

# Additive Manufacturing for Human Space Exploration



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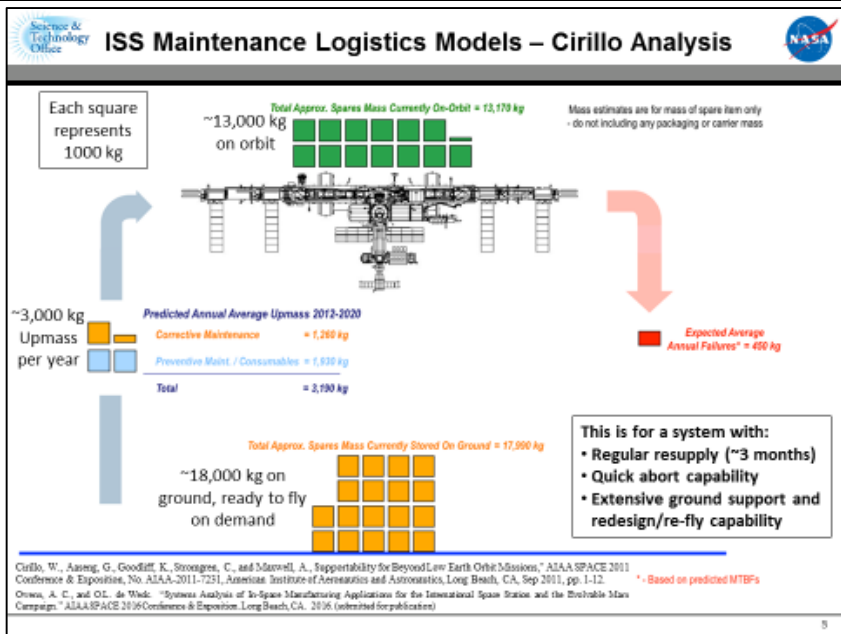
## **NASA's In Space Manufacturing Initiative (ISM)**

- The Case for ISM: WHY
- ISM Path to Exploration
- In Space Robotic Manufacturing and Assembly (IRMA)

## **Additive Manufacturing (AM) Development For Liquid Rocket Engine Space Flight Hardware**

## **MSFC Standard and Specification For Additively Manufactured Space Flight Hardware**

## **Summary**

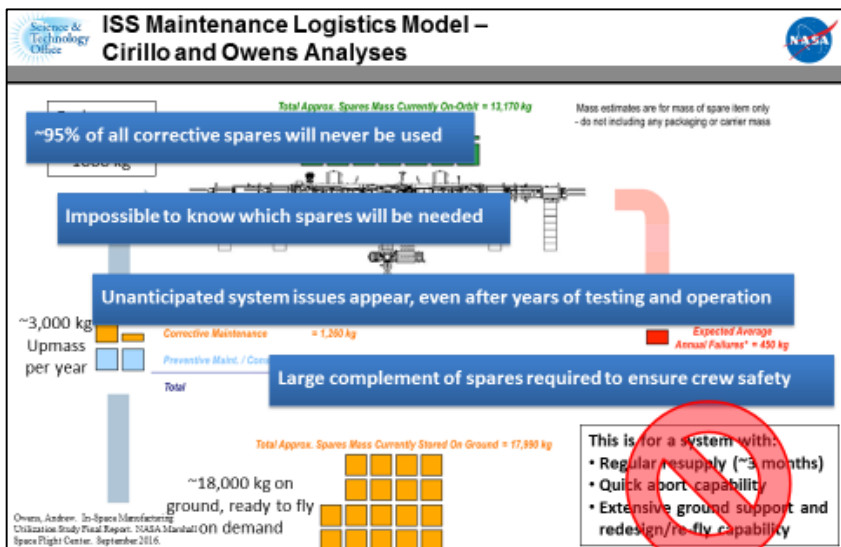


Current maintenance logistics strategy **will not be effective** for deep space exploration missions

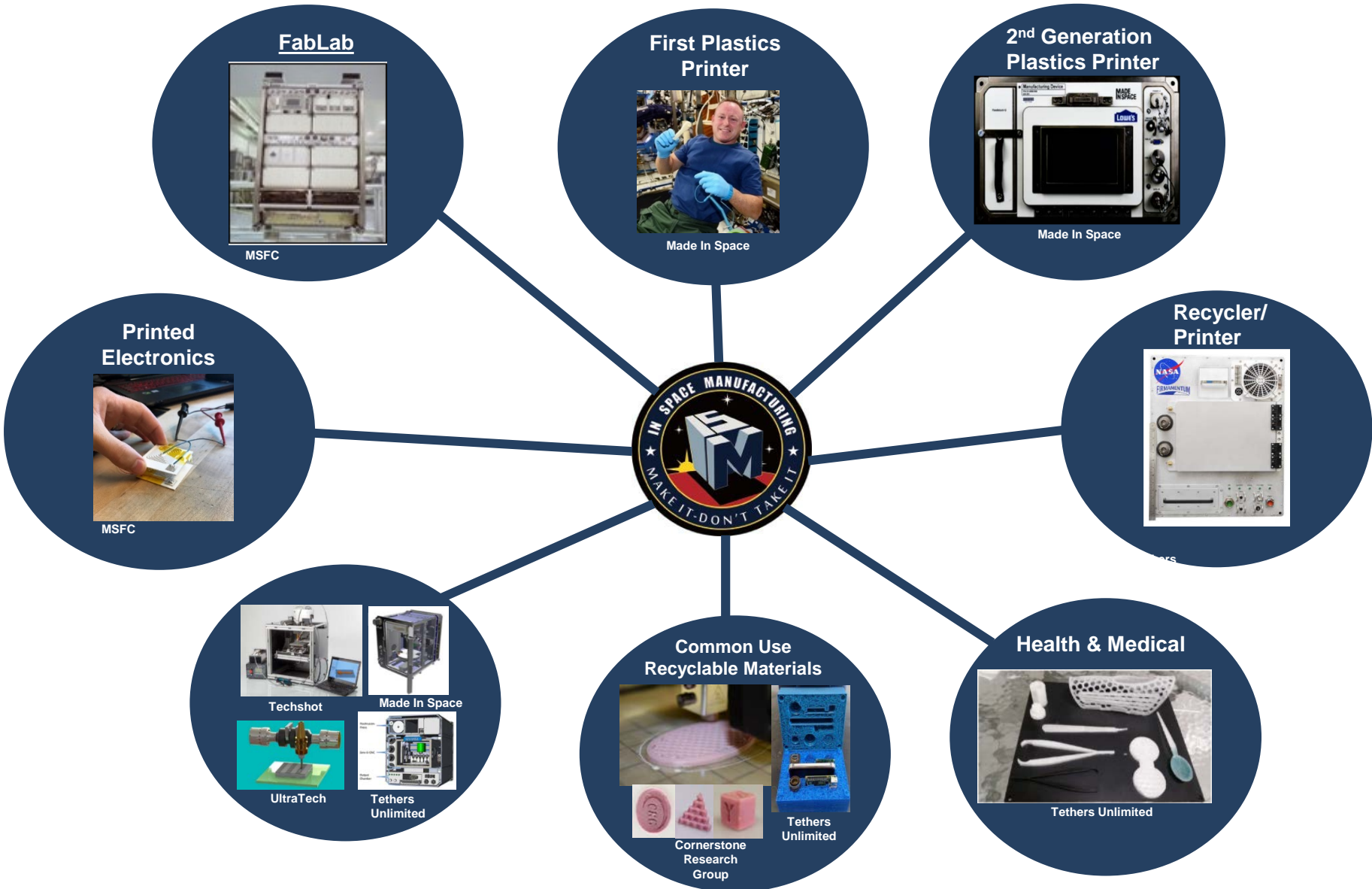
## Benefits from Incorporation of ISM

ISM offers the potential to:

- Significantly reduce maintenance logistics mass requirements
- Enable the use of recycled materials and in-situ resources for more dramatic reductions in mass requirements
- Enable flexibility, giving systems a broad capability to adapt to unanticipated circumstances
- Mitigate risks that are not covered by current approaches to maintainability

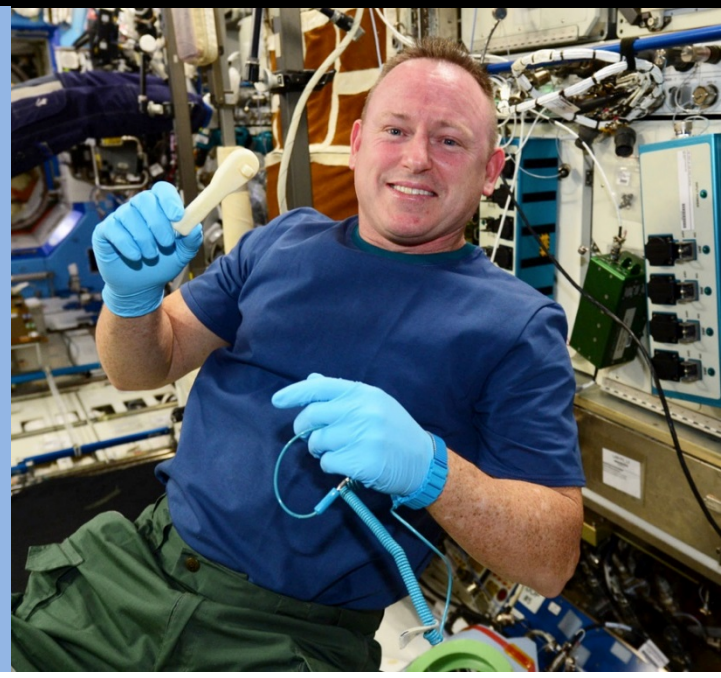
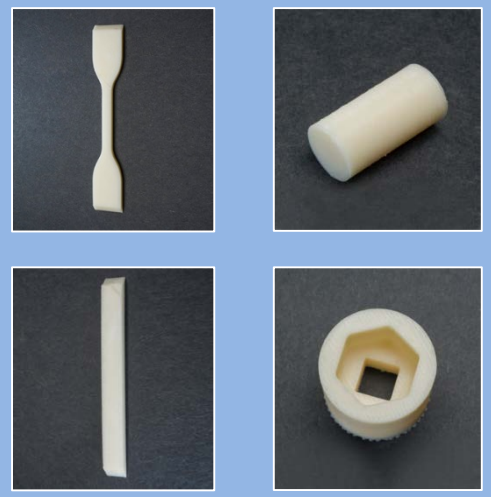


# ISM Path to Exploration - Key Thrust Areas





## Mechanical Property Test Articles



## Functional Tools



- A total of 21 parts were printed on ISS, including the uplinked ratchet handle.
- Comprehensive nondestructive inspection and testing performed on all articles
- Mechanical property differences observed between flight and ground samples
- Phase II ISS prints targeted extruder standoff distance as probable cause for differences observed in Phase I data.
- **Overall, we cannot attribute any of the observations to microgravity effects.**
- Lessons Learned were incorporated into the next generation 3D Printer for ISS – Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF) by Made In Space

# ISM Utilization and the Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF): Material Characterization and Functional Parts



AMF on ISS with printed multi-purpose tool floating in front (photos courtesy of MIS)

- Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF), the second generation printer, is a commercial, multi-user facility developed by Made in Space, Inc.
- Upgrades beyond 3DP include:
  - a) Print with multiple material (ABS, ULTEM 9085, and HDPE)
  - b) Integral cameras/sensors for automated monitoring
  - c) Maintenance procedures reduce crew time
  - d) Leveling and calibration with on-board systems
- Materials characterization task developing baseline mechanical properties on ABS (test matrix below)



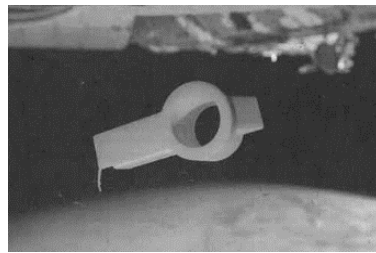
**SPHERES Tow Hitch**



**Antenna Feed Horn**



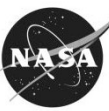
**REM Shield Enclosure**



**OGS AAA Adapter**

AMF Mechanical Property Test Matrix				
Type, Orientation	Qty (ground)	Quantity (flight)	ASTM #	Properties
Tension, 0	10	10	D638	Modulus, strength, strain, Poisson's
Tension, 90	10	10	D638	Modulus, strength, strain
Compression, 0	10	10	D695	Modulus, "strength," strain
Compression, 90	10	10	D695	Modulus, "strength," strain
Tension, +/-45 (shear)	10	10	D3518	Modulus, strength, strain, Poisson's
Flatwise tension	10	10	C297	z-direction (through-thickness) tensile strength
Range coupon	2	2	n/a	n/a
EMU fan cap	1	1	n/a	n/a
Total	63	63		

# NextSTEP Multi-Material Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)



DESIGN

Phase A (18 months)

Goal: Demonstrate a scalable ground-based PROTOTYPE of an ISM FabLab System able to mature into flight demonstrations on the ISS within three years.

BUILD

Phase B (12 months)

Goal: Mature the Phase A ISM FabLab System prototype into a flight integration deliverable. Phase B criteria and needed path are informed by Phase A results and will be released under a follow-on BAA.

FLY

Phase C (18 months)

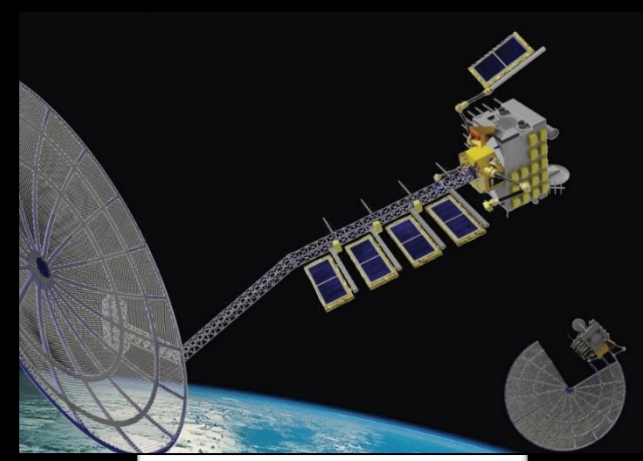
Goal: Demonstrate the capability of a Phase B ISM FabLab System on the ISS and evaluate risk. Phase C criteria are informed by Phase B results and will be released as a follow-on BAA or other acquisition vehicle.

- NASA solicited proposals for the development of a Multi-Material Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) capable of end-to-end manufacturing of precision parts for sparing, repair, and logistics support. during space missions.
  - ◆ High degree of autonomy
  - ◆ On-demand manufacturing of metallics and other materials in the microgravity environment
  - ◆ Minimum build envelope of 6"x6"x6"
  - ◆ Earth-based remote commanding
  - ◆ In-line remote/autonomous inspection and quality control
- This is the first step toward a fully-integrated, on-demand manufacturing capability that is able to produce finished, ready-to-use metallic, plastic, and/or electronic products during Exploration missions.
- The Phase B solicitation will be openly competed and is anticipated to be released late in CY 2019.





# In-space Robotic Manufacturing and Assembly (IRMA): Phase 1 Concepts



Concept by Made In Space

## Archinaut

A Versatile In-Space Precision Manufacturing and Assembly System



Concept by Space Systems/Loral

## Dragonfly

In-Space Robotic Manufacturing, Assembly and Reconfiguration of Large Solid Radio Frequency (RF) Reflectors



Concept by Orbital ATK

## CIRAS

A Commercial Infrastructure for Robotic Assembly and Services

### Tipping Point Objective

A ground demonstration of additive manufacturing of extended structures and assembly of those structures in a relevant space environment.

A ground demonstration of robotic assembly interfaces and additive manufacture of antenna support structures meeting EHF performance requirements.

A ground demonstration of reversible and repeatable robotic joining methods for mechanical and electrical connections feasible for multiple space assembly geometries.

### Team

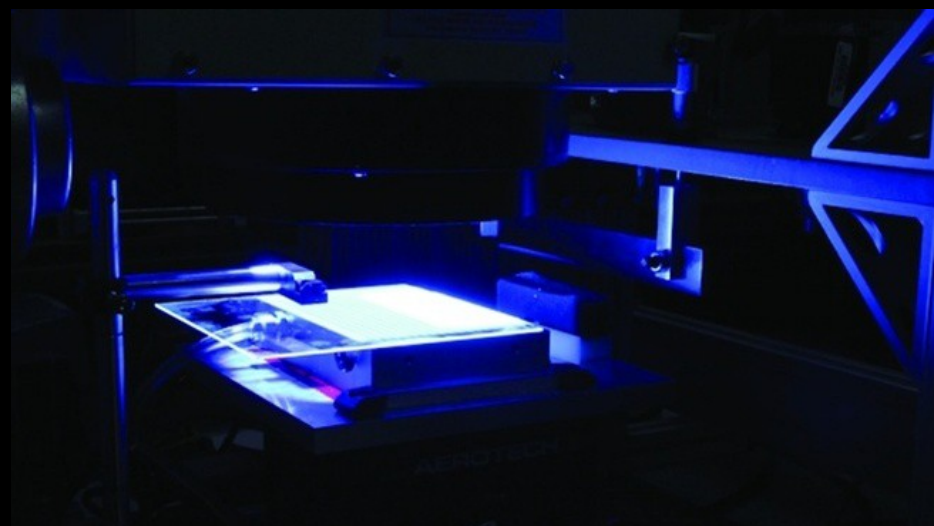
Made In Space, Northrop Grumman Corp., Oceaneering Space Systems, Ames Research Center

Space Systems/Loral, Langley Research Center, Ames Research Center, Tethers Unlimited, MDA US & Brampton

Orbital ATK, Glenn Research Center, Langley Research Center, Naval Research Laboratory

Status: 2-year risk reduction developments completed. Phase 2 proposals selected for flight demo





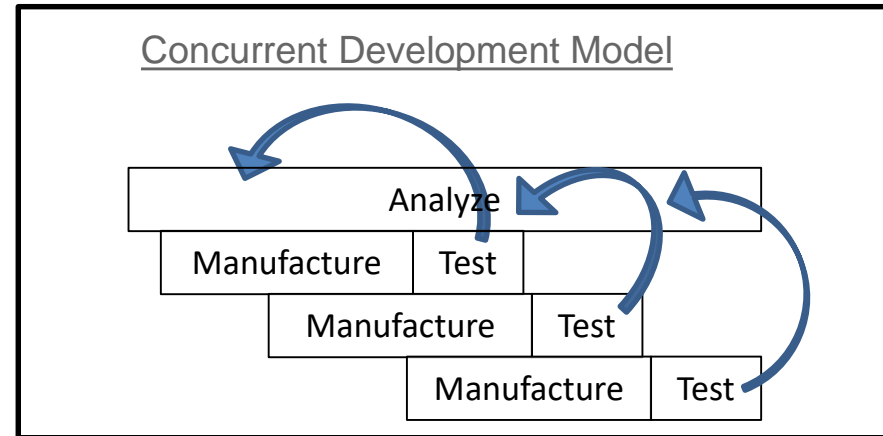
# Additive Manufacturing

at Marshall Space Flight Center

**Additive Manufacturing Development for  
Liquid Rocket Engine Space Flight Hardware**

## Strategic Vision:

- Defining the Development Philosophy of the Future
- Building Foundational Industrial Base
- Building Experience
- Developing “Smart Buyers” to enable Commercial Partners
- Enabling and Developing Revolutionary Technology
- SLM Material Property Data, Technology, and Testbed shared with US Industry



## Focus Areas:

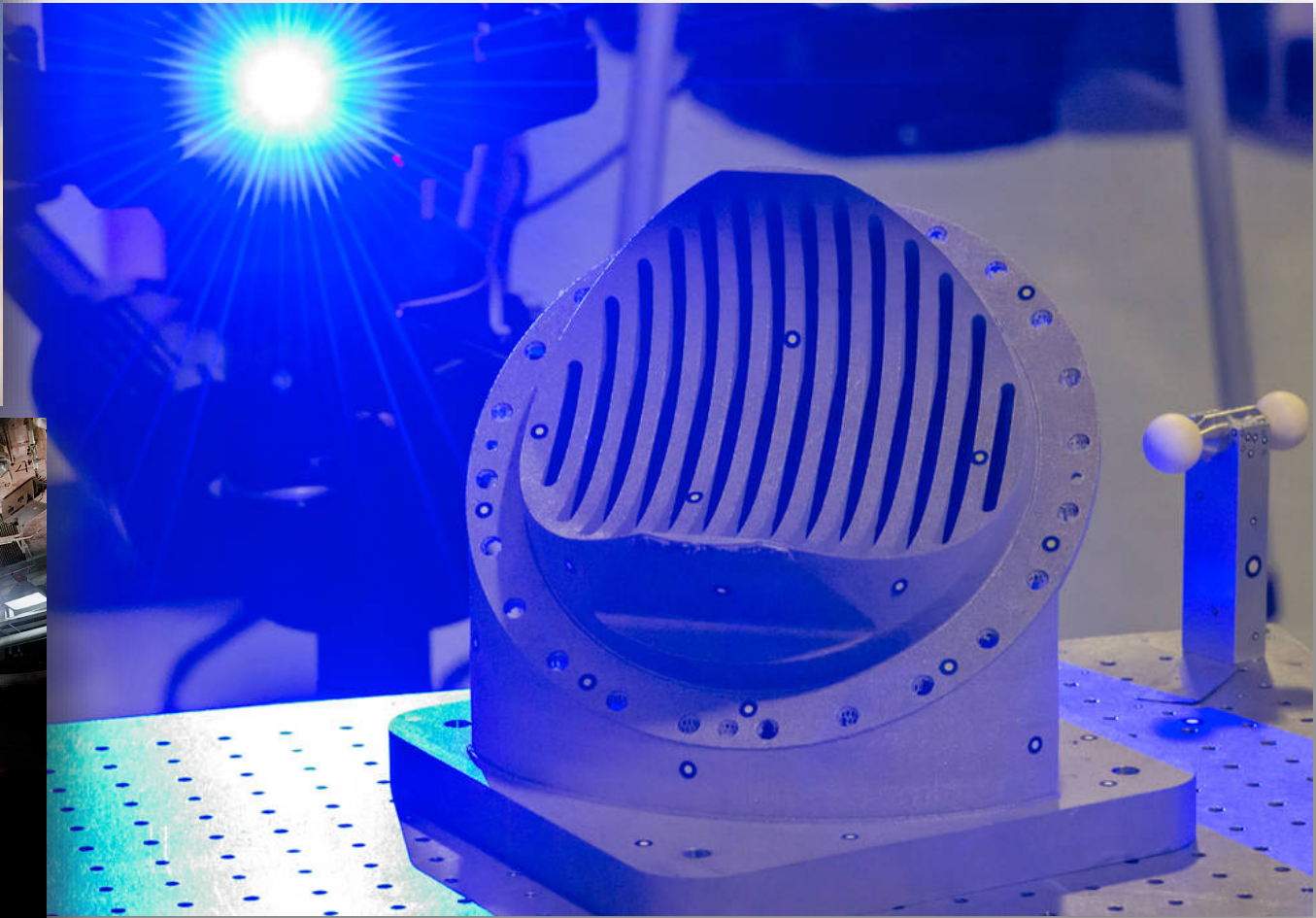
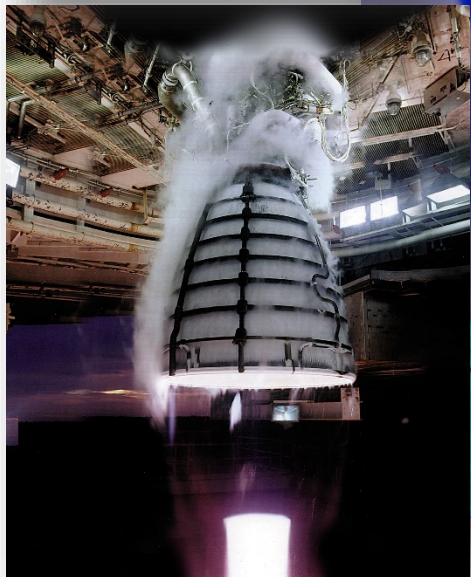
- SLS Core Stage Engine, RS-25
  - Process development and characterization
  - Material property characterization and database development (Inconel 718)
  - Pathfinder component fabrication
- In Space Propulsion Class Additive Manufacturing Demonstrator Engine (AMDE)
  - Chambers
  - Valves
  - Injectors
  - Turbomachinery
  - Nozzles
- Small Satellite Propulsion Components



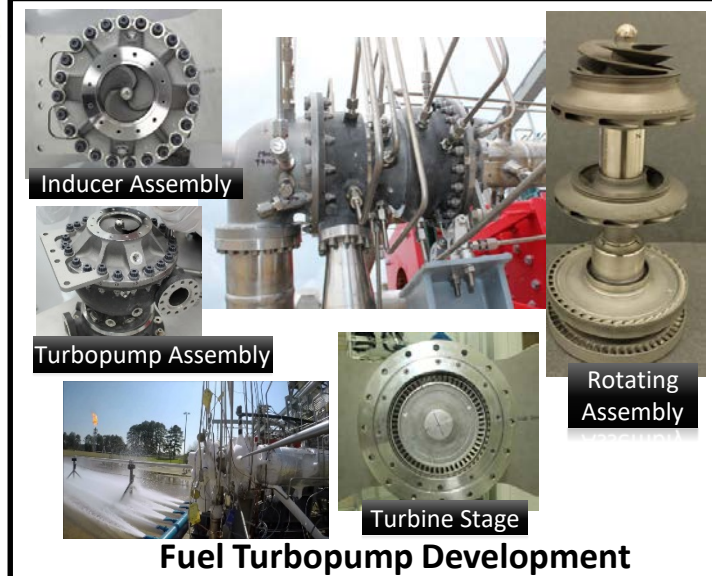
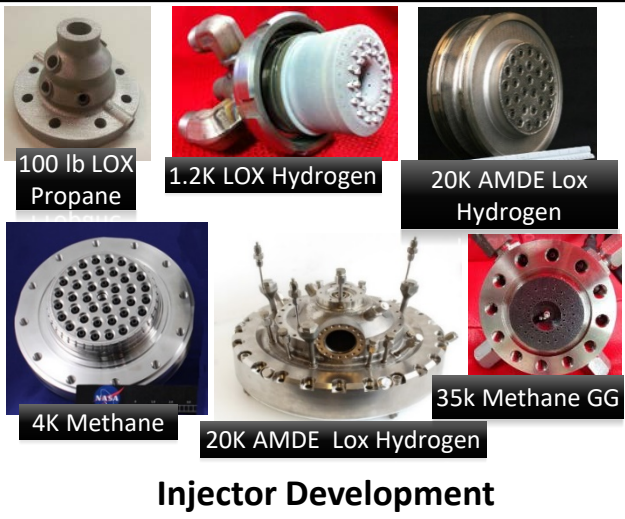
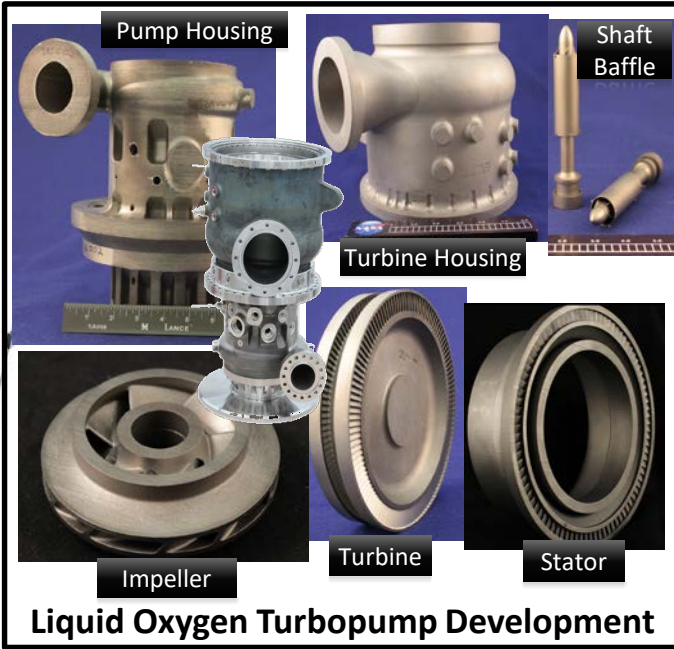
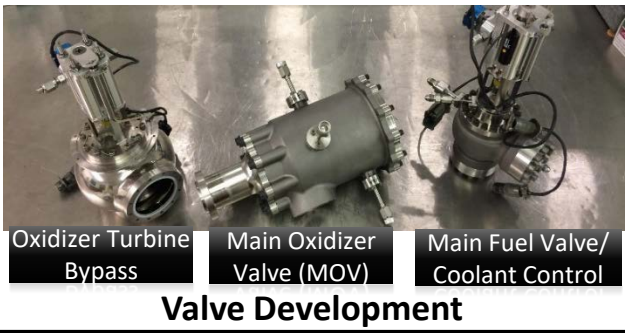
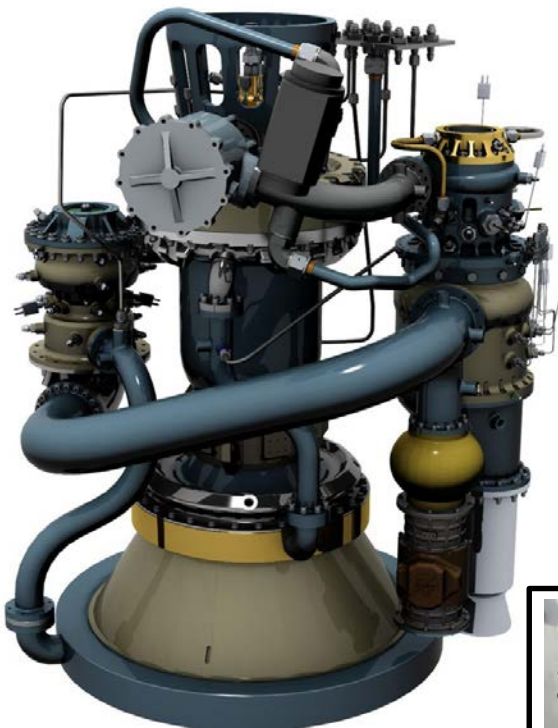
### Inconel 718

Used existing design with additive manufacturing to reduce complexity from 127 welds to 4 welds

- 1 of 35 part opportunities being considered for RS-25 engine







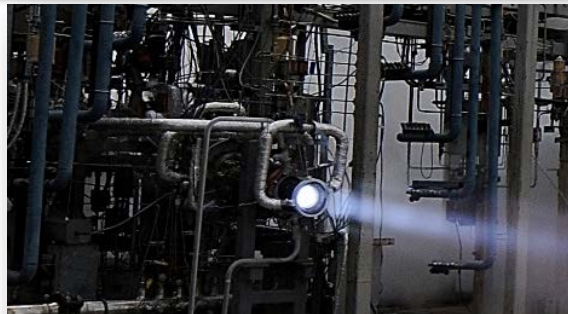




GRCop-84 3D printing process developed at NASA and infused into industry



GRCop-84 AM Chamber Accumulated **2365 sec** hot-fire time at full power with no issues



LOX/Methane Testing of 3D-Printed Chamber Methane Cooled, tested full power



Ox-Rich Staged Combustion Subscale Main Injector Testing of 3D-Printed Faceplate



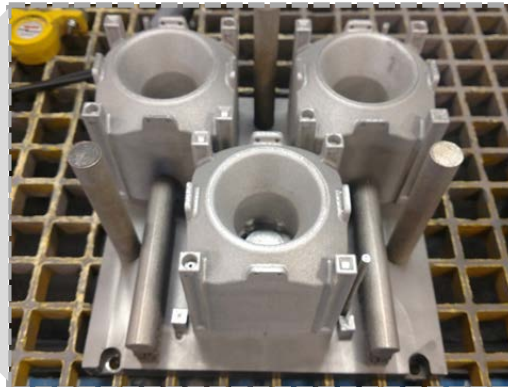
CubeSat cuboidal tank design:

- Topology optimized
- Printed
- Successfully hydrostatic proof tested

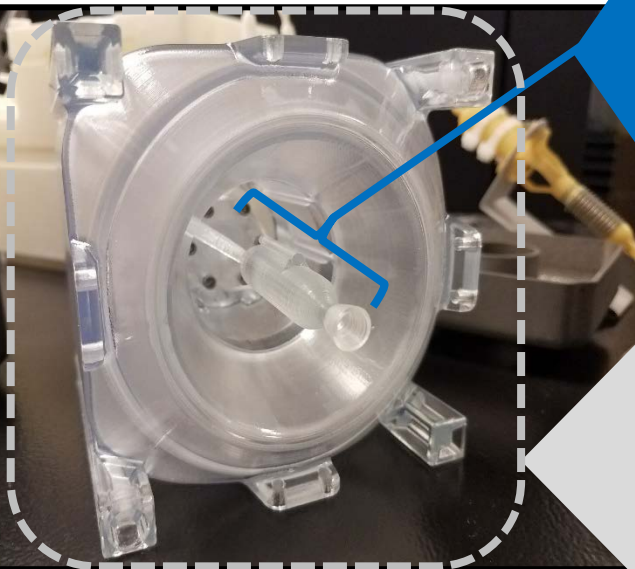


### AM Thruster Components

- Monopropellant thruster thermal standoff - topology optimized with integrated flow passages
- Injector
- Reactor

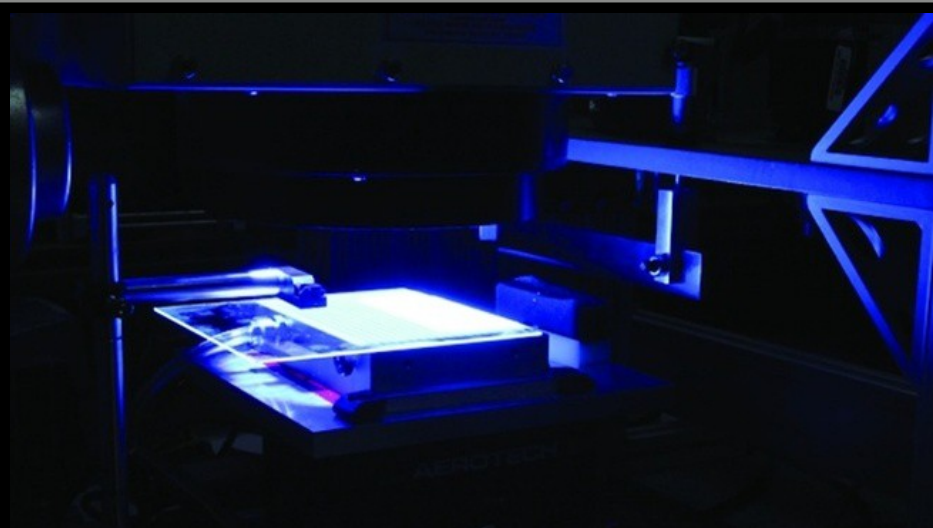


Detailed design and fabrication of 3U and 6U CubeSat Propulsion Modules



CubeSat propulsion system  
(1 Newton SLA Model)





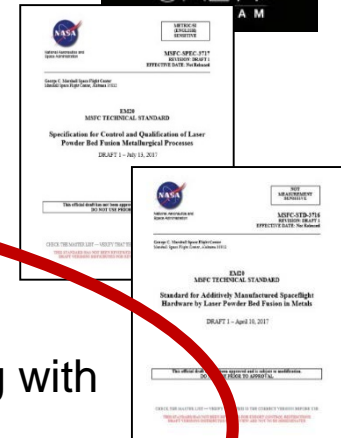
# Additive Manufacturing

at Marshall Space Flight Center

## MSFC Standard and Specification for Additively Manufactured Spaceflight Hardware

## *NASA MSFC has developed AM standards in response to near term Programmatic Needs*

- Program partners in manned space flight programs (Commercial Crew, SLS, and Orion) are actively developing AM parts
  - AM parts are currently used for commercial space flight
  - MSFC standard is currently being used for certification via tailoring
- MSFC-STD-3716 lists 65 unique Additive Manufacturing Requirements
- MSFC-SPEC-3717 lists 45 unique Process Control and Qualification Requirements
- Although the MSFC standard was written specifically for the Laser Powder Bed Fusion process it's principles can be applied to any AM process for the purpose of certification
- The NEASC formed a team to explore creation of Agency Standards and Specifications for Additive Manufactured (AM) components.
  - This team includes representatives from nine NASA centers along with representatives from the FAA, Air Force, Navy and Army.
  - One standard each for Crewed, Non-Crewed, and Aeronautic Projects
- Separate specification to cover Equipment and Facility Process Control
- Standards are planned to be ready for Agency-wide review in late 2020





## Conclusions from Systems Analysis of ISM Utilization for the Evolvable Mars Campaign:

### Why ISM

- Current maintenance logistics strategy will not be effective for deep space missions
- ISM has the potential to significantly reduce maintenance logistics mass requirements by enabling material commonality and the possibility of material recycling and ISRU for spares
- ISM should be considered and developed in parallel with the systems design

### NASA is actively working to develop ISM capabilities:

- **Within Pressurized Volume:** Reduce the logistics challenges and keep astronauts safe and healthy in transit and on extraterrestrial surfaces. ISS is a critical testbed.
- **External/Free Space - IRMA:** Develop new commercial capabilities for robotic spacecraft construction, repair, refurbishment, and repurposing in Earth orbit

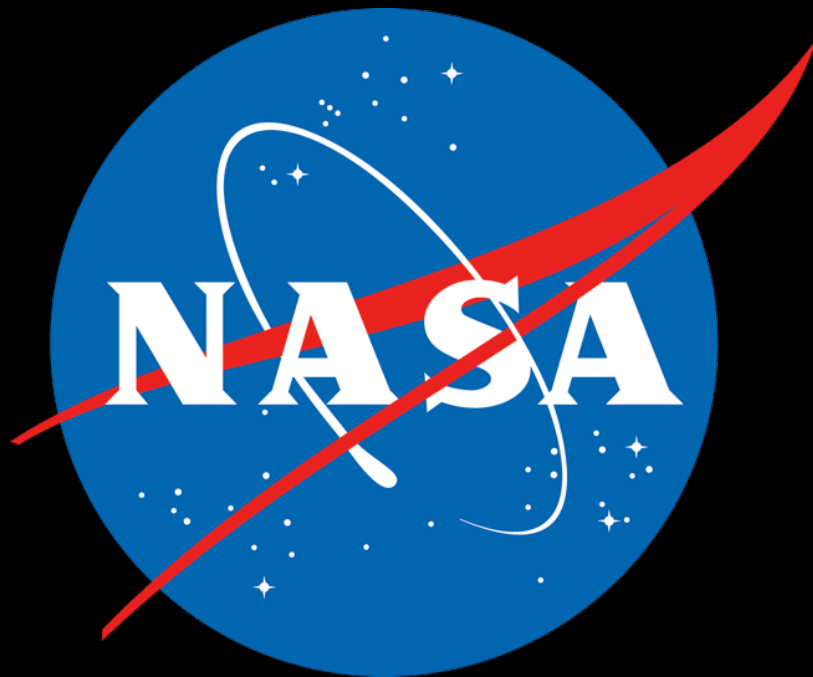
To achieve functional capability supporting the Exploration timeline, ISM must work with Exploration systems designers now to promote culture change; identify high-value application areas; and influence the design and maintainability philosophy.

MSFC has made a major thrust in the application of AM for development of liquid rocket engines ranging from the Space Launch System Core Stage RS-25 engine, to In-Space Class prototype engines, to Cubesat propulsion systems.

- Process development, material property characterization, and component fabrication trials for RS-25 Inconel 718 material applications.
- New design and development philosophy successfully exercised to build AMDE, a prototype in-space class engine incorporating additive manufacturing to reduce costs, schedule and parts counts.
  - Designed and additively manufactured > 150 rocket engine parts in 2.5 years
  - Encompassed every major component and assembly of the engine
  - Developed and demonstrated capability to additively manufacture with copper.
  - Data, expertise, and testbed shared with industry for current/future developments
- Capabilities developed through AMDE experience have been extended to small satellite propulsion systems components design and development

NASA MSFC created a Standard and a Specification for AM Spaceflight Hardware in response to near-term programmatic demand.

- Shaped the approach to additive parts for current human-rated space flight programs through early release of Draft Quality Standard approach.
- Standard and Specification provide a framework for consistent evaluation of AM Laser Powder Bed Fusion processes, properties, and components.





The 3DP in Zero G Tech Demo delivered the first 3D printer to ISS and investigated the effects of consistent microgravity on fused deposition modeling

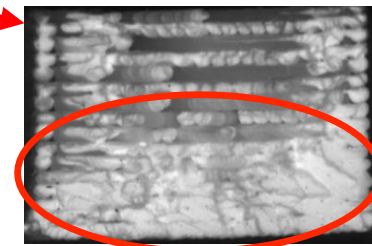
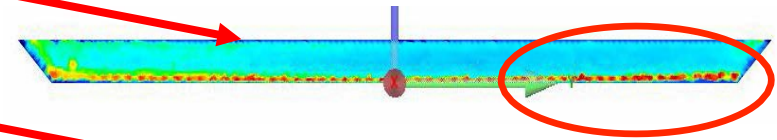
**Phase I Prints (Nov-Dec 2014):** mechanical property test articles; range coupons; and functional tools



Printer inside Microgravity Science Glovebox (MSG)

## Key Observations:

- Tensile and Flexure: Flight specimens stronger and stiffer than ground specimens
- Compression: Flight specimens are weaker than ground specimens
- Density: Flight specimens slightly more dense than ground specimens; compression specimens show opposite trend
- Structured Light Scanning: Protrusions along bottom edges (more pronounced for flight prints)
- Microscopy: Greater Densification of Bottom Layers (flight tensile and flexure)



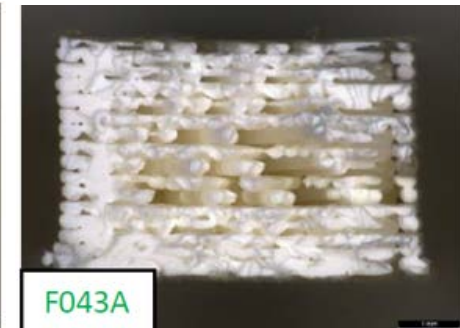
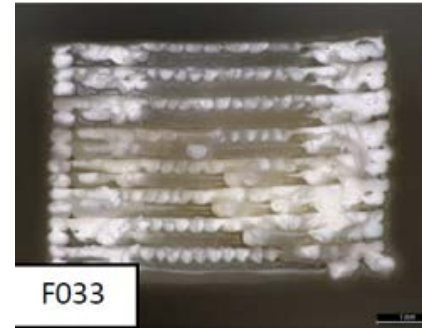
## Conclusions

- Z-Calibration distance variation suspected to be primary factor driving differences between flight and ground samples
- Potential influence of feedstock aging are being evaluated further



# Key Results: The 3D Printing in Zero G Technology Demonstration Mission (Phase II)

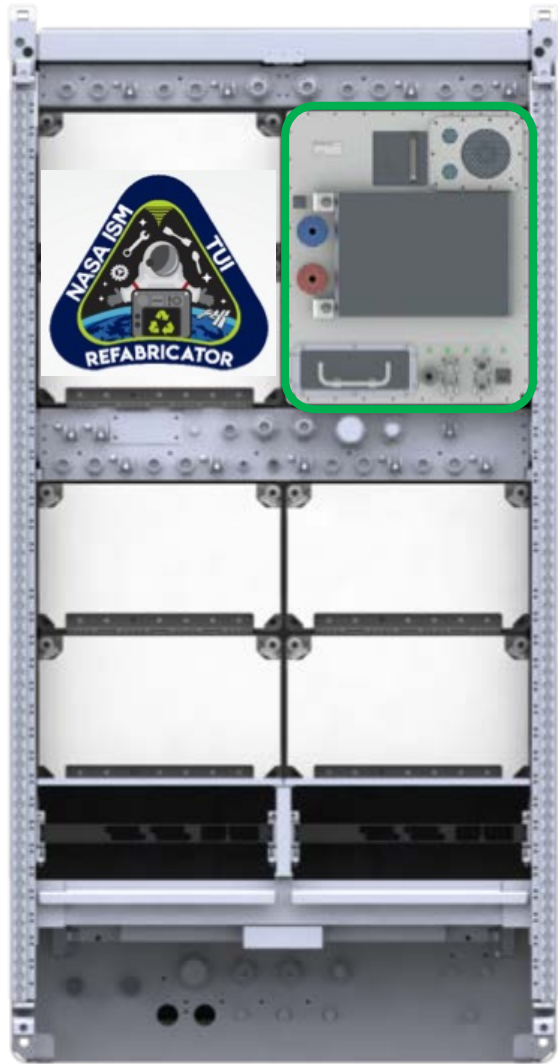
- Phase II Prints:
  - 25 specimens (tensile + compression) built at an optimal extruder standoff distance.
  - 9 specimens printed with intentionally decreased extruder standoff distance to mimic Phase I flight process conditions
- Key findings:
  - No substantive chemical changes in feedstock
  - No evidence of microgravity effects noted in SEM, SLS, CT analysis. Some internal structure variation between builds and with changes in process settings (primarily compression)
  - All prints to date with 3DP appear to be broadly part of the same family of data
  - Phase I data variations appear traceable to:
    - Differences in manufacturing process settings (extruder standoff distance)
    - Data scatter - characteristic of many additively manufactured materials and processes.
    - Printer variability



Cross-section of PII tensile specimen manufactured at optimal extruder setting (left) compared with specimen manufactured at a reduced extruder standoff distance (right). Right image has a cross-section characteristic with PI flight prints.

Specimen set	Average ultimate tensile strength (KSI)	Coefficient of variation
Phase II	3.68	6.71
Phase II optimal	3.63	6.61
Phase II off-suboptimal	3.93	0.07
Phase I ground	3.46	1.71
Phase I flight	4.04	5.95

**Overall, we cannot attribute any of the observations to microgravity effects.**



## Mission Goal of Refabricator

Demonstrate how the integrated polymer Recycler/3D Printer can increase mission sustainability by providing a repeatable, closed-loop process for recycling plastic materials/parts in the microgravity environment into useable feedstock for fabrication of new and/or different parts.

- Technology Demonstration Mission conducted under SBIR contract with Tethers Unlimited, Inc. (TUI)
- Refabricator is an integrated 3D printer (FDM) which recycles ULTEM plastic into filament feedstock through a novel TUI process which requires no grinding.
- Designed to be self-contained and highly automated.
- Installation and activation on the ISS EXPRESS Rack on 2/14/19

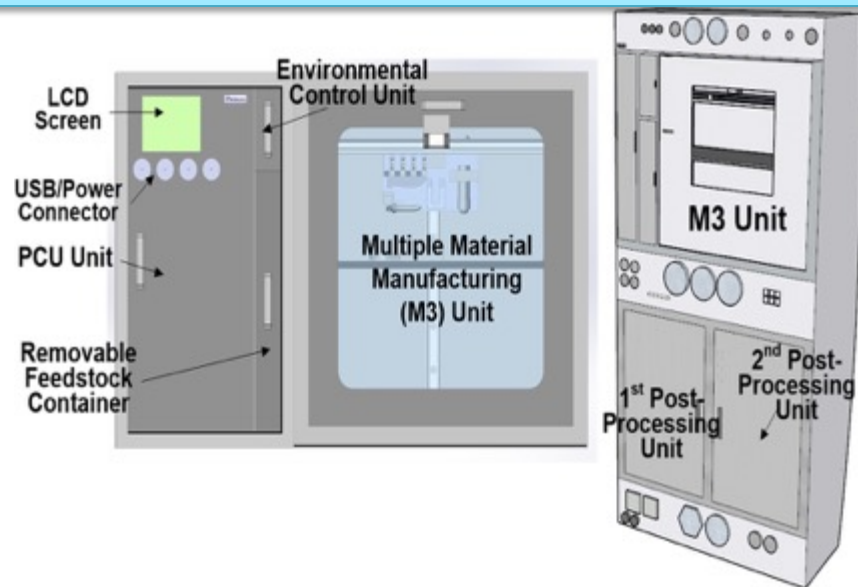


Refabricator  
(Top) and  
Printed  
Parts  
(Bottom)

**“The Techshot FabLab” -  
Techshot, Inc. (Greenville, IN)**  
Partners: nScript, TM Vacuum  
Products, University of  
Louisville, VITO



**“Microgravity Multiple Materials Additive Manufacturing  
(M3AM) Technology” - Interlog (Anaheim, CA)**  
Partners: Argonne National Labs, Micro Aerospace Solutions,  
Illinois Institute of Technology



**“Empyrean- Sustainable, In-Space  
Fabrication Laboratory for Multiple  
Material Manufacturing, Handling,  
and Verification/Validation” - Tethers  
Unlimited, Inc. (Bothell, WA)**  
Partners: IERUS, Olis Robotics

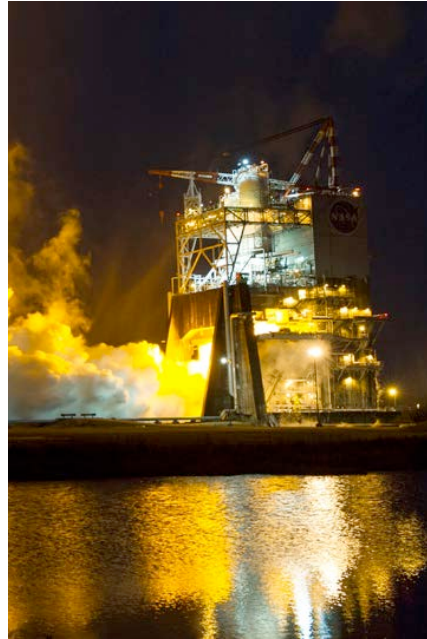
- These companies will have 18 months to deliver the prototype, after which NASA will select partners to further mature the technologies for an ISS demonstration and 1<sup>st</sup> generation Exploration system. .



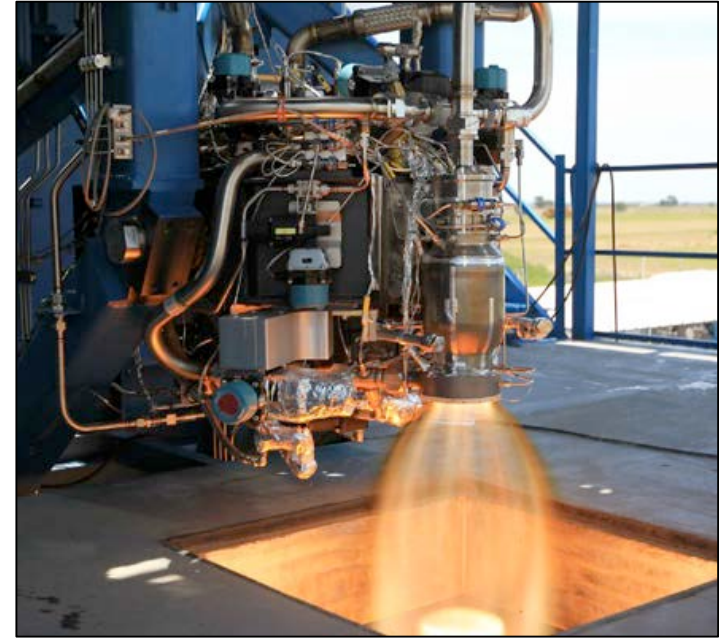
- Lack of demonstrated metallic AM capability in microgravity.
  - MSFC has 4 SBIR projects working on metallic AM systems targeted for use in microgravity
  - MSFC is currently evaluating proposals submitted in response to our FabLab solicitation, which is expected to include a metallic AM printing capability.
- Operating in the space environment.
  - Space operations face constraints that terrestrial operation do not such as power, volume, and environmental limitations
  - Operations of these capabilities and resulting printed parts must be safe for the astronauts.
  - Certification of parts fabricated on orbit or in transit
  - Overall, the technologies developed must be much smaller, safer, and much more autonomous than earth-based counterparts.
- Culture change.
  - Systems that plan to use on-demand manufactured parts must institute a ‘design for maintainability’ approach.
  - ISM team needs to be working with exploration system designers now to identify high-value application areas and influence design
  - ISM is a necessary paradigm shift in space operations, not a ‘bonus’



## Exploration Systems Development ORION and SLS



## Commercial Crew Program (CCP) DRAGON V2



NASA Exploration Programs and Program Partners have embraced AM for its affordability, shorter manufacturing times, and flexible design solutions.