

Printed Electronic Devices in Human Spaceflight

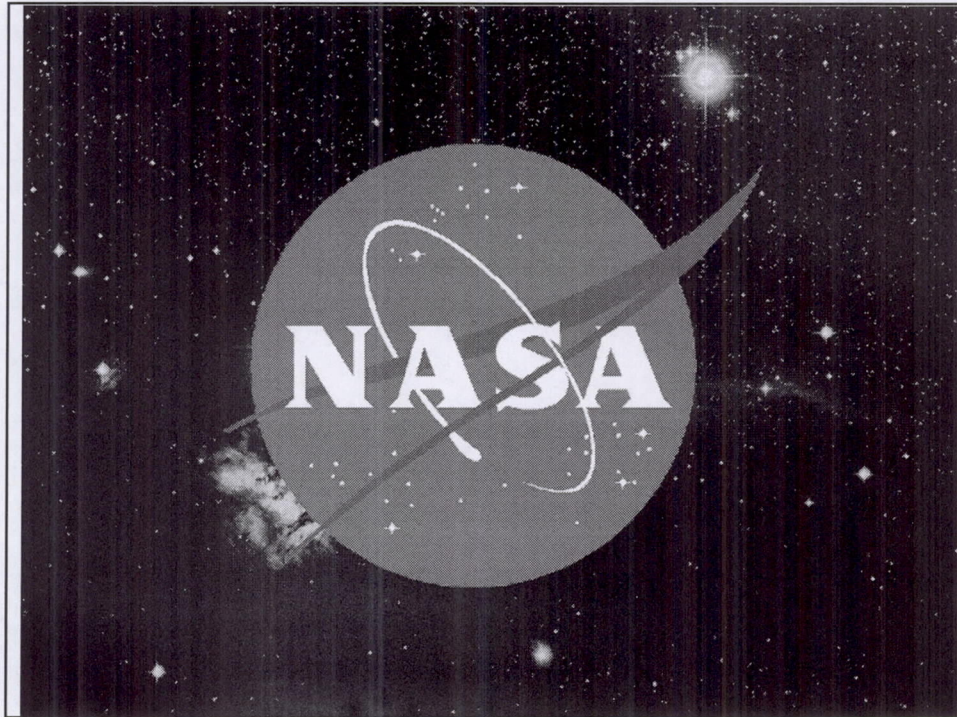
Jack Bacon

NASA/JSC/OM3

(Presentation to IDTech EX Printed Electronics 2004 Industry Conference,
Ritz Carlton Hotel, New Orleans)

Dec 6-8 2004

The space environment requires robust sensing, control, and automation, whether in support of human spaceflight or of robotic exploration. Spaceflight embodies the known extremes of temperature, radiation, shock, vibration, and static loads, and demands high reliability at the lowest possible mass. Because printed electronic circuits fulfill all these requirements, printed circuit technology and the exploration of space have been closely coupled throughout their short histories. In this presentation, we will explore the space (and space launch) environments as drivers of printed circuit design, a brief history of NASA's use of printed electronic circuits, and we will examine future requirements for such circuits in our continued exploration of space.



Printed Electronic Devices in Human Space Flight

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Mail Code OM3

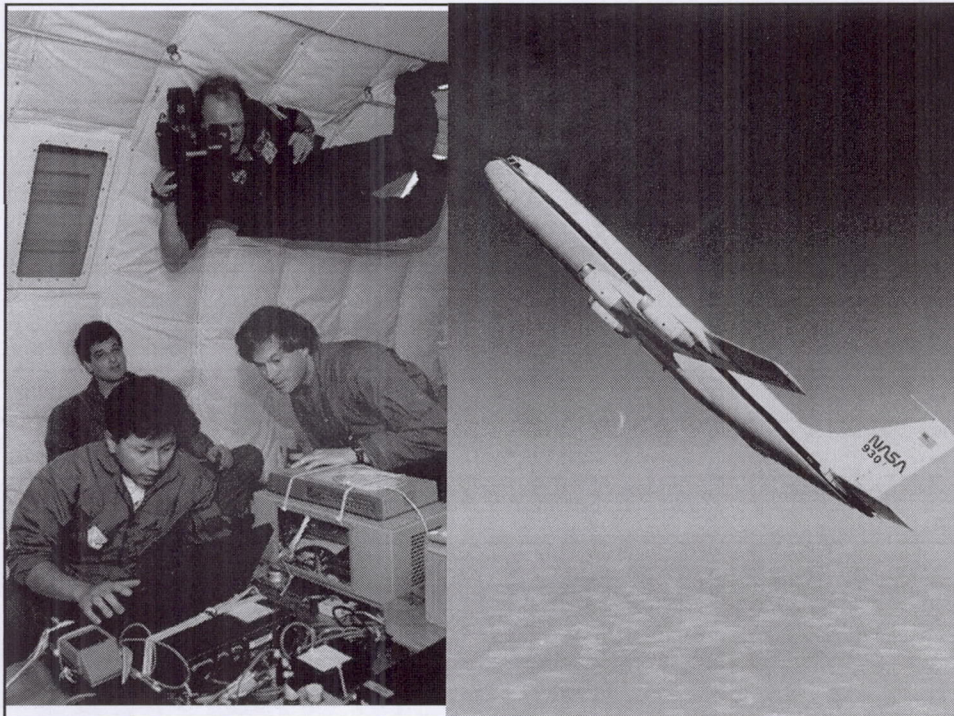
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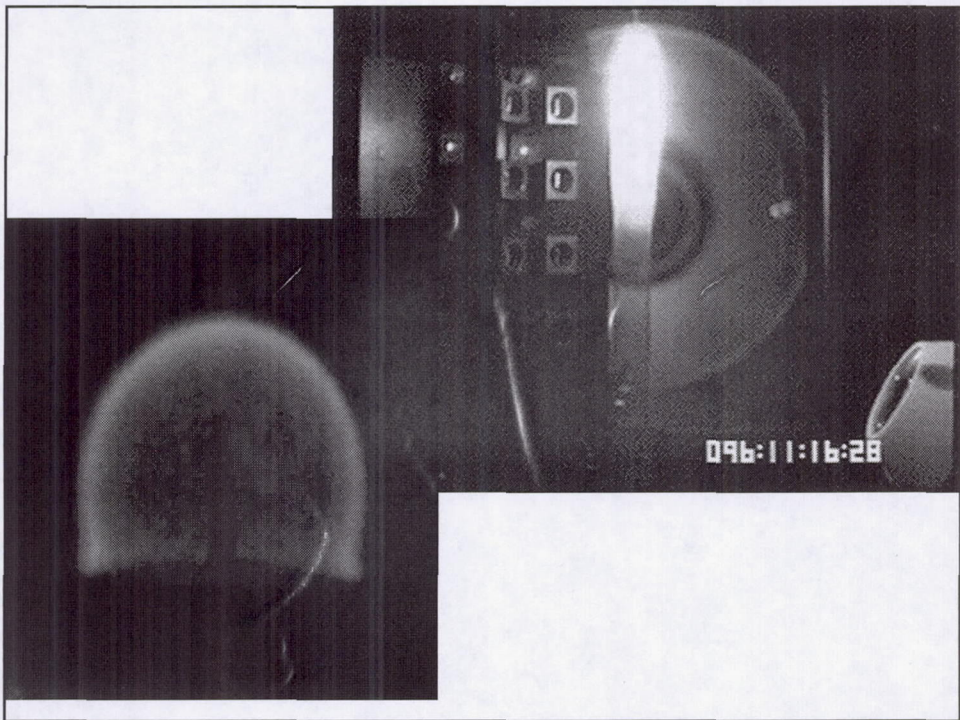
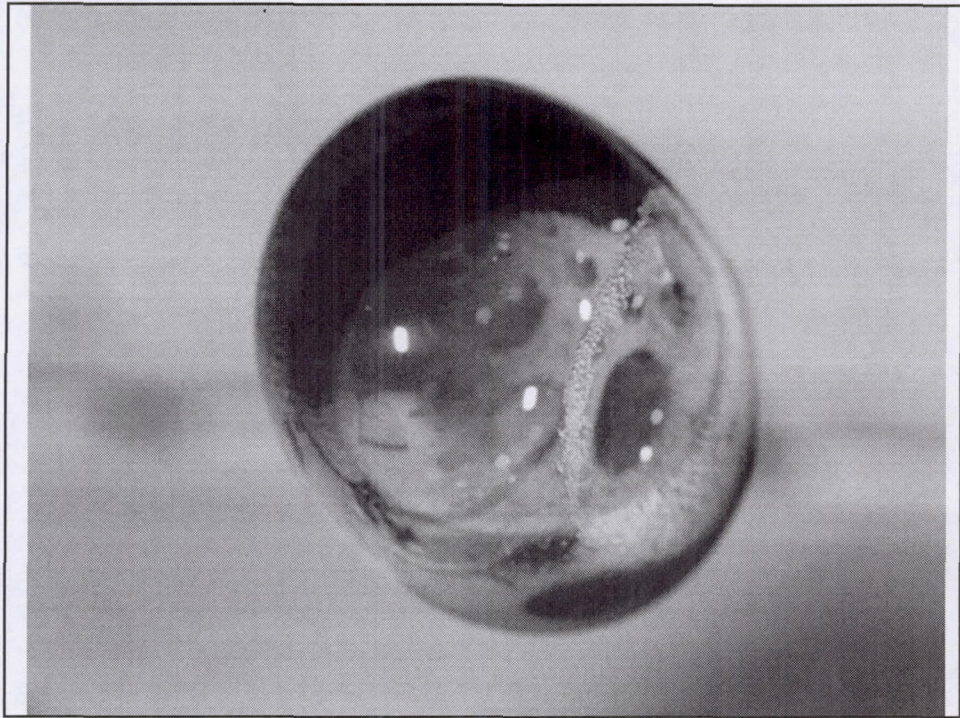
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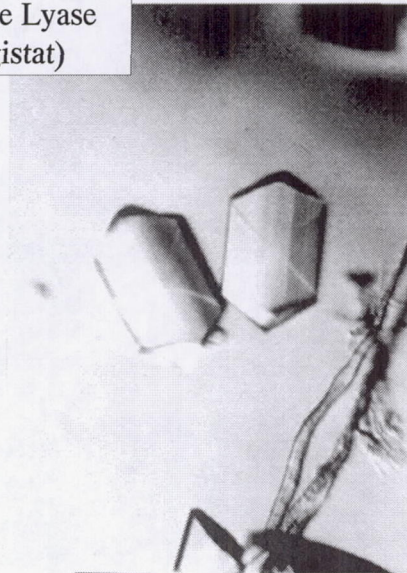
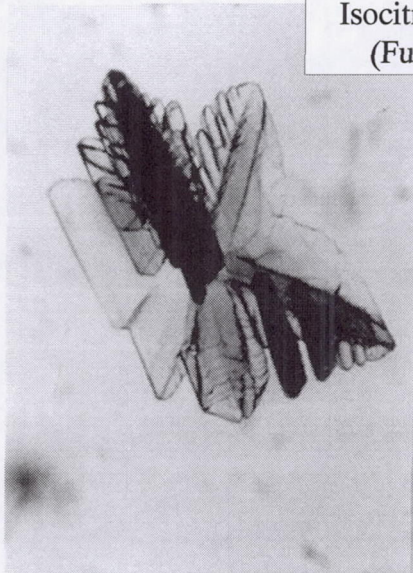
Agenda

- Part 1:
 - Why and how people go to space
- Part 2:
 - Challenges of the space environment
- Part 3:
 - Status, Challenges and Opportunities for Printed Electronics in Human Spaceflight

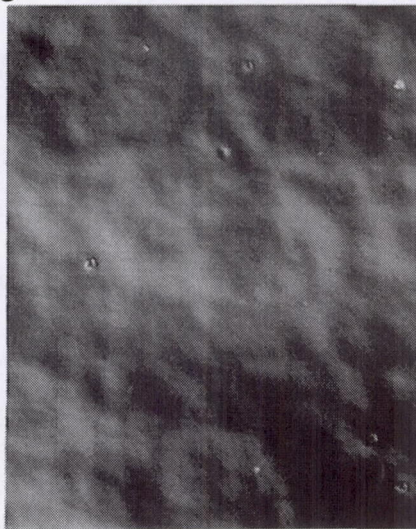
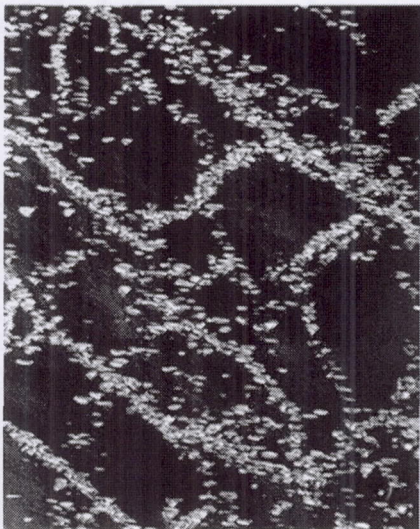


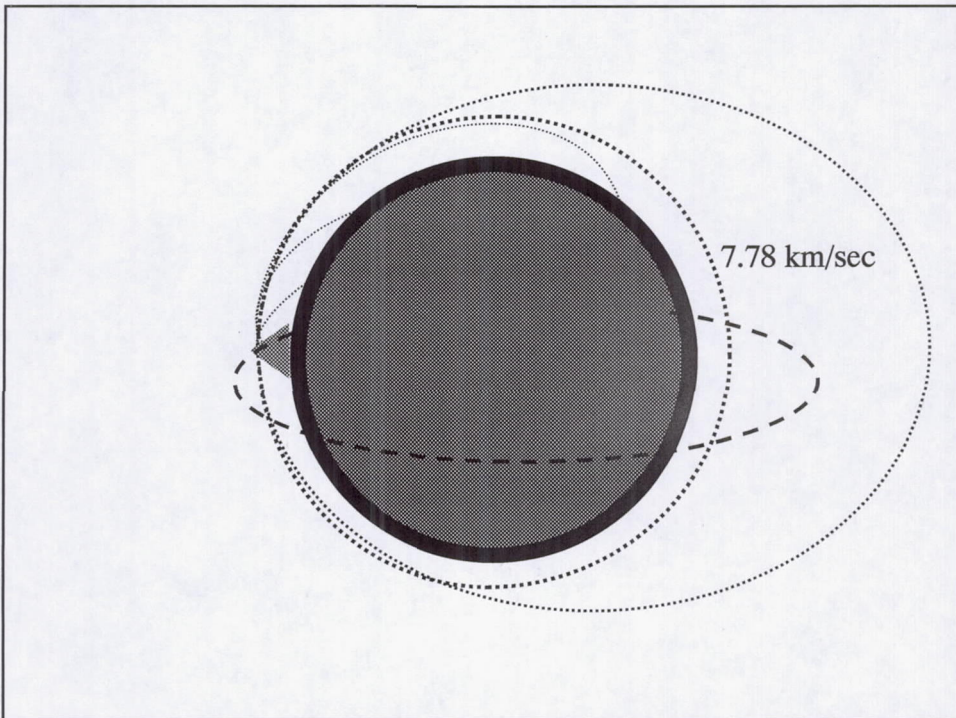
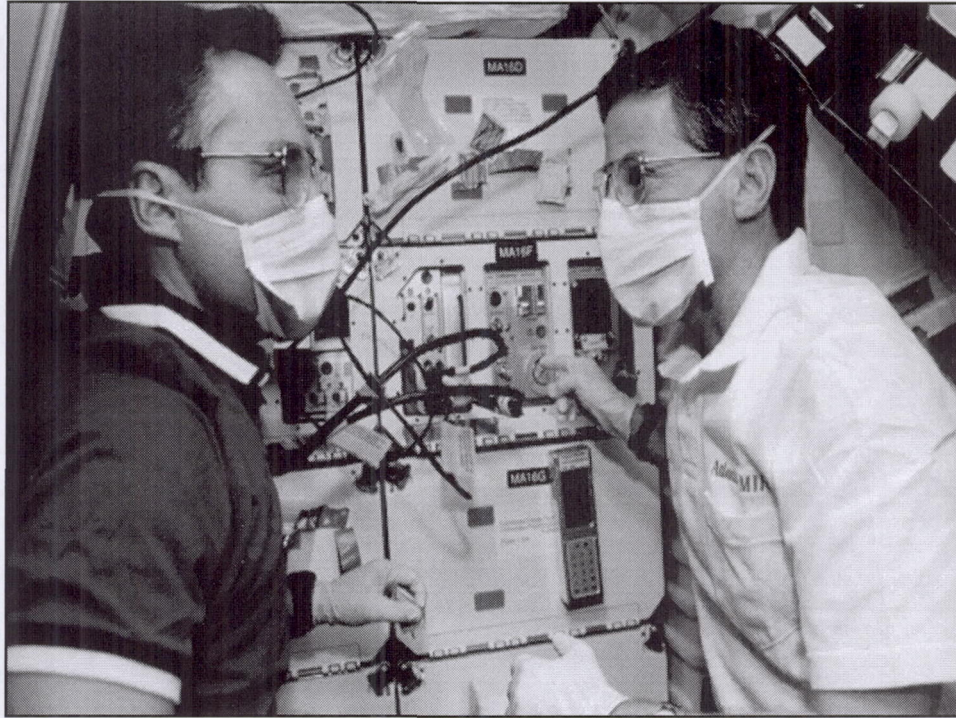


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(Fungistat)



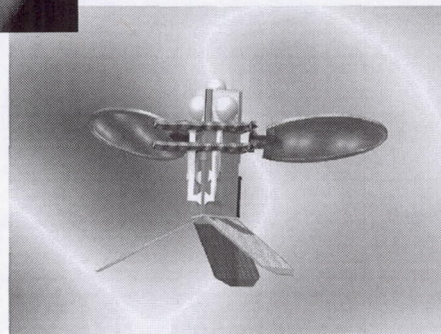
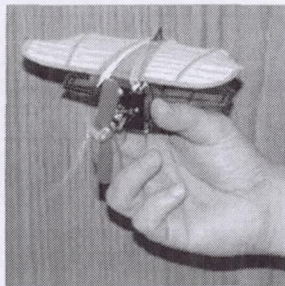
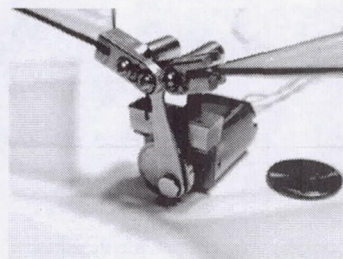
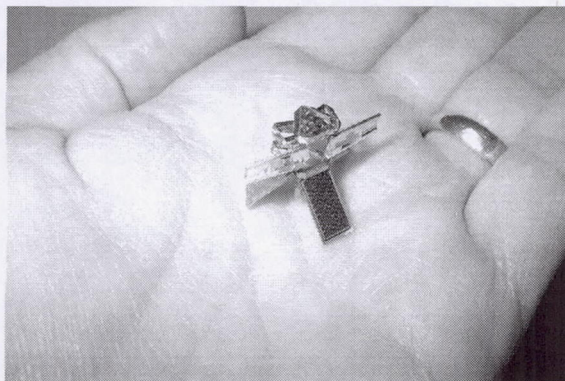
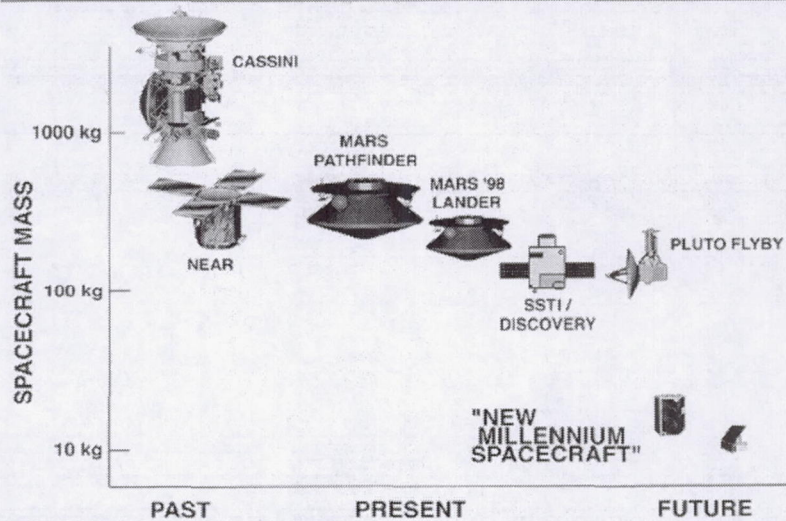
ZnCdHg

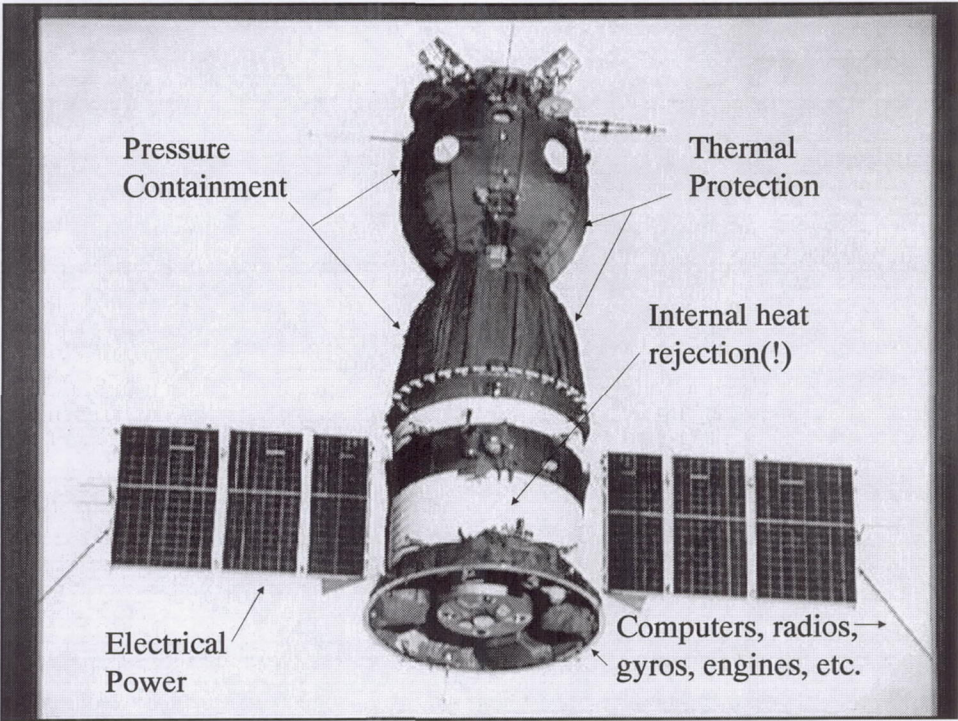






REVOLUTIONIZING SPACECRAFT MASS: TOWARD A "SPACECRAFT ON A CHIP"





**Fluid behavior
in a propellant tank**



1g



μ g

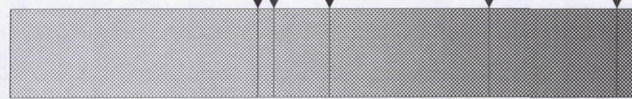
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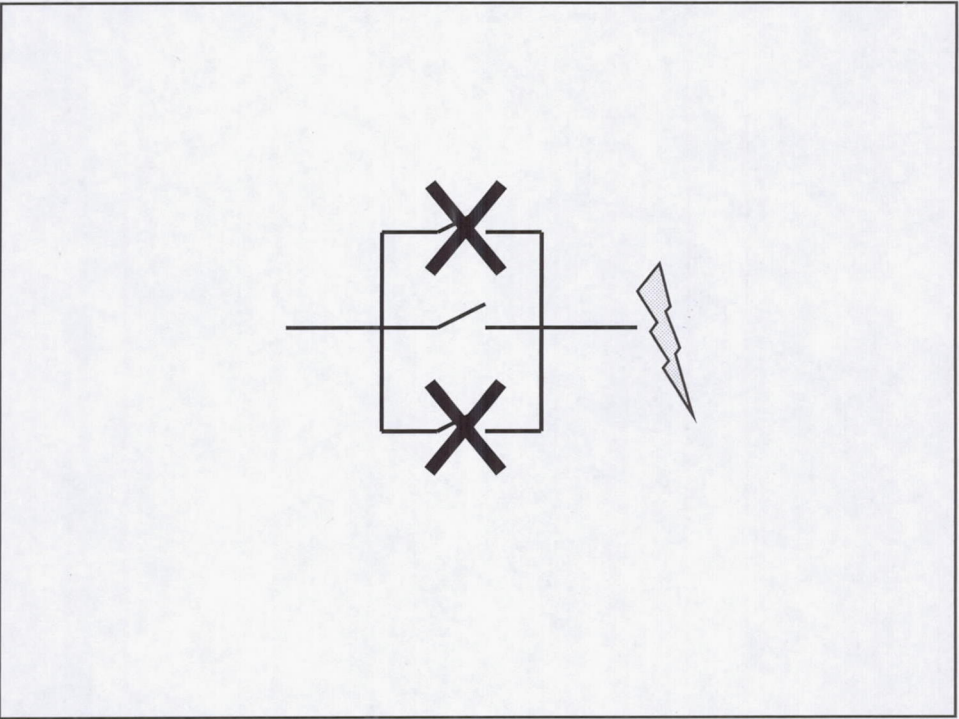
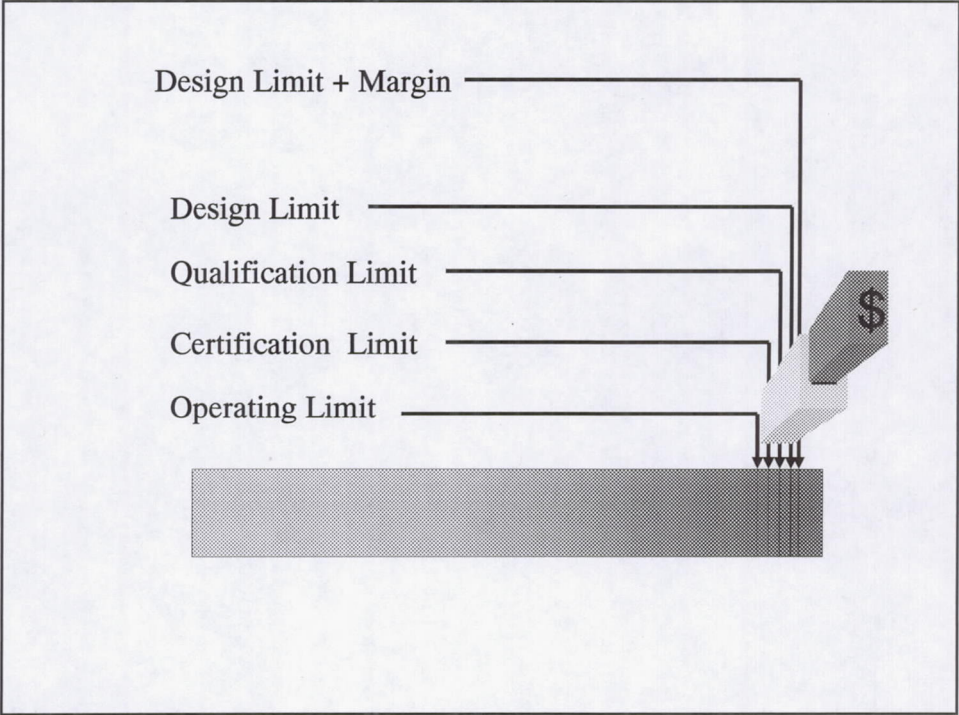
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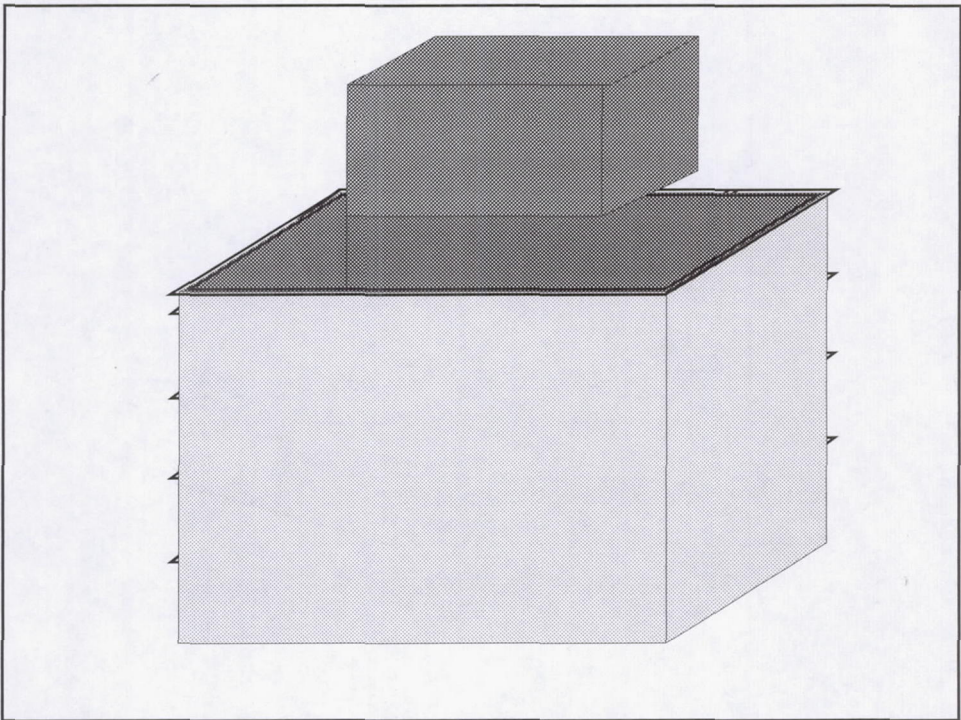
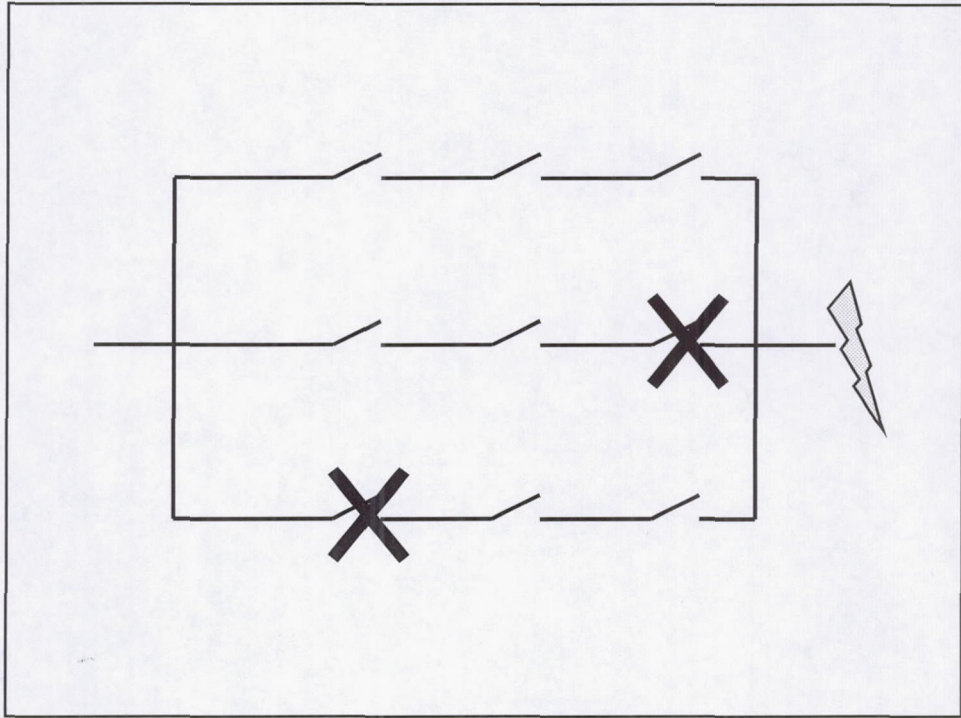
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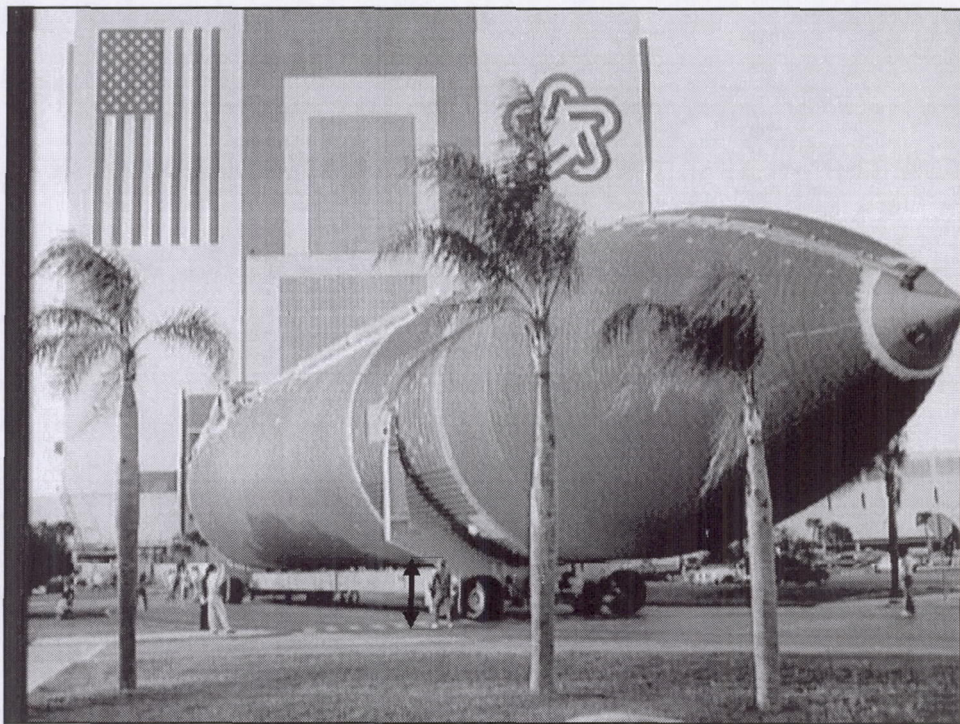
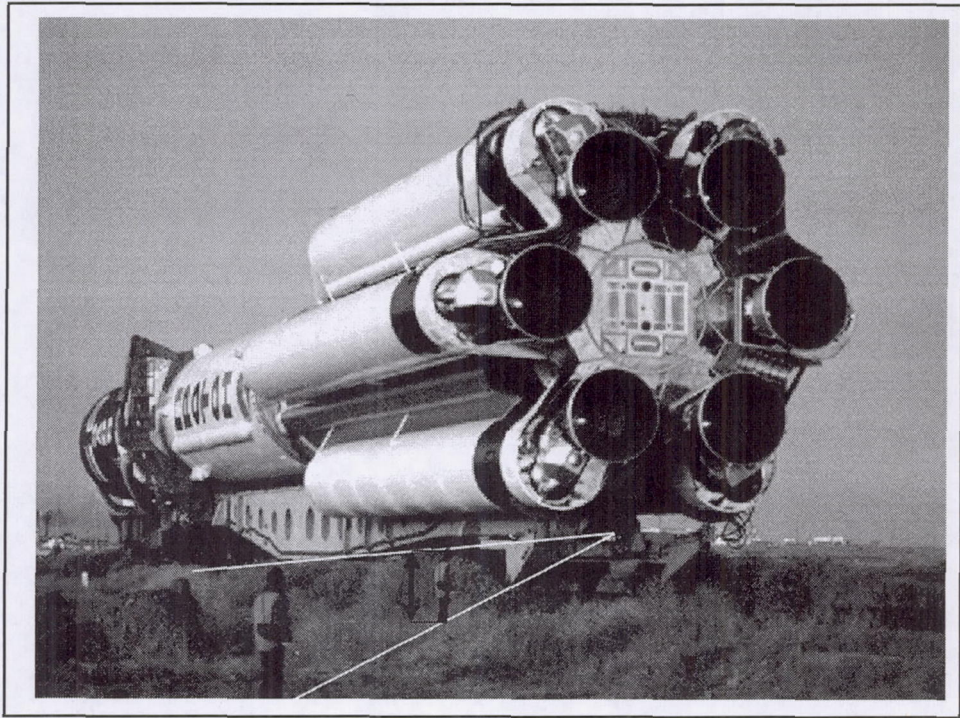
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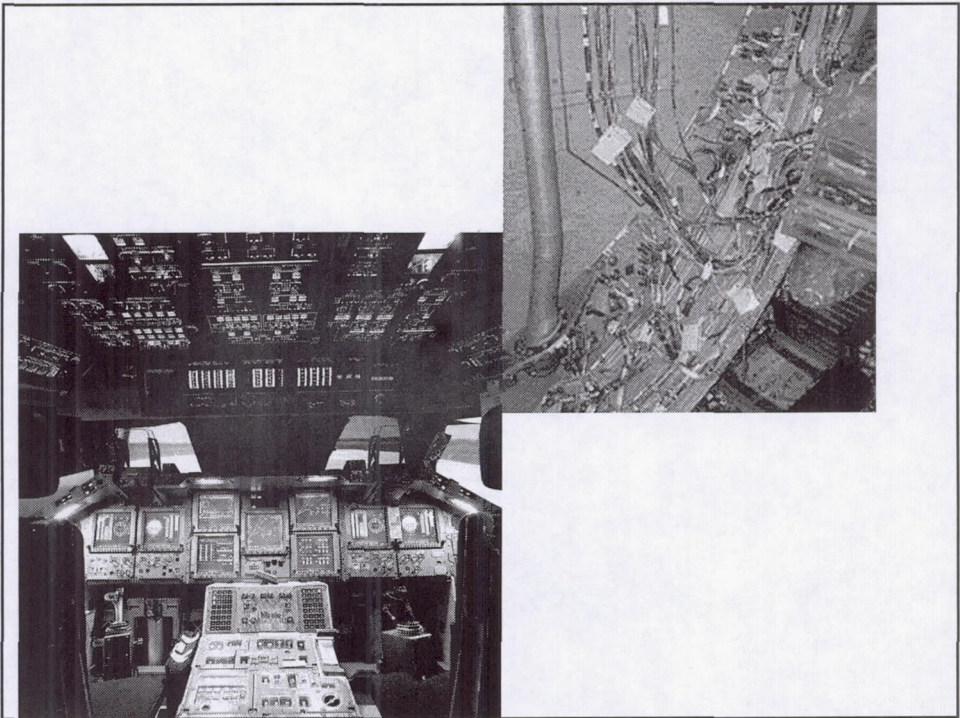
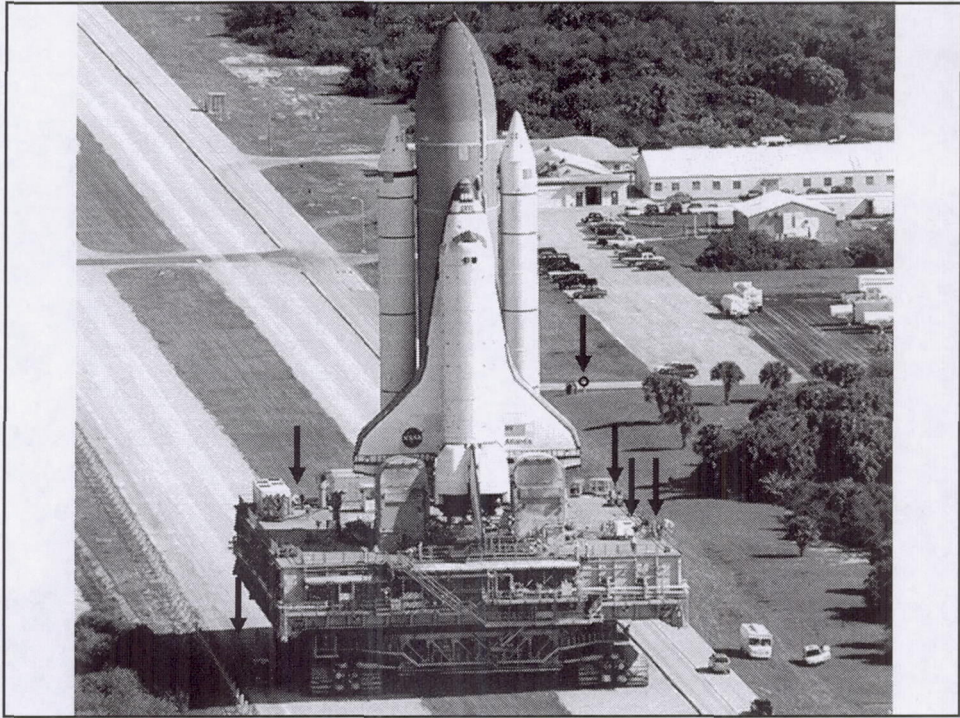
Operating Limit

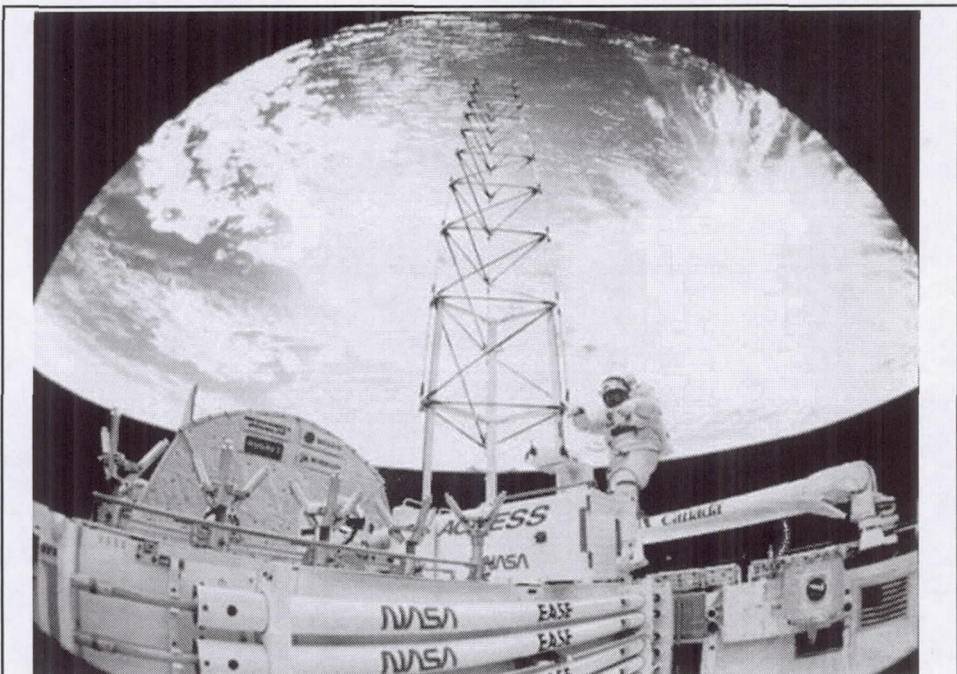
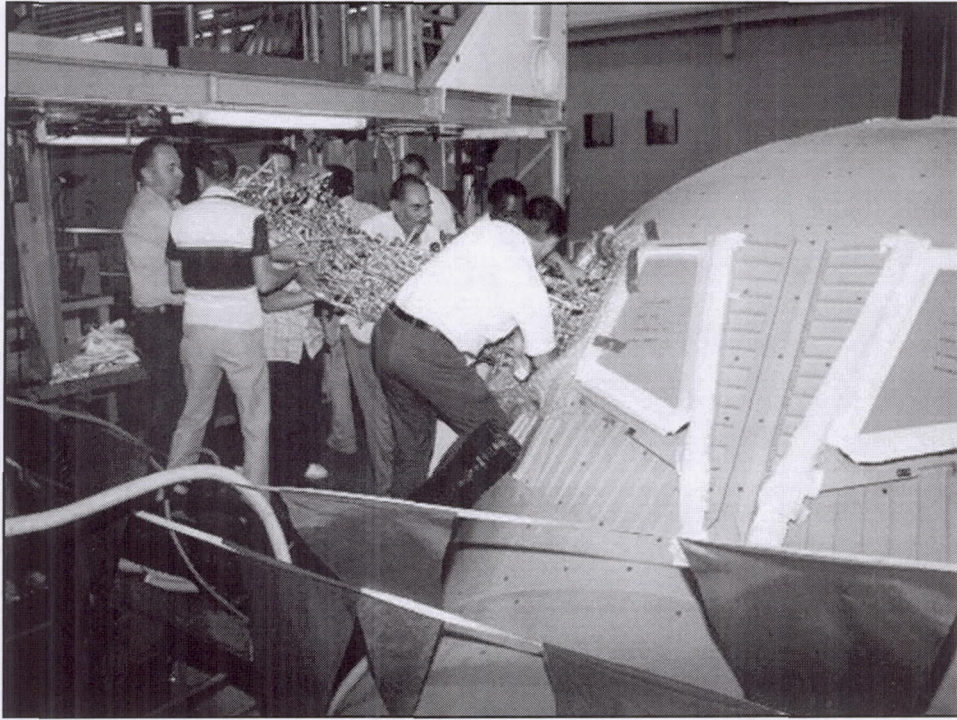





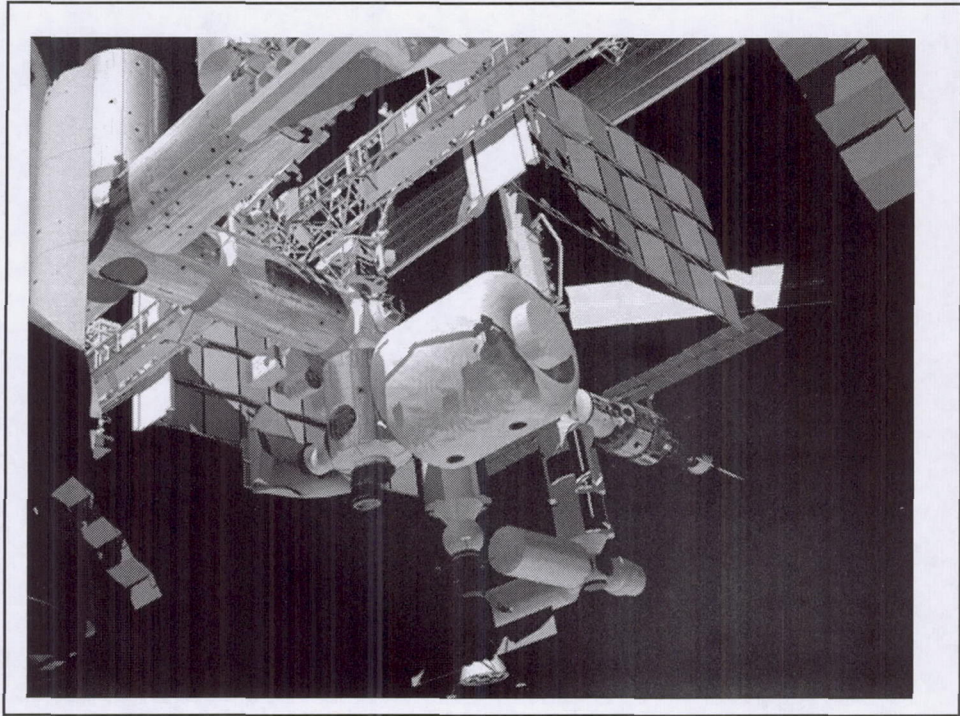


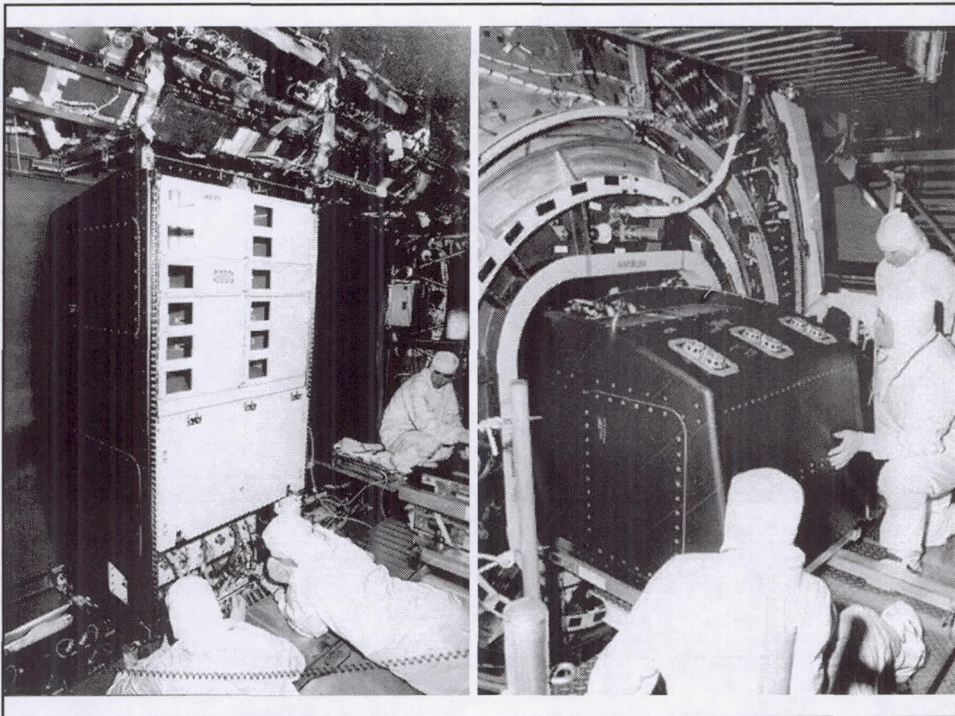
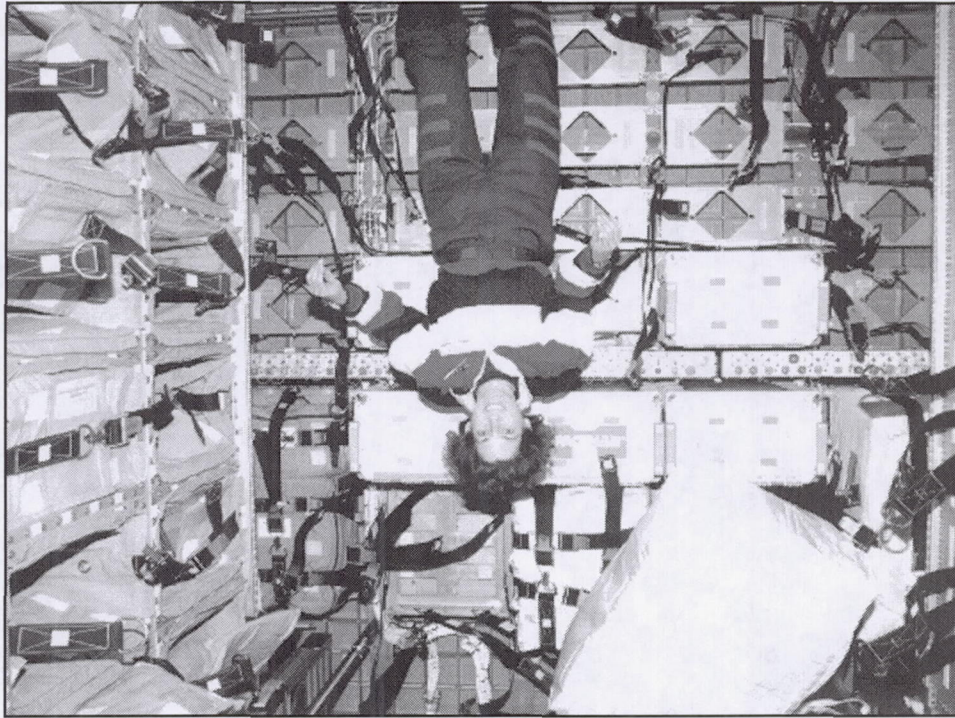




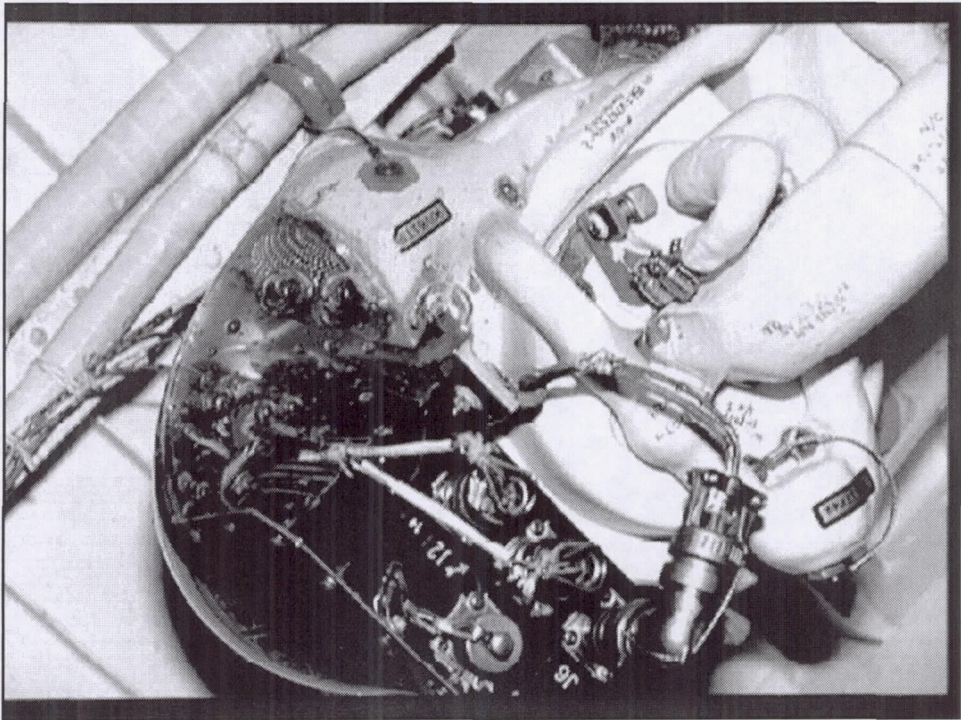
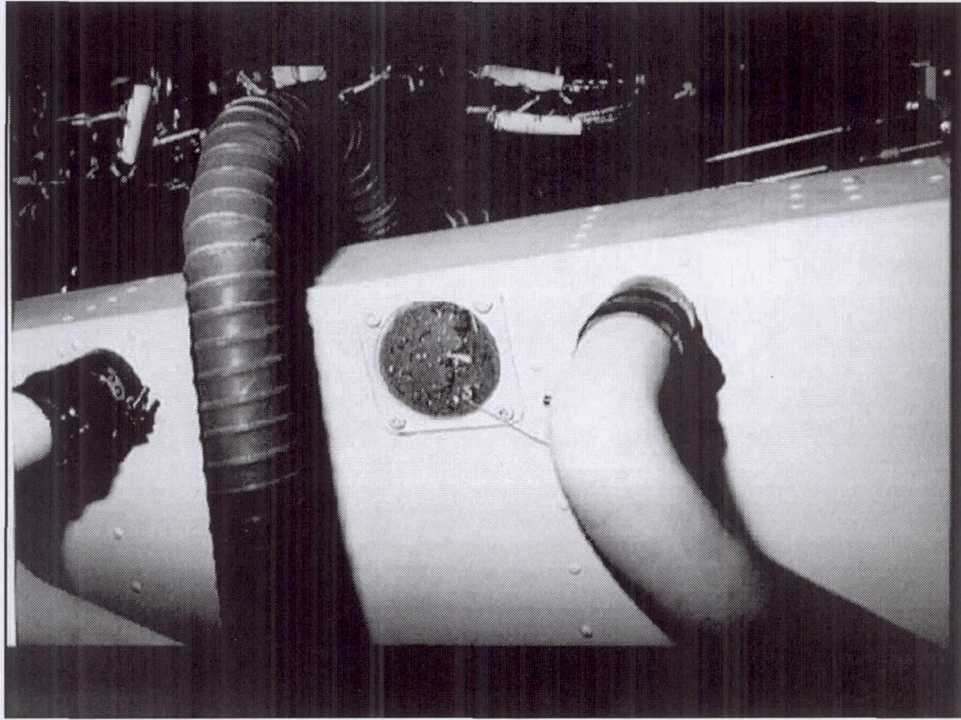


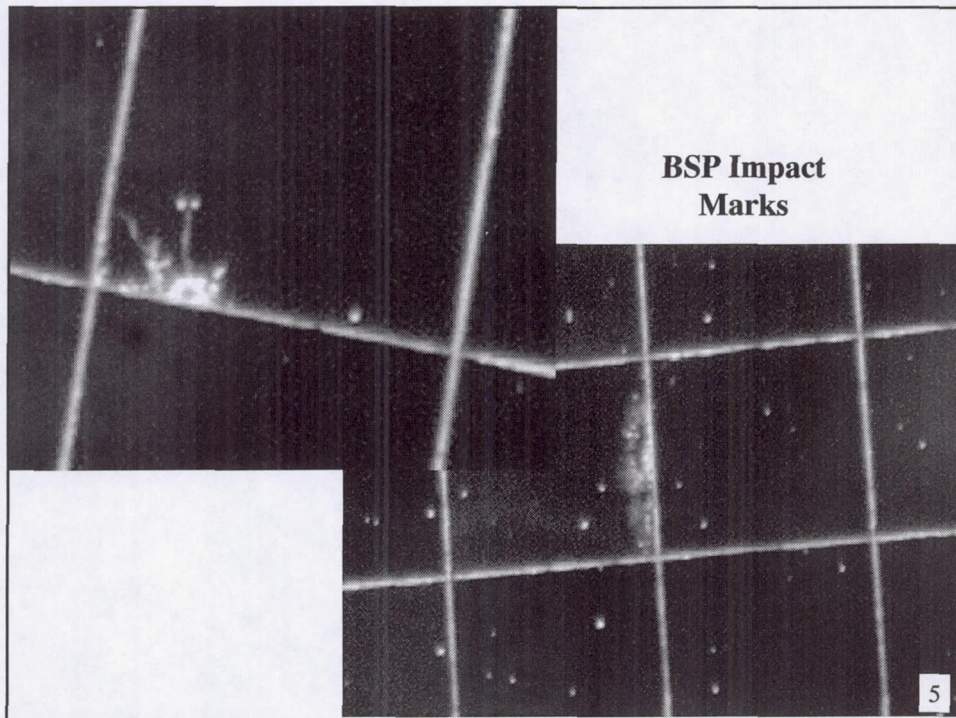
 Space Shuttle Atlantis ACCESS EVA
NASA Langley Research Center 2/26/1986 Image # EL-1996-00066





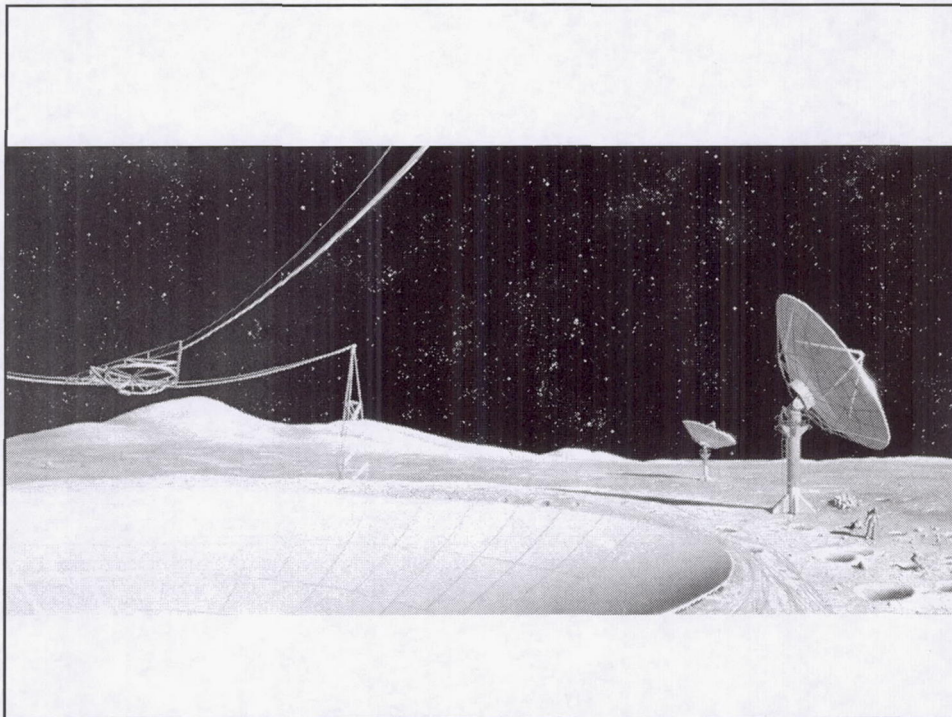
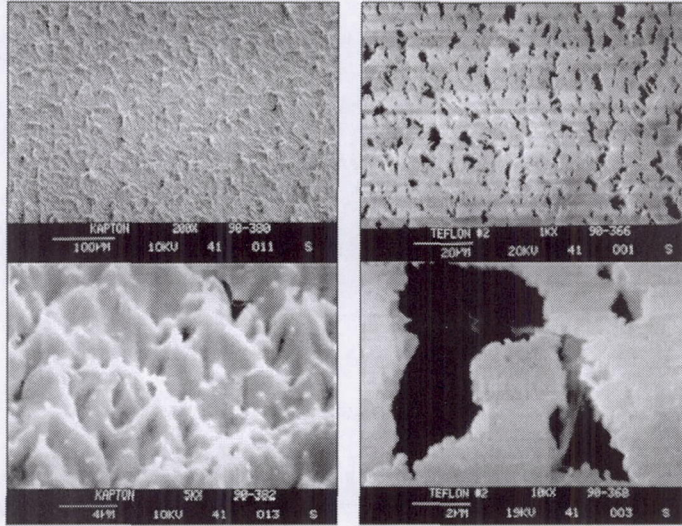


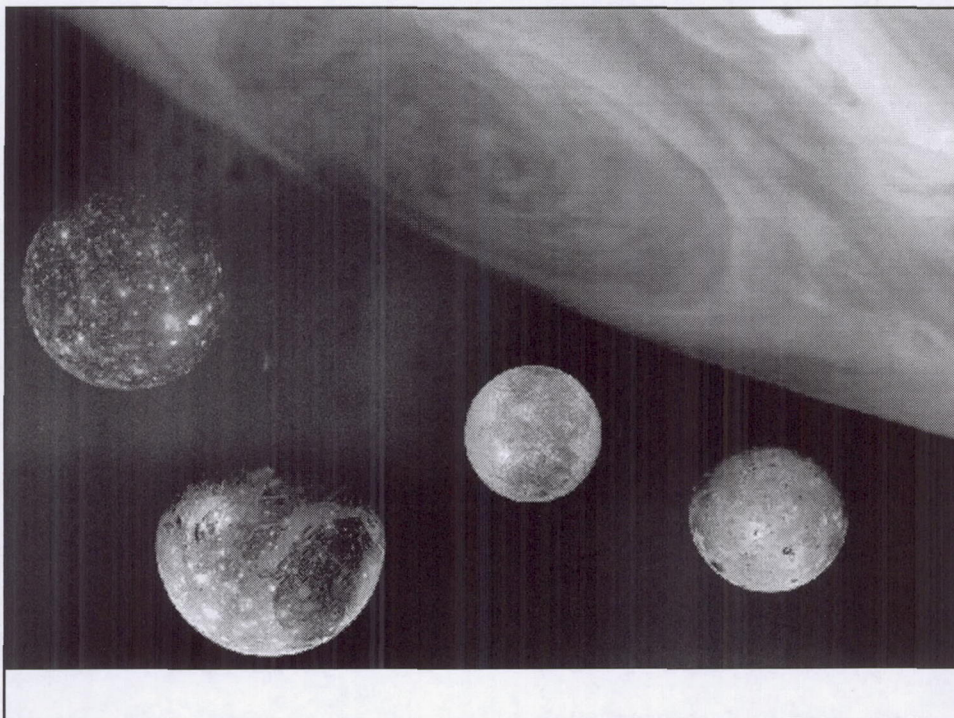




Source: NASA Reference Publication 1390
Failures and Anomalies Attributed to the
Natural Space Environment

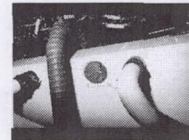
AO Erosion





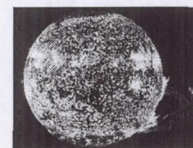
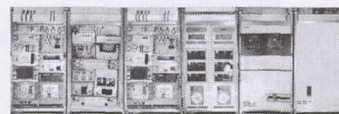
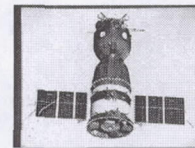
Factors Affecting Space Systems

- High accelerations
 - Static/oscillating ~3 G's
 - Shock ~ 0.05G²/Hz, up to 1000 G's peak load
- Highly competitive RF environment
 - Spacecraft in view of 98% of world population
 - **Every** manmade source is line-of-sight
 - EMI field high: especially outside
 - IVA environment in a Faraday cage with hundreds of sensitive systems- including **people**
- 3-phase medium (gas, solids, liquids)



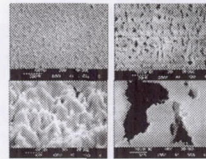
Factors Affecting Space Systems

- Severe materials limits
 - Flammability
 - Offgassing
 - Outgassing
 - Toxicity
- Dense packing
- Multi-layer assemblies & systems
- High radiation environment
- Large thermal extremes



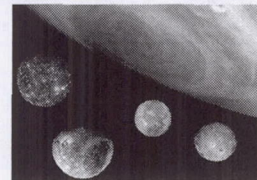
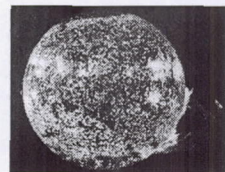
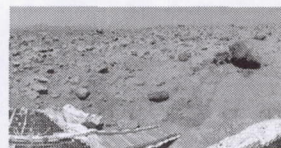
Factors Affecting Space Systems

- Atomic Oxygen corrosion (LEO)
- Particulate erosion/puncture
- Vacuum
- Oscillating Temperatures



Future Issues

- Lunar and Martian Dust
 - Gums up any works...
- Higher radiation
- Longer durability
–(years/decades)
- The Unknown....



Opportunities:

- Inventory is critical
 - **Finding it** can be a problem
- Weight and performance are drivers
 - Sensors
 - Effectors
 - Connectivity
- Reliability and Durability
 - If it moves, it can break
 - If it moves a lot, it can break faster
 - ...and it must not break....



