Conducting Research on the International Space Station using the EXPRESS Rack Facilities

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EXpedite the Pfoyceesing of Experiments to Space Station (EXPRESS) Rack is a multi-use facility which provides standard interfaces and resources for 8 locker-type and 2 drawer-type payloads

- **Payload Interfaces**
  - Power: 28 Vdc
  - Data: Ethernet, RS-422, Analog, Discrete
  - Video: NTSC
  - Cooling: Air (all locations) and Water (2 locations per rack)
  - Vacuum Exhaust (1 location per rack)
  - Nitrogen Supply (1 location per rack)

- **Active Rack Isolation System (ARIS)**
  - Isolates vibration between ISS and EXPRESS
Payload configuration options:
- Insert into a NASA-provided ISS Locker
- Integrate into an International Subrack Interface Standard (ISIS) Drawer
- Design single unit to replace 1, 2, or 4 lockers.
## EXPRESS Racks

- 8 flight racks on-orbit (4 ARIS, 4 non-ARIS)
- First launched April 19, 2001
- Trainer Racks at JSC and MSFC to support crew and ground training
- Functional Checkout Unit (FCU) at MSFC to support payload testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rack</th>
<th>Location (Lab, Bay)</th>
<th>Launch (Flight, Date)</th>
<th>Aug. 2014 Operating Hrs</th>
<th>Total Operating Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #1</td>
<td>US Lab, O2</td>
<td>6A, 4/19/01</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>99,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #2A</td>
<td>US Lab, O1</td>
<td>6A, 4/19/01</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>64,436</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #3A</td>
<td>Columbus, P2</td>
<td>UF2, 6/5/02</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>31,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #4</td>
<td>JEM, F5</td>
<td>7A.1, 8/10/01</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>93,654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #5</td>
<td>JEM, F1</td>
<td>7A.1, 8/10/01</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>845</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #6</td>
<td>US Lab, O4</td>
<td>ULF2, 11/14/08</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>50,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #7A</td>
<td>US Lab, P2</td>
<td>19A, 4/5/10</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>7,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPRESS Rack #8A</td>
<td>US Lab, P4</td>
<td>ULF5, 2/24/11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9,463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: 357,239

*Operational Hours through 8/31/2014*
EXPRESS ISS Locker Details

Features
- 4 rear captive fastener attachments
- Installation tool guides on 4 corners
- Friction hinge
- Dual door locks
- 3 removable panels on door
- Rear internal closeout removed for active payloads
- Internal dimensions (ref)
  - Width 17.340 in.
  - Height 9.970 in.
  - Depth 20.320 in.
- Weight – 13 lbs. empty
- Internal Volume – 2 ft$^3$

Payloads can either be locker “inserts” or locker “replacements”
EXPRESS Powered ISIS Drawer

Features
- Blind-mate connectors
- Locking handles
- Internal dimensions (ref)
  - 15.94 x 5.88 x 23.23 in.
- Weight – 26 lbs empty
- Volume – 1.26 ft³

NASA provides a powered ISIS drawer for ground integration of powered payloads
EXPRESS Subrack Payload Mounting

- Mounting for 8 single ISS lockers (or equivalent) and 2 ISIS drawers
- Subsystem equipment located behind connector panels or mounting plates
EXPRESS Subsystems

- **RIC: Rack Interface Controller**
  - Provides command and control of rack subsystems and payloads and interfaces with the ISS Payload MDM.
  - Collects health and status from rack subsystems and payloads.

- **SSPCM: Solid State Power Control Module**
  - Receives ISS main power and provides power to rack subsystems and payloads.
  - Provides discrete and analog I/O to payloads and rack subsystems.

- **AAA: Avionics Air Assembly**
  - Provides air cooling to payloads and exchanges heat with the Moderate Temperature Loop.
  - Circulates air for smoke detection.
EXPRESS Subsystems

- **PEHB: Payload Ethernet Hub Bridge**
  - Provides primary means of communication between EXPRESS rack, the payloads, and the ISS.
  - Provides 10 Mbps Ethernet data packet transfer between payloads, laptops, and the RIC and provides a bridge to the ISS LANs for telemetry downlink.
  - Command and data interface to EXPRESS laptop.

- **PEHG: Payload Ethernet Hub Gateway**
  - Will replace PEHB in 2015-2016
  - 100 Mbps Ethernet
EXPRESS Subsystems

**ELC: EXPRESS Laptop Computer**
- Dedicated to EXPRESS rack operations
- Crew can view rack displays
- Crew can command rack and payloads
- Payload can have applications installed
- Lenovo T61p
- Windows XP SP2 operating system
  - Upgrade to Windows 7 March 2014
EXPRESS Subsystems

- **Payload Cooling**
  - Moderate Temperature Loop (MTL)
    - MTL circulates water through rack
    - Payloads have MTL cooling access at the upper and lower connector panels
    - 500 W per payload position x 2 positions per rack
  - AAA – “Rear Breather” payloads (1200 W total rack)
  - Cabin Heat Load – “Front Breather” payloads (very limited)

- **Thermal Shutdown**
  - RIC monitors 2 internal sensors that are configured by the PRO (usually a flow sensor and a temperature sensor)
  - RIC will shut down all active payloads and rack if both sensors are out of limits

- **Fire Detection System (FDS)**
  - Provides fire detection for the rack
  - Payload Rear Breathers
    - ISS/EXPRESS-provided by smoke detector within rack
  - Payload Front Breathers
    - Payload-provided parameter monitoring delivered through health & status data to PL MDM
**EXPRESS Functional Interfaces**

- **Station**
  - Power: 120 VDC (+6/-4) (25 Amps @ 3kW)
  - MIL-STD-1553
  - High Rate Data Link
  - Internal Video Sys
  - Ethernet (10bT)
  - Vacuum Exhaust
  - GN₂
  - MTL Water (16 to 23 °C) (61-73.4 °F)

- **Payload**
  - Power: 28 VDC (+1.5/-2.5) (5/10/15/20 Amps)
  - Analog +/- 5V
  - Discrete (5 V)
  - RS-422
  - Video Analog
  - Timing Signal
  - Ethernet (10bT)
  - Vacuum Exhaust
  - GN₂
  - MTL Water (200 lbm/hr)
  - Air
  - AAA
  - PEHB
  - SSPCM
  - RIC
## EXPRESS Payload Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Amount per Payload Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structural Attachment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to Rack per IDD</td>
<td>Attachment to Rack per ISIS Spec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mass constraint launch vehicle dependent</td>
<td>• 64 lb within cg constraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Power</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 10, 15, or 20 Amp at 28 VDC</td>
<td>5, 10, 15, or 20 Amp at 28 VDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thermal Control</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal 150 W (1200 W rack maximum)</td>
<td>Nominal 150 W (1200 W rack maximum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 W Heat Rejection per position (2 positions per rack)</td>
<td>500 W Heat Rejection per position (2 positions per rack)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 - RS-422</td>
<td>• 1 - RS-422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 - +/- 5 Vdc Analog</td>
<td>• 1 - +/- 5 Vdc Analog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 - Ethernet</td>
<td>• 1 - Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 - 5 Vdc Discrete (bi-dir)</td>
<td>• 2 - 5 Vdc Discrete (bi-dir)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Video</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTSC/RS 170A feed from payload source (Shared)</td>
<td>NTSC/RS 170A feed from payload source (Shared)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venting</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared)</td>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrogen</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared, 12 lbm/hr)</td>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared, 12 lbm/hr)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: EXPRESS Rack Payloads Interface Definition Document, SSP 52000-IDD-ERP
Conducting Research on the ISS using the EXPRESS Rack

Software Toolkit for Ethernet Lab-Like Architecture (STELLA)

- Developed by Boeing, STELLA provides a generic software toolkit for Payload Developers to accommodate all of the unique software formatting required to communicate with the ISS.

- STELLA easily adapts Ethernet-based (TCP/UDP) software used in ground laboratories to software for conducting research on ISS; it enables a command and telemetry environment from ISS that is analogous to a terrestrial laboratory’s control and data acquisition environment.

- STELLA functionality highlights:
  - Payload commanding and payload file uplink
  - Remote console access to flight payload computer
  - Payload telemetry downlink and file downlink via the ISS Ethernet LAN
  - Payload health and status data routing to the Payload Operations Integration Center

- Boeing assists Payload Developers with STELLA software integration as a standard ISS integration service
Payload Testing for EXPRESS Rack

Payload

- Rack simulator s/w provided for development
- C&DH remote test possible using VPN
- Virtual Private Network

EXPRESS Rack Functional Checkout Unit

- Payload shipment to launch site or PD

Additional Services Available

- Off-gas
- Vibration
- EMI/EMC
- Acoustics

- Payload-to-rack interfaces verified efficiently for both Payload Developer and ISS
- End-to-end data flow from payload to rack to HOSC to PD ground station.
- Human Factors Team evaluates hardware locally
- Payload operations flight controller familiarization
- Validation of crew procedures

Payload shipment to MSFC

Available

EXPRESS Rack Functional Checkout Unit

Payload

- Rack simulator s/w provided for development
- C&DH remote test possible using VPN
- Virtual Private Network

Additional Services Available

- Off-gas
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- Acoustics

- Payload-to-rack interfaces verified efficiently for both Payload Developer and ISS
- End-to-end data flow from payload to rack to HOSC to PD ground station.
- Human Factors Team evaluates hardware locally
- Payload operations flight controller familiarization
- Validation of crew procedures
- **NASA Payload Integration Manager (PIM)**
  - Functions as the Payload Developer’s primary interface to the ISS Program
  - Serves as payload advocate while protecting ISS Program Requirements

- Ensures payload requirements are accurately defined and documented
- Facilitates payload integration product development, delivery schedules, and communications with the ISS Program
EXPRESS Topology – 9/26/14

Conducting Research on the ISS using the EXPRESS Rack.

Payload Locations 56
Total Payloads 44 79%
National Lab Payloads 19 34%
Stowage Lockers 12
NASA has identified the need to accommodate additional EXPRESS payloads on ISS

NASA and Boeing are developing an additional 2 or 3 racks with limited functionality
  - Systems Requirements Review held 7/23/14
  - Concept waiting ISS Program approval
  - Anticipated on-orbit in 2018

Basic Express Rack (BER) Architecture defined
  - Accommodations
    - 8 locker locations
    - Approximately 2000 W at 28Vdc available for payloads
    - Air cooling to payloads provided by Avionics Air Assembly (AAA)
    - Moderate Temperature Loop (MTL) interface provided with manually adjusted flow rate
    - ISS Smoke Detector (SD) provided
    - 16 port 100 baseT Ethernet Switch provided for C&DH interface to payloads
    - Payload MDM software modification to allow handling of payload health & status data and commands to payloads (replaces RIC)
    - 120Vdc outlet to accommodate the 120Vac inverter.
  - Racks designated ER9B, 10B and 11B
## Proposed Basic Express Rack Payload Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Amount per Payload Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXPRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural Attachment</td>
<td>Attachment to Rack per IDD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mass constraint launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vehicle dependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>5, 10, 15, or 20 Amp at 28 VDC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermal Control Air</td>
<td>Nominal 150 W (1200 W rack maximum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thermal Control Water</td>
<td>500 W Heat Rejection per position (2 positions per rack)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data</td>
<td>• 1 - RS-422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 1 - Ethernet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 2 - +/- 5 Vdc Analog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venting</td>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen</td>
<td>1 payload interface per rack (Shared, 12 lbm/hr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aux Power</td>
<td>Automatic failover when set</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- EXPRESS Racks provide capability for payload access to ISS resources.
- The successful on-orbit operations and versatility of the EXPRESS Rack has facilitated the operations of many scientific areas, with the promise of continued payload support for years to come.
- EXPRESS Racks are currently deployed in the US Lab, Columbus and JEM.
- Process improvements and enhancements continue to improve the accommodations and make the integration and operations process more efficient.
- Payload Integration Managers serve as the primary interface between the ISS Program and EXPRESS Payload Developers.
- EXPRESS Project coordinates across multiple functional areas and organizations to ensure integrated EXPRESS Rack and subrack products and hardware are complete, accurate, on time, safe, and certified for flight.
- NASA is planning to expand the EXPRESS payload capacity by developing new Basic Express Racks expected to be on ISS in 2018.
Back Up Material
EXPRESS Rack 1 INC 35

- **Commercial Generic Bioprocessing Apparatus (CGBA)** 4
  - Provides programmable, accurate temperature control for applications ranging from cold stowage to customizable incubation for experiments on cells, microbes, and plants.

- **Microgravity Experiment Research Locker/INcubator (MERLIN)** 3

- **NanoRacks Platform**

- **Microgravity Acceleration Measurement System (MAMS) & Space Acceleration Measurement System-II (SAMS-II)**
  - Studies the small forces, or vibrations and accelerations, on the International Space Station (ISS) that result from the operation of hardware, crew activities, dockings and maneuvering.
EXPRESS Rack 2

- Commercial Generic Bioprocessing Apparatus (CGBA) 6
- Advanced Biological Research System (ABRS)
  - Two growth chambers independently controlling temperature, illumination, and atmospheric composition to grow a variety of biological organisms.
- NanoRacks Plate Reader
  - Instrument designed to detect biological, chemical or physical events of samples in microtiter plates.
- General Laboratory Active Cryogenic ISS Experiment Refrigerator (GLACIER) 1
  - Ultra-cold freezers that will store samples at temperatures as low as -160 °C (-301 °F).
General Laboratory Active Cryogenic ISS Experiment Refrigerator (GLACIER) 1

European Modular Cultivation System (EMCS)

- Large incubator that provides control over the atmosphere, lighting and humidity of growth chambers to study plant growth.
- Contains two centrifuges whose speed can be set to exert a gravitational force ranging from nearly 0 to 2 g on four samples.
- Developed by the European Space Agency (ESA)
  
  [Link](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/542.html)
EXPRESS Rack 4  INC 35

- **Device for the study of Critical Liquids and Crystallization (DECLIC)**
  - Multi-user facility utilized to study transparent media and their phase transitions in microgravity.
  - Established the precise temperature (373.995 °C) at which water becomes supercritical.

- **NanoRacks Platform 1**
  - NanoRacks Platforms provide power and data transfer capabilities for NanoRacks Modules, which function as experiment platforms for a wide range of disciplines.

- **ELaboratore Immagini TElevisive - Space 2 (ELITE-S2)**
  - Investigates the connection between brain, visualization and motion in the absence of gravity.
  - [http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/78.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/78.html)
EXPRESS Rack 6 (Galley)

- **Microgravity Experiment Research Locker/INcubator (MERLIN) 1**
  - Freezer/refrigerator or incubator that can be used for a variety of experiments.
  - Temperature range for MERLIN is -20 °C (-4 °F) to +48.5 °C (+119 °F).

- **Potable Water Dispenser**

- **Microgravity Experiment Research Locker/INcubator (MERLIN) 2**

- **COTS UHF Communication System (CUCU)**

- **GLACIER 2**

- **Food Warmer**
Conducting Research on the ISS using the EXPRESS Rack

- Robonaut Tele-Ops
- Amine Swingbed
  - Investigation determines if a vacuum-regenerated amine system can effectively remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the ISS atmosphere using a smaller more efficient vacuum regeneration system.
EXPRESS – EXpedite the PRocessing of Experiments for Space Station – Research Accommodations

EXPRESS 8/2 Configuration
International Standard Payload Rack
Secondary Structure & Subsystems

8/2 Payload Configuration
(8 ISS Lockers, 2 ISIS Drawers)

ISS Locker
P/N SEG46117022
Features
• 4 rear captive fastener attachments
• Friction hinge
• Dual door locks
• Installation tool guides on 4 corners
• Weight – 13 lbs empty
• Volume – 2 ft³

International Subrack Interface Standard Drawer
Powered P/N 683-43650
Stowage P/N 683-43656
Features
• 4 PU (Panel Unit)
• Blind Connectors
• Locking Handles
• Weight – 26 lbs empty
• Volume – 1.26 ft³

EXPRESS Laptop Computer
Features
• Dedicated laptop/rack
• Crew rack displays
• Crew rack commanding
• Crew payload commanding
• Unique operating system (NT)

EXPRESS 8/2 Functional Block Diagram

ISS Locker Position Accommodations**
Mass vehicle dependent
5/10/15/20 Amps (@28 VDC)
Nominal – 150 W (Ducted Air)
500 W – 2 positions (Water)
1 – RS-422; 1 – Ethernet;
1 – Analog; 2 – Discrete
1 – NTSC/170A feed - Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared (0 – 12 lbm/hr)

4-PU Drawer Position Accommodations**
64 lb total within cg constraints
5/10/15/20 Amps (@28 VDC)
Nominal – 150 W (Ducted Air)
500 W – 2 positions (Water)
1 – RS-422; 1 – Ethernet;
1 – Analog; 2 – Discrete
1 – NTSC/170A feed - Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared

EXPRESS Functional Interfaces

Power
28 VDC (+1.5/-2.5)
25 Amps @ 3kW
MIL-STD-1553
HRDL
IVS
Ethernet (10bT)
Vacuum Exhaust
GN₂
MTL Water
(16 to 23° C)
(61-73.4° F)

RS-422
Video Analog Timing Signal
Ethernet (10bT)
Vacuum Exhaust
GN₂
MTL Water
(200lbm/hr)
Air

ISS Locker Position Accommodations**
Mass vehicle dependent
5/10/15/20 Amps (@28 VDC)
Nominal – 150 W (Ducted Air)
500 W – 2 positions (Water)
1 – RS-422; 1 – Ethernet;
1 – Analog; 3 – Discrete
1 – NTSC/170A feed - Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared (0 – 12 lbm/hr)

4-PU Drawer Position Accommodations**
64 lb total within cg constraints
5/10/15/20 Amps (@28 VDC)
Nominal – 150 W (Ducted Air)
500 W – 2 positions (Water)
1 – RS-422; 1 – Ethernet;
1 – Analog; 2 – Discrete
1 – NTSC/170A feed - Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared
1 – Shared

* Digitized Payload Video may be included in ethernet telemetry
** Grayed-out Accommodations are not supported with the Lean Payload Integration approach
EXPRESS Subsystems

Rack Rear View
EXPRESS Rack Connector Panels

- Upper Connector Panel:
  - Power Ports
  - SAMS Data Ports
  - Data Ports
  - ELC Video/Data/Ethernet/Power
  - Water Supply & Return
  - Power Switches
  - Vacuum Waste Gas
  - Nitrogen
  - LEDs
  - Smoke Indication LED
  - Fire Port (PFE Access)

- Lower Connector Panel:
EXPRESS Topology - Legend

- Stowage Locker
- Location reserved for Lean Payloads
- Payload Insert (Payload inserted into ISS Locker or ISIS Drawer)
- Locker Replacement Payload
- ISIS Drawer
- Drawer Replacement Payload

- requires water (TCS)
- requires EXPRESS Rack provided power
- requires EXPRESS Rack provided data connection
- Front Breather payload
- deployed payload
- power resource utilized

NLP - National Lab Payload
EXPRESS Subsystems

- **EMU: EXPRESS Memory Unit**
  - 320 MB solid state memory device that stores RIC boot-up and payload configuration data

- **PEHB: Payload Ethernet Hub Bridge**
  - Provides primary means of communication between EXPRESS rack, the payloads, and the ISS.
  - Provides 10 Mbps Ethernet data packet transfer between payloads, laptops, and the RIC and provides a bridge to the ISS LANs for telemetry downlink.
  - Command and data interface to EXPRESS laptop.

- **SAMS-II RTS-EE: Space Acceleration Measurement System Remote Triaxial System Electronics Enclosure (ARIS only)**
EXPRESS Project

• Manage engineering integration activities for the EXPRESS Racks.
• Review and submit the integrated EXPRESS Safety Data Package.
• Review and approve EXPRESS generic and payload-unique documentation and engineering integration products.
  – EXPRESS rack to payload hardware and software ICDs, IDD, IRD, PVP
  – ICD PIRNs, Exceptions, Verification
  – Stage Analysis/Guidelines & Constraints, On-Orbit Topology Config. Drawings
  – Review and sign CEFs for EXPRESS hardware manifests
• Facilitate identification and coordinate resolution of EXPRESS issues.
• Perform Mission/Stage Management & ensure accurate and complete accomplishment of CoFR activities for all launched and on-orbit EXPRESS hardware.
• Coordinate EXPRESS Project support for subrack payload development.
  – Review Payload Integration Agreements (PIAs)
    • Notify PSS manager of requested GSE and GFE (Connectors, QDs, Simulators, etc)
  – Facilitate EXPRESS Rack interface TIMs, as needed
  – Coordinate development and interface testing with Functional Checkout Unit
    • Support EXPRESS Integration Readiness Review (EIRR)