



***NASA's Additive Manufacturing  
Development  
Materials Science to Technology  
Infusion - Connecting the Digital Dots***

***Science in the Age of Experience  
Conference / Additive Manufacturing  
Symposium  
May 15, 2017***

**John Vickers  
Principal Technologist  
NASA, Space Technology  
Mission Directorate**





# The Crucial Role of Additive Manufacturing at NASA



## **Abstract:**

At NASA, the first steps of the Journey to Mars are well underway with the development of NASA's next generation launch system and investments in research and technologies that should increase the affordability, capability, and safety of exploration activities.

Additive Manufacturing presents a disruptive opportunity for NASA to design and manufacture hardware with new materials at dramatically reduced cost and schedule. Opportunities to incorporate additive manufacturing align very well with NASA missions and with most NASA programs related to space, science, and aeronautics. The Agency also relies on many partnerships with other government agencies, industry and academia.



# Agenda



- **NASA's Journey to Mars – Where will Additive Manufacturing Contribute?**
- **Background**
- **National Landscape**
- **In Space Manufacturing Initiative (ISM)**
- **Additive Manufacturing of Liquid Rocket Engine Components**
- **Proposed Engineering and Quality Standard for Additively Manufactured Spaceflight Hardware**

# Space Technology...

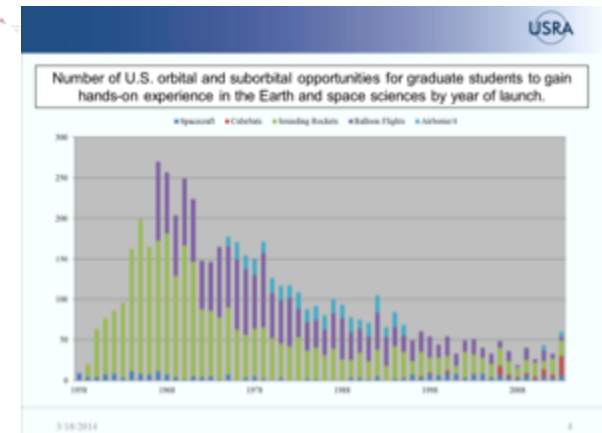
# .... an Investment for the Future



- Enables a **new class of NASA missions beyond low Earth Orbit.**
- **Delivers innovative solutions that dramatically improve technological capabilities for NASA and the Nation.**
- Develops technologies and capabilities that make NASA's missions **more affordable and more reliable.**
- Invests in the economy by **creating markets and spurring innovation for traditional and emerging aerospace business.**
- **Engages the brightest minds from academia in solving NASA's tough technological challenges.**

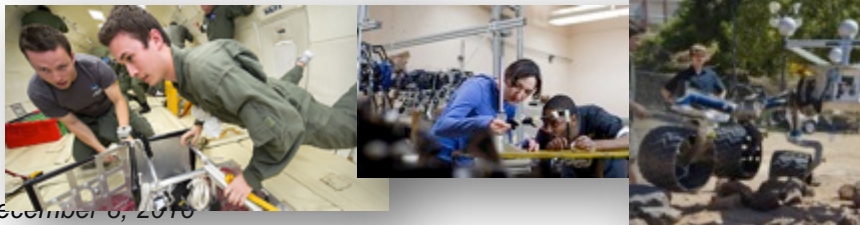
## Addresses National Needs

A generation of studies and reports (40+ since 1980) document the need for regular investment in new, transformative space technologies.



## Value to NASA

## Value to the Nation



## Who:

The NASA Workforce  
Academia  
Small Businesses  
The Broader Aerospace  
Enterprise



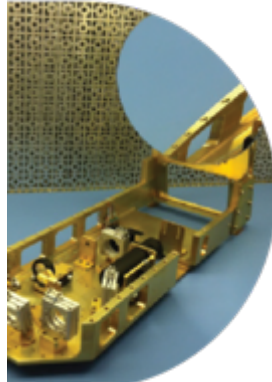


# STMD Thrust Areas

*Space Technology focus investments in 7 thrust areas that are key to future NASA missions and enhance national space capabilities.*



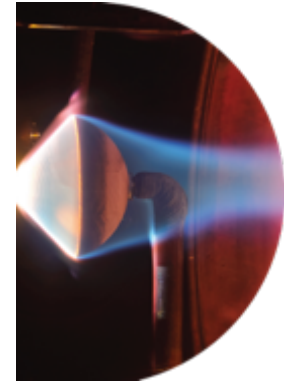
**Space Power and Propulsion**



**High-Bandwidth Comm, Deep Space Navigation, Avionics**



**Advanced Life Support & Resource Utilization**



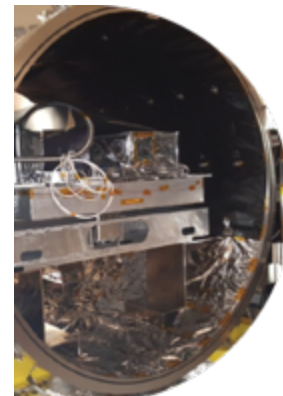
**Entry Descent and Landing Systems**



**Autonomy & Space Robotic Systems**

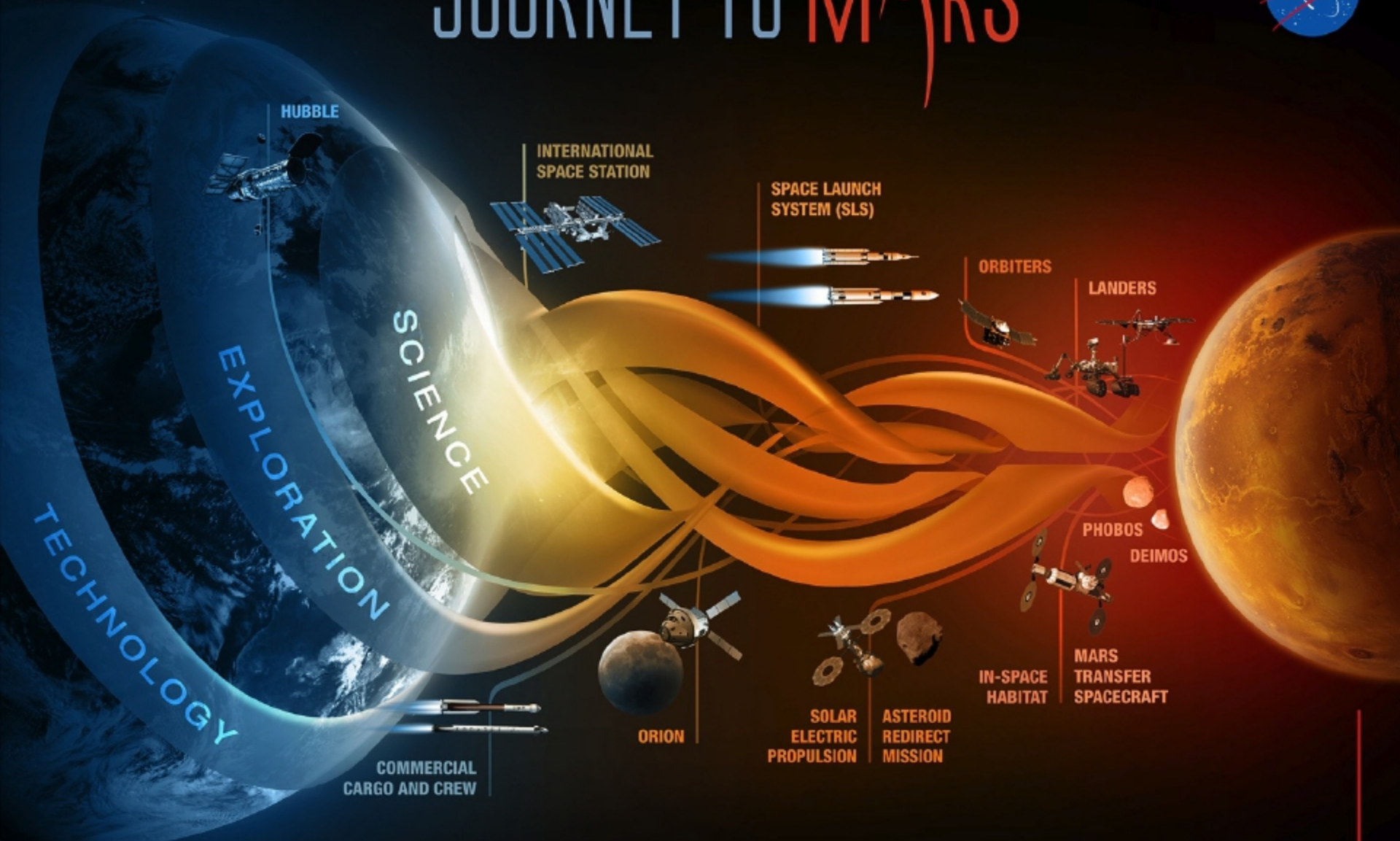


**Lightweight Structures & Manufacturing**



**Space Observatory Systems**

# JOURNEY TO MARS



MISSIONS: 6-12 MONTHS  
RETURN: HOURS

EARTH RELIANT

MISSIONS: 1 TO 12 MONTHS  
RETURN: DAYS

PROVING GROUND

MISSIONS: 2 TO 3 YEARS  
RETURN: MONTHS

EARTH INDEPENDENT

# Additive Manufacturing Path to Exploration



## EARTH RELIANT

## PROVING GROUND

## EARTH INDEPENDENT

### Earth-Based Platform

- Certification & Inspection Process
- Design Properties Database
- Additive Manufacturing Automation
- In-space Recycling Technology Development
- External In-space Manufacturing and Repair
- **AM Rocket Engine Development, Test, and Certification**
- **AM for Support Systems (e.g., ECLSS) Design, Development, Test**

International Space Station

Space Launch System

Asteroids

Commercial Cargo and Crew

### Space-Based Platform

- 3D Print Tech Demo
- Additive Manufacturing Facility
- On-demand Parts Catalogue
- Recycling Demo
- Printable Electronics Demo
- In-space Metals Demo
- **AM Propulsion Systems**
  - RS-25
  - Upper Stage Engine
- **Habitat Systems**

### Planetary Surfaces Platform

- Additive Construction Technologies
- Regolith Materials - Feedstock
- **AM In Space Propulsion Systems**
  - Upper Stage
  - Orbiters
  - Landers
- **Habitat Systems**

# Manufacturing USA National Network for Manufacturing Innovation



**Advanced  
Manufacturing  
Partnership  
(AMP/PCAST)**

**Advanced Manufacturing  
National Program Office**  
(hosted by DOC - NIST)

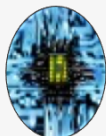
**NSTC - Advanced  
Manufacturing  
Subcommittee**



# Manufacturing USA: Nat'l Network for Mfg Innov



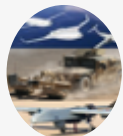
## Nine Manufacturing USA Institutes Established



**NextFlex**  
Hybrid Electronics  
San Jose, CA



**DMDII**  
Digital Mfg.  
Chicago, IL



**LIFT**  
Light/Modern Metals  
Detroit, MI



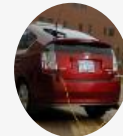
**America Makes**  
Additive Mfg.  
Youngstown, OH



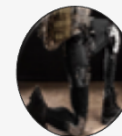
**IACMI**  
Adv. Composites  
Knoxville, TN



**AIM Photonics**  
Integrated Photonics  
Rochester, NY



**Power America**  
Wide bandgap semis  
Raleigh, NC



**AFFOA**  
Technical textiles  
Cambridge, MA



**Smart Manufacturing**  
Adv. sensors, controls  
Los Angeles, CA



### Since launching in 2012:

- \$600M+ Fed matched by \$1.3B+ non-Fed
- 1,300+ companies, universities, and non-profits members
- 30+ states

**More Competitions underway**



2 competitions underway



2 competitions underway



Open topic(s) competition

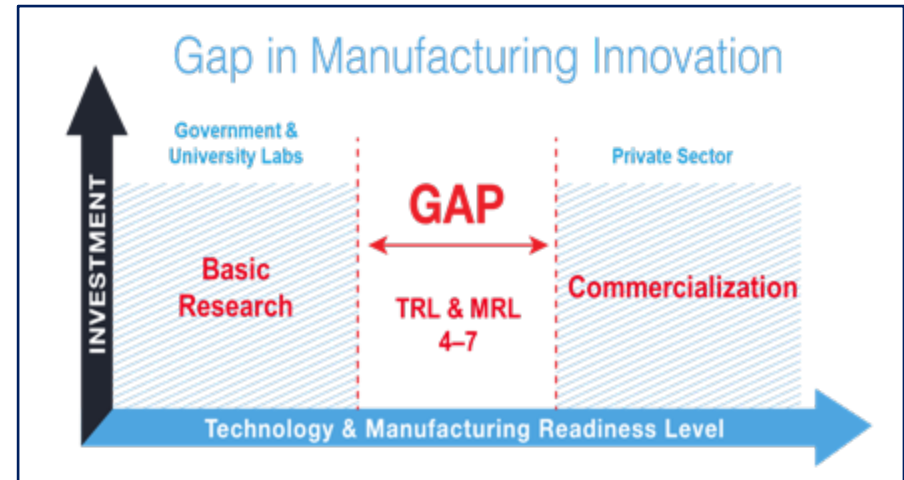
# America Makes - The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute



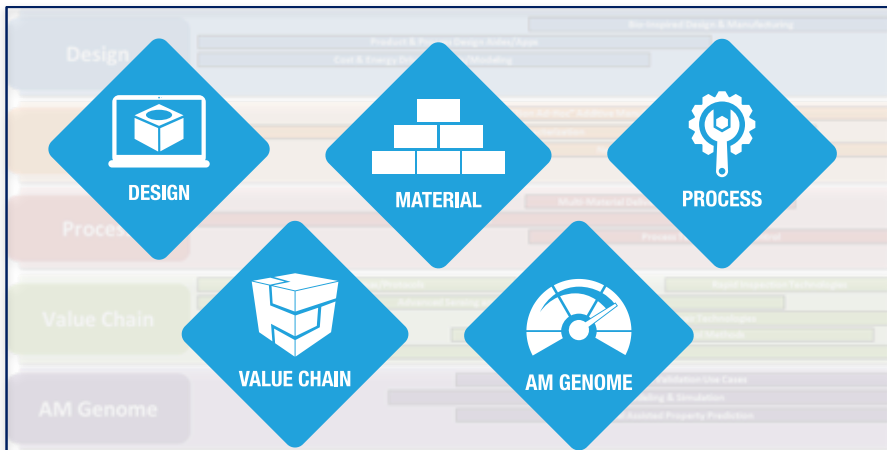
## Overview

- Est. August 2012; Lead: National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM)
- Headquartered in Youngstown, OH with a satellite center at the University of Texas, El Paso
- Consortium of ~176 member organizations
- Technology Portfolio: ~ 60 projects, ~ 100M combined public and private funding for additive manufacturing R&D

## Vision



## Technology Roadmap



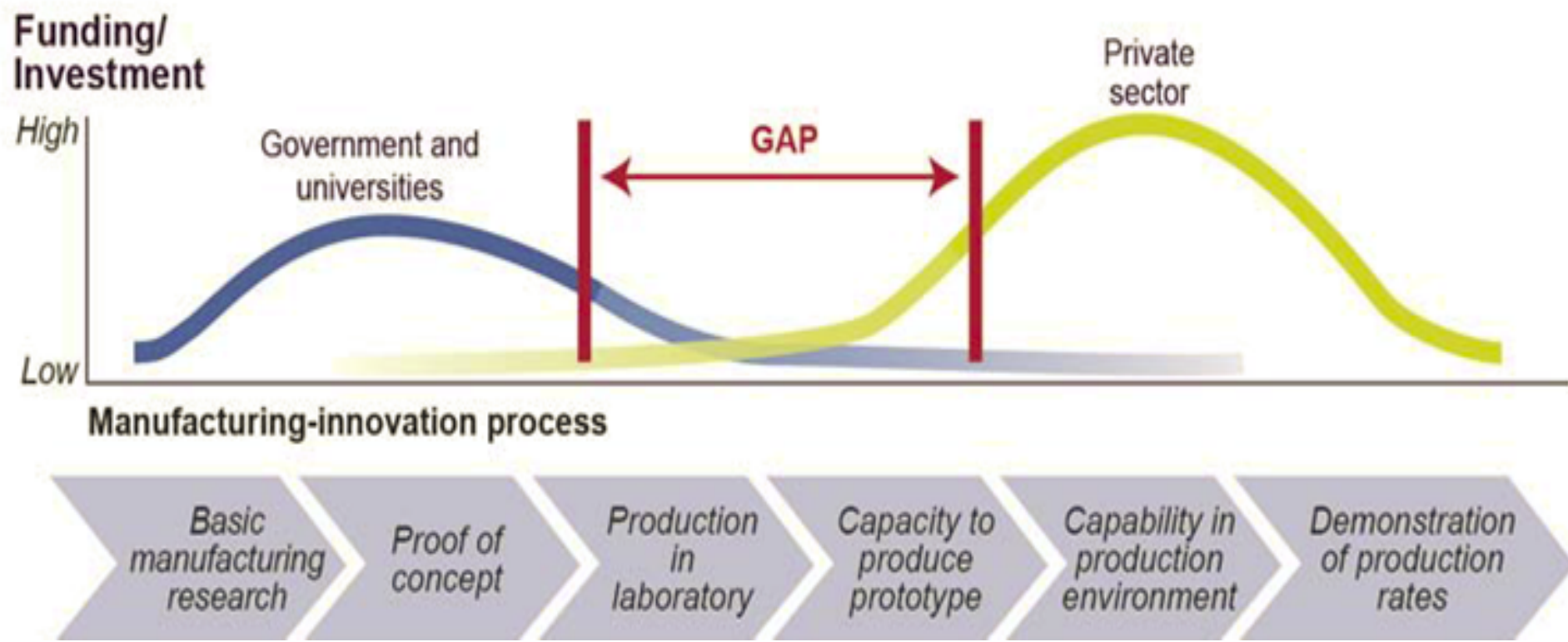
## Public / Private Partnership

### **Multi-Agency Collaboration**

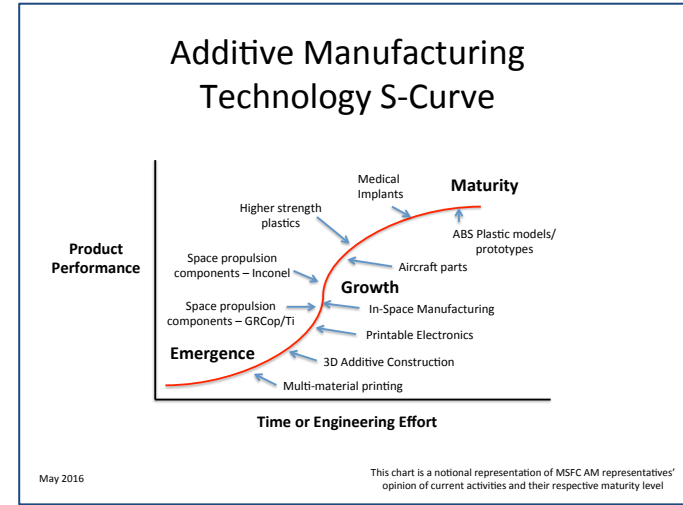
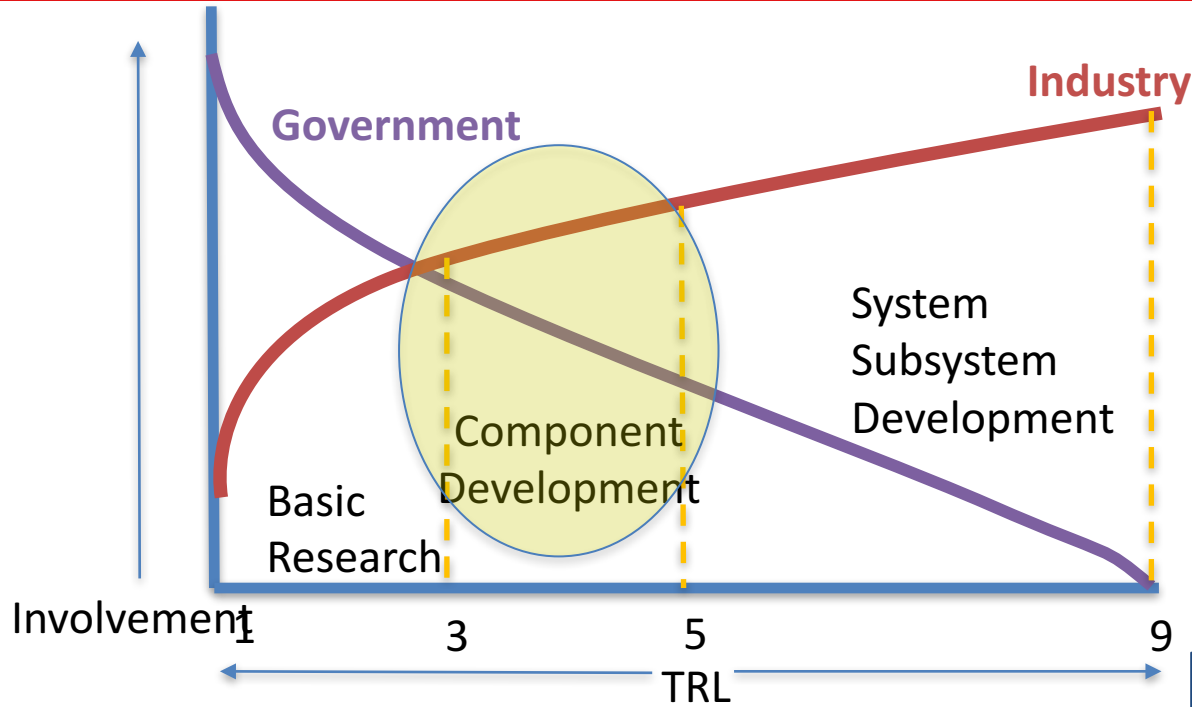
- Partnership between industry, government and academia, led by the Defense-wide Manufacturing Science & Technology (S&T) team.
- Provides a platform for all members, regardless of specialty or organization size, the opportunity to collaborate together.



# Filling the Gap from Low TRL to Production



# Advanced Manufacturing





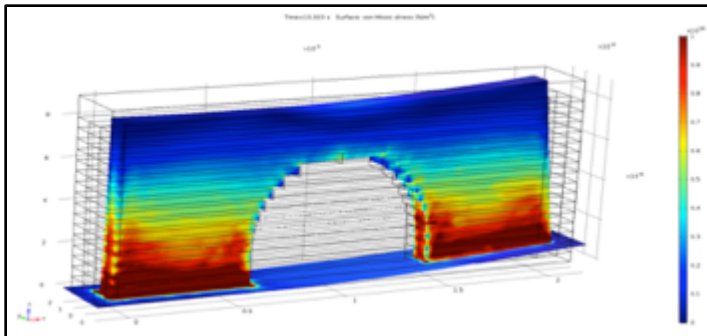
# NASA AM Capability



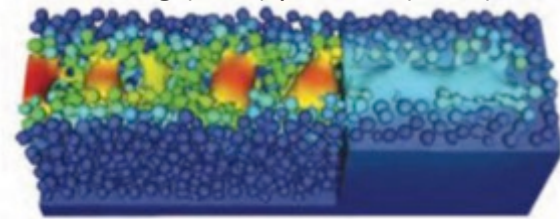
# The Digital Twin



- NASA continues to show progress in developing additive manufacturing materials and process models.
  - Demonstrated 3-D models for modeling part distortion and stresses in selective laser melting additive part manufacturing resulting from given process parameters.
  - Developed and demonstrated in-situ monitoring techniques for SLM processing and defined requirements for implementing closed loop control.
  - Thermal models of the melt pool were demonstrated to reduce the process parameters development by over 80% in one test case.
- Volumetric residual stress measurements were completed at Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) on SLM produced material.



Models of advancing solid liquid front for Selective Laser Melting (SLM) process (LLNL)



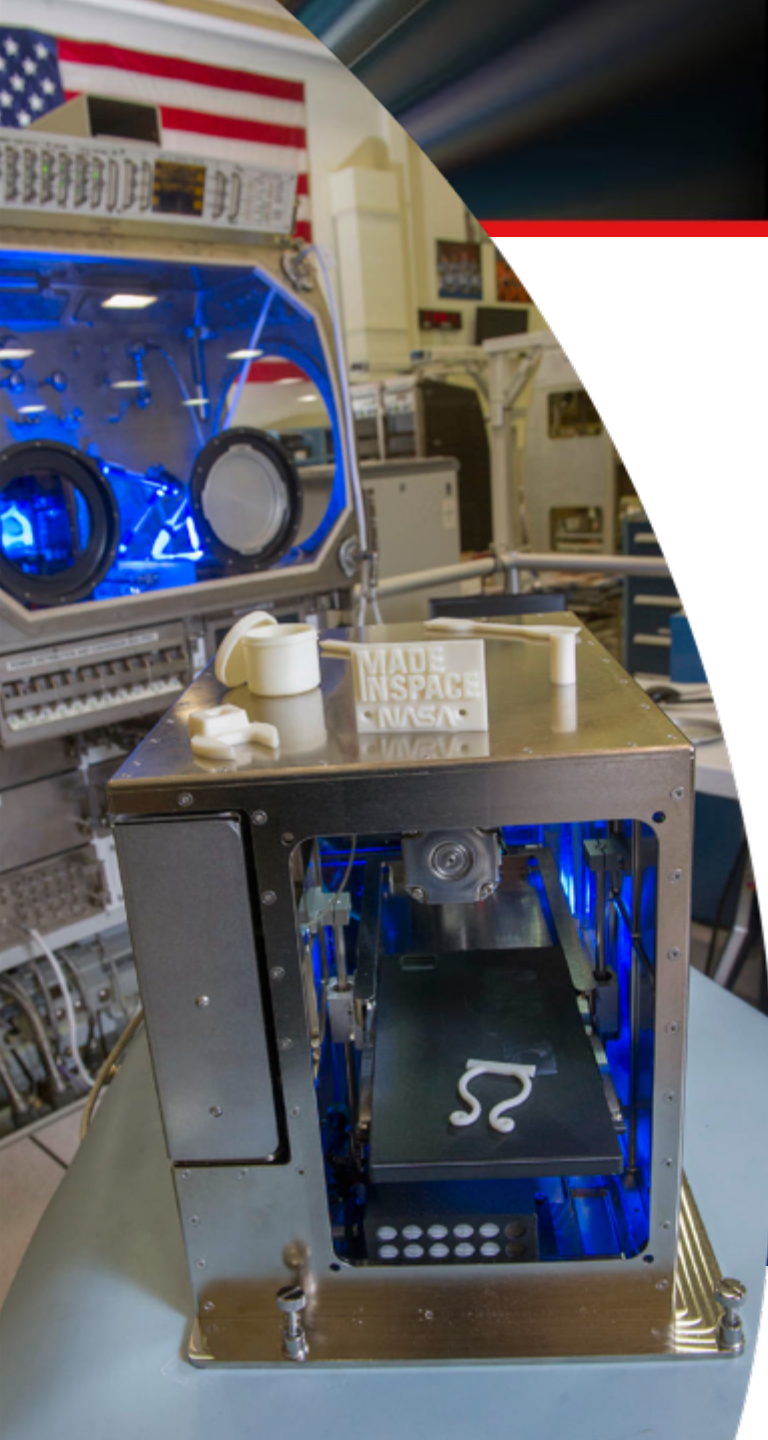
(Univ. California Davis)



# In-Space Manufacturing

Preparing for the Journey to Mars – and Beyond

# First 3D Printer in Space



ISM Task 1



# Maintenance Logistics Challenges



Total Approx. Spares Mass Currently On-Orbit = 13,170 kg

Mass estimates are for mass of spare item only  
- do not including any packaging or carrier mass

~95% of all corrective spares will never be used

Impossible to know which spares will be needed

Unanticipated system issues appear, even after years of testing and operation

~3,000 kg  
Upmass  
per year



Corrective Maintenance = 1,260 kg

Preventive Maint. /

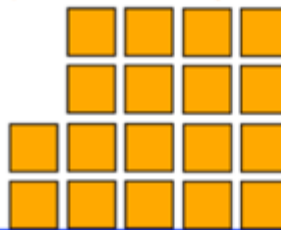
Total

Expected Average  
Annual Failures\* = 450 kg

Large compliment of spares required to ensure crew safety

Total Approx. Spares Mass Currently Stored On Ground = 17,990 kg

~18,000 kg on  
ground, ready to fly  
on demand



This is for a system with:

- Regular resupply (~3 months)
- Quick abort capability
- Extensive ground support and redesign/re-fly capability

Current maintenance logistics strategy

**will not be effective** for long-duration missions beyond LEO

# In-space Manufacturing Portfolio



## IN-SPACE POLYMERS

## IN-SPACE RECYCLING

## MULTI-MATERIAL 'FAB LAB' RACK

## PRINTED ELECTRONICS

## IN-SPACE V&V PROCESS

## EXPLORATION DESIGN DATABASE & TESTING



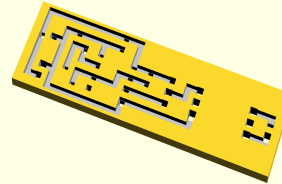
- ISS On-demand Mfctr. w/polymers.
- 3D Print Tech Demo
- Additive Manufacturing Facility with Made in Space, Inc.
- Material Characterization & Testing



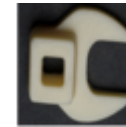
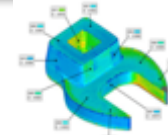
- Refabricator ISS Demo with Tethers Unlimited, Inc. (TUI) for on-orbit 3D Printing & Recycling.
- Multiple SBIRs underway on common-use materials & medical/food grade recycler



- Develop Multi-material Fabrication Laboratory Rack as 'springboard' for Exploration missions
- In-space Metals ISS Demo
- nScript Multi-material machine at MSFC for R&D



- MSFC Conductive & Dielectric Inks patented
- Designed & Tested RFID Antennae, Tags and ultra-capacitors
- 2017 ISM SBIR subtopic
- Collaboration w/Ames on plasma jet technology.



- Develop & Baseline on-orbit, in-process certification process based upon the DRAFT Engineering and Quality Standards for Additively Manufactured Space Flight Hardware



- Develop design-level database for micro-g applications
- Includes materials characterization on database in MAPTIS
- Design & test high-value components for ISS & Exploration (ground & ISS)



# Collaborative Additive Construction Projects Status

## Additive Construction with Mobile Emplacement (ACME)



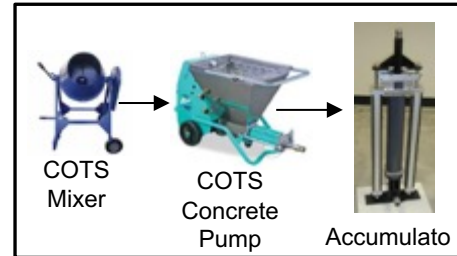
Planetary  
Regolith-based  
Concrete



Candidate Binder  
Materials

- Sorel-type cement (MgO-based)
- Sulfur cement
- Polymers / trash
- Portland cement

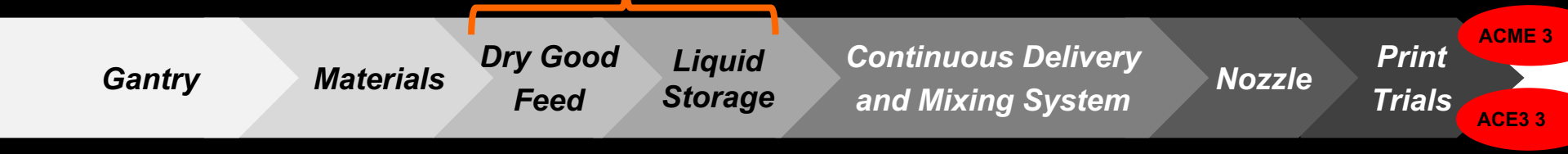
Manual feed



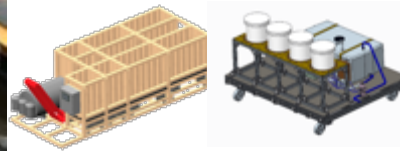
ACME 2  
Nozzles



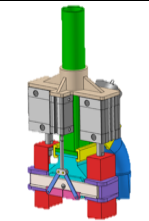
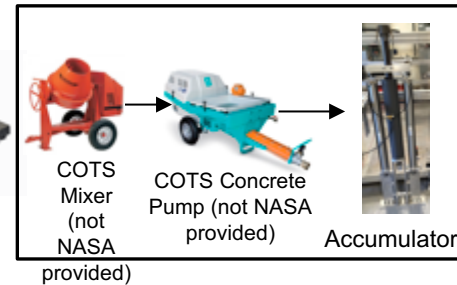
Subscale  
Optimized  
Planetary  
Structure



Portland  
Cement



Storage  
Subsystems



ACES 2  
Nozzle



Guara  
Shack  
(6' x 6' x  
8')

*Synergistic technologies for planetary and terrestrial use*



# 3D Printed Habitat Challenge

## In-Space Manufacturing (ISM) Technology Goals

- Identify candidate binder for use in Mars/planetary construction Mars Regolith, in-situ resource material.
- Determine optimum binder/regolith ratios and print with that composition to improve strength and durability
- Advance technology for space and terrestrial 3DP Structures and Habitats
  - Ordinary Portland cement
  - Sorel-type cement
  - Sulfur binders
  - Sintering/melting materials
  - In-Situ Resource Utilization (remote areas)
  - Other potential binders, etc...



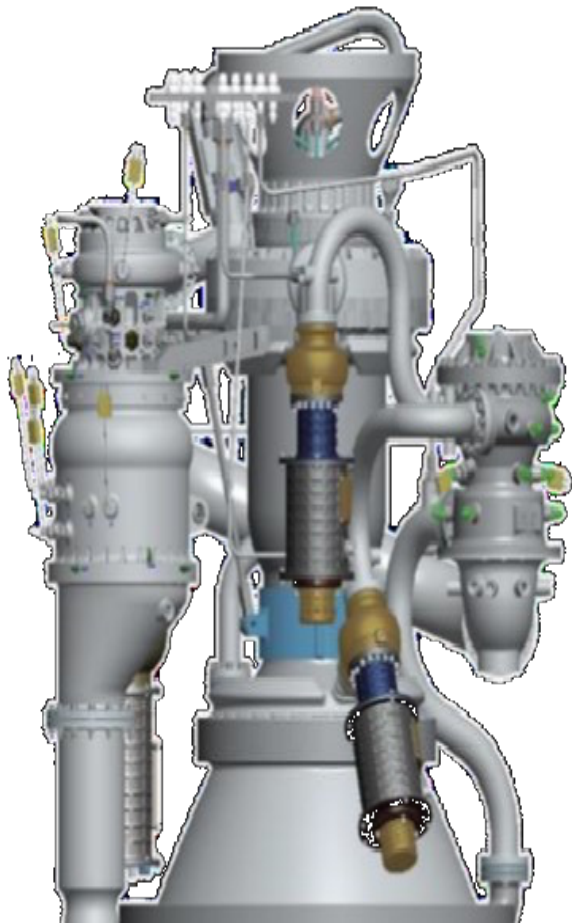


# Advanced Manufacturing Demonstration

Liquid Propulsion System



# Strategic Vision for Future AM Engines

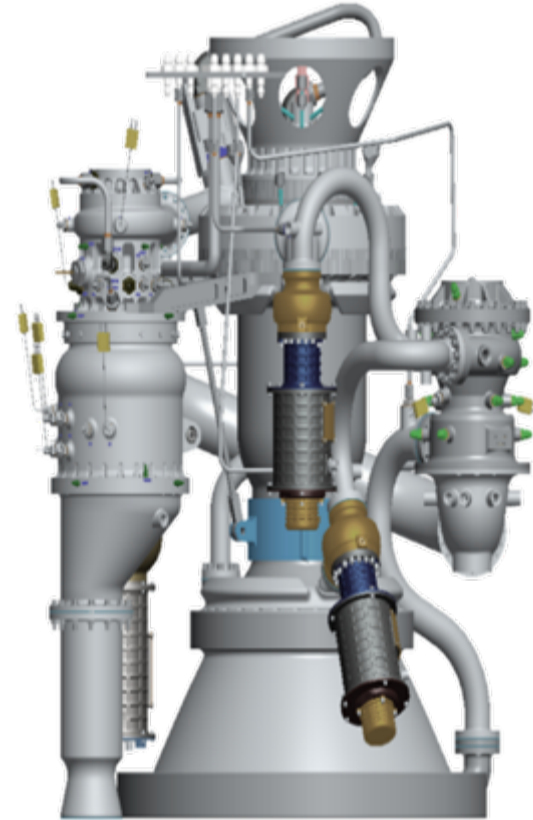


Typical Engine Developments	Prototype Additive Engine
DDT&E Time	
7-10 years	2-4 Years
HW Lead Time	
3-6 Years	6 Months
Prototype Costs	
\$20-50 Million	\$3-5 Million

# Transforming Liquid Propulsion Systems DDT&E with AM



- Project Objectives
- Reduce the cost and schedule required for new engine development and demonstrate it through a complete development cycle.
  - Prototype an engine in less than 2.5 years.
  - Use additive manufacturing to reduce part cost, fabrication time, and overall part count.
  - Adopt Lean Development approach.
    - Focus on fundamental/quick turn analysis to reduce labor time and cost and move to first development unit
    - Get hardware into test fast so that test data can be used to influence/refine the design
- Advance the TRL of additive manufactured parts through component and engine testing.
- Develop a cost-effective prototype engine whose basic design can be used as the first development unit for an in-space propulsion class engine.





# Future Outlook



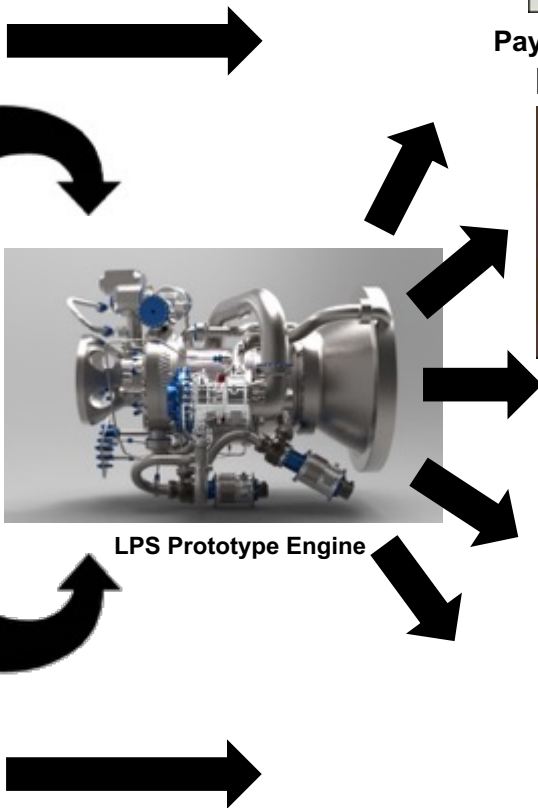
Building Foundational Additive Manufacturing Industrial Base



Parallel & Congruent Activities

**Lean & Aggressive Development Philosophy**

**Relevant Environment Testing**



**Payloads & Satellites  
RP Engine**



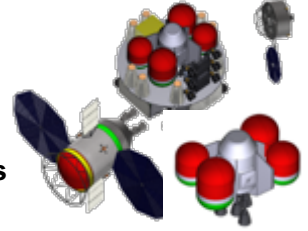
**MPS  
Components**



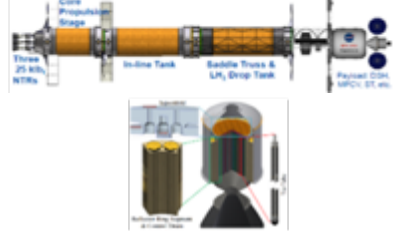
**RS-25**



**Methane Prop.  
Systems**



**Nuclear Propulsion**



**Upper Stage Engine**



**CCP**



**Building Foundational Additive Manufacturing Industrial Base**





# Certification of AM Components

Liquid Propulsion System

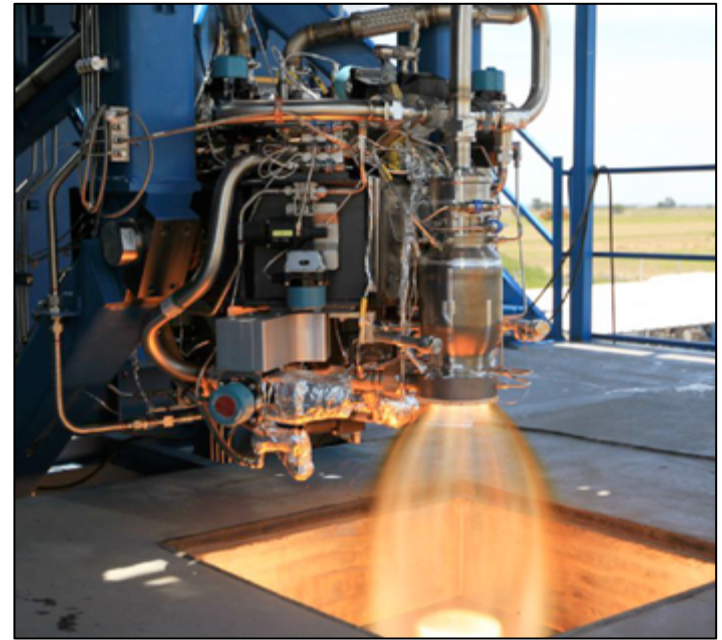
# AM in the Human Exploration and Operations Portfolio



## Exploration Systems Development ORION and SLS



## Commercial Crew Program DRAGON V2



**Requirement choices dictate how we embrace, foster,  
and protect the technology and its opportunities**



# Key Knowledge Gaps and Risks



- **Available standards will not mitigate AM part risk to a level equivalent to other processes for some time to come!**
- **Known Unknowns needing investment:**
  - Unknown failure modes :: limited process history
  - Open loop process, needs closure or meaningful feedback
  - Feedstock specifications and controls
  - Thermal processing
  - Process parameter sensitivity
  - Mechanical properties
  - Part Cleaning
  - Welding of AM materials
  - AM Surface improvement strategies
  - NDE of complex AM parts
  - Electronic model data controls
  - Equipment faults, modes of failure
  - Machine calibration / maintenance
  - Vendor quality approvals

Knowledge gaps exist in the basic understanding of AM Materials and Processes, creating potential for risk to certification of critical AM Hardware.

# AM Qualification and Certification at NASA



SpaceX's AM SuperDraco Engine

Program partners in crewed space flight programs (Commercial Crew, SLS and Orion) are actively developing **AM parts scheduled to fly as early as 2018.**

***NASA cannot wait for National Standard Development organizations to issue AM standards.***

- **MSFC AM Standard drafted in summer 2015.**
- **Draft standard completed extensive peer review in Jan 2016.**
- **Final revision currently in work; target release date of Dec 2016.**
- **Standard methodology adopted by CCP, SLS, and Orion.**
- **Continuing to watch progress of standards organizations and other certifying Agencies.**
- **Goal is to incorporate AM requirements at an appropriate level in Agency standards and/or specifications.**



**Target release date:  
December 2016**

**Standardization is needed for consistent evaluation of AM processes and parts in critical applications.**



**Thank you!**

**Technology Drives Innovation**  
**[www.nasa.gov/spacetech](http://www.nasa.gov/spacetech)**