# ADEPT SR-1 Development and Testing

International Planetary Probe Workshop 2018 Boulder, CO, June 2018 Brandon Smith | Joseph Williams | Paul Wercinski Alan Cassell | Bryan Yount | Owen Nishioka | Shakib Ghassemieh Carl Kruger | Chad Brivkalns |Ali Guarneros Luna NASA Ames Research Center

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### ADEPT SR-1 Flight Test: September 12th, 2018



Key Performance Parameter 1: *Exo-atmospheric deployment to an entry configuration* Key Performance Parameter 2: *Demonstrate aerodynamic stability without active control* 

## A Fast-Paced, Moderate-Risk Development Approach

- Original approved timeline was 12 months from project approval (Aug 2016) to launch (Aug 2017)
  - Original approved life cycle cost : \$3.15M (all in)
  - There have since been three launch slips due to launch vehicle technical problems
  - Current launch date is September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (~1 year delay)
- Two nearly identical Nano-ADEPT SR-1 units have been assembled
  - FLIGHT unit and SPARE unit
  - SPARE unit was used to flesh out procedures prior to running them on FLIGHT unit
  - SPARE unit provides a backup re-fly option in case something unexpected happens to FLIGHT unit during launch
- Extra time due to launch delays has been used to reduce technical risk
  - Increased margin on deployment force
  - System-level rate gyro and accelerometer calibrations
  - Additional mission simulation testing to keep fresh on procedures



## **System Integration and Testing Timeline**



# **Mechanical Subsystem**



## **Electrical Subsystem and Operations**



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## **Subsystem Developmental Tests**





**Ballistic Range Test** 



Vertical Spin Tunnel Test

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Separation Test

## **Integrated System Tests**





**Deployment Testing** 

Simulated Mission "Drive Around" Test

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# **Conclusions & Future Work**

#### • Building two nearly identical units added value by reducing risk

- A small increment of time was spent building and testing SPARE unit
  - SPARE unit was used to flesh out procedures prior to running them on FLIGHT unit
  - SPARE unit has degraded robustness compared to FLIGHT unit, but it could be prepared to fly relatively quickly
- Approach worked well at this small scale where the components are relatively inexpensive and assembly quickly

### • Mark your calendars: Launch is <u>September 12<sup>th</sup> 2018</u>

- What's next for Nano-ADEPT?
  - FY18-19 Study: Mission design for Venus aerocapture (single-event drag modulation). See related talks:
    - Robin Beck et al., "Studies in Support of Venus Aerocapture Utilizing Drag Modulation"
    - Adam Nelessen et al., "Drag Modulation Aerocapture for Smallsat Science Missions to Venus"
  - FY18-19 Study: Guidance and control architecture and prototype development. See talk:
    - Sarah D'Souza et al., "Pterodactyl: Integrated Control Design for Precision Targeting of Deployable Entry Vehicles"
  - FY18-19 Study: Mission design for lunar sample return applications

## Backup

### ADEPT:

### Adaptable Deployable Entry and Placement Technology

- ADEPT is a mechanically deployed entry system
  - Stows during launch and cruise (like an umbrella)
  - Serves as both heat shield and primary structure during EDL
  - Enabling technology: 3D-woven carbon fabric (tows in all three dimensions)
- Nano-ADEPT is the application of ADEPT for small spacecraft where volume is a limiting constraint
  - NanoSats, CubeSats, other secondary payloads, etc.
- Why Nano-ADEPT?
  - Give rise to novel applications for small spacecraft by offering an entry system less constrained by volume
  - Achieve rapid technology development extensible to large ADEPT applications



Former NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden observing 3D-weaving processes at Bally Ribbon Mills





6 m diameter ADEPT-Venus in cruise (left) and entry (right) configurations



0.7 m diameter Nano-ADEPT shown with notional 2U chassis payload

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## Nano-ADEPT Development Roadmap to TRL 5

- Strategy addresses technical challenges with four system-level tests
- Common geometric features between design reference missions (DRMs), ground tests, and flight test help provide ground-to-flight traceability

