

# Aeroassist Technologies for Small Satellite Missions



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# Outline

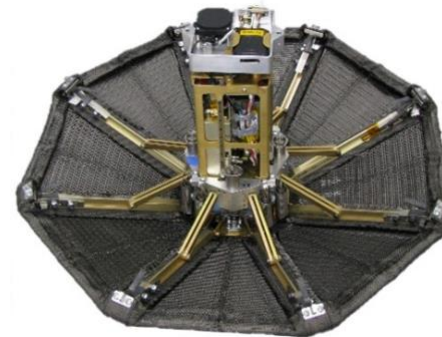
- Aeroassist Overview
- Small Sat Class Entry Vehicle Technologies
  - Rigid Aeroshells
  - Deployable Entry Vehicles
  - New Entry System Technologies
- Summary



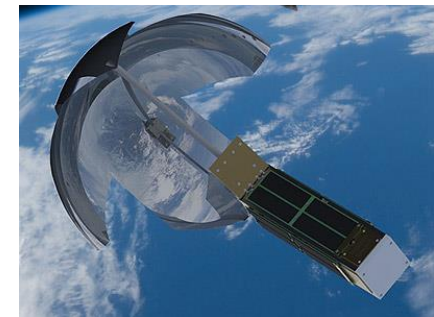
Rigid Aeroshells- HEEET



Inflatable DEVs- HIAD



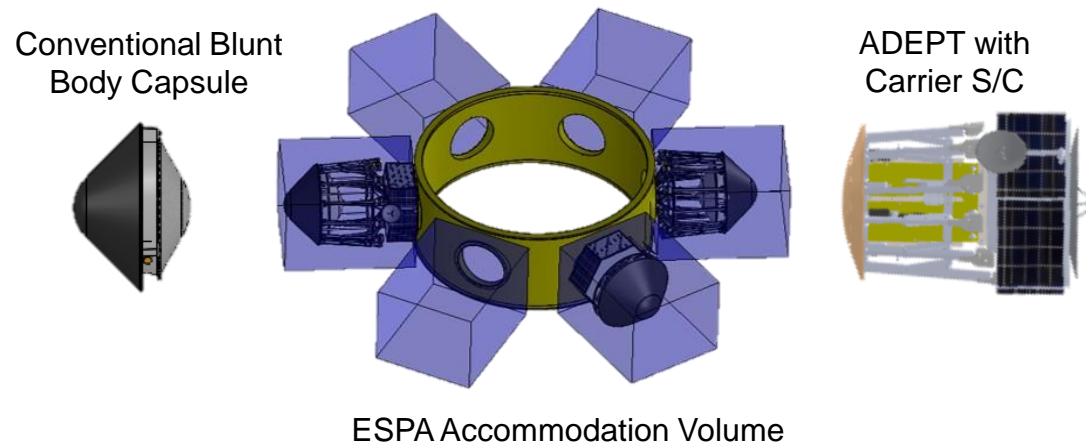
Mechanical DEVs-ADEPT



Drag Devices-  
ExoBrake

# Aeroassist Overview

- **Aeroassist** refers to the use of an **atmosphere to accomplish a transportation system function** using techniques such as **aerobraking, aerocapture, aeroentry, and aerogravity assist**.
- **Aeroentry and Aerocapture offer an alternative approach for large  $\Delta V$  maneuvers** and could revolutionize the use of SmallSats for exploration missions and increase the science return while reducing costs for orbital or entry missions to Mars, Venus and return to Earth.
- **Aeroassist technologies are power efficient and tolerant to the radiation and thermal environment** encountered in deep space, can be integrated around or within SmallSat geometries, and can be packaged in secondary payload accommodation volumes.

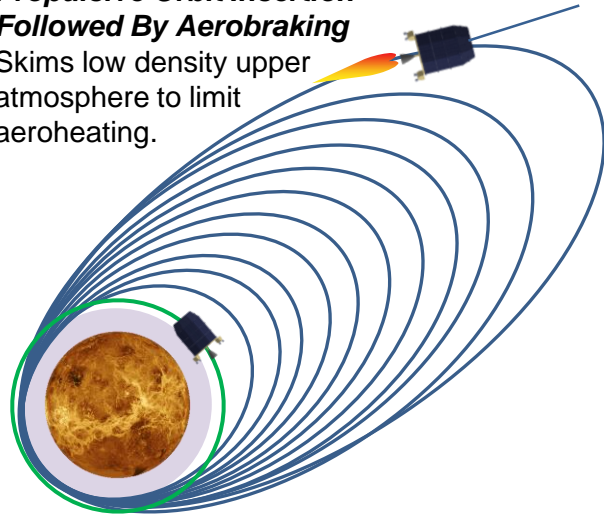


# Aeroassist Overview

## Aerobraking

### Propulsive Orbit Insertion Followed By Aerobraking

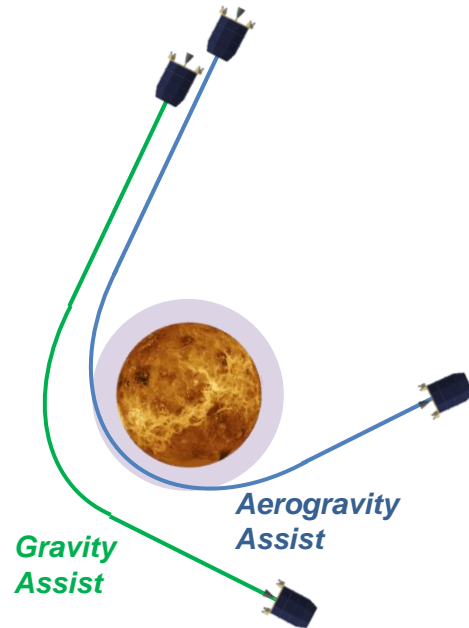
Skims low density upper atmosphere to limit aeroheating.



**Final Orbit**  
Achieved after many skims through atmosphere along with circularization.

- Substantial Propulsion Required
- Does Not Need High Performance Entry System Technologies
- Example- Mars Orbiters

## Aerogravity



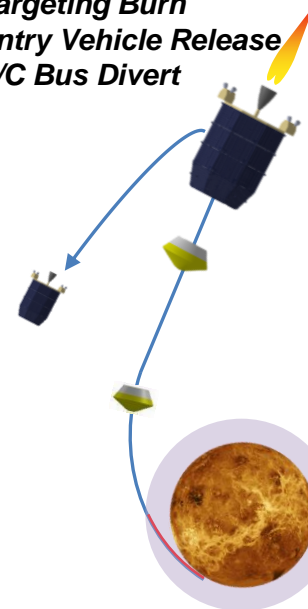
**Gravity Assist**

**Aerogravity Assist**

- Aerogravity Assist requires entry system technologies
- Can reduce required launch energy and propulsion requirements
- Aerogravity assist has not been demonstrated

## Aeroentry

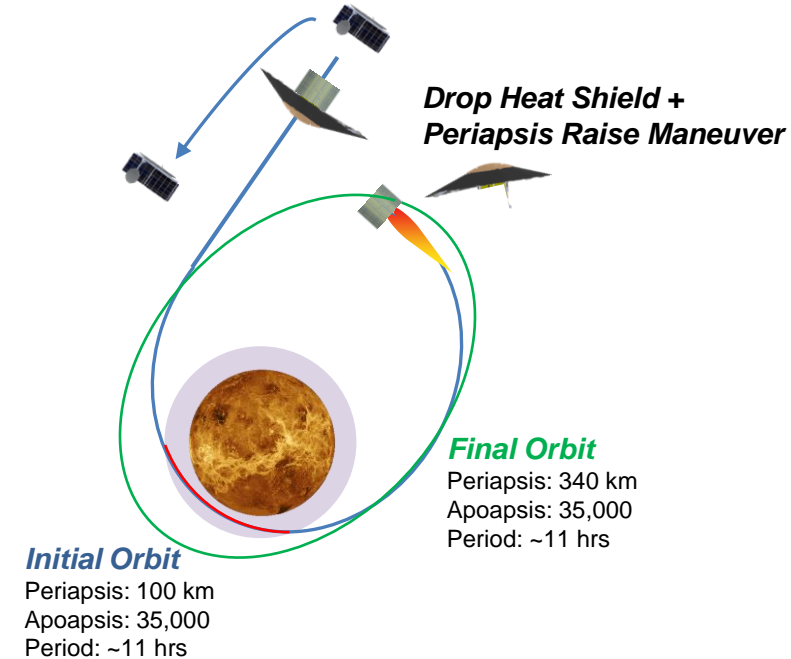
- Targeting Burn
- Entry Vehicle Release
- S/C Bus Divert



**Delivery of lander or in-situ aerial platform**

- Entry can be ballistic or guided depending upon the mission requirements
- All landers and aerial platforms require high performance entry systems

## Aerocapture



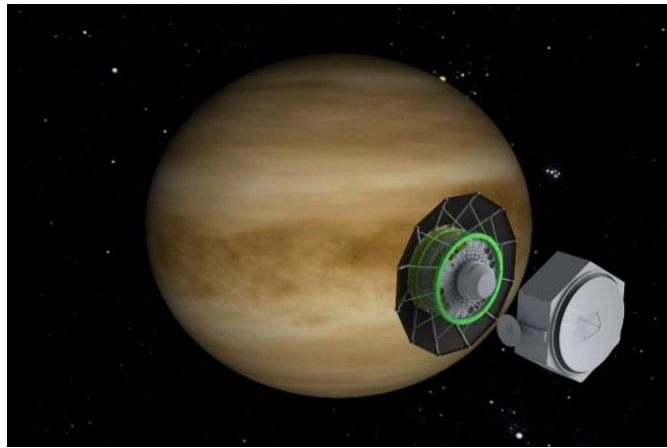
**Initial Orbit**  
Periapsis: 100 km  
Apoapsis: 35,000  
Period: ~11 hrs

**Final Orbit**  
Periapsis: 340 km  
Apoapsis: 35,000  
Period: ~11 hrs

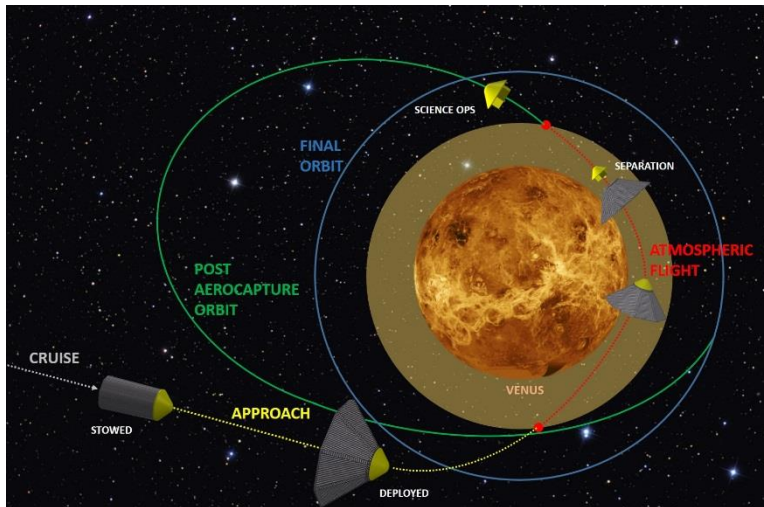
- Aerocapture saves substantial propellant for orbit insertion
- Entry system can utilize lifting entry vehicle or drag-modulated vehicle for orbit insertion.
- Human Mars landers are baselining aerocapture followed by entry.

# Mission Concepts with Aerocapture & Entry Segments

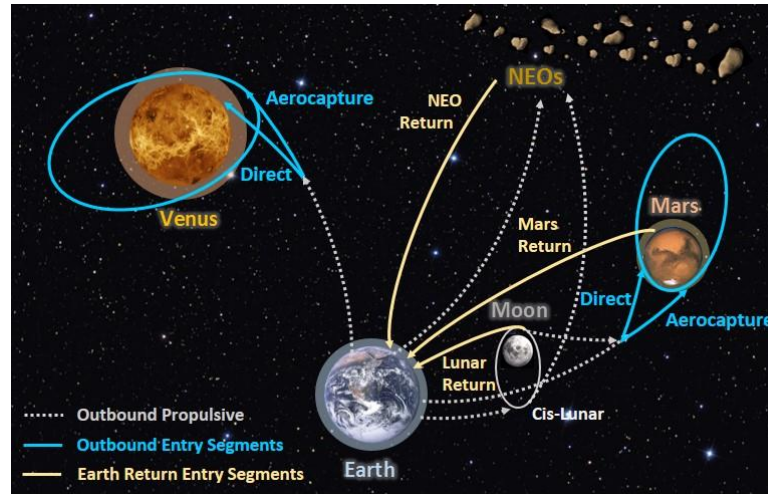
## Venus AeroEntry



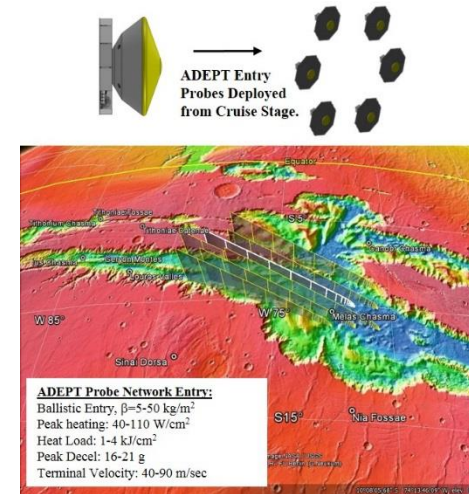
## Venus Aerocapture



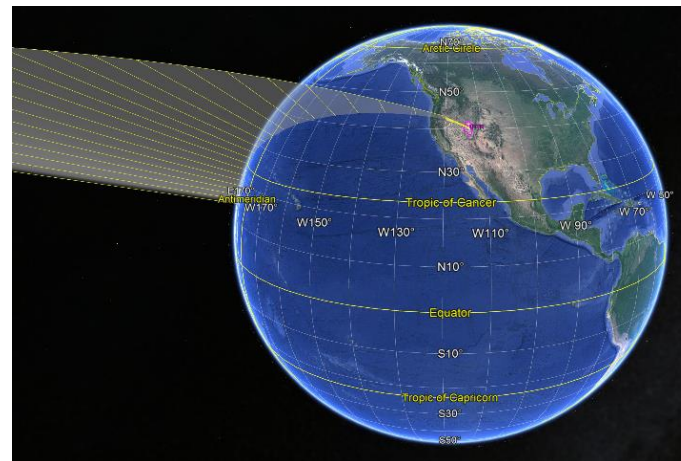
## Inner Planet Aeroassist Options



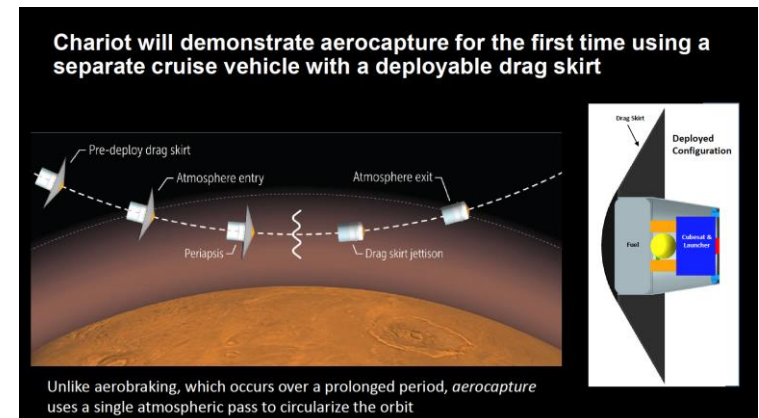
## Mars Aeroentry network probe mission



## Sample Return Missions

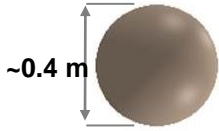
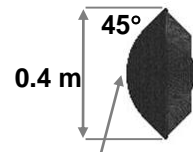
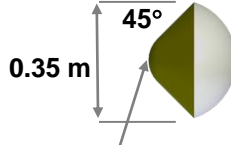
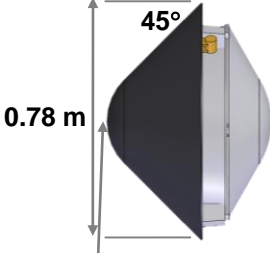
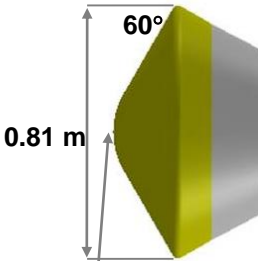


## Mars Aerocapture for SmallSat Constellations



# Small Sat Class

## Rigid Aeroshell Entry Vehicles

	EARTH	EARTH	MARS	VENUS	EARTH
<b>ENTRY PROBES</b>	 <p>~0.4 m</p>	 <p>45° 0.4 m R=0.2 m</p>	 <p>45° 0.35 m R=0.09 m</p>	 <p>45° 0.78 m R=0.19 m</p>	 <p>60° 0.81 m R=0.22 m</p>
	LUNA 16 LUNA 20 LUNA 24	HAYABUSA HAYABUSA-2 (2020 Return)	Deep Space 2	Pioneer Venus Small Probe	STARDUST OSIRIS-REX (2023 Return)
<b>HEATSHIELD MATERIAL</b>	?	CARBON PHENOLIC	SIRCA	CARBON PHENOLIC*	PICA
<b>ENTRY MASS</b>	?	16.2 kg	3.7 kg	91 kg	43 kg
<b>BALLISTIC COEFFICIENT</b>	?	27 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	36 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	190 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	60 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>ENTRY VELOCITY<sub>inertial</sub></b>	~11 km/s	12.0 km/s	6.9 km/s	11.5 km/s	12.8 km/s
<b>EFPA</b>	?	-12 deg	-13.5 deg	- 68 deg	- 8 deg
<b>EDL</b>	BALLISTIC PARACHUTE SURFACE RECOVERY	BALLISTIC PARACHUTE SURFACE RECOVERY	BALLISTIC SURFACE IMPACT	BALLISTIC NO PARACHUTE	BALLISTIC PARACHUTE SURFACE RECOVERY
<b>PAYLOAD VOLUME</b>	~2U	~1U	~1U	~12U	~12U

# Small Sat Class Deployable Entry Vehicles

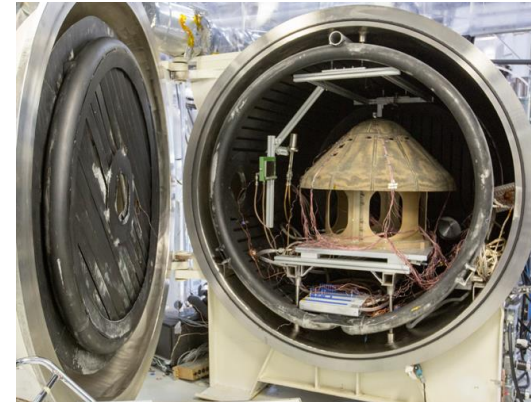
	TechEdSat	Deorbit and Recovery System	HIAD w/in 6U	JAXA-EGG	ADEPT CubeSat Class
	 <p>M. Murbach, SmallSat 2016</p>	 <p>J. Andrews, SmallSat 2011</p>	 <p>S. Hughes, et al, IPPW 2016</p>	 <p>Diameter : 80cm</p>	 <p>ADEPT 3U      ADEPT 12U</p>
CubeSat Configuration	3.5U	3U	6U	3U	3U+ (could package around dispensers)
Entry System Volume	1.5U ExoBrake de-orbit system	1U	3U	1U	Integrates around CubeSat or CubeSat Dispenser
TPS Material	N/A	Ablative Coating on Flexible Fabric	Woven SiC on C-Felt	Woven Ceramics?	High Temperature Capable 3D Woven Carbon Fabric
Flex TPS Temp Limit	N/A	?	~1600 °C	?	Test Capability Demonstrated to <b>2100 °C</b>
Flight Heritage	TechEdSat 1-8	N/A	N/A	Sub-Orbital Demonstration	ADEPT 3U Sub-Orbital Demo September 2018
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does not survive entry</li> <li>SPQR concept in development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designed for LEO entries</li> <li>3 U EDU Developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concept Design</li> <li>Based on HIAD &amp; IRVE heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Ballistic Coefficient &lt; 5 kg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>More details needed to determine feasibility for high speed entries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capable of high speed entries (~11 km/s)</li> <li>Technology also useful for Aerocapture</li> </ul>

# Heatshield for Extreme Entry Environments Technology (HEEET)

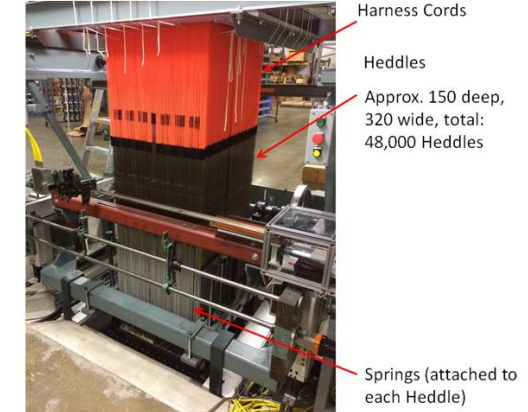
- Leverages **advanced 3-D weaving** and **resin infusion**.
- A dual layer system - **robust and mass efficient** across a range of **extreme entry environments**.
- TRL 6 and ready for mission infusion.
- Development includes:
  - Requirements and verification
  - Testing – Aerothermal and Thermo-structural
  - Manufacturing specifications from raw materials to weaving, tile fabrication (forming/resin infusion) and integration
  - Technology transfer to industry (BRM and FMI)
  - Heatshield (1m dia.) Prototype designed, built and tested
  - Material Thermal Response Model and Margins Policy
  - Validated thermo-structural tools to support design
  - Design Data Book

NASA ARC POC- Don Ellerby

Prototype in Thermal Vac Chamber



3d Weaving of Pre-form



Woven Pre-form



Arc Jet Tested Specimen

IHF 3" Stag Model  
3600 W/cm<sup>2</sup>; 5.3 atm

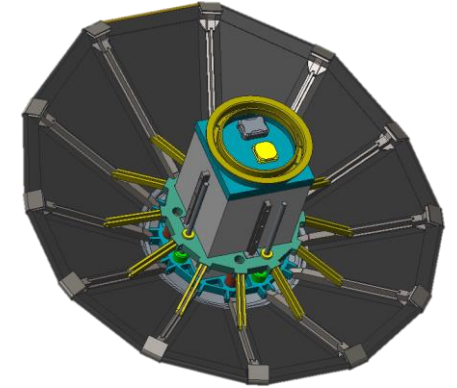




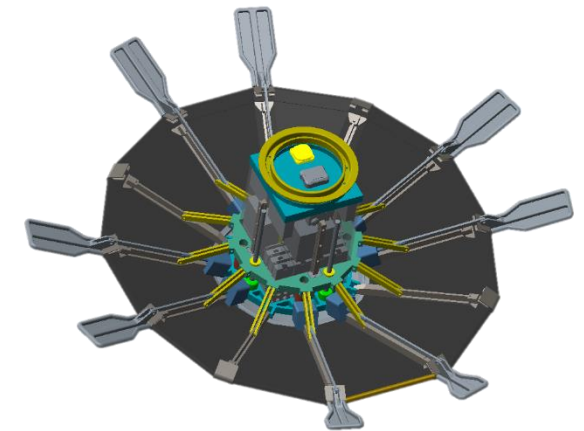
# Pterodactyl- Guidance & Control System Integration onto Deployable Entry Vehicles

- Utilizes **ADEPT 1 m Class** design for development.
- Leverages the ability to **mount control system** hardware on **deployed structural elements**.
- Project is assessing 3 control system approaches for challenging Lunar Sample Return Design Reference Mission.
- Developing Analysis Framework to Explore Design Feasibility & Entry Environments
- Development includes:
  - Aerodynamics & Aerothermodynamics Analysis
  - 3-DOF & 6-DOF Trajectory Analysis
  - Guidance & Control Algorithm Development
  - Control System Integration onto Technology Demonstrator
  - Ground Testing of Technology Demonstrator
  - Control System Software Testing on 6-DOF Simulation Testbed

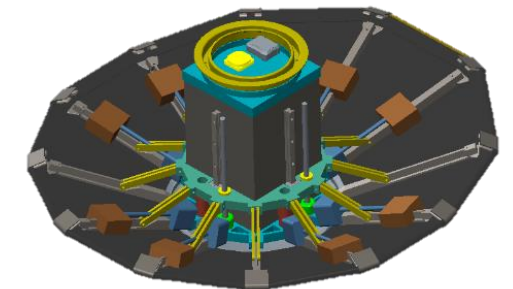
REACTION  
CONTROL  
THRUSTERS



CONTROL  
SURFACES



MASS  
MOVEMENT



NASA ARC POC- Sarah D'Souza

# Summary

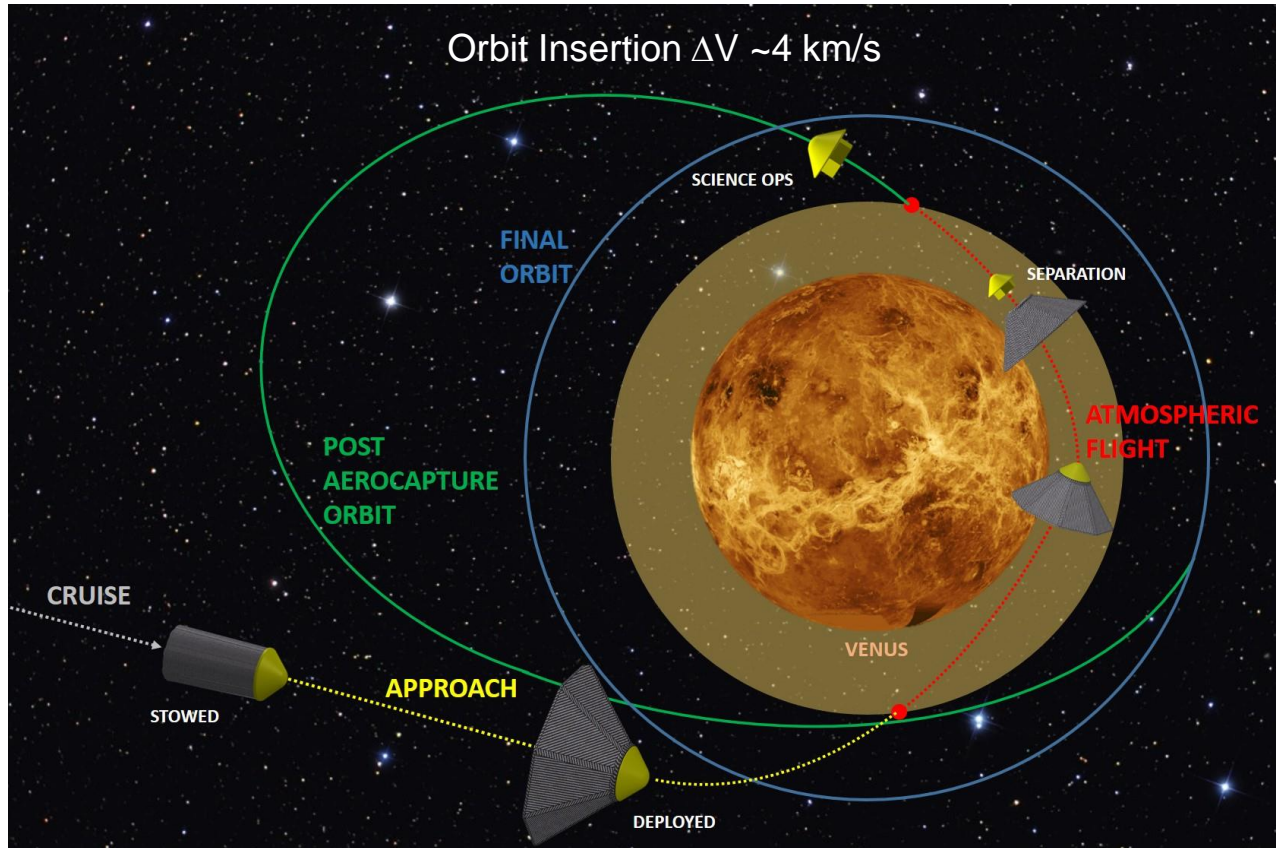
- Aerocapture and Aeroentry are mission enablers for Small Satellite missions.
- Aerocapture and Aeroentry mission segments show promise for Small Satellite mission concepts:
  - PSDS3 Mission Concept Study Awards FY18 (3 of 9 Mars & Venus concepts utilized Aeroassist)
- NASA ARC and JPL are exploring Drag Modulated Aerocapture mission concepts to advance capabilities for exploration and science objectives.
- Cis-Lunar Sample Return is another promising mission class for the Small Satellite community.
- New technologies are being developed to enable Small Satellite missions.
  - HEEET
  - ADEPT & Pterodactyl
  - HIAD
  - Drag Assist Devices
- We encourage the Small Satellite community to contact us for concept studies and partnering to help further innovate Small Satellite technology.

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[AliciaMDwyerCianciolo@nasa.gov](mailto:AliciaMDwyerCianciolo@nasa.gov)

# Back-Up Charts

# Drag Modulated Aerocapture at Venus



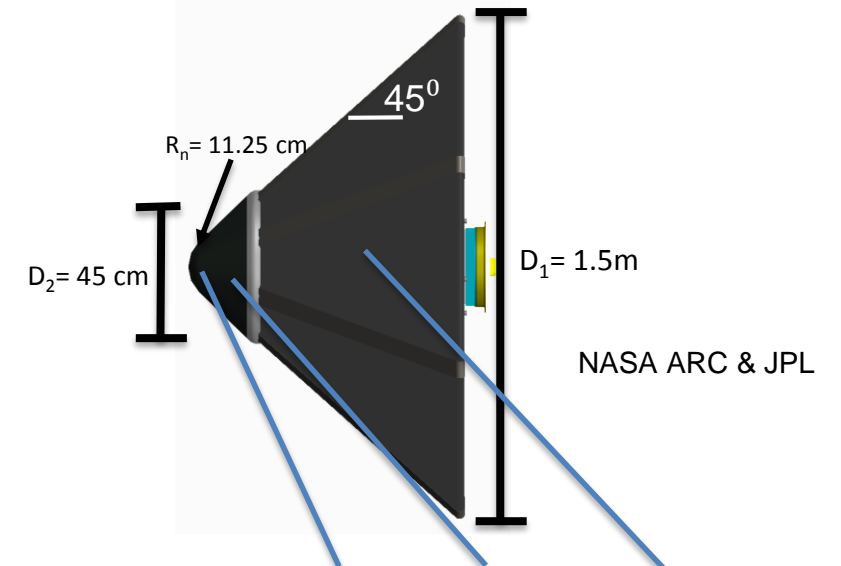
## Trajectory Assumptions

- Pre-jettison Mass = 72 kg
- Post-jettison Mass = 34.7 kg, P-V aero database
- Basic mission, conditions at 150 km
  - $V = 11$  km/s, EFPA =  $-5.5^\circ$
- Jettison at time to reach 2000km apoapsis

## Entry System Thermal Protection System Sizing

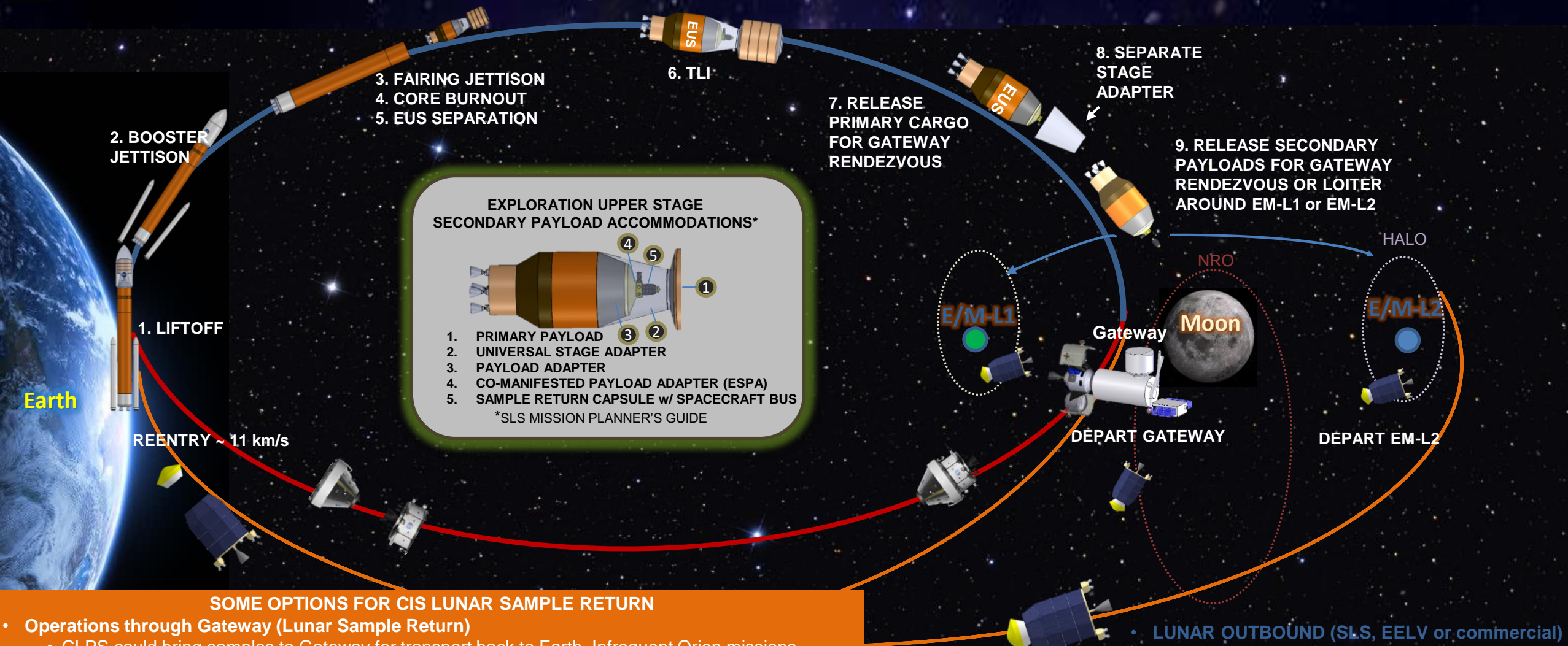
Determine environments and assign materials

- C-PICA chosen for rigid aeroshell
- Carbon Fabric for deployable aeroshell



	Nose	Flank (est)	Skirt (est)
Peak Heatflux (W/cm <sup>2</sup> )	383.3	191.65	191.65
Peak Heatload (J/cm <sup>2</sup> )	45179	22590	3840
Peak Pressure (Pa)	8800	4400	3650
C-PICA thickness (cm)	2.58	1.88	0.72
PICA thickness (cm)	4.125	3.51	1.11
C-PICA mass (kg)	0.13	0.80	4.56
PICA mass (kg)	0.20	1.45	6.83

# Cis-Lunar Sample Return



- SOME OPTIONS FOR CIS LUNAR SAMPLE RETURN**
- **Operations through Gateway (Lunar Sample Return)**
    - CLPS could bring samples to Gateway for transport back to Earth. Infrequent Orion missions combined with tasking priorities suggests we should consider augmenting with a robotic sample return capability
  - **Free-flyer for Deep Space Investigations (e.g.-Bio Sample Return)**
  - **Lunar Surface Robotic Return (e.g.- Moonrise)**

- **LUNAR OUTBOUND (SLS, EELV or commercial)**
- **ORION RETURN (100s kg), ~once per 18 months**
- **SAMPLE RETURN (10s kg)**
- **LOP-G ORBIT**
- **EM-L1 ORBIT**
- **EM-L2 HALO ORBIT**