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# A Brief Review of the Need for Robust Smart Wireless Sensor Systems for Future Propulsion Systems, Distributed Engine Controls, and Propulsion Health Management

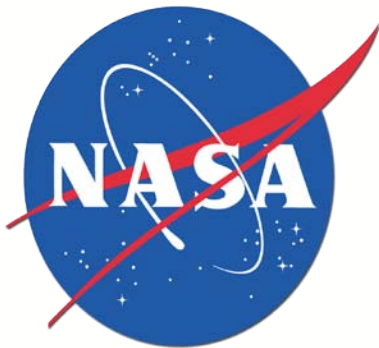
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**Dr. Al Behbahani, AFRL**

# Presenter

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  - Technical Lead, Chemical Sensors Team
  - Element Lead, High Temperature Propulsion Health, Vehicle Systems Safety Technologies Project
- **Dr. Alireza (AI) R. Behbahani**
  - Leader in Advanced Integrated Controls and prognostic/Diagnostic Systems @ AFRL
  - Senior Aerospace Engineer
  - Over 30 years experience in Aerospace, Nuclear, Mechanical, and Electronic control systems in University, Industry, and Government



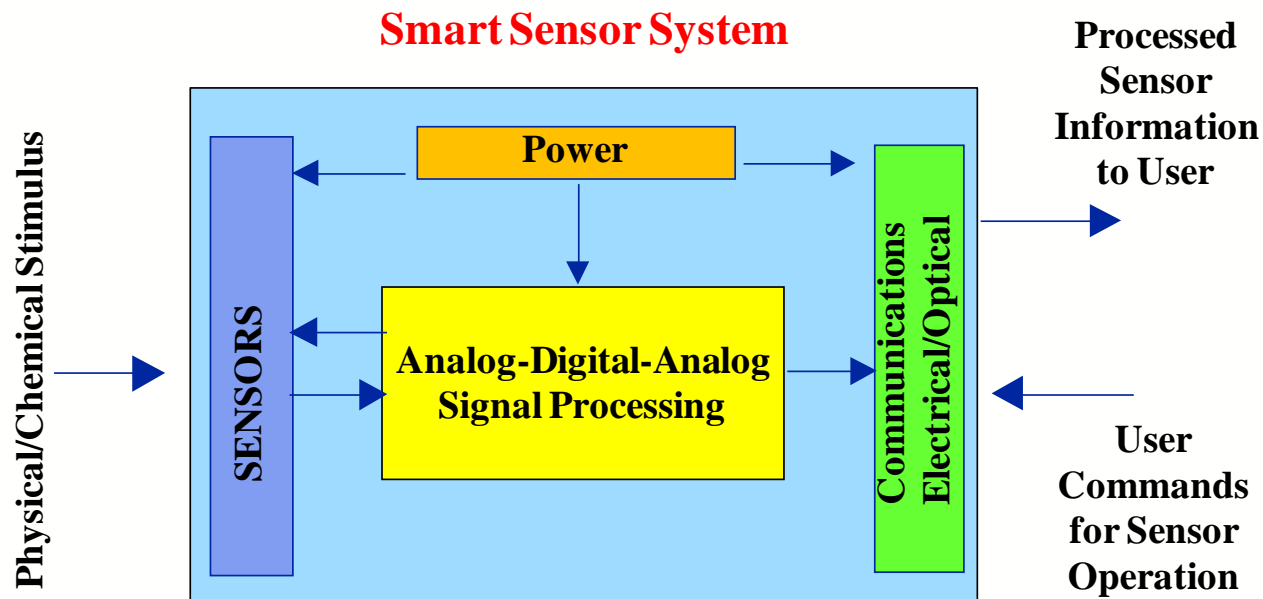
# OUTLINE

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **MOTIVATION TOWARDS WIRELESS SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS**
- **PROPULSION SYSTEM APPLICATIONS**
- **ROLE OF WIRELESS SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS**
- **EXAMPLE SMART WIRELESS SENSOR SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT**
- **SUMMARY AND FURTHER WORK**

# **MOTIVATION TOWARDS WIRELESS SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS**

# SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS BASED ON MICROSYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

- A RANGE OF SENSOR SYSTEMS ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT BASED ON MICROFABRICATION TECHNIQUES AND SMART SENSOR TECHNOLOGY
- SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS APPROACH: STAND-ALONE, COMPLETE SYSTEMS INCLUDING SENSORS, POWER, COMMUNICATION, SIGNAL PROCESSING, AND ACTUATION
- BROAD RANGE OF APPLICATIONS
- MICROSYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY MOVING TOWARDS A RANGE OF APPLICATIONS
- ENABLE SYSTEM LEVEL INTELLIGENCE BY DRIVING CAPABILITIES TO THE LOCAL LEVEL USING DISTRIBUTED SMART SYSTEMS



# **BASIC APPROACH: MAKE AN INTELLIGENT SYSTEM FROM SMART COMPONENTS**



## **POSSIBLE STEPS TO REACH INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS**

### **•“LICK AND STICK” TECHNOLOGY (EASE OF APPLICATION)**

- **Micro and nano fabrication to enable multipoint inclusion of sensors, actuators, electronics, and communication throughout the vehicle without significantly increasing size, weight, and power consumption. Multifunctional, adaptable technology included.**

### **•RELIABILITY:**

- **Users must be able to believe the data reported by these systems and have trust in the ability of the system to respond to changing situations e.g. decreasing sensors should be viewed as decreasing the available information flow about a vehicle. Inclusion of intelligence more likely to occur if it can be trusted.**

### **•REDUNDANCY AND CROSS-CORRELATION:**

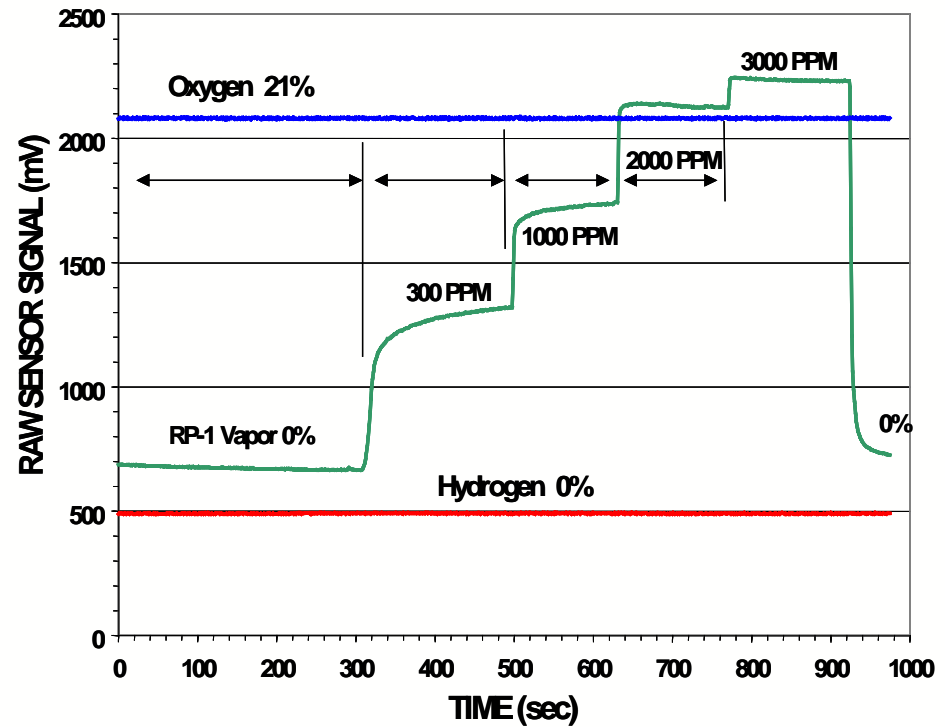
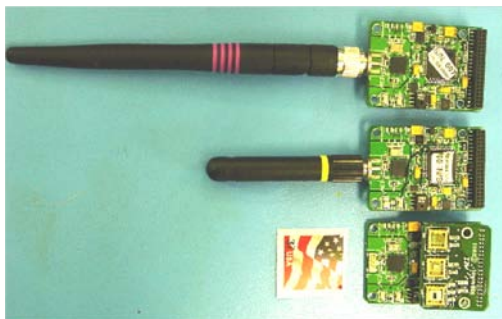
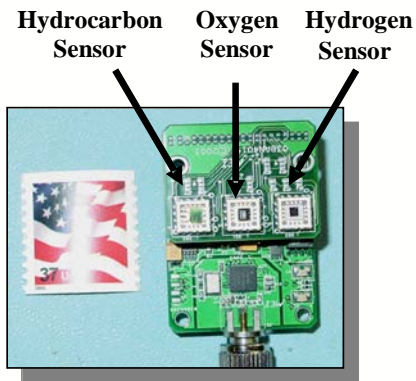
- **If the systems are easy to install, reliable, and do not increase weight/complexity, the application of a large number of them is not problematic allowing redundant systems, e.g. sensors, spread throughout the vehicle. These systems will give full-field coverage of the engine parameters but also allow cross-correlation between the systems to improve reliability of sensor data and the vehicle system information.**

### **•ORTHOGONALITY:**

- ***Systems should each provide a different piece of information on the vehicle system. Thus, the mixture of different techniques to “see, feel, smell, hear” as well as move can combine to give complete information on the vehicle system as well as the capability to respond to the environment.***

# “LICK AND STICK” SENSOR SYSTEM AVAILABLE IN STANDARD SILICON TECHNOLOGY

- SENSORS, POWER, AND TELEMETRY SELF-CONTAINED IN A SYSTEM NEAR THE SURFACE AREA OF A POSTAGE STAMP
- MICROPROCESSOR INCLUDED/SMART SENSOR SYSTEM
- ADAPTABLE CORE SYSTEM WHICH CAN BE USED IN A RANGE OF APPLICATIONS
- BUILT-IN SELF CHECK, INTERNAL DATA TABLES
- MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS AVAILABLE



**BASIC APPROACH: MEET THE NEEDS OF MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS  
BUILDING FROM A CORE SET OF SMART MICROSENSOR TECHNOLOGY**

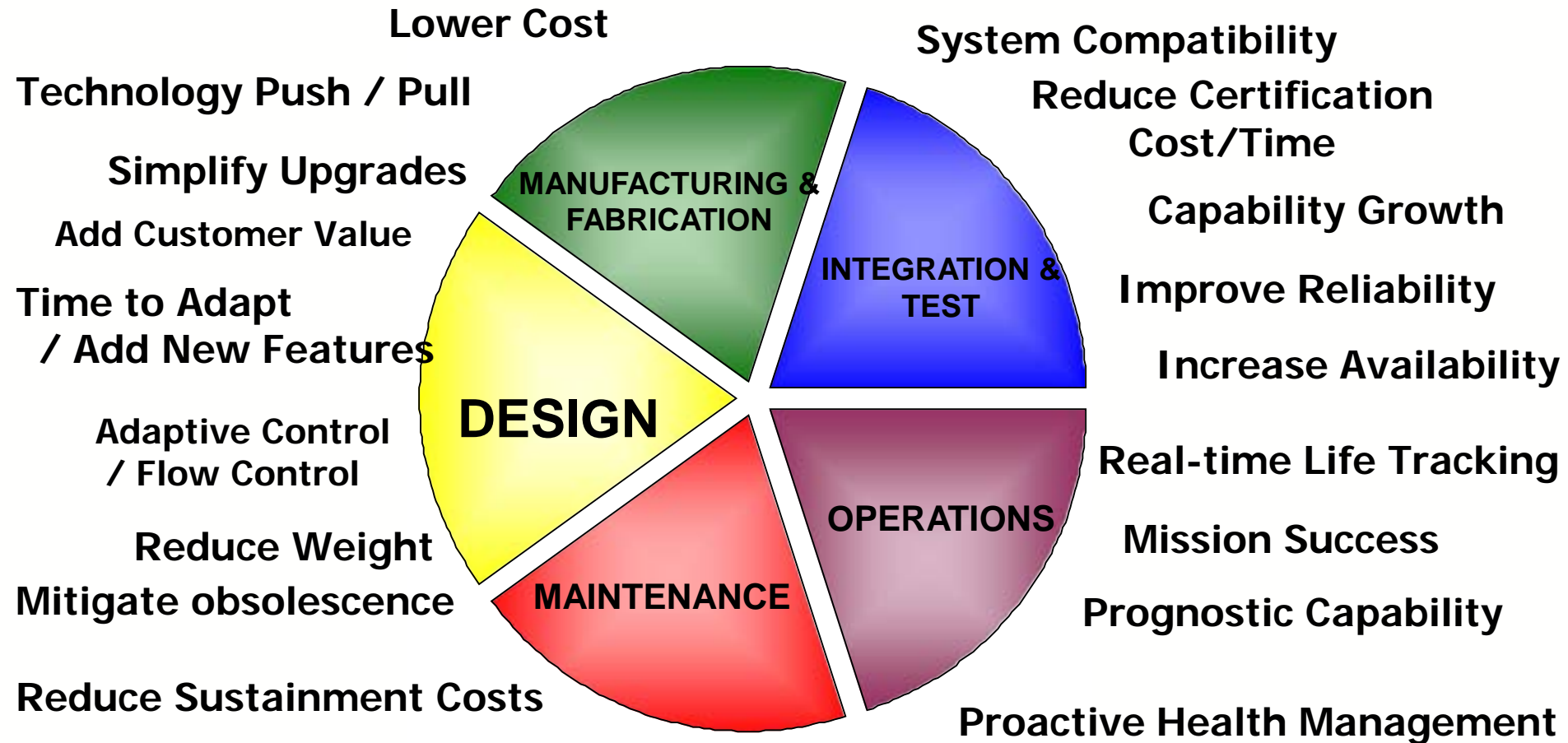
# PROPULSION APPLICATIONS



# PROPULSION SYSTEM GOALS

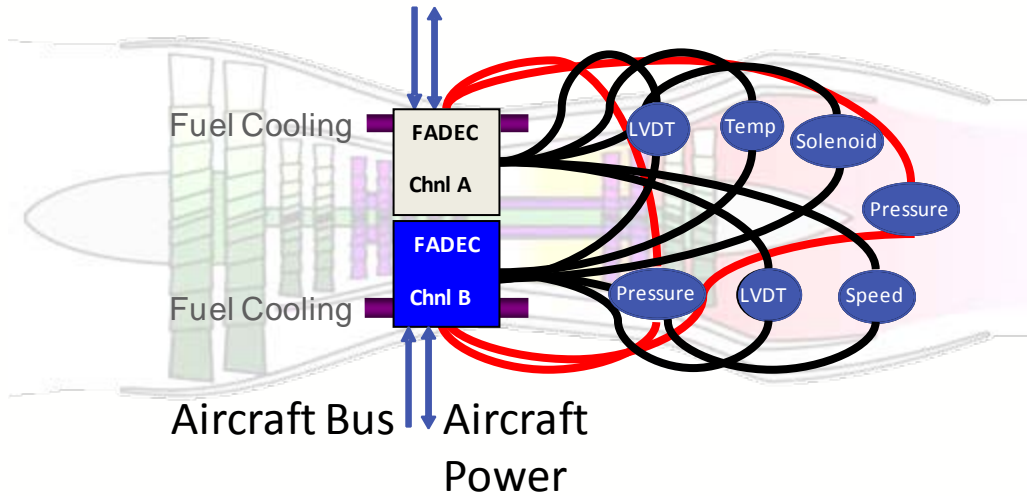


## *Motivation / Goals*



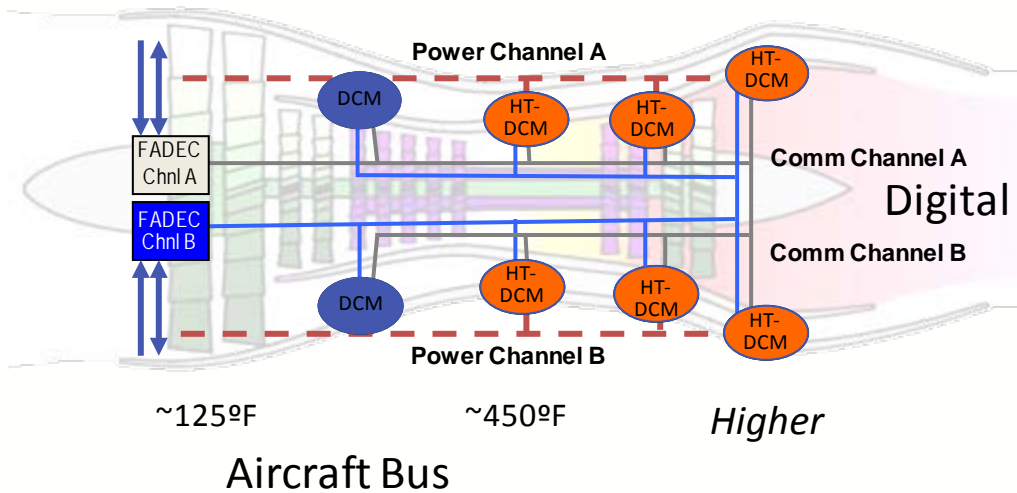
**Performance, Time & Cost**

# ENGINE CONTROL ARCHITECTURES



## Centralized FADEC

- Analog Sensor
- Analog Power / Communication



## Fully Distributed Control

- DCM Low Temp Digital Control Module
- HT-DCM High Temp Digital Control Module

# Objective: Modular, Open, Distributed Engine Control



## Technology Benefits

### ➔ Increased Performance

Reduction in engine weight due to digital signaling, lower wire/connector count, reduced cooling need

5% increase in thrust-to-weight ratio

### ➔ Improved Mission Success

System availability improvement due to automated fault isolation, reduced maintenance time, modular LRU

10% increase in system availability

### ➔ Lower Life Cycle Cost

Reduced cycle time for design, manufacture, V&V

Reduced component and maintenance costs via cross-platform commonality, obsolescence mitigation

Flexible upgrade path through open interface standards

## Capability Needs

### ➔ Open Systems Development, Modeling & Design

Future systems requirements definition

Open industry interface standards definition

System modeling tools development

Modular system integration and test techniques

### ➔ Hardware Systems Development

High temperature integrated circuits and systems development

Improved electronic component availability

### ➔ Software Systems Development

Software system partitioning

Software design and modular test capability

Software distributed system V&V

# Propulsion Health Management Problem Statements

## Existing Aircraft

- Although aircraft propulsion systems are highly reliable, propulsion malfunctions contributing to aviation accidents and incidents do occur.
- Degradation and damage that develops over time in hot section components can lead to catastrophic failure.
- Ground-based testing may not identify problems occurring in-flight, or due to damage or degradation in harsh environment conditions during operation.
- Information related to the engine health state is limited due to the harsh environment operational conditions.
- Examples of malfunctions include uncontained rotor failures, in-flight engine shutdowns, and restricted thrust response.
- Examples of underlying causes include turbomachinery damage, controls and accessory faults, and environmental effects such as volcanic ash and ice ingestion.

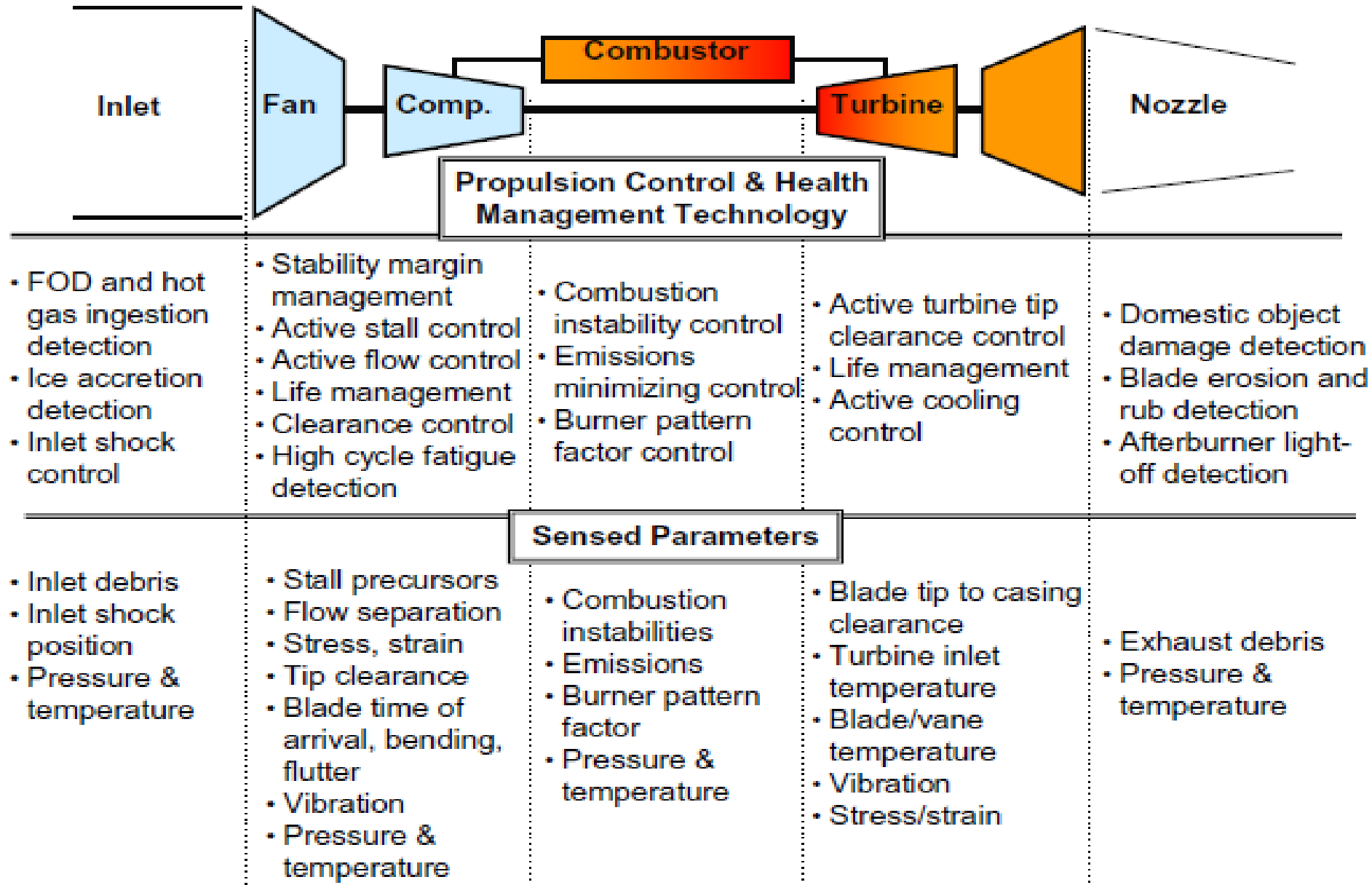
## Future Aircraft

- It is desired that new materials and capabilities be incorporated future aircraft to improve fuel efficiency and reduce noise and emissions while safety is maintained at existing levels. System-level effects of integration of new flight technologies is unclear.
- One way to incorporate these technologies and maintain safety is through health monitoring, but for an engine the operational environments mean limited information is available.
- One example is that changes in the operation of an engine system, for example by increased operating temperatures, may have long-term effect on engine conditions and safety. Knowing these problems as they develop, rather than when they manifest themselves in an accident, is desired.

# **Propulsion Health Management Demonstrated Needs Include:**

- Advances in algorithms and data analysis are necessary to keep pace with increased data acquisition capabilities.**
- Sensor system integration improvements and new functionality can be a means to address existing safety issues and also facilitate the introduction of new flight technologies.**
- One way to monitor engine systems, and mitigate potential issues is through small, low weight sensors, such as fiber optics or wireless, which can be integrated easily. An objective is to avoid costly retrofits while maintaining safety.**
- Advances in sensors and electronics are critical for enhancing engine health assessments.**
- Engine sensor reliability and limited measurement capability are major challenges to increased situational awareness.**
- Very difficult to model some engine parameters, e.g., turbine blade temperatures, strains, heat fluxes; measurements are needed**
- Measurement and diagnostics of the engine should be viewed as a integrated, whole field problem and not a collection of individual technologies.**
- Engine tests provide rare and much needed opportunities to demonstrate propulsion health management technology.**

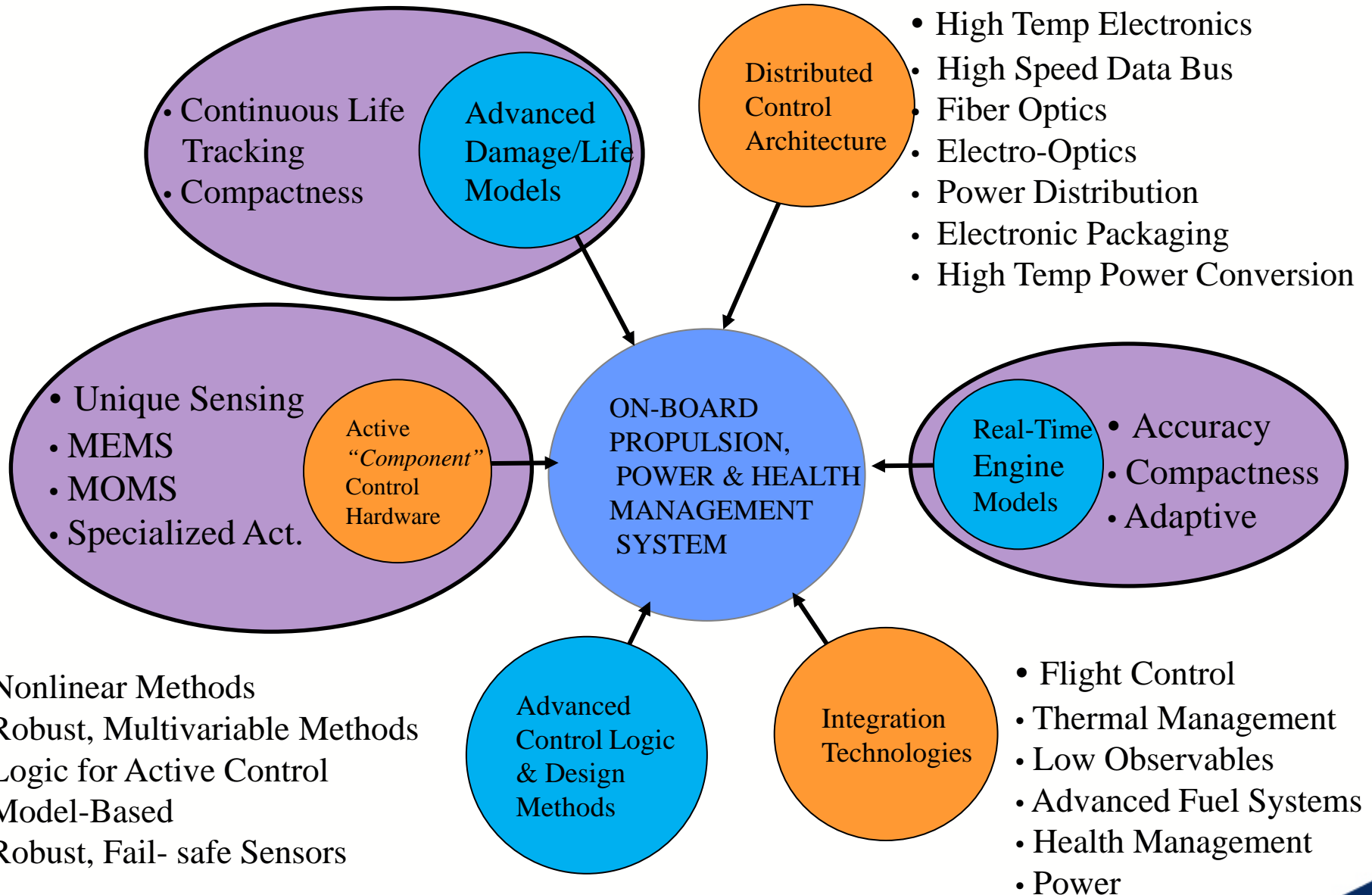
# PROPULSION CONTROL AND HEALTH MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES ASSOCIATED SENSE PARAMETERS



# Technologies Associated with Both Distributed Engine Controls and Propulsion Health Management



The solution is not just software! New **hardware** capabilities are required!



# **ROLE OF WIRELESS SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS**

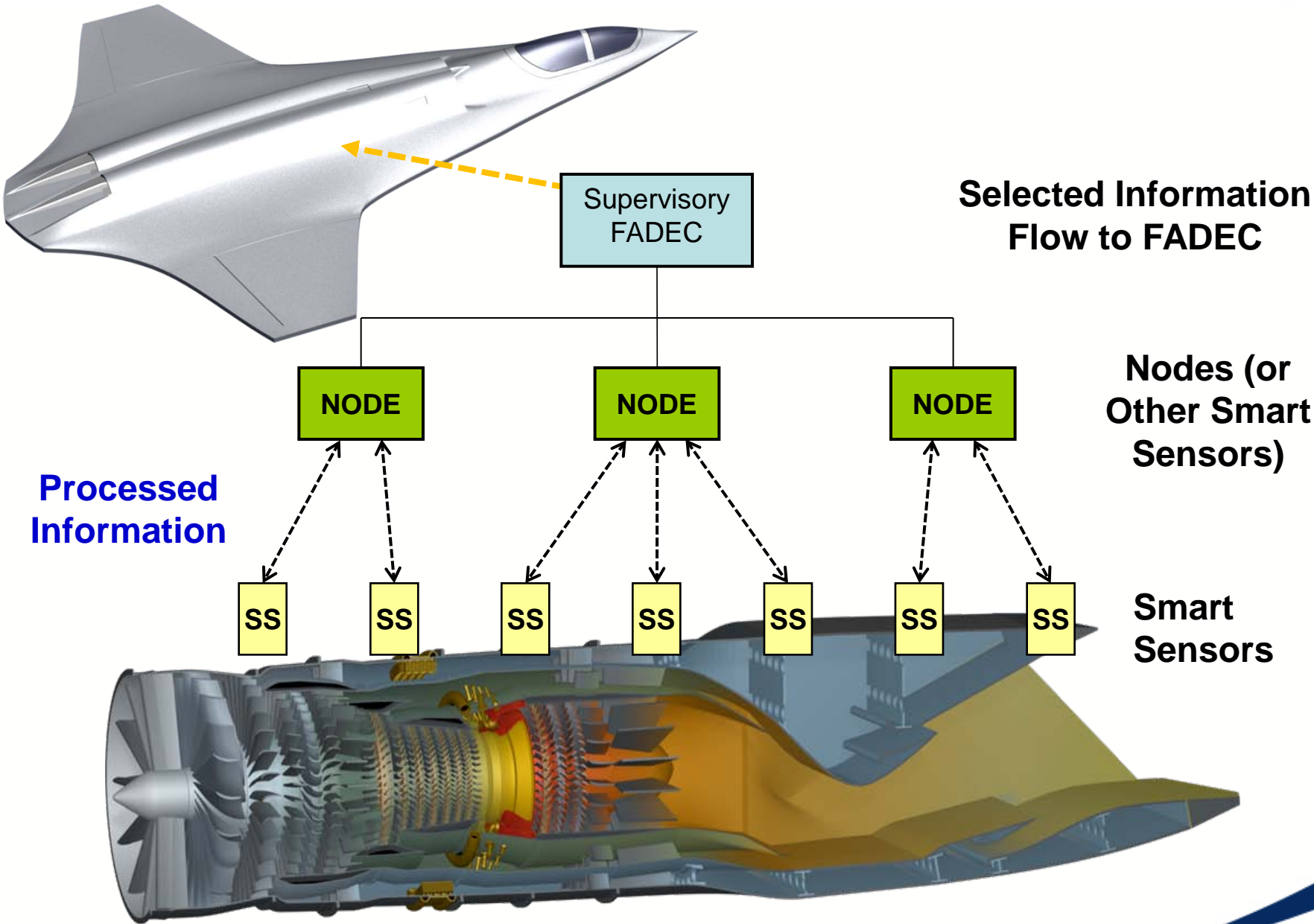


# High Temperature Wireless Smart Sensor Systems



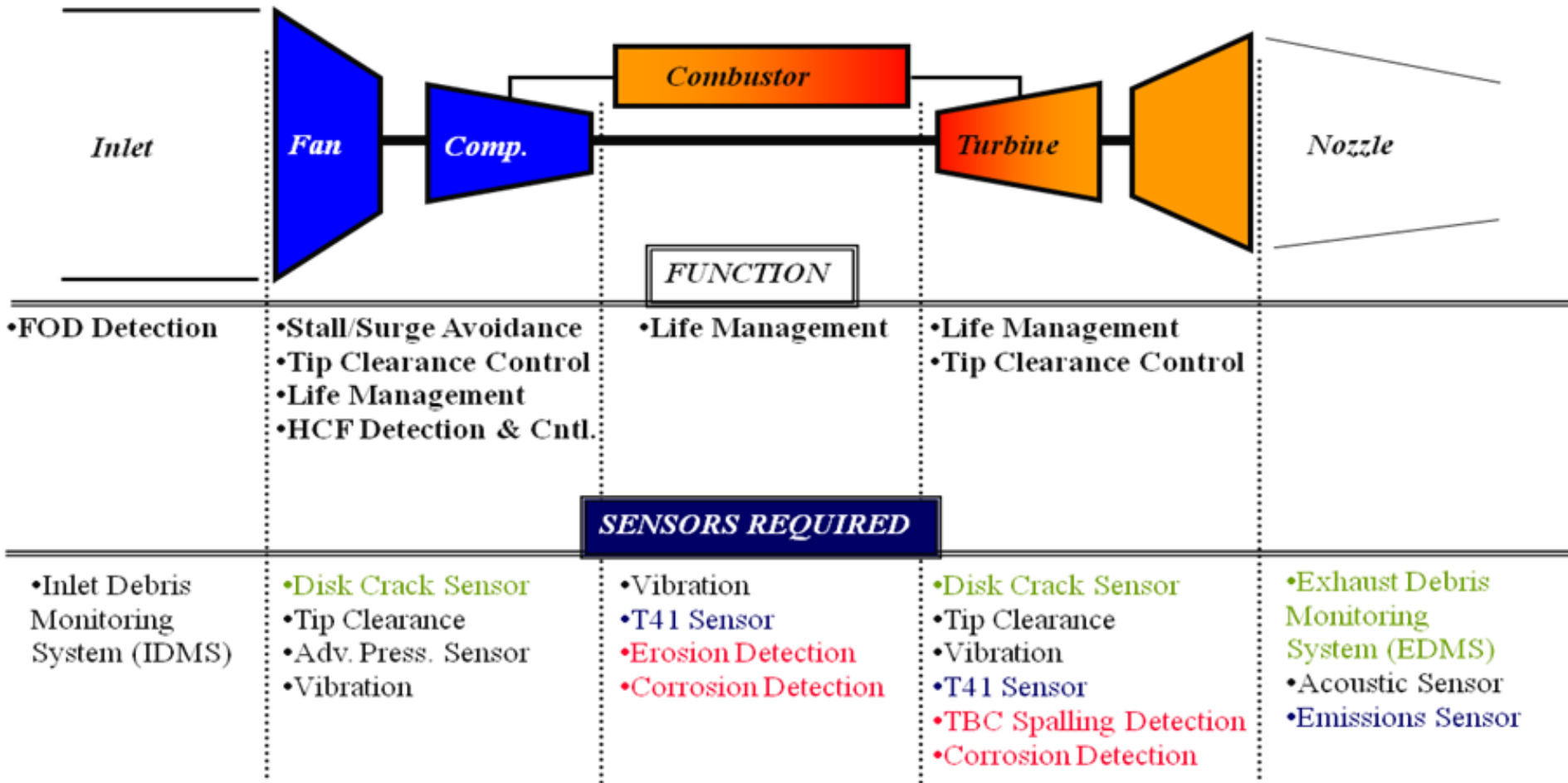
- **Sensors should go where they are needed, even in the harshest of environments**
- **Wires add weight, complexity, and are one of the main causes of sensor failure**
- **Future implementation of sensor technology can be significantly enhanced by:**
  - **Improving the ease of integration.**
  - **Decreasing the burden on the vehicle by decreasing the wire count.**
  - **Improving reliability by minimizing one of the major causes of sensor failure.**
- **Processing at the source can significantly enhance resulting information**
  - **Improve the fidelity of the information (e.g. signal amplification)**
  - **Select information to be transmitted/Decrease the amount of information that needs to be sent routinely**
- **Drive intelligence to the local level**
  - **Local processing to allow component level diagnostics**
  - **Decrease burden on the FADEC**
- **Objective: High temperature Smart Sensor Systems with wireless telemetry and distributed electronics operable over the broad operating temperature range and conditions of the engine**

# Implementation of Distributed Engine Controls with Smart Wireless Sensors



# Sensors and their functions in Turbine Engine Controls and PHM

## Dual Purposes/Wide Application Environment Range



Black: Real Time Diagnostics

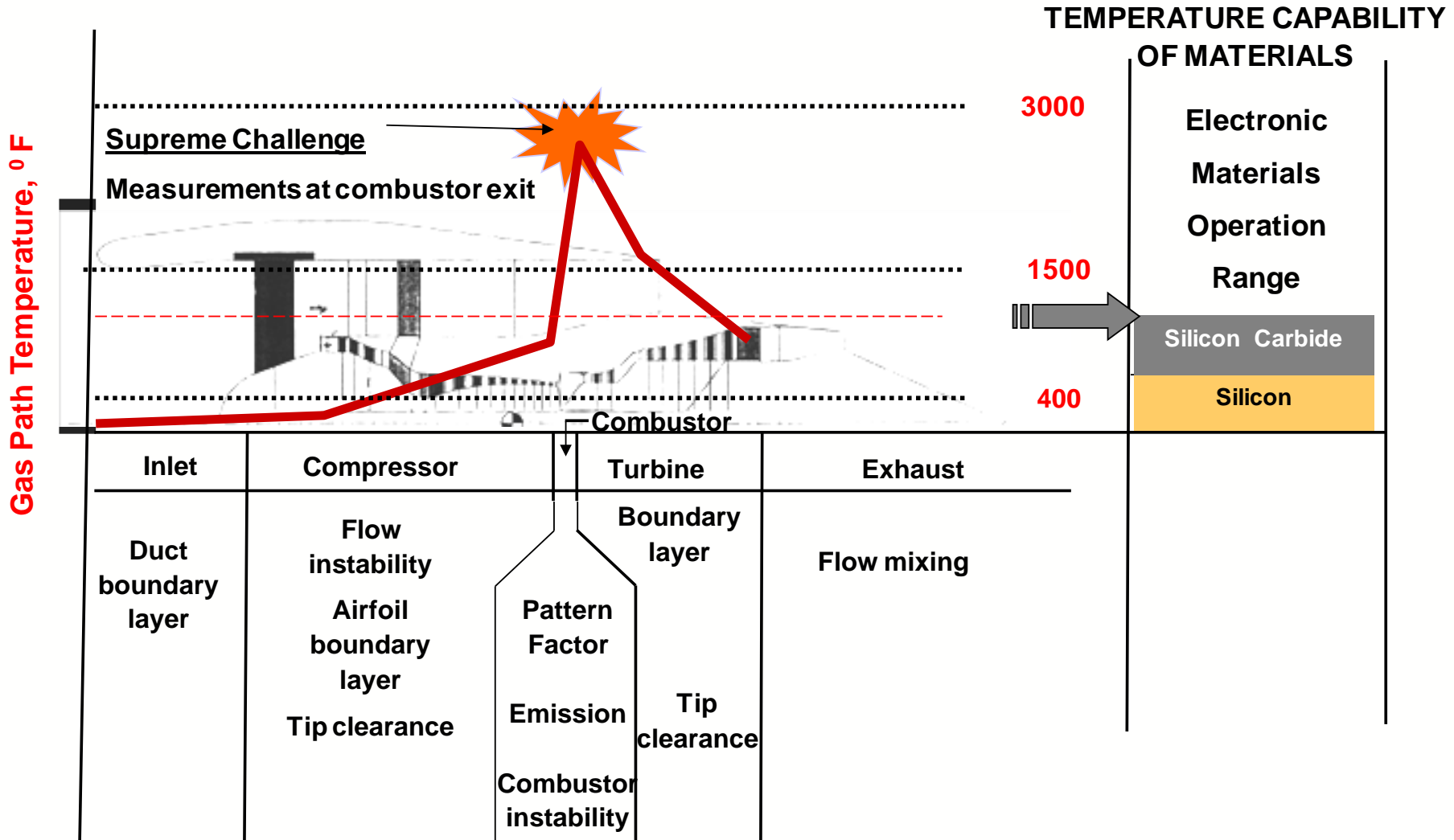
Red: Advanced On-Wing Inspection Technique

Green: Both Real Time Diagnostic and Advanced On-Wing Inspection

Blue: New Real Time Performance Measurement Required

# CORRELATION OF POSITION WITHIN THE ENGINE TO TEMPERATURE

## LIMITATION ON ELECTRONIC MATERIALS



# Technical Requirements for Smart Sensors in Distributed Controls and Propulsion Health Management



## Major Drivers

- **Suitable security of the information exchange is critical for their use, especially in control systems.**
- **Reliability of the radio connection is fundamental for control purposes**
- **Operation in Engine Environments**

## Related Drivers:

### Physical Drivers for Smart Sensors/Distributed Control System Designs

- Thermal Environment
- External Packaging
- Rapid Reconfiguration / Upgradability
- Generic Physical/Functional Interface
- Environmental Requirements
- Certification Impact
- Integration Testing
- Need to integrate electronics onto or within existing hardware

### Environmental Requirements

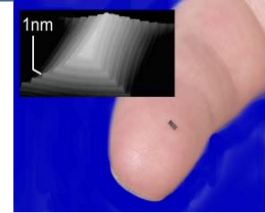
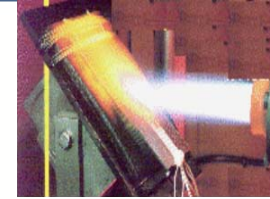
- Design for existing ambient temperatures and vibration environments
- Don't drive cost/complexity into the DCM to withstand unrealistic margins
- Design electronics to withstand existing hardware thermal conditions
- Recognize limitations of typical industry materials

# **EXAMPLE HIGH TEMPERATURE SMART SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

# HARSH ENVIRONMENT ELECTRONICS AND SENSORS APPLICATIONS

• **NEEDS:**

- OPERATION IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS
- RANGE OF PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS
- INCREASE DURABILITY, DECREASE THERMAL SHIELDING, IMPROVE IN-SITU OPERATION

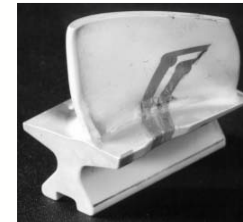


1998 R&D 100 Award

2004 R&D 100 Award

• **RESPONSE: UNIQUE RANGE OF HARSH ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGY AND CAPABILITIES**

- STANDARD 500°C OPERATION BY MULTIPLE SYSTEMS
- TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE, CHEMICAL SPECIES, WIND FLOW AVAILABLE
- HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS TO MAKE SMART SYSTEMS



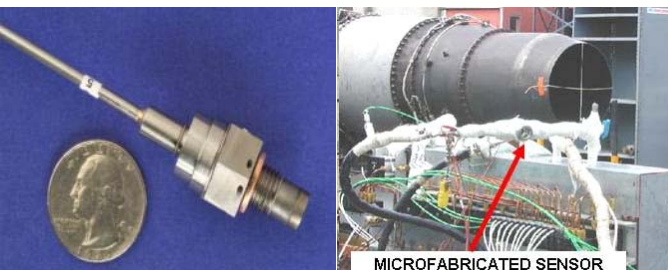
1995 R&D 100 Award

1991 R&D 100 Award

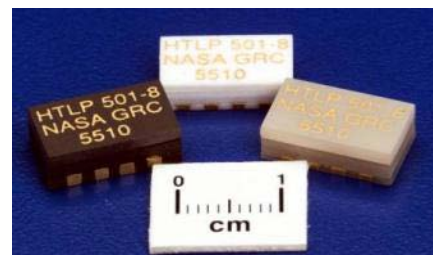
• **ENABLE EXPANDED MISSION PARAMETERS/IN-SITU MEASUREMENTS**

• **LONG LIVED HIGH TEMPERATURE ELECTRONICS AT 500°C: TOP DISCOVERY STORY IN 2007**

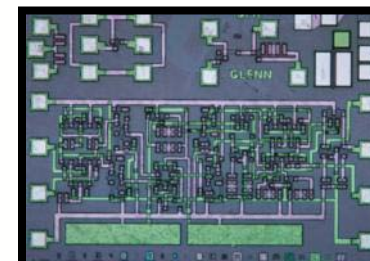
Range of Physical and Chemical Sensors for Harsh Environments



Harsh Environment Packaging (10,000 hours at 500°C)



High Temperature Signal Processing and Wireless



Long Term: High Temperature "Lick and Stick" Systems



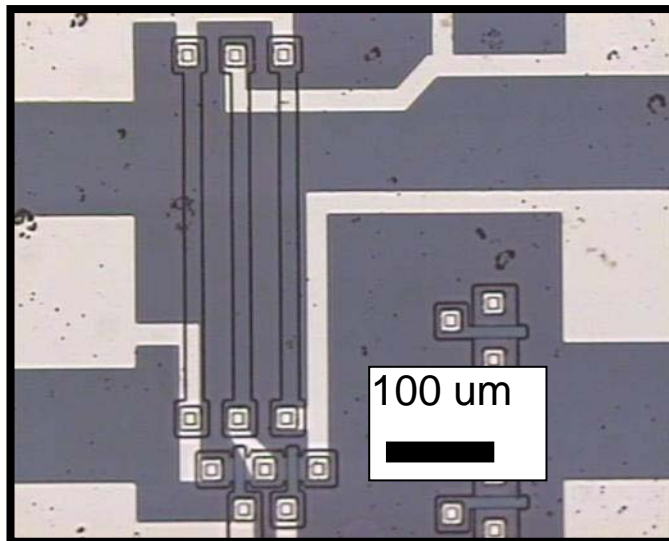
# NASA Glenn Silicon Carbide Differential Amplifier

World's First Semiconductor IC to Surpass  
4000 Hours of Electrical Operation at 500 °C



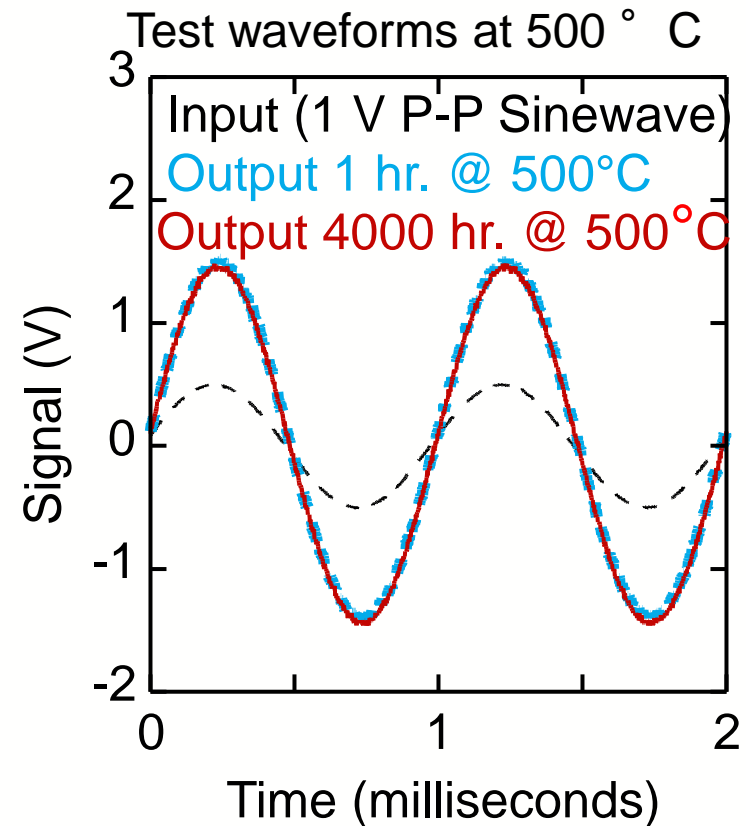
Demonstrates CRITICAL ability to interconnect transistors and other components (resistors) in a small area on a single SiC chip to form useful integrated circuits that are durable at 500°C.

Optical micrograph of demonstration amplifier circuit before packaging



2 transistors and 3 resistors  
integrated into less than half a  
square millimeter.

Single-metal level interconnect.



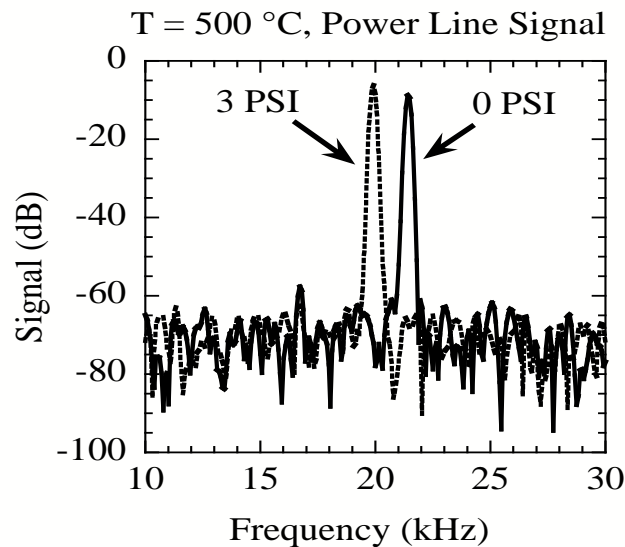
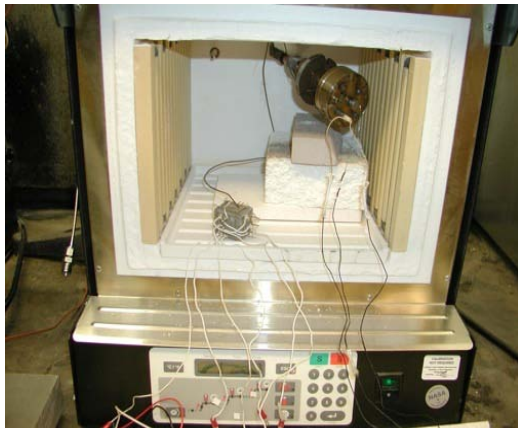
Less than 5% change in  
operating characteristics during  
4000 hours of 500°C operation.



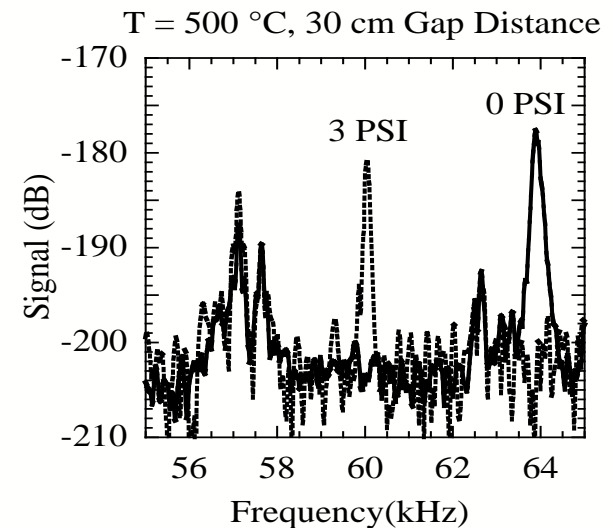
# High Temperature Wireless Parallel RF sensor data signal transmission at 500 °C



- Based On NASA SiC Components Previously Demonstrated For Long-life Operation
- Modulation Of Oscillator Output Frequency As A Function Of Applied Pressure At 500 °C
- Sensor Data Transmission Across A Power Wire Of A Complete System At 500 °C Has Been Demonstrated For 1 Hour
- Demonstration Of Wireless Sensor Transmission At 500 °C At A Distance Of 30 cm Has Been Achieved With An External Antenna
- Both Are Considered World Firsts And Building Blocks For Future Technology Demonstrations



Transmission through power wire at 500 °C over more than 1m



Wireless Transmission at 500 °C with external antenna at 30 cm

SiC Ring oscillator stack and capacitive pressure sensor system components in oven for 500 °C testing

# OBJECTIVE :

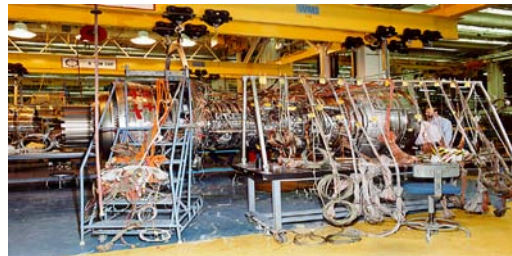
## MOVE TOWARD HIGHER DEGREES OF COMPLEXITY ALLOWING HARSH ENVIRONMENT SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS

### NASA AVIATION SAFETY PROGRAM: FULL SYSTEM APPROACH TOWARD HARSHENVIRONMENT SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS

**Milestone: Demonstrate High Temperature Sensing, Wireless Communication, and Power Scavenging for Propulsion Health Management FY2013**

**Metric: Demonstrate integrated self powered wireless sensor system at 500 °C with data transmission with operational life of at least 1 hr**

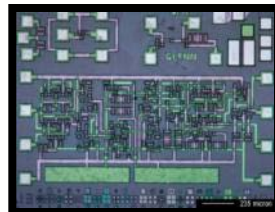
Significant wiring  
exists with present  
sensor systems



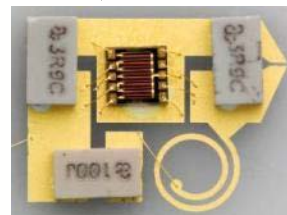
**Allow Sensor Implementation by Eliminating Wires**



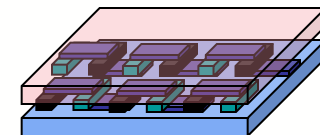
High Temperature Sensor Systems



World Record High Temperature Electronics Device Operation



High Temperature RF Components



Energy Harvesting Thin Film Thermoelectrics

# SUMMARY



- **SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS HAVE A RANGE OF APPLICATIONS**
  - **INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF PROCESSING, COMMUNICATIONS, SENSORS, AND POWER**
  - **SMART TECHNOLOGY IS BECOMING INCREASING DOMINANT IN COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS**
  - **APPLICATIONS FOR PROPULSION SYSTEMS**
- **DISTRIBUTED ENGINE CONTROL APPLICATION INCLUDES:**
  - **PERFORMANCE, TIME, COSTS**
  - **OPTIMIZED SYSTEMS ENGINEERING APPROACHES, AND IS MORE POWERFUL, FLEXIBLE, AND SCALEABLE**
- **PROPULSION HEALTH MANAGEMENT MOTIVATION INCLUDES:**
  - **RELIABILITY OF SENSOR SYSTEMS, INCREASED SENSOR COVERAGE, IMPROVED ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND VEHICLE HEALTH (LOCAL PROCESSING)**
- **BOTH APPLICATION AREAS SHARE COMMON TECHNOLOGY NEEDS**
  - **SECURITY**
  - **RELIABILITY**
  - **OPERATION IN ENGINE ENVIRONMENTS**
- **EXAMPLE OF HIGH TEMPERATURE DEVELOPMENT: SiC BASED INTEGRATED SYSTEM**
- **IMPLEMENTATION WILL LIKELY BE BASED FIRST ON MORE MATURE TECHNOLOGY MORE BENIGN ENVIRONMENTS, FOLLOWED BY SELECTED IMPLEMENTATION IN HARSH ENVIRONMENTS FOR MORE CRITICAL APPLICATIONS**
- **THIS IS A CORE TECHNOLOGY OF WIDE AND SIGNIFICANT IMPACT THAT NEEDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**