



Institute of Engineering  
Thermodynamics

The E<sup>2</sup>Flight Symposium

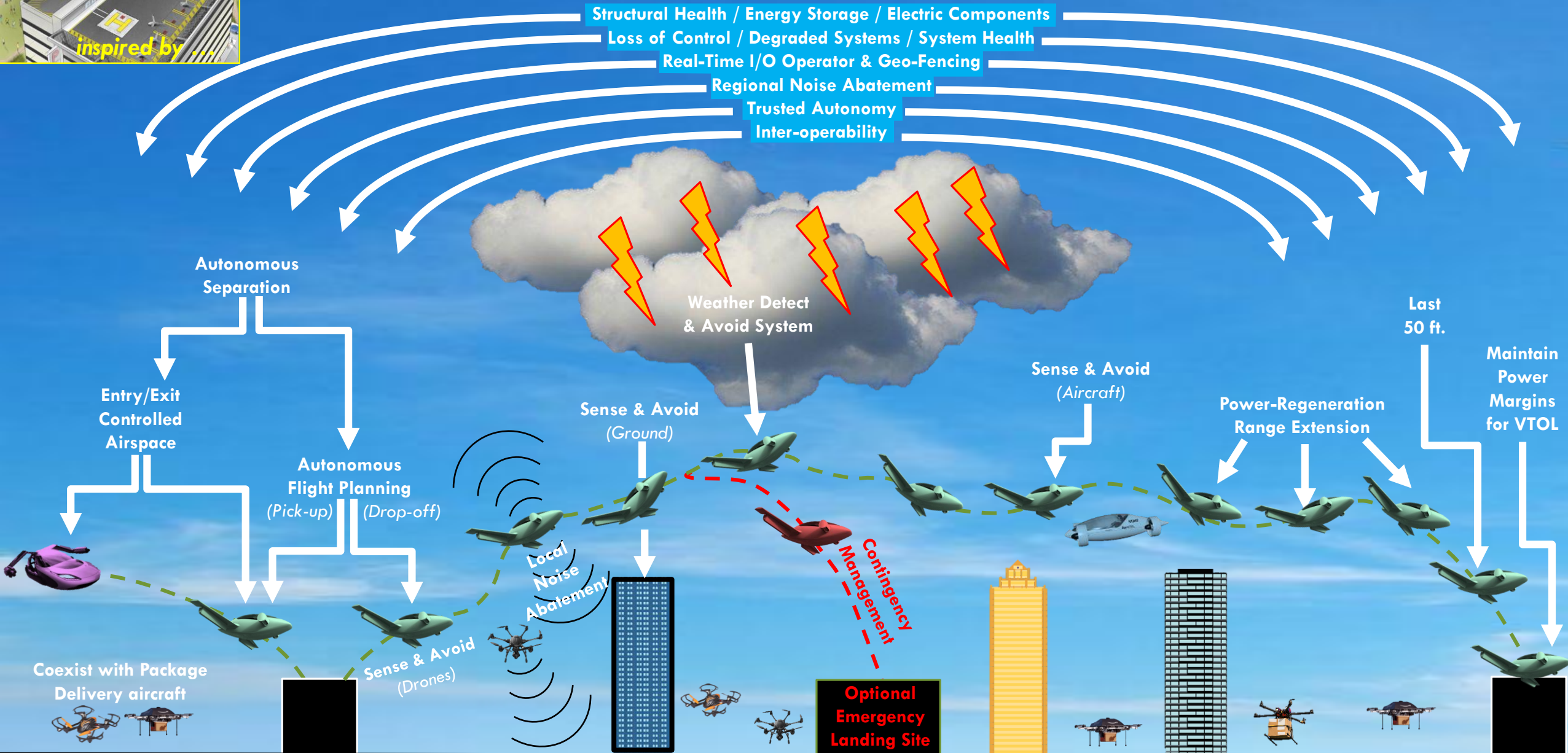
# SPIRAL DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIFIED AIRCRAFT PROPULSION FROM GROUND TO FLIGHT

STARR GINN

DEPUTY AERONAUTICS RESEARCH DIRECTOR

NASA ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

# DRM: Integrated ODM 'Air-Taxi' Mission Features



# Design Reference Missions (DRM's) enable integration of ODM Capabilities

by ARMD Dir./Projects to meet ODM Milestones

## Design Ref. Mission (DRM) - Z

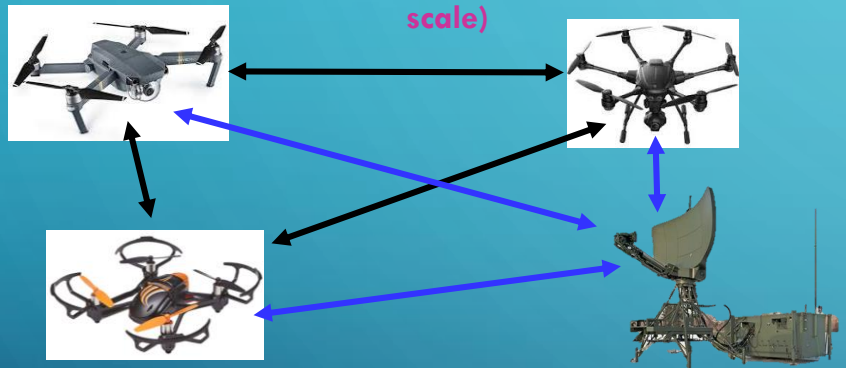
Entire suite of ODM capabilities – for a given market (full scale)



Private Sector Partnership - ODM Challenge Prize

## DRM - Y

ODM system inter-connectivity w/in NAS (small scale)



ODM Tech Challenge 1.3

## DRM - X

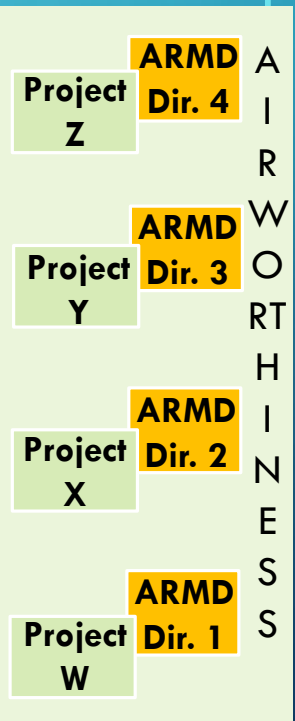
Improved electric aircraft cmd & control



ODM Tech Challenge 1.2

## DRM - W

Enhanced electric aircraft features



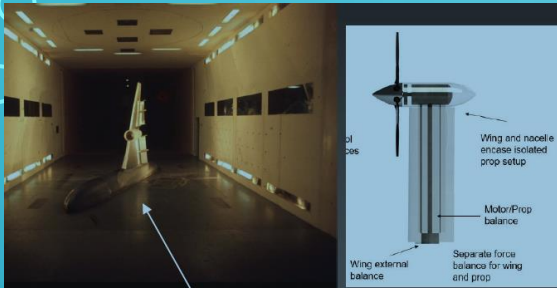
Autonomous Flight Planning	Multiple Take-offs & Landings	Autonomous Scheduling & Separation	Real-time I/O Operator & Geo Fencing	Entry/Exit Controlled Airspace	Weather Detect & Avoid	Last 50 Ft.	Pwr-Regen. to Extend Range	System Health	Loss of Control	Degraded Modes	Local Vehicle Noise	Energy Storage	Electric Components	Struct. Health	Vehicle Sizing
Sense & Avoid Air/Ground	Contingency Mgmt	Interoperability	Regional Noise / Annoyance	Trusted Autonomy											



# LEARN BY DOING SPIRAL DEVELOPMENT

## System of Systems Integration

Wind Tunnel Test – Aug.2019

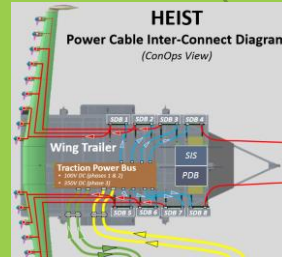


Peaking Seeking Performance for controllers and integrated power train

Adaptive Failure Recovery Mode

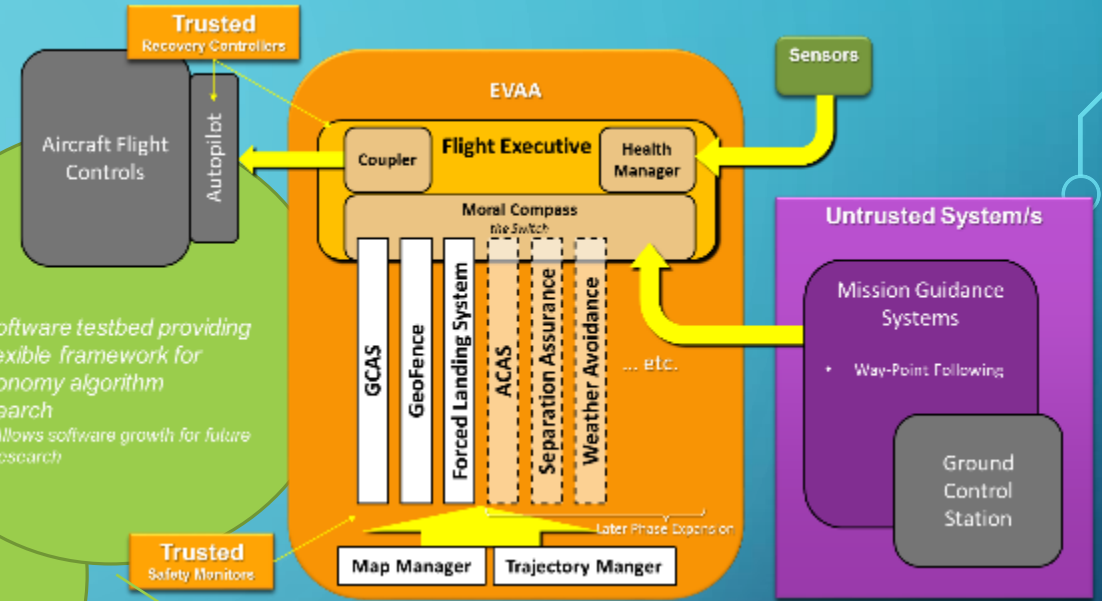
Path to Safety and Certification

New Aircraft Performance Benefits with Distributed Electric Propulsion



A software testbed providing a flexible framework for autonomy algorithm research

- Allows software growth for future research



Trusted Autonomy using Run-Time Assurance



Spiral Development sUAS, lg-UAS, Air Taxi

Flight Controls Testbed for Closed-Loop command & control with Hybrid Power

Testbed for Enhanced electric aircraft features

FY13

FY14

FY15

FY16

FY17

FY18

FY19

FY20

FY21

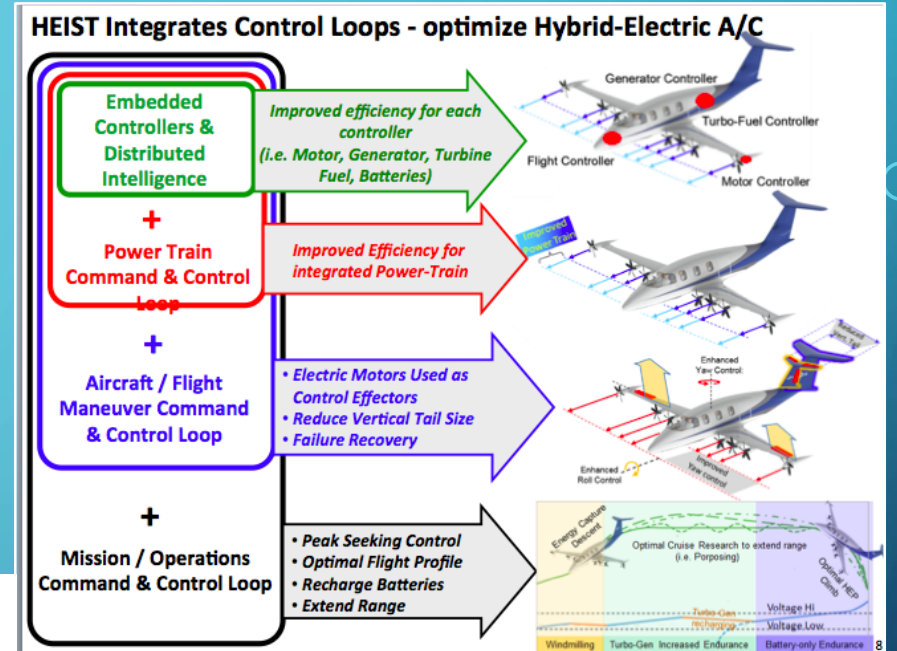
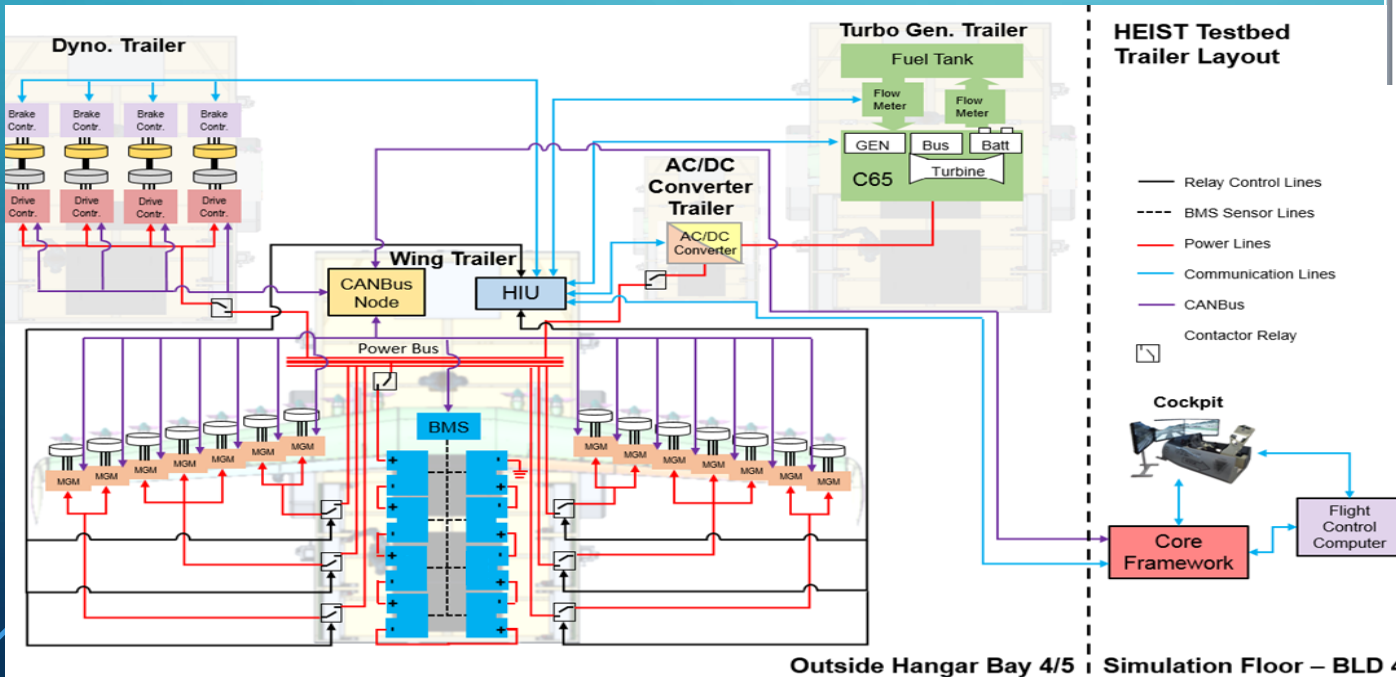
# HYBRID ELECTRIC INTEGRATED SYSTEM TESTBED (HEIST)

## Hardware-in-the-loop (HIL)

In order for electrified aircraft propulsion to buy its' way on the airplane, intelligent systems are needed.

### Objective

Automate the integration of power distribution, propulsion airframe integration, vehicle control, and mission management to optimize the energy used, provide simple pilot control, and extend the range

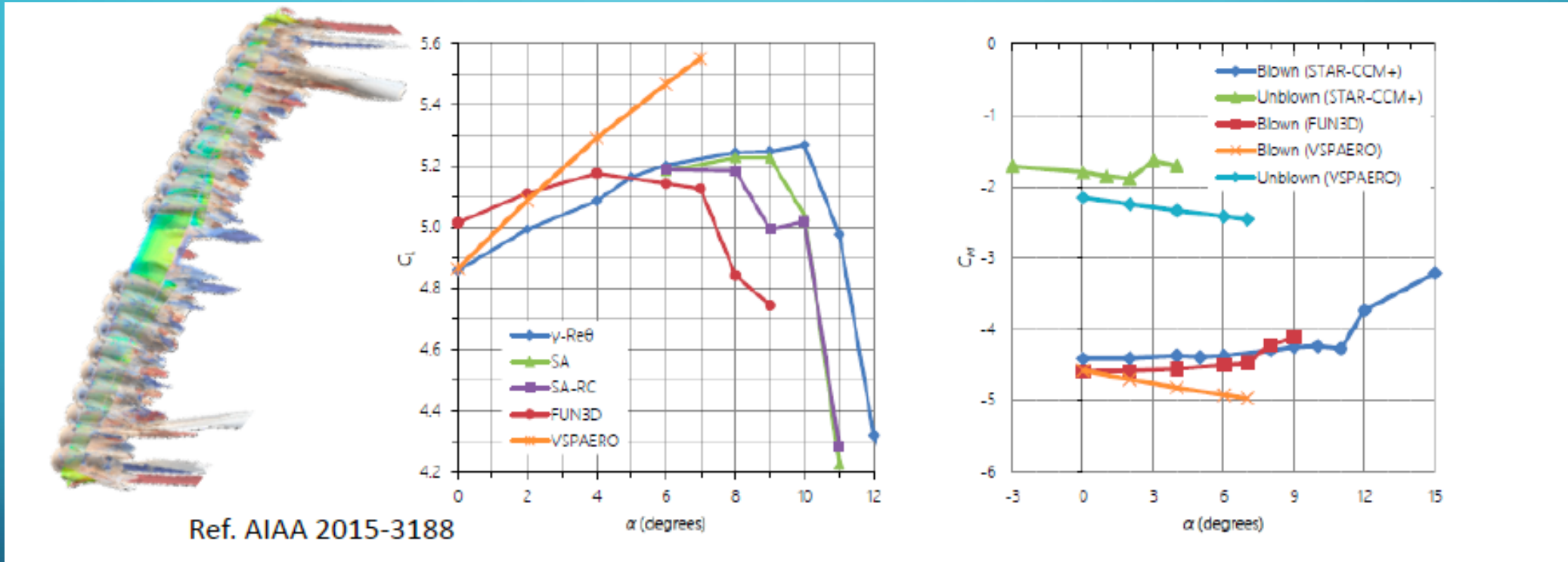


# HEIST PHASE 1 CONTROLS RESEARCH

(CURTIS HANSON - NASA AFRC)

- Design & evaluate near-optimal DEP control allocation algorithm (w/ non-linear constraints)
  - Applicable to multiple DEP configurations, including...
    - Applicable hybrid-electric and all-battery
    - Fixed and variable vertical lift
    - Various mixes of electric motors and traditional control surfaces
- Non-linear constraints may be mission phase dependent and could include the following considerations:
  - Power-train
    - i.e. motor & propeller efficiency, motor temp, noise, response bandwidth & command resolution, & rpm/torque limitations
  - Battery
    - i.e. stored energy vs. mission requirements, discharge rate, battery temperature
  - Aero surface (i.e. drag penalties)
  - Frequency-dependent allocations for conditions such as turbulence
  - Failure modes
  - Component life & maintenance
- HEIST Phase 1 bench config. also used to develop models of some of these effects & their inter-dependencies, as well as provide a platform for evaluating the control allocation algorithm for certain conditions.

# CFD PREDICTIONS OF LEAPTECH DISTRIBUTED ELECTRIC PROPULSION EFFECTS WERE VARIED

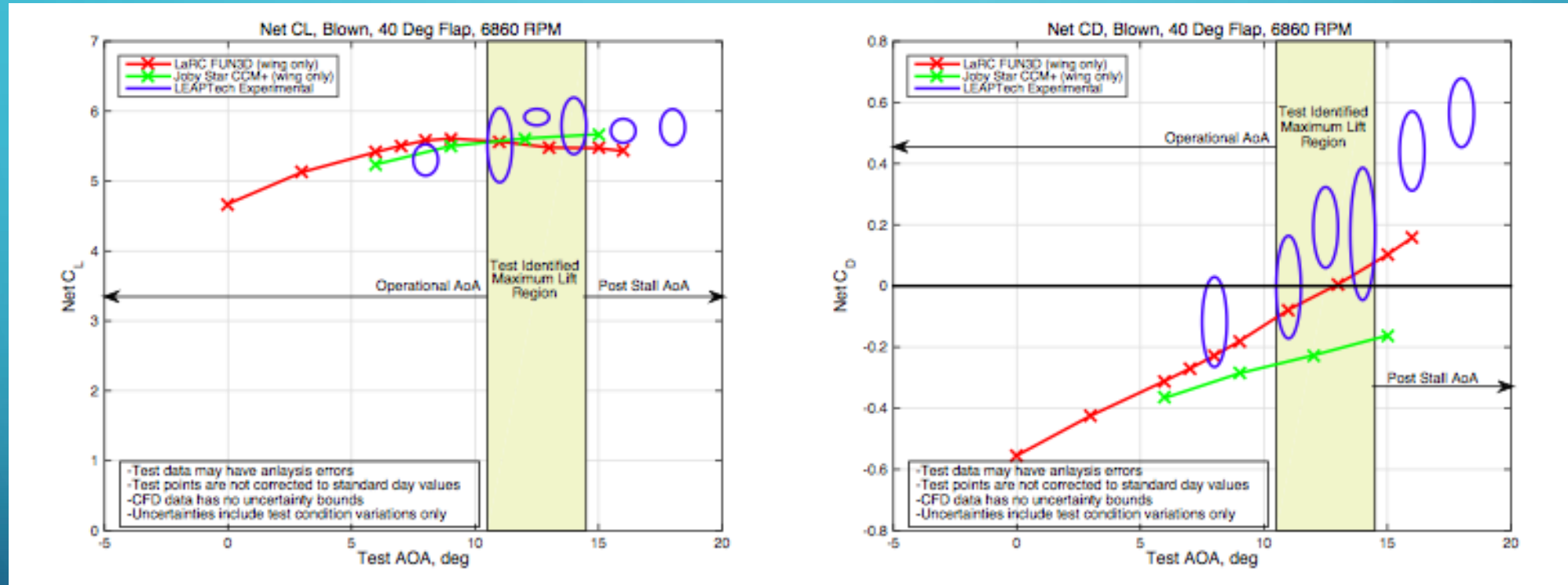


LEAPTech was a feasibility experiment to quantify if a coefficient of lift of 5 was achievable

- experimental data was insufficient for tool validation



# MEASUREMENT TECHNIQUES FOR PROPULSION AIRFRAME INTEGRATION STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

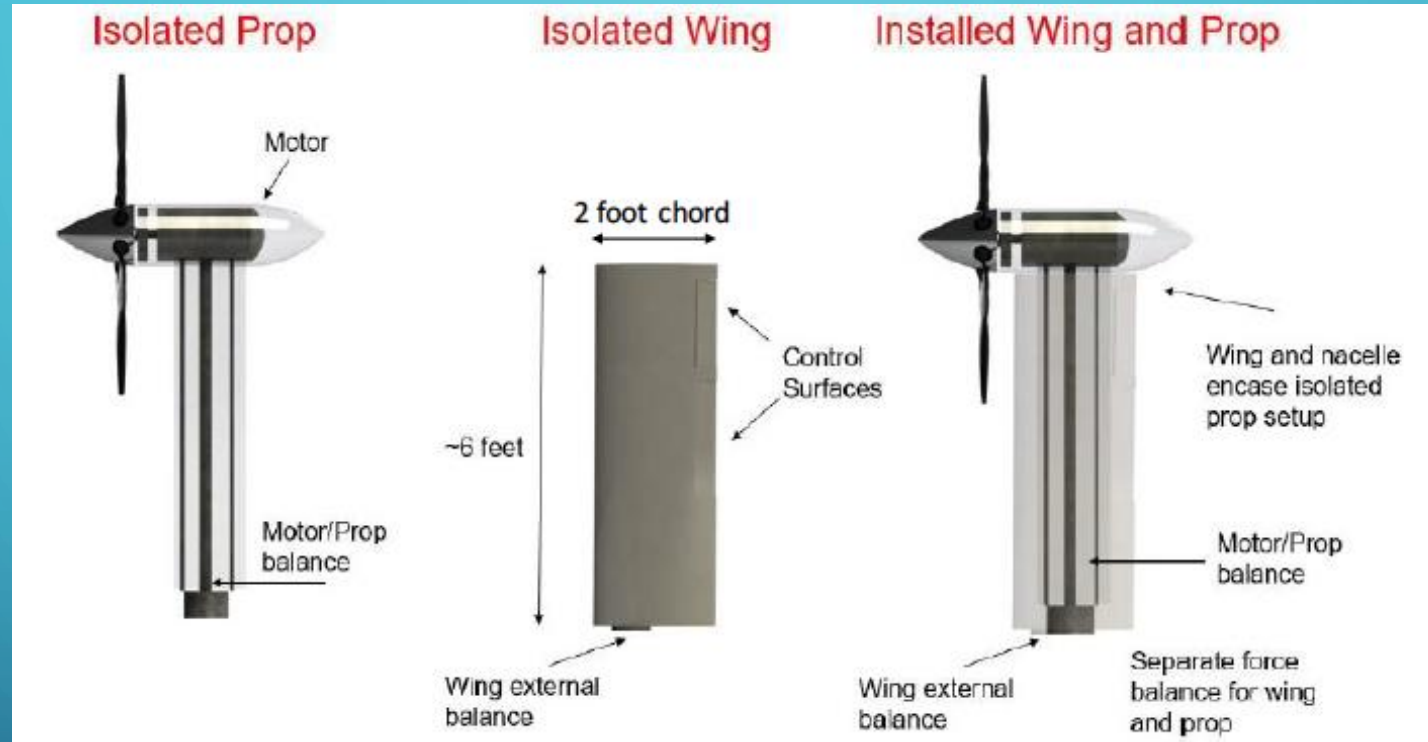


Establish an open experimental dataset for predictive tool validation and new measurement techniques of a generic wing and powered tip-mounted propeller configuration



# WINGTIP PAI WIND TUNNEL TEST

- USED TO DETERMINE BEST PRACTICES FOR MODELING PROPELLOR AIRFRAME INTEGRATION



## Isolated Prop Data Used For:

- Thrust / Drag Bookkeeping
- Prop Wake Surveys for Act Disk CFD BC Development

## Unpowered Data Used For:

- Establishes Unpowered Baseline Performance and Wing Pressures

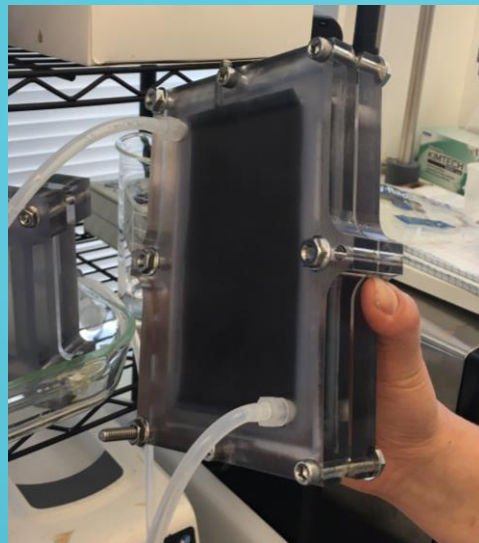
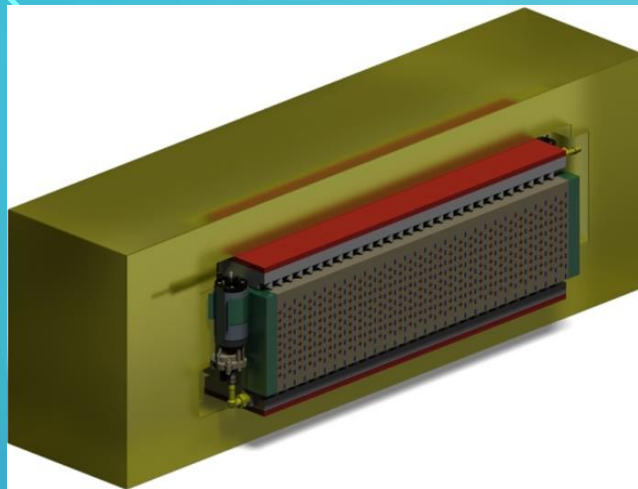
## Integrated Powered Data Used For:

- Quantifies Impact of Prop on Performance and Pressure Taps
- 2 Balances (Wing & Prop)



# CURRENT BARRIERS

- Explosive Energy Storage
- Fast Charging
- Decoupling Energy and Power
- Internal Volume limitations in High Aspect Ratio Wings
- Electromagnetic Interference



# Influit Energy, LLC

*Nanotechnology Based Liquids for Energy Storage*



INFLUIT ENERGY

9/14/2017

**John Katsoudas, CEO**  
[john@influitenergy.com](mailto:john@influitenergy.com)

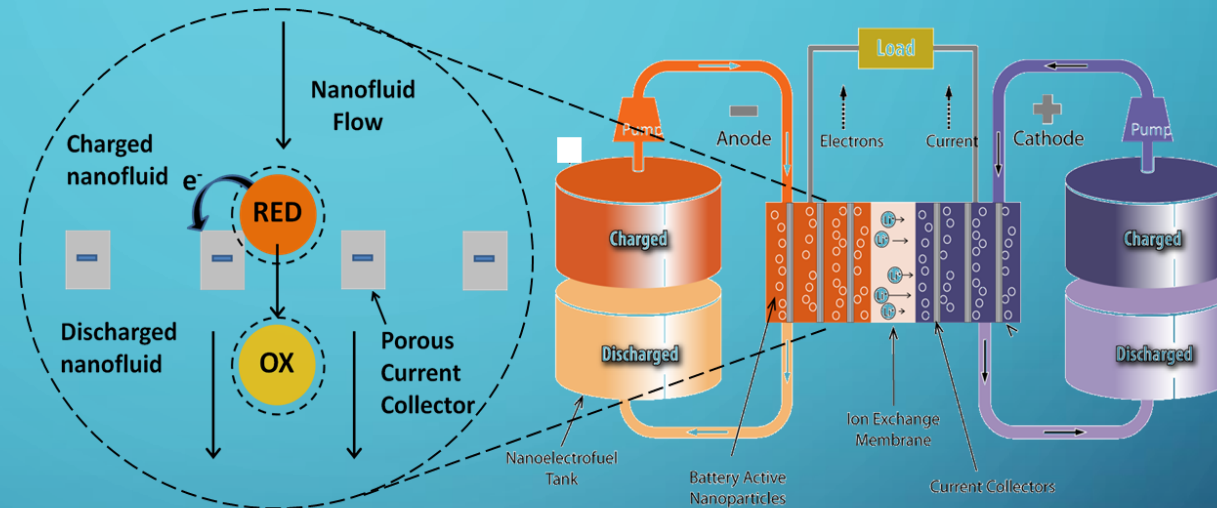


# Nanoelectrofuel (NEF) BATTERY

1.4 times higher pack energy density than Li-ion (350Wh/L) at ½ cost (\$130/kWh)

## How achieved:

Solid battery cathode/anode materials turned into stabilized low viscosity nanosuspensions in aqueous electrolytes



Features include: rapid re-fueling; decouples power from energy storage – flexibility of designs; conformable low viscosity liquid; thermal management by active electrolyte; easy manufacturing, reduced packing (<40 wt% of the pack).

**NEF flow battery approach enables a path to >700 Wh/kg pack density with all flow battery benefits.**

# Contributors

- **Empirical Systems Aerospace Inc. (ESAero – Prime Contractor)**
  - Prime Contractor managing all subcontractors and providing support to design, analyze, build, test, operate, and maintain the X-57 aircraft.
- **Scaled Composites**
  - Integration of flight subsystems into X-57 Mod II aircraft
- **Joby Aviation**
  - Development of the flight cruise motors and cruise motor controllers
- **Xperimental**
  - Fabrication of the Mod III Wing, Integration of the Traction system and instrumentation into the Wing, and Modification to Fuselage structure required attachment the wing.
- **Electric Power Systems (EPS)**
  - Development of the flight Traction Battery system
- **West Virginia High Tech Consortium**
  - Software validation and verification
- **Electricore**
- **Sean Clarke, NASA AFRC**
- **John Saltzman, NASA AFRC**
- **Curtis Hanson, NASA AFRC**
- **Kurt Papathakis, NASA AFRC**
- **Kurt Kloesel, NASA AFRC**
- **Brent Cobleigh, NASA AFRC**

# NASA Partners

- **Armstrong Flight Research Center**
  - Project and mission management
  - Airworthiness and design reviews
  - Piloted simulations
  - Ground and flight testing
  - Power system design specification
- **Langley Research Center**
  - Wing design requirements and structural analysis
  - Vehicle design and analysis
  - Flight Simulink simulation
  - Wind tunnel testing
  - Propulsor sizing
- **Glenn Research Center**
  - Thermal Management analysis
  - Battery Expertise
- **Johnson Space Center**
  - Battery cell destructive and abuse testing
  - Battery Expertise
- **Ames Research Center**
  - CFD to improve Mod III aerodynamic database for the X-57 piloted simulation