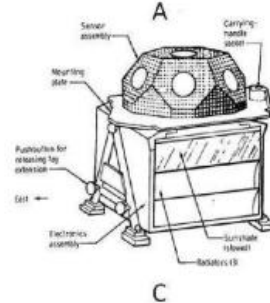
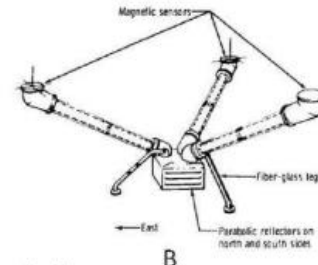
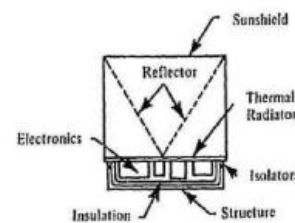
**Chandrayan-1 M3 Instrument** (used parabolic reflector radiator or PRR)



**Lunar Trailblazer HVM3 Instrument to Launch in 2024** (extends M3 range to 3600 nm; seems to be same PRR design)



**ALSEP Experiments on Apollo Used PRRs** (B-Lunar Surface Magnetometer and C-Solar Wind Spectrometer used D)



**Figure 3.** The M<sup>3</sup> Optical Bench Assembly (spectrometer). The radiator is on top with the entrance aperture in front. This side faces the Moon. Dimensions of the OBA are approximately 420 W × 350 D × 220 H (mm).

# Requirements

REQUIREMENT	VERIFICATION
1. <b>Lunar Latitude 20° S Farside</b> (PRR tilted back 12° to avoid IR from N-to-S 10° upslope)	A
2. <b>GEVS Protoflight</b> (14.1 grms, Subscale PRR vibe analytically-linked to Flight PRR)	A, T*
3. <b>PRR Sink Temperature <math>\leq 231</math> K</b> (main performance goal***, with <b>these</b> heat leaks)	A, T*
4. <b>Solar Flux 1400 W/m<sup>2</sup></b> (12° below perpendicular, 1 rev/hour transit****)	A
5. <b>Lunar Surface Temperature 385 K</b> at Lunar Noon (90 K at night, regolith emissivity 0.95)	A, T*
6. <b>Reflectors Electrically Grounded</b> to Al Radiator Plate ( $R \leq 1 \text{ k}\Omega$ )	T
7. <b>Meet LuSEE-Night (LN) Mechanical ICD</b> (to be derived from jointly-developed drawings)	A, T**
8. <b>Ensure that Aluminized Kapton Tape (AKT) Adheres</b> to Aluminum 6061 Reflectors	T*****
9. <b>Subscale PRR Vibe, TVAC Perf. Tests</b> (Subscale PRR vibe analytically-linked to Flight PRR)	T*
10. <b>Flight Reflector Acceptance Tests</b> (simplified due to reflector polishing)	T

\* subscale unit only

\*\* flight reflectors only

\*\*\* target only, not requirement

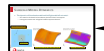
\*\*\*\* full trajectory + lunar orbital analysis not in plan

\*\*\*\*\* requirement eliminated due to polishing success

## **JPL Subscale PRR Vibe Test to Follow Variant of Quartus Proposal B**

Clarification at MRR of “analytically-linked to Flight PRR” made by D. Goggin that Subscale PRR vibe level should be adjusted (most likely increased) from the GEVS 14.1 grms level so that the Subscale PRR Reflector vibe environment matches that of the Flight PRR Reflectors.

**JPL Structural SME Evaluation:** above goal is **NOT ACHIEVABLE** by simply adjusting the GEVS 14.1 grms profile due to significant mounting constraint differences. For vibe test to have flight linkage, a larger radiator plate will need to be fabricated and tested. See **Proposal B**.





# Trades

1. Applicability of the **Subscale PRR RV test** to the Flight PRR structural environment
2. Applicability of the **Subscale PRR TVAC test** to the Flight PRR thermal environment

## Subscale PRR RV Test Trade Study

**Key Question:** Given that Case 1 is not acceptable and the Quartus recommendation is Case 3 (see Proposal B in this slide package), is Case 2 an acceptable alternative to Case 3, which would then allow direct TVAC testing of the Subscale PRR?

**Case 1:** PRR Reflector bolted to Subscale Radiator Plate bolted to Adapter Plate

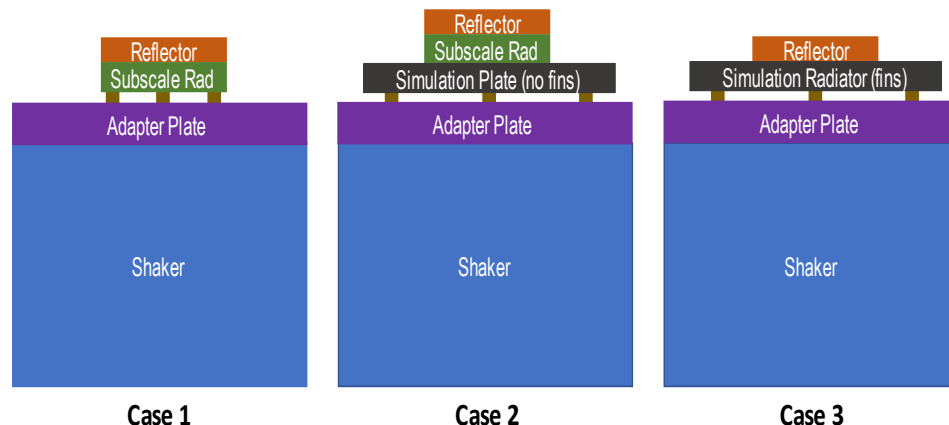
**Case 2:** PRR Reflector bolted to Subscale Radiator bolted to Simulation Plate bolted to Adapter Plate

**Case 3:** PRR Reflector bolted to Simulation Plate bolted to Adapter Plate

*not acceptable* (see embedded object above)

*acceptable* (see embedded object below)

*acceptable* (see embedded object below)



■ = Force Limiting Washers

Quartus Modeling Results  
Indicate Case 2 is Acceptable

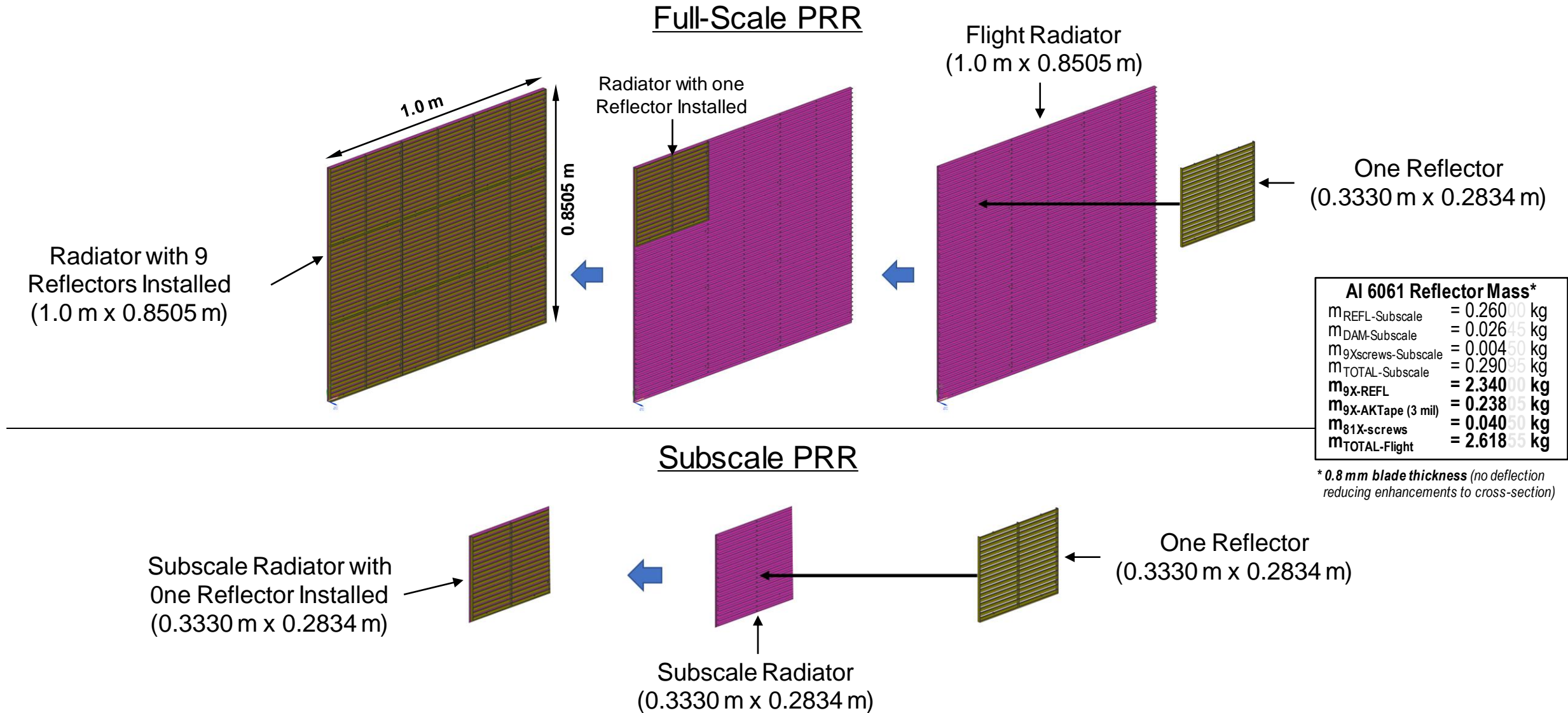
## Subscale PRR TVAC Test Trade Study

**Key Question:** What IR plate temperature should be utilized during TVAC testing to properly simulate the lunar environment?



# Design

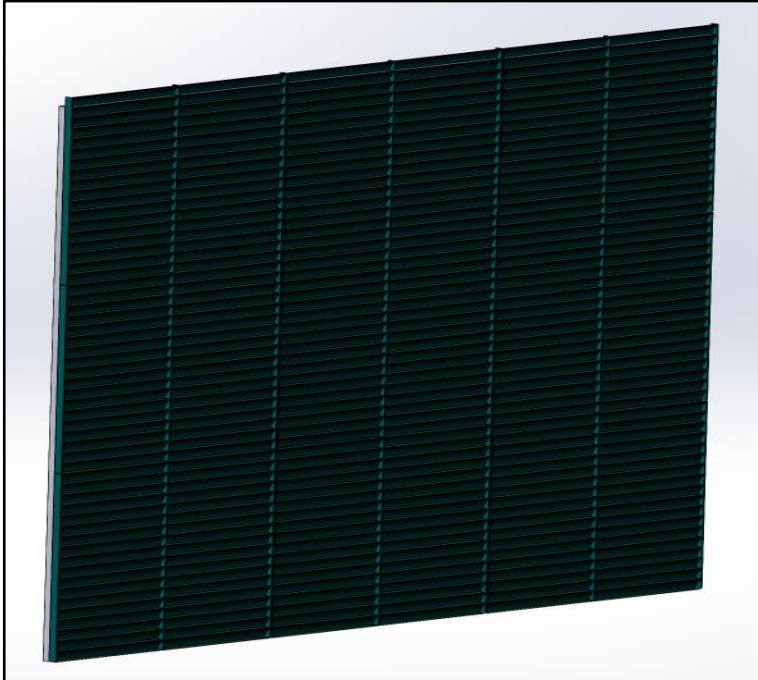
Outline



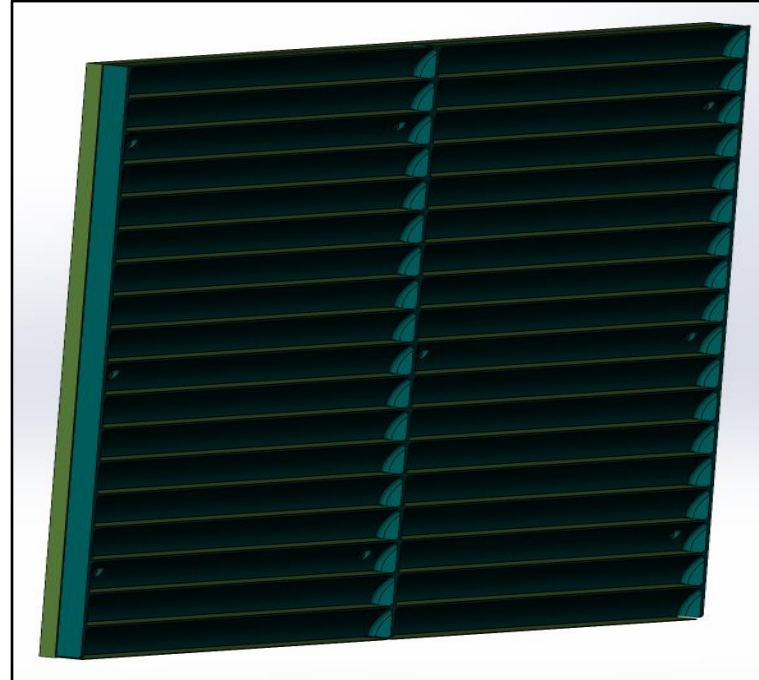


# Design (cont'd)

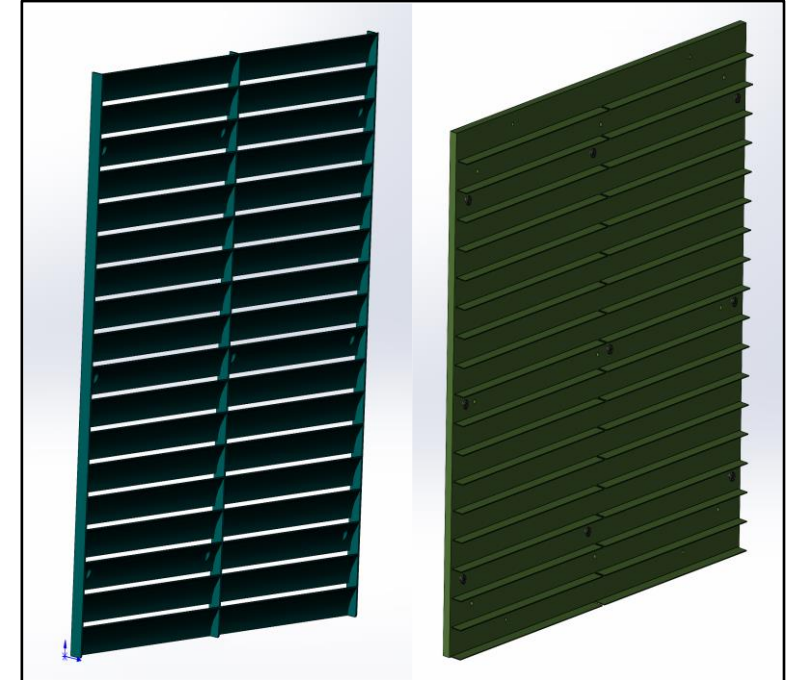
**Full-Scale PRR**



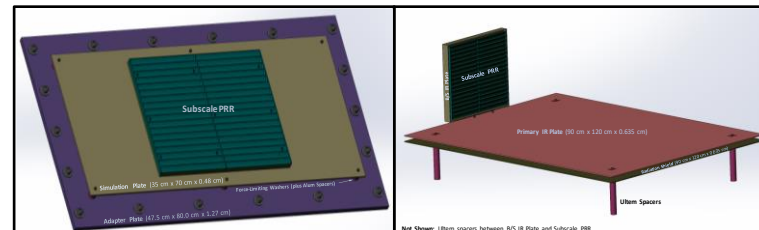
**Subscale PRR**



**PRR Reflector, Subscale Radiator**



**Subscale PRR RV/TVAC Test Units**



# Development

Development activities during this evolving flight project included the following areas of investigation: **(1) Reflector Material; (2) Reflector Coating; (3) Manufacturing Method; (4) Electrical Grounding.** The results of those developmental activities (test and/or analysis) are summarized in the table below.

Reflector Material	Reflector Coating	Manufacturing Method	Electrical Grounding	Main Advantage(s)	Main Drawback(s)	Design Decision
Ultem 1010	AKT	3DP	Modified AKT	PALETTE Heritage	High 3DP FOS, High CTE	Not Selected
Ultem 9085	AKT	3DP	Modified AKT	PALETTE Heritage	High 3DP FOS, High CTE	Not Selected
Ultem 1000	AKT	CM	Modified AKT	No 3DP Safety Factor	High CTE	Not Selected
Ultem 2300	AKT	CM	Modified AKT	Al-6061 CTE Match	CM Cost/Schedule	Not Selected
Ti64	AKT, VDA/G, Polished	3DP	Coating Dependent	High Strength	High Mass	Not Selected
Al-6061	AKT, VDA/G, Polished	3DP	Coating Dependent	Intrinsically Conductive	3DP Complexity	Not Selected
Al-6061	AKT, VDA/G, Polished	CM	Intrinsically Conductive	Intrinsically Conductive	None	Selected

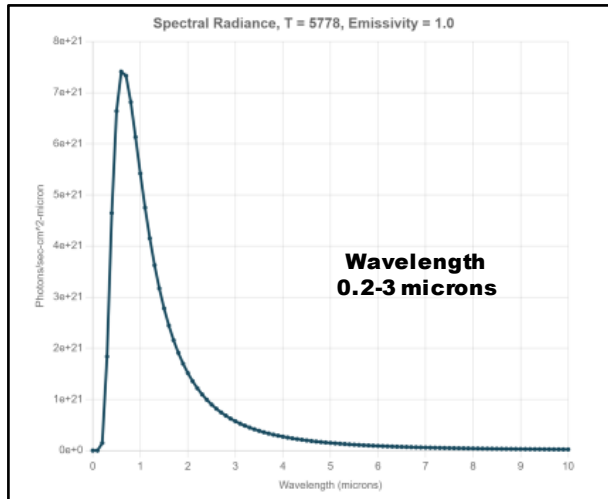
## ***PRR Reflector Design Decision:***

*Conventionally machined Al-6061 with hand-polished 2 microinch finish as a fabrication target  
(see next 2 slides for more information on this target surface roughness and its efficacy)*

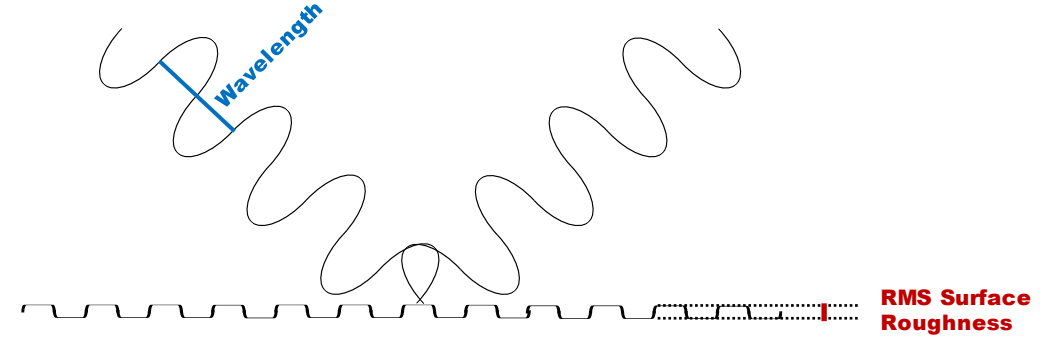
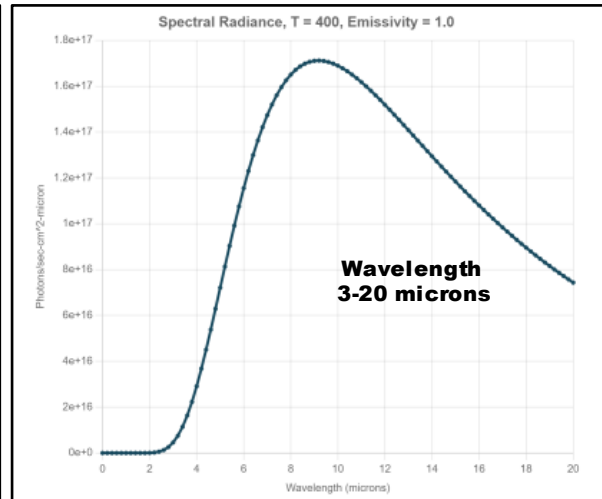
# Development (cont'd)

If the **wavelength** of incoming light is much larger than the **RMS surface roughness**, *reflections will be primarily specular*

**Solar UV: Effective Temp of 5778 K**



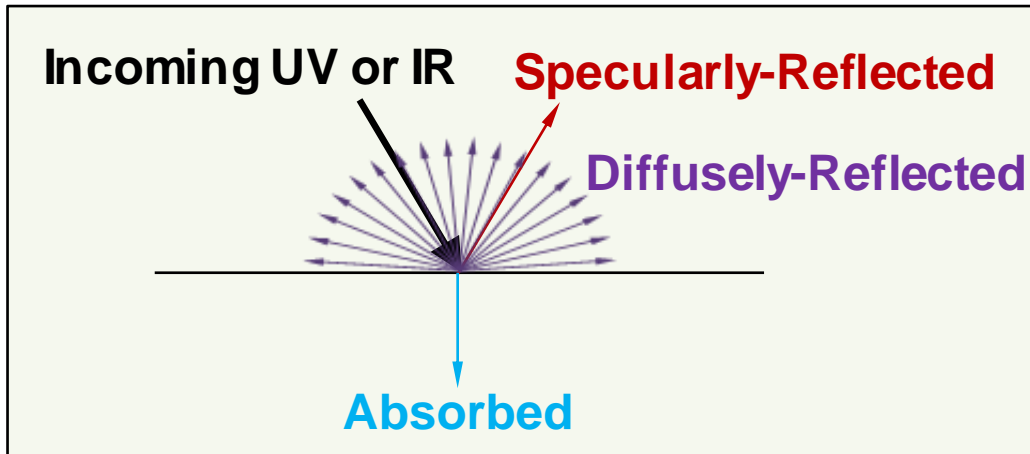
**Lunar IR: Surface Temp of 400 K**



**Target: 2 micro-inch surface finish = 0.05 micron**

Fine enough to be good IR specular reflector

Not fine enough to be good UV specular reflector



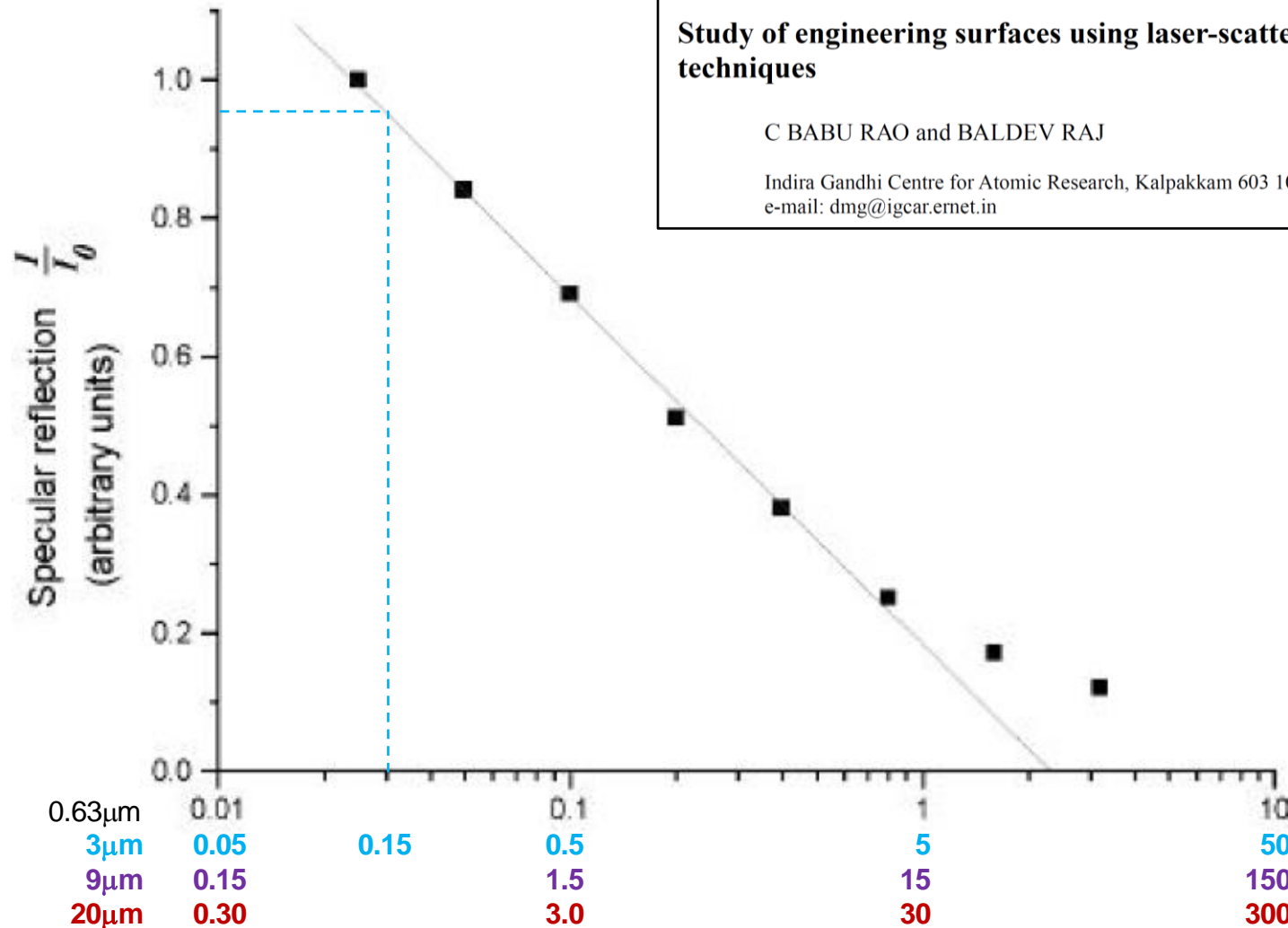
**The ideal PRR Reflector will have ...**

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. low absorptivity to UV           | low alpha                      |
| 2. low absorptivity to IR           | low emissivity                 |
| 3. high specular reflectivity to IR | IR wavelength $\gg$ roughness  |
| 4. low diffuse reflectivity to IR   | IR wavelength $\gg$ roughness  |
| 5. high diffuse reflectivity to UV  | UV wavelength $\sim$ roughness |
| 6. low specular reflectivity to UV  | UV wavelength $\sim$ roughness |



# Development (cont'd)

Impact of surface roughness on specularity for He-Ne laser (0.63 microns) linearly scaled to lunar surface IR wavelengths



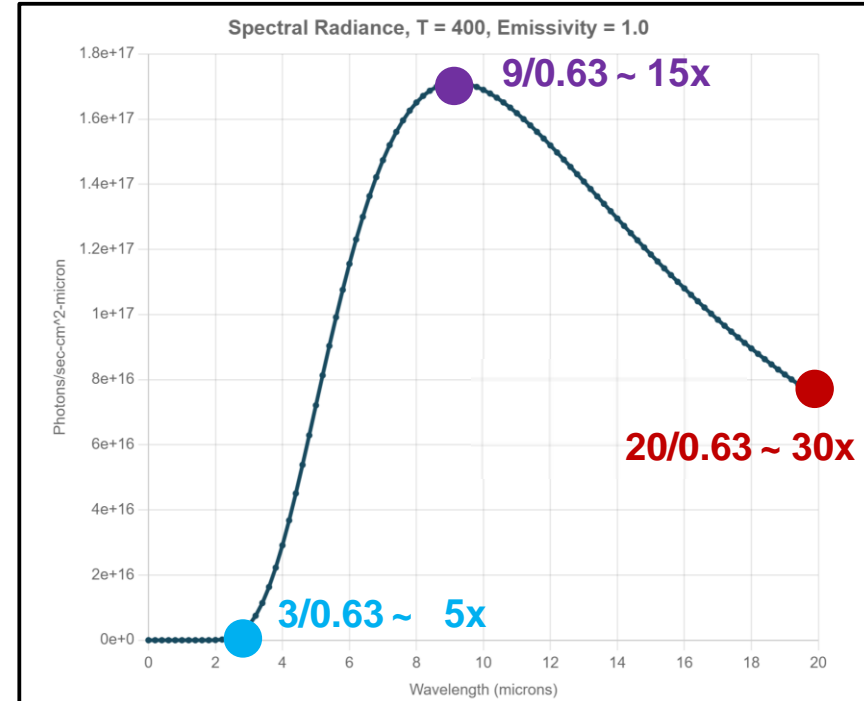
Sādhanā Vol. 28, Parts 3 & 4, June/August 2003, pp. 739–761. © Printed in India

## Study of engineering surfaces using laser-scattering techniques

C BABU RAO and BALDEV RAJ

Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam 603 102, India  
e-mail: dmg@igcar.ernet.in

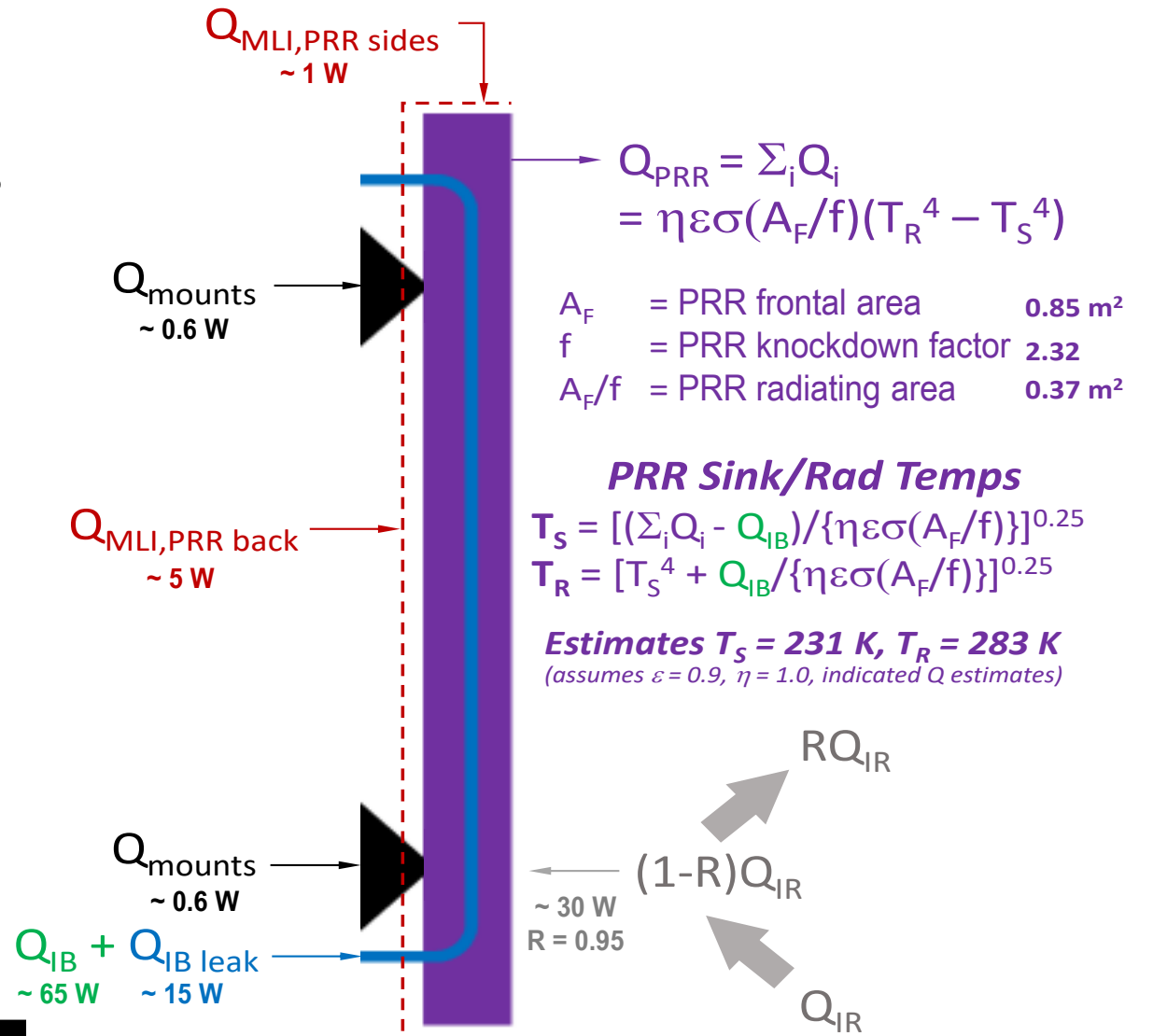
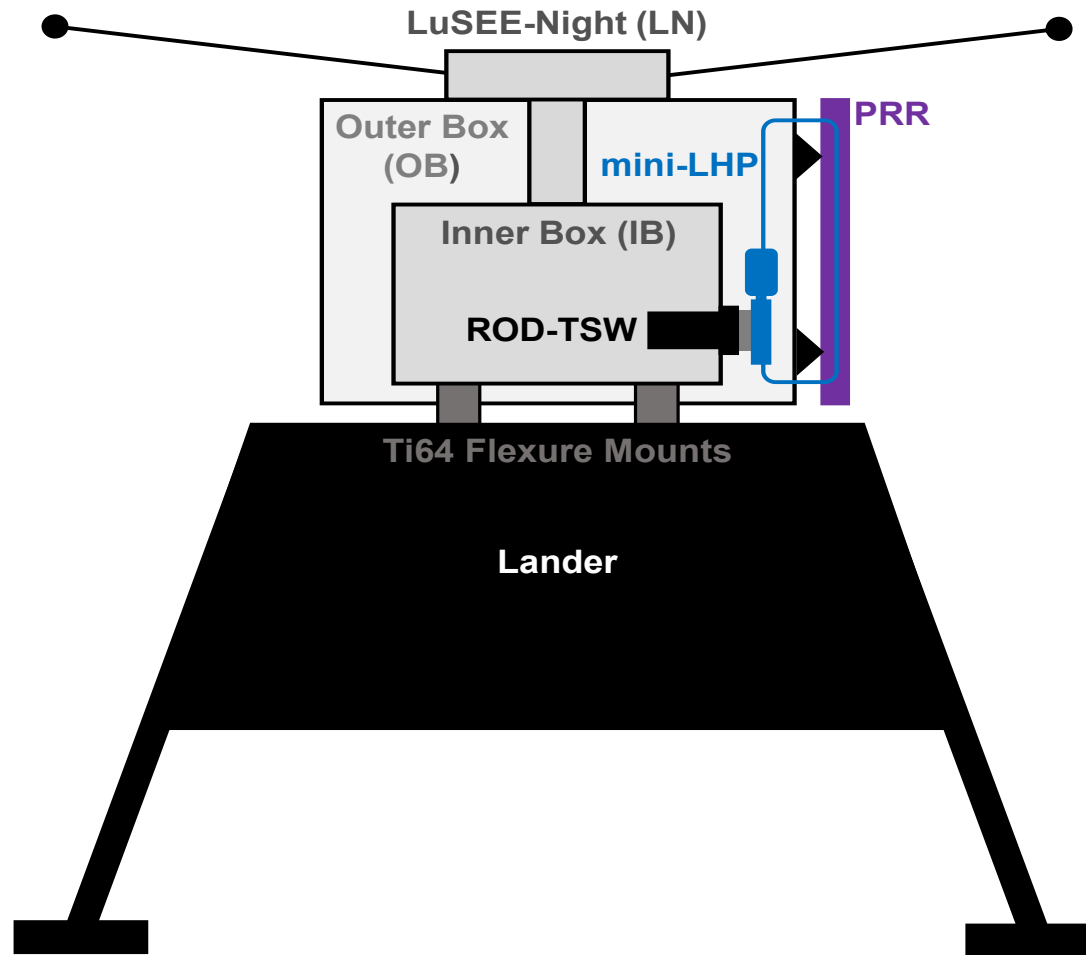
## Lunar IR: Surface Temp of 400 K



**CONCLUSION:** although target surface roughness for flight PRR reflectors is 0.05  $\mu\text{m}$  (2  $\mu\text{-in}$ ), this curve shows that **PRR reflectors will likely have a specularity of ~ 1.0 if their surface roughness is 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.** As will be seen later, this fact will be important given the Acceptance Test results for the flight PRR reflectors.

# Analysis

**Controlled by JPL:**  $R, f$   
**Controlled by UCB:** Everything except  $R, f$

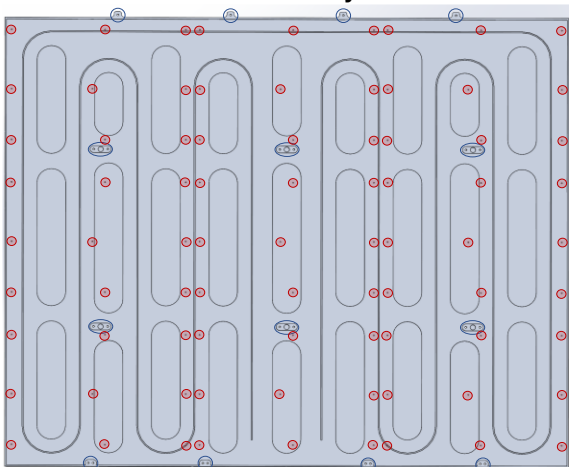


# Analysis (cont'd)

Outline

## Analysis Guidelines Provided to Quartus Engineering

### Full-Scale PRR Structural Analysis Guidelines



Full-Scale PRR Radiator Plate (View of Back Surface)

#### Assembly

- 24 rigid attach points to LuSEE-Night structure (see blue circles)
- 81 screw-on attach locations for 9 PRR reflectors (low-profile head M2.5 screws; see red circles)

#### Materials

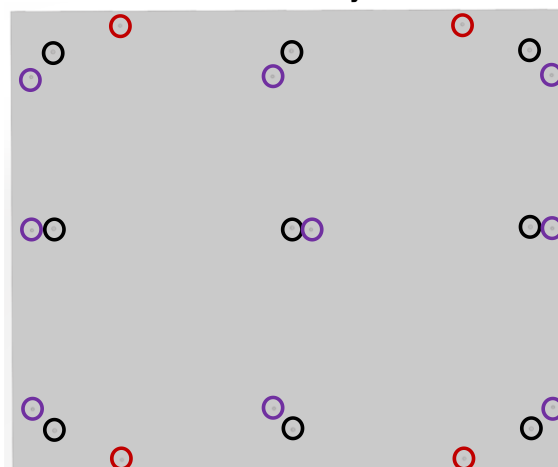
- PRR radiator plate: 6061 Al
- PRR reflector: 6061 Al

#### Environment

- GEVS Proto-Qual 14.1 Grms

FREQ(Hz)	ASD(G <sup>2</sup> /Hz)	Slope	Acceleration
		dB/OCT	Grms
20	0.026	*	*
50	0.160	5.97	1.58
800	0.160	0.00	11.07
2000	0.026	-5.97	14.14

### Subscale PRR Structural Analysis Guidelines



Subscale PRR Radiator Plate (View of Back Surface)

#### Assembly

- 9 screw-on attach locations to support structure (see black circles)
- 9 screw-on attach locations for each PRR reflector (low-profile head M2.5 screws; see purple circles)
- 4 old/unused PRR reflector to radiator attach points (see red circles)

#### Materials

- PRR radiator plate: 6061 Al
- PRR reflector: 6061 Al

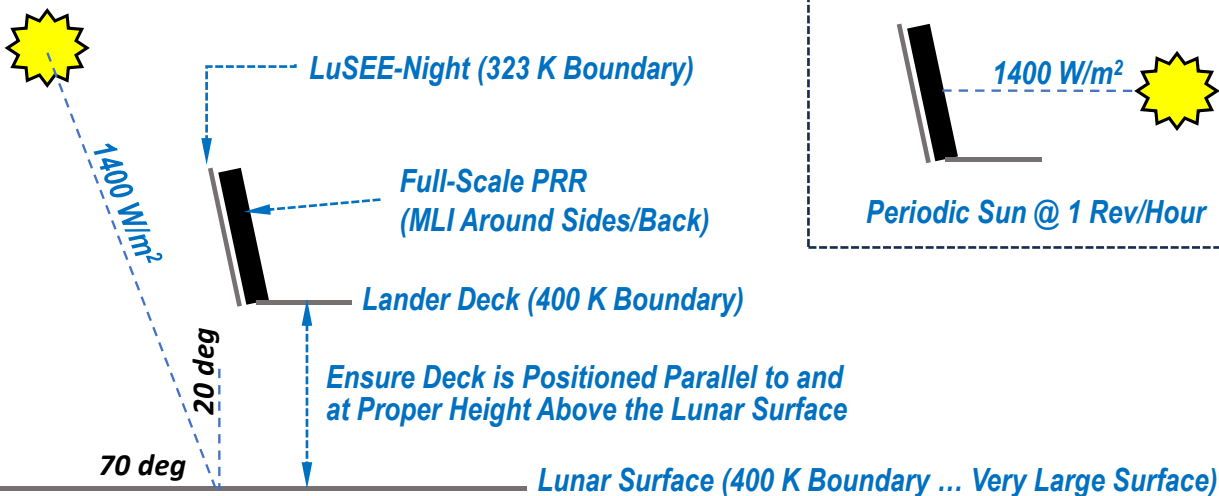
#### Environment

- GEVS Proto-Qual 14.1 Grms

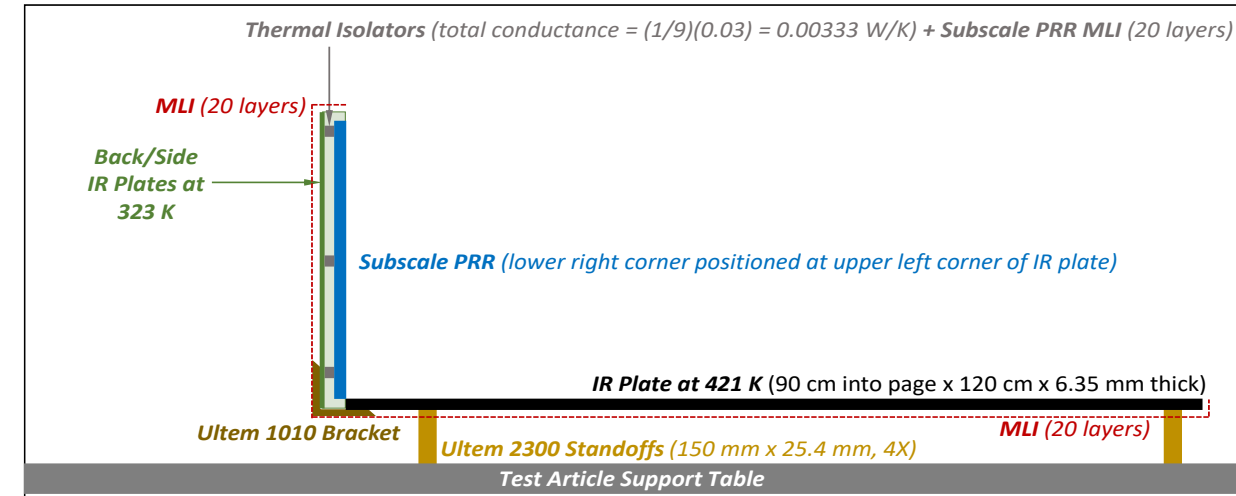
#### Analytical Linkage to Full-Scale PRR

- See **Testing** section later in paper

### Full-Scale PRR Thermal Analysis Guidelines



### Subscale PRR Thermal Analysis Guidelines



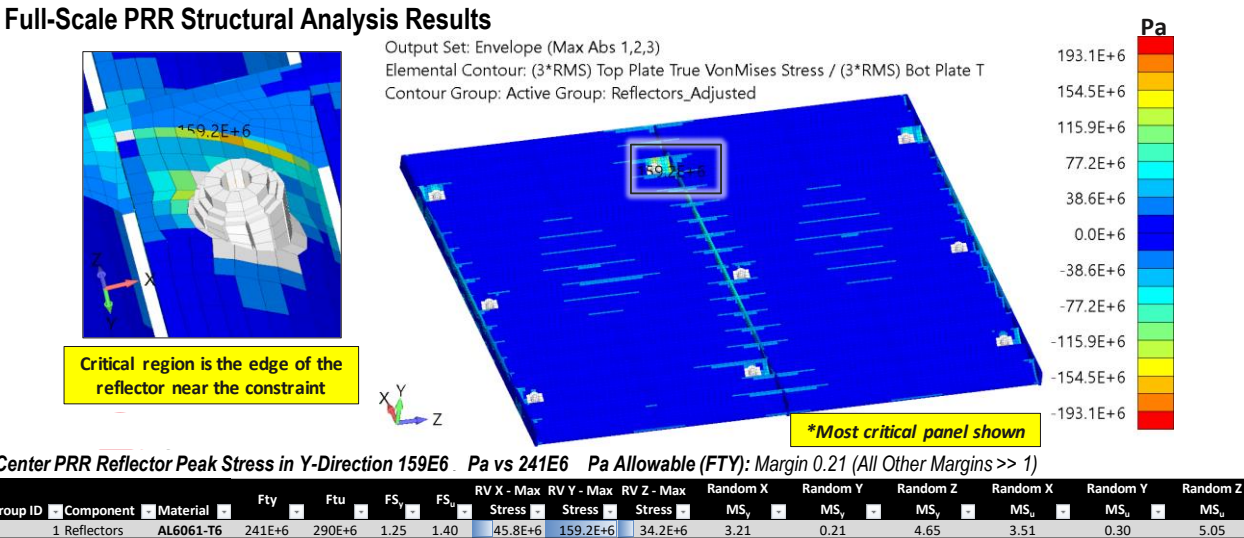


# Analysis (cont'd)

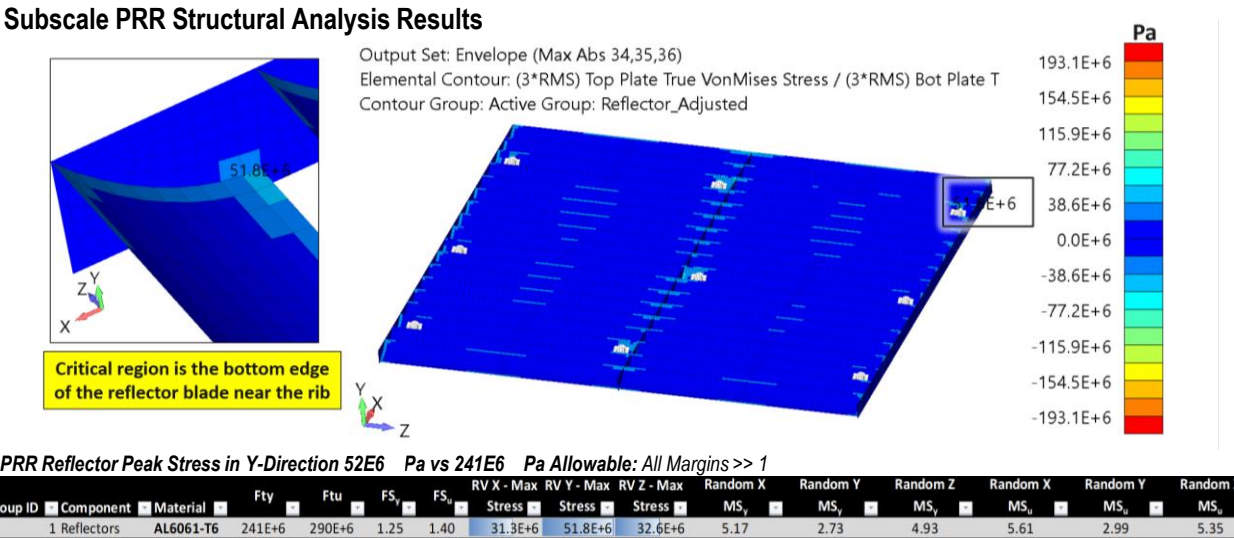
Outline

## Analysis Results Provided by Quartus Engineering

### Full-Scale PRR Structural Analysis Results



### Subscale PRR Structural Analysis Results

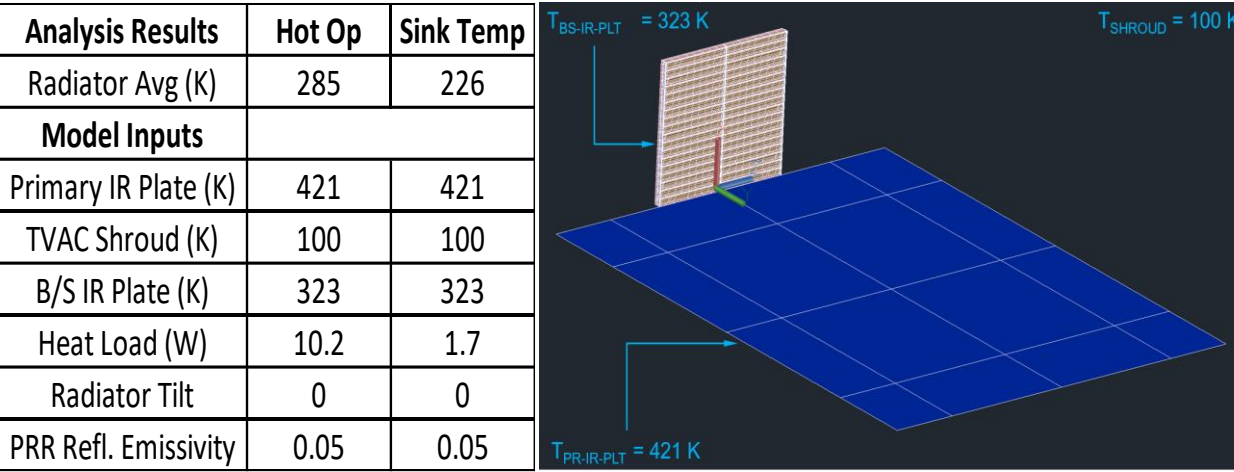


### Full-Scale PRR Thermal Analysis Results

Analysis Results	Hot Op	Sink Temp	Cold Op	Transit 1 Rev/Hr
Radiator Min (K)	268	223	172	194
Radiator Max (K)	269	224	172	197
Reflector Min (K)	268	223	171	195
Reflector Max (K)	272	229	172	209
Model Inputs				
Lunar Surface (K)	400	400	100	n/a
Lander Deck (K)	323	323	100	273
Instr. Structure (K)	323	323	253	273
Heat Load (W)	80	15.8	12	0
Radiator Tilt	0	0	0	12
PRR Refl. Emissivity	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

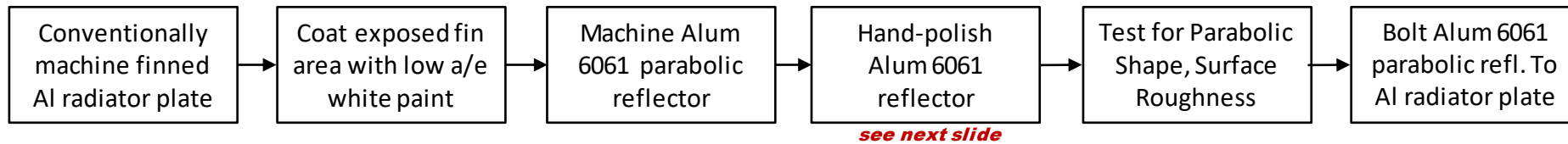
### Subscale PRR Thermal Analysis Results

Analysis Results	Hot Op	Sink Temp
Radiator Avg (K)	285	226
Model Inputs		
Primary IR Plate (K)	421	421
TVAC Shroud (K)	100	100
B/S IR Plate (K)	323	323
Heat Load (W)	10.2	1.7
Radiator Tilt	0	0
PRR Refl. Emissivity	0.05	0.05

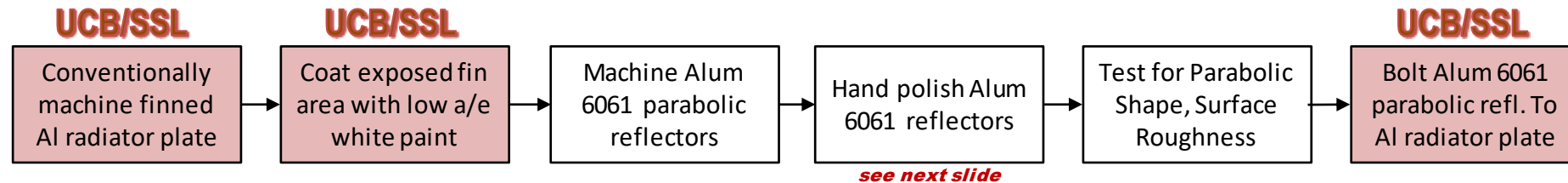


# Fabrication

## Subscale PRR Fabrication (JPL Fully Responsible for Subscale PRR Fabrication)



## Flight PRR Fabrication (JPL Responsible for Flight PRR Reflector Fabrication Only)



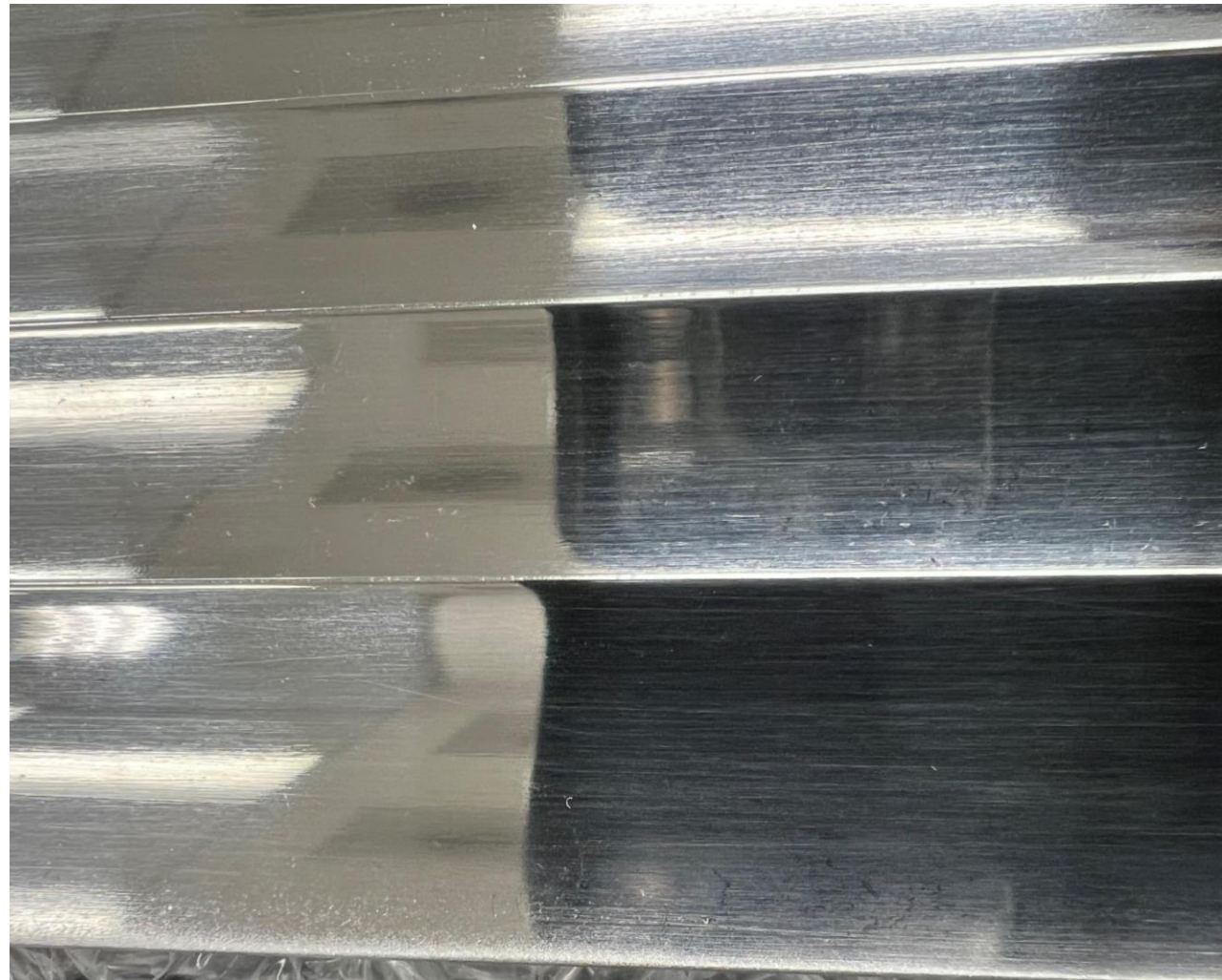


# Fabrication

***Completed PRR Reflector: Unpolished Surfaces***



***Completed PRR Reflector: Polished Surfaces***

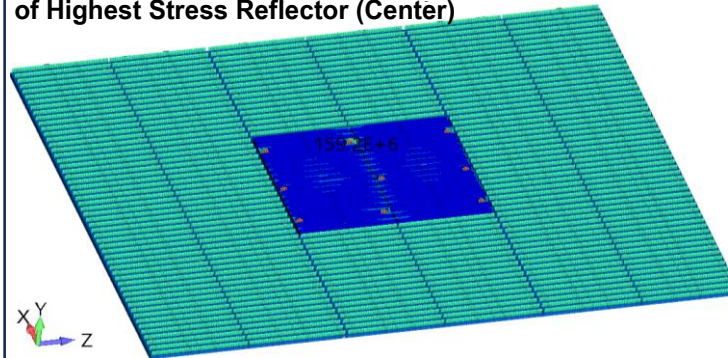




# Testing

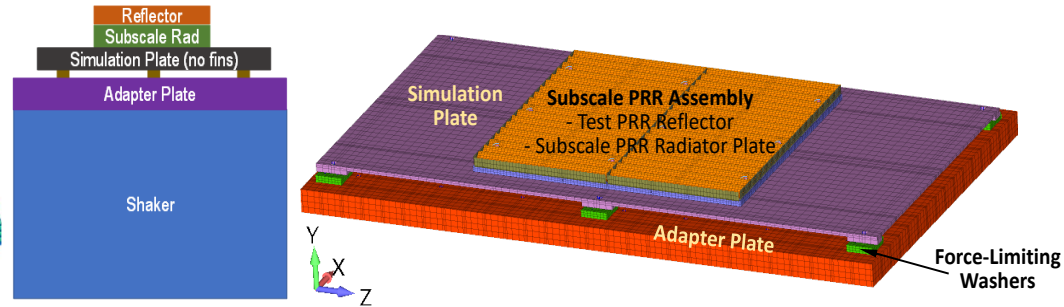
## Outline

Goal → Match Vibe Environment of Highest Stress Reflector (Center)



## Subscale PRR Random Vibe (RV) Test Plan

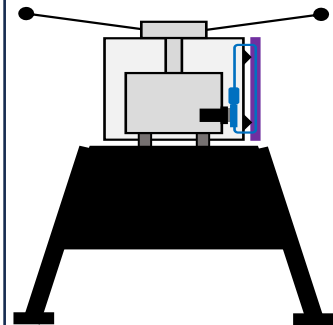
Approach → Mount Subscale PRR on Simulation Plate, RV Test in Y-Direction Only



Details → Test Sequence, Low Level Survey, GEVS Protoflight Definition

Test Sequence	Frequency, Hz	Survey Level
	20 – 2000	0.0001 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
1. Force Sensor Cal. Run #1	Overall grms	0.445 grms
2. Force Sensor Cal. Run #2	Duration:	1 minutes per survey
3. Pre-RV Sig. Survey (60 sec)	Frequency	GEVS Protoflight
4. -12 dB RV (30 sec)	20 Hz	0.026 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
5. -6 dB RV (30 sec)	50 Hz	0.16 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
6. -3 dB RV (30 sec)	800 Hz	0.16 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
7. Pre-0 dB RV Sig. Survey (60 sec)	2000 Hz	0.026 g <sup>2</sup> /Hz
8. Full Level 0 dB RV (120 sec*)	Overall	14.1 grms
9. Post-RV Sig. Survey	Duration	60 sec
*exceeded GEVS Protoflight duration		

Goal → Measure PRR Sink Temp (TS) at Zero Load, PRR Rad Temp (TR) at Flight-Like Load



Heat Load	Flight PRR	Subscale PRR
Instrument	65 W	65/9 = 7.2 W*
Parasitics 1	15 W	15/9 = 1.7 W*
Parasitics 2	8 W	8/9 = 0.9 W**
Environment	30 W	30/9 = 3.3 W**
TOTAL	113 W	113/9 = 12.6 W
* Q from test heaters		
** Q from test plates		

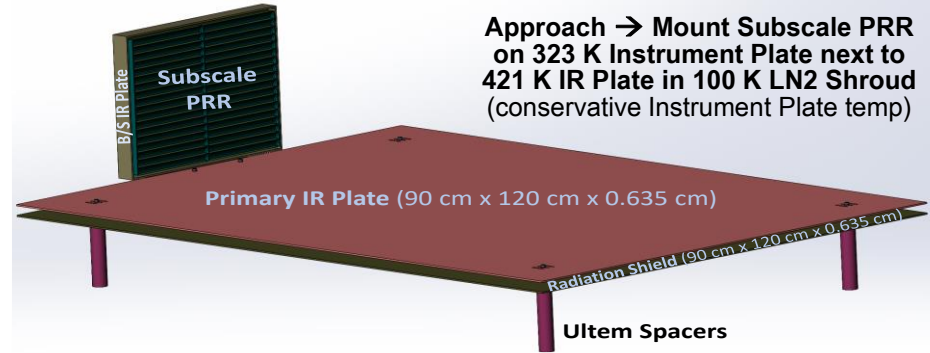
Flight/Subscale PRR Excel Model

**T<sub>S</sub> = 231 K (-42 °C)**

**T<sub>R</sub> = 283 K (+10 °C)**

## Subscale PRR Thermal Vacuum (TVAC) Test Plan

Approach → Mount Subscale PRR on 323 K Instrument Plate next to 421 K IR Plate in 100 K LN2 Shroud (conservative Instrument Plate temp)



Details → Original 3-6 Cycle Test Abbreviated to 1 Cycle Due to Project Cost Constraints (Per/Cycle Values Below)

T <sub>IR Plate</sub>	= 421 K
T <sub>Instrument Plate</sub>	= 323 K
T <sub>LN2 Shroud</sub>	= 100 K
Q <sub>TS Measurement</sub>	= 1.7 W*
Q <sub>TR Measurement</sub>	= 11.9 W**
* revised to 0.0 W during test	
** revised to 8.1 W during test	

## Flight PRR Reflector Acceptance Test (AT) Plan

Original Plan

Revised Plan\*

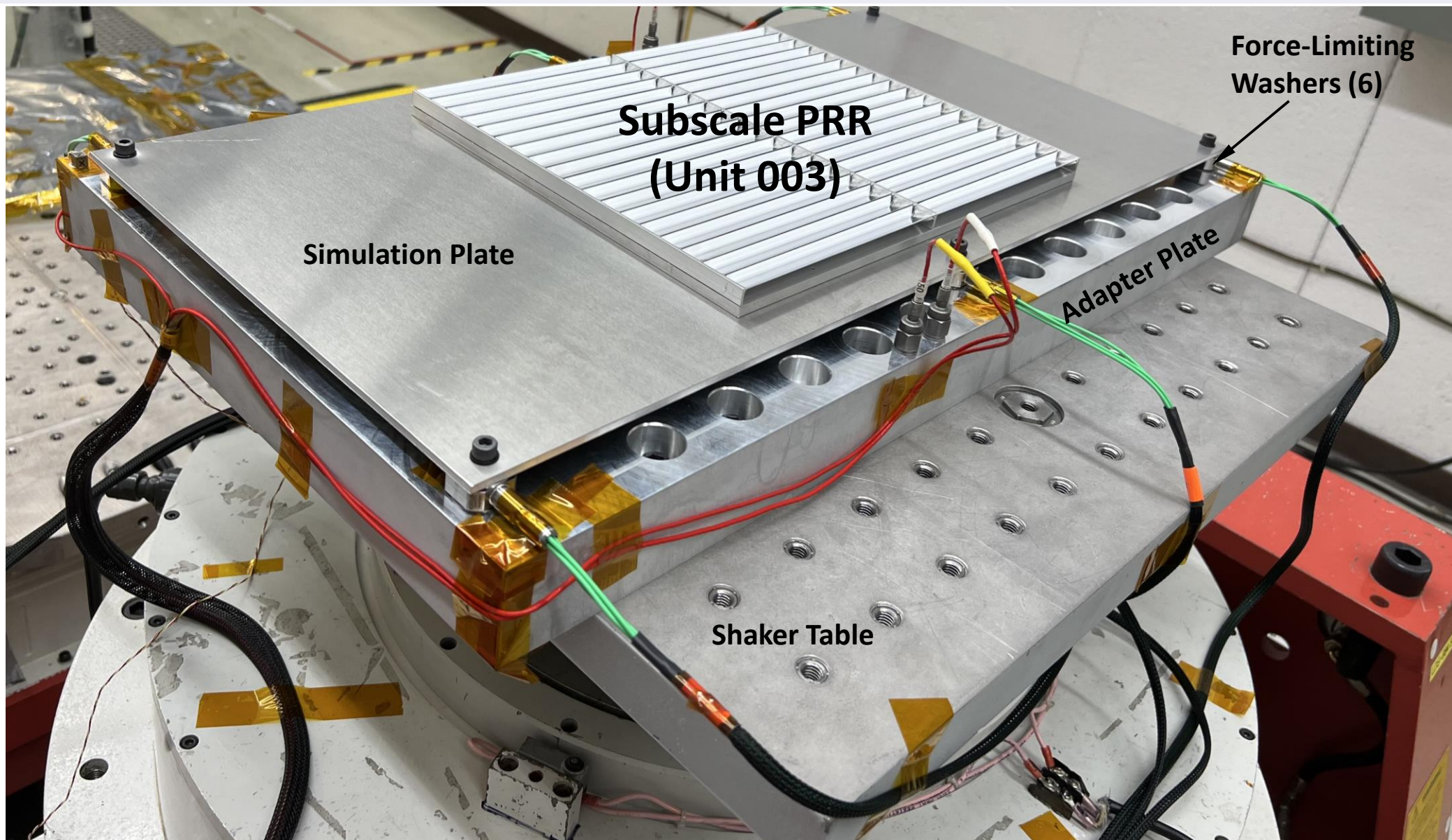
<b>Temp. Extreme Reflectance*</b>	(TE) TE testing → 3 cycles from 90 K to 330 K in Bemco (non-TVAC) test chamber	→ TE test eliminated as 6061-Al unaffected by temperature cycling
<b>Specularity*</b>	(RF) Before/after TE, RF measured on a flat side surface (RF ≥ 0.97, ε ≤ 0.03, +/- 0.02)	→ RF, SP, SS tests modified to inspection by JPL QA that will measure surface roughness and shape and compare to RV/TVAC test unit values
<b>Surface Shape**</b>	(SP) After each RF, SP measured on a flat side surface (SP ≥ 0.96, +/- 0.03)	
<b>Elec. Resistance***</b>	(SS) After each SP, SS measured using TBD procedure (needed only if parts are 3DP)	
<b>Adherence****</b>	(ER) After each SS, ER measured from bottom right blade to top left mount (ER < 1 kΩ)	→ ER test eliminated as 6061-Al is highly electrically conductive
	(AD) AD assessed after TE-cycled AKT test coupons (must pass tape AD test)	→ AD test eliminated due to 6061-Al polishing process (AKT unnecessary)

\* RF, SP tests not required if AKT used (AKT properties already measured by JPL)  
\*\* SS test not required as parts are conventionally machined (CM) not 3D-printed (3DP)  
\*\*\* ER test significantly more time consuming/costly if AKT is used (more test points required)  
\*\*\*\* AD test eliminated if reflector hand polishing successful and AKT use unnecessary

\*project cost constraints were an additional issue in revising the scope of Acceptance Testing



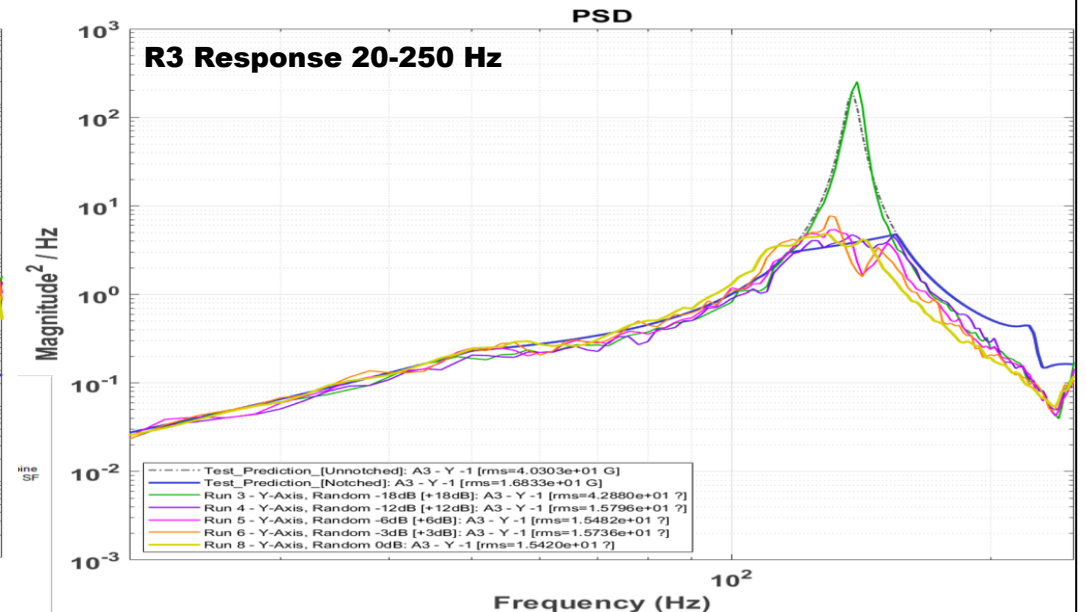
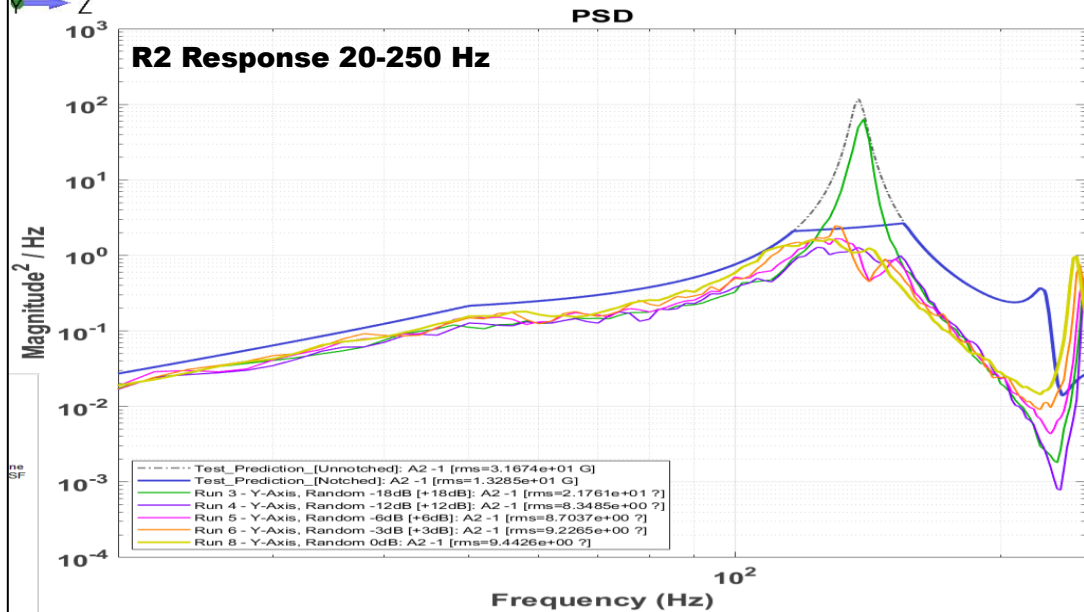
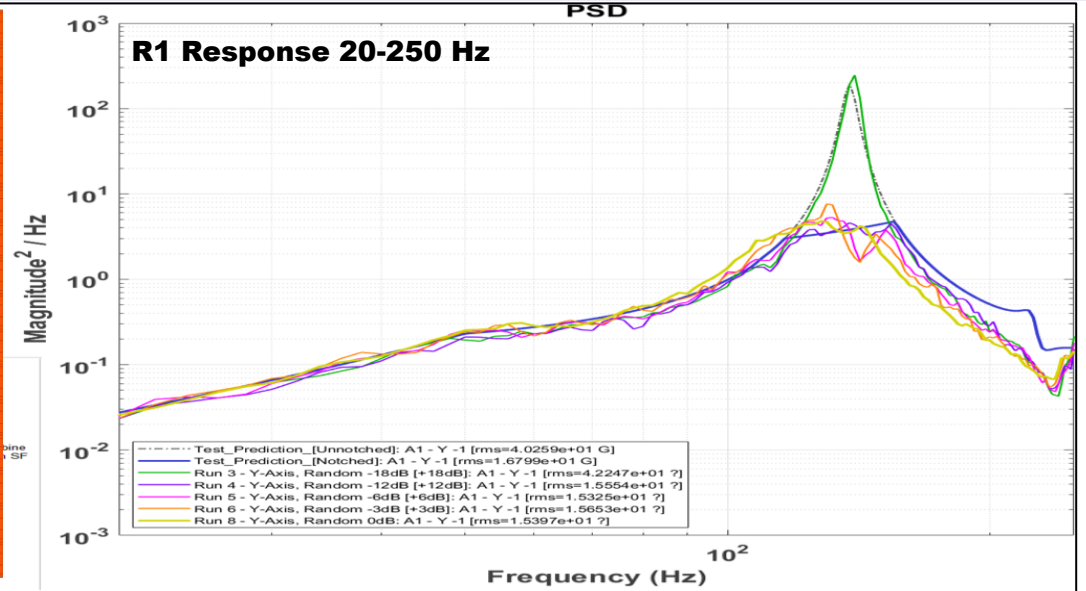
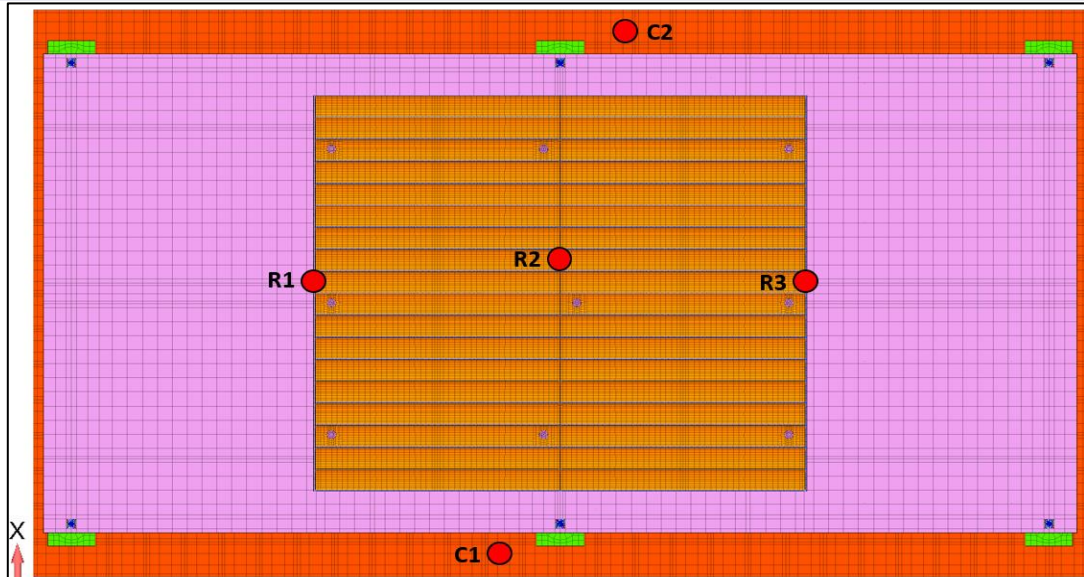
# Testing (cont'd)





# Testing (cont'd)

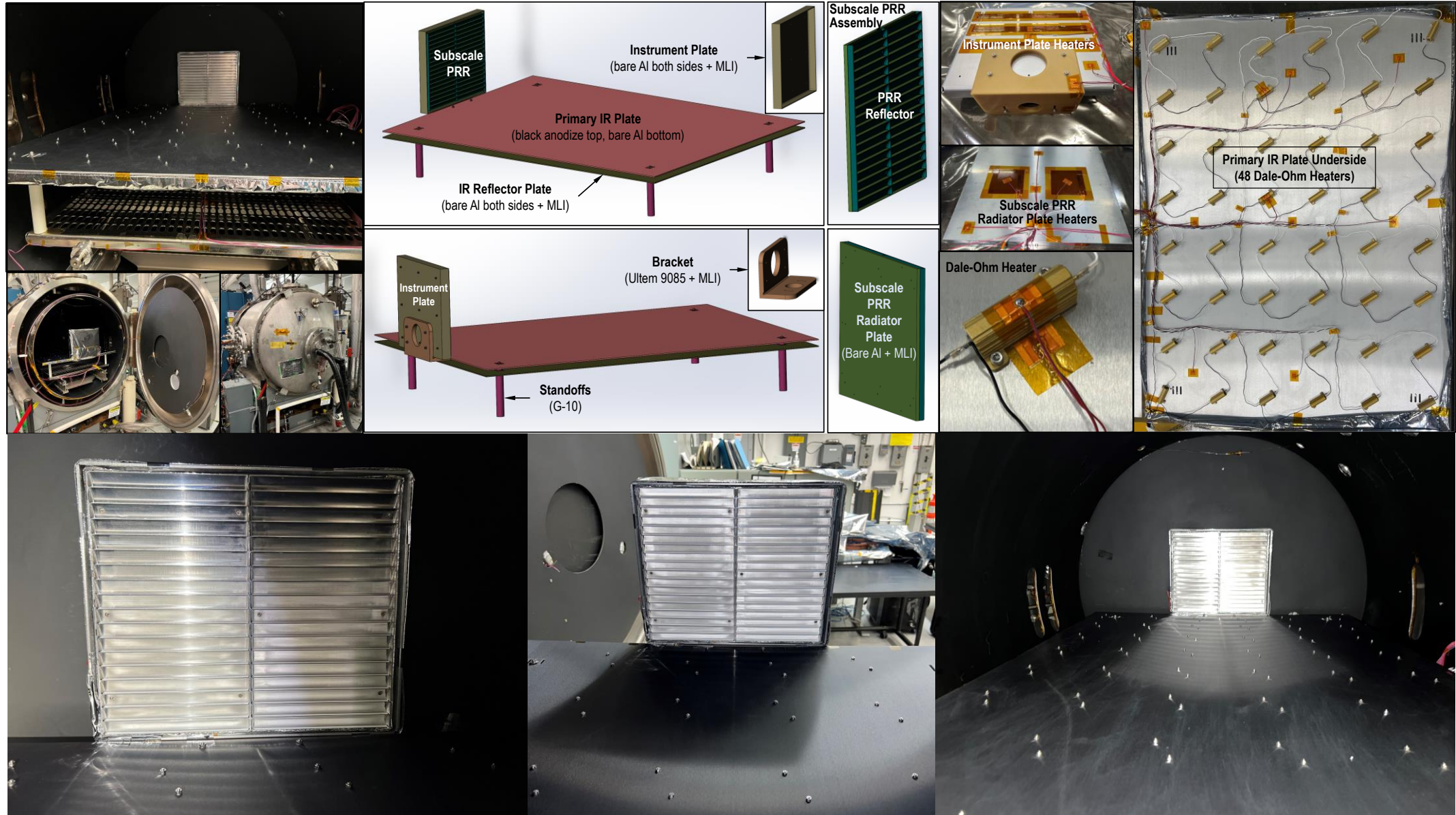
Outline





# Testing (cont'd)

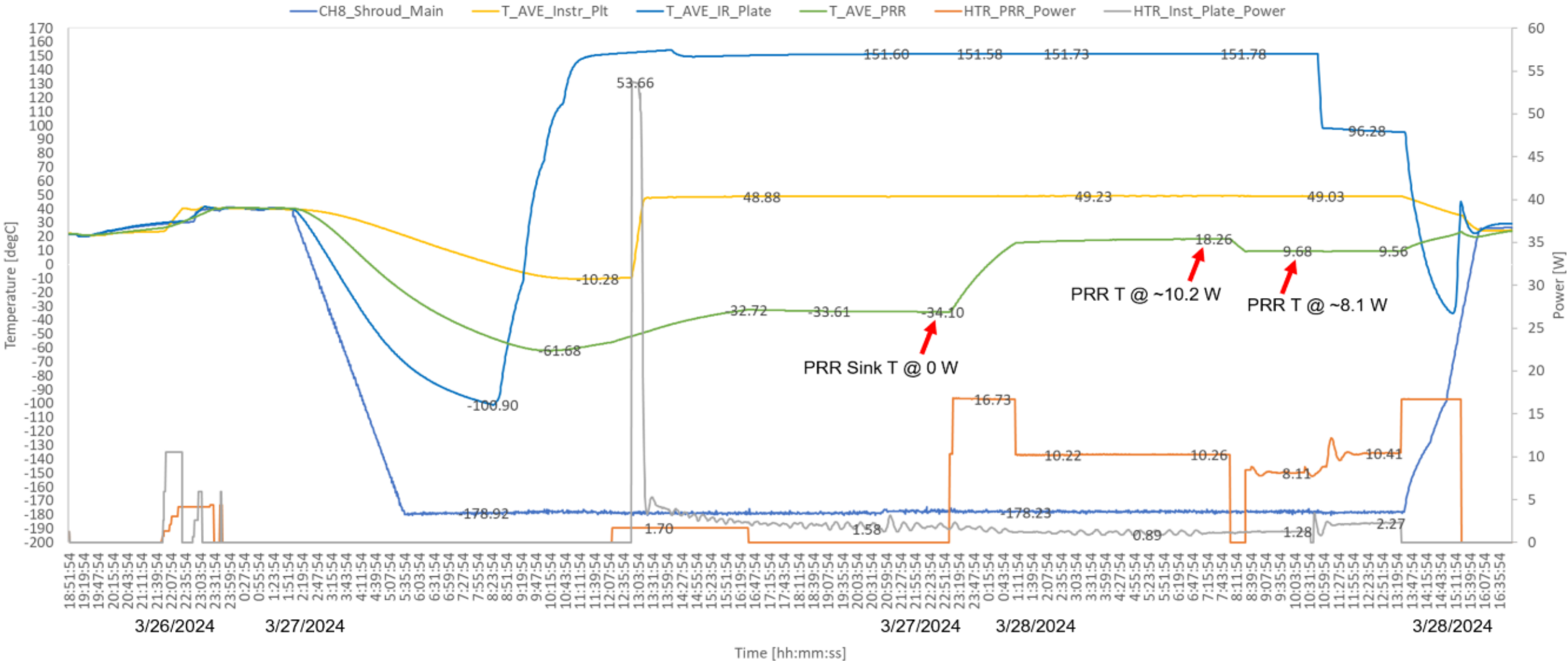
Outline



# Testing (cont'd)

[Outline](#)

LuSEE-Night PRR TVAC Test CH #8 - March 2024



# Testing (cont'd)

## Flight PRR Reflectors: Acceptance Test Results

- **Surface Roughness (SR)** ... surface roughness of reflecting side to be less than  $0.05 \mu\text{m Ra}$
- **Surface Shape (SS)** ... deviation from perfect half-parabola to be less than  $\pm 0.125 \text{ mm}$
- **Hole Assessment (HA)** ... location, size of nine through holes matches LuSEE-Night MICD
- **Unit Dimensions (UD)** ... reflector width, height, thickness matches LuSEE-Night MICD

Unit	Status	Manufacturer	SR ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	SS (uncompliant/total)	HA	UD
SN001	non-flight, no polish	JPL	0.148**	241/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN003*	non-flight, polished	George Spencer	0.064**	004/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN004	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.073**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN005	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.106**	006/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN006	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.071**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN007	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.095**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN008	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.093**	003/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN009	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.080**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN010	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.153**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN011	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.081**	004/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN012	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.140**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD
SN013	Flight, polished	George Spencer	0.126**	000/1190	matches LN MICD	matches LN MICD

\* RV/TVAC Test Unit

\*\* greater than  $0.05 \mu\text{m Ra}$  but will still perform as required based on **Slide 12**



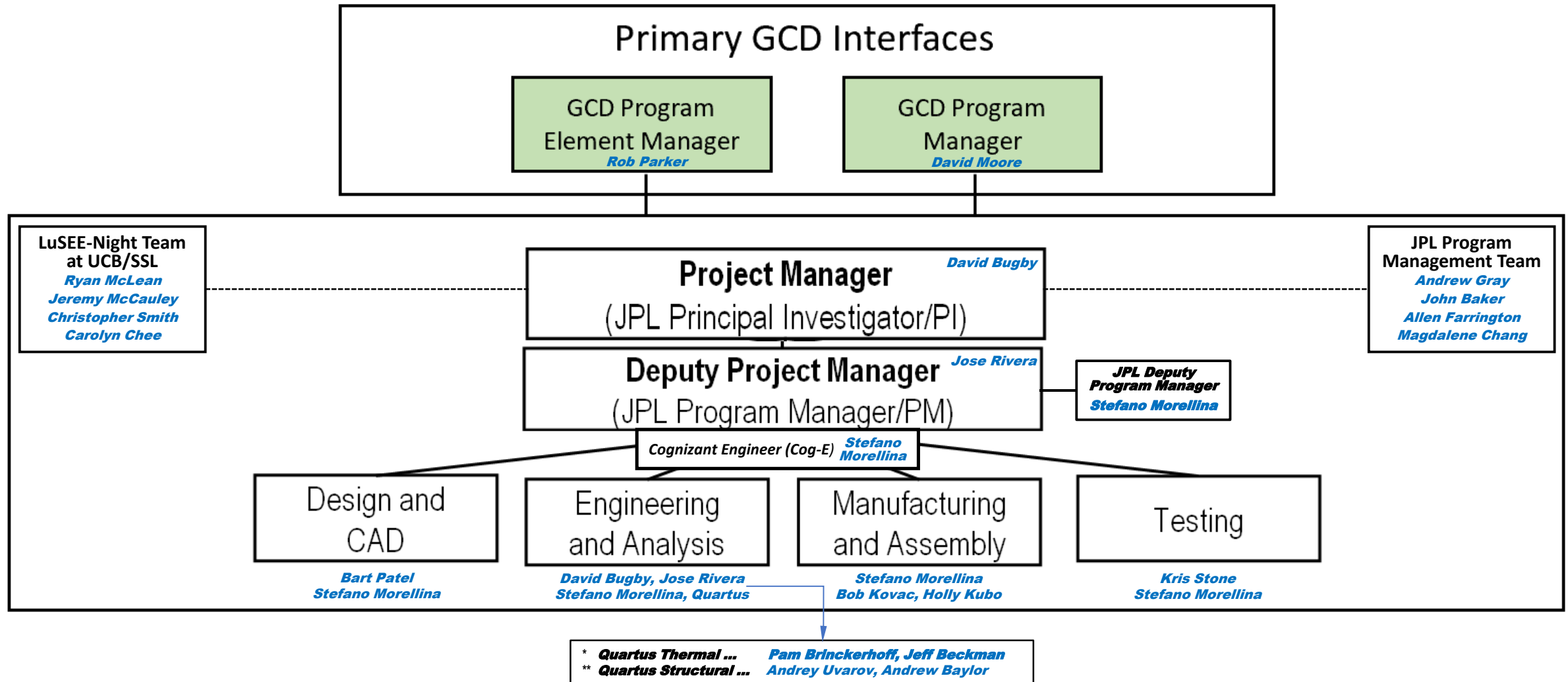
# Summary

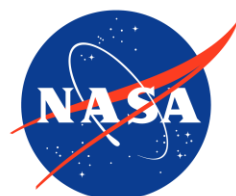
[Outline](#)

- Flight PRR for LuSEE-Night conceptualized/designed/analyzed
- Analysis indicated that  $< 231$  K sink temperature goal achievable
- Subscale PRR (subscale radiator plate + PRR reflector) designed/built
- Subscale PRR RV test assembly designed/built
- Subscale PRR TVAC test assembly design/built
- Subscale PRR RV test completed successfully
  - ***notching at 1<sup>st</sup> mode frequency of 140 Hz***
  - ***notching should be implemented in flight system RV test***
- Subscale PRR TVAC test completed successfully
  - ***measured sink temperature of 239 K fell just short of 231 K goal***
  - ***impact to LuSEE-Night expected to be easily tolerable (click [here](#))***
- Flight PRR reflectors were shipped to JPL by GSC in late May 2024
- Acceptance tests completed in one week followed by precision cleaning
- **PRR Reflectors** arrived at UCB/SSL (LuSEE-Night) on 7 June 2024
- Consulting support for LuSEE-Night integration to end of FY24
  - ***depends on availability of funding***
- Project to conclude at the end of FY24

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The authors would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of those listed below. This research was carried out at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (80NM 0018D0004).





**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

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