

Taking Additive Manufacturing to the Next Level: Ensuring Quality Control for Future Spaceflight

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NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Additive Manufacturing Initiatives









Space Propulsion Systems

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Additive Manufacturing for Space Propulsion Systems

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Material Selection

- The operational requirements shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Operational temperature limits.
 - (2) Loads.
 - (3) Contamination.
 - (4) Life expectancy.
 - (5) Moisture or other fluid media exposure.

- (6) Vehicle-related induced and natural space environments e.g.:
 - Gravity Conditions
 - Accelerations
 - Acoustics
 - Vibration
 - Space Radiation
 - Thermal
 - Stress
 - Combined Environments
- Properties that shall be considered in material selection include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Mechanical properties.
 - (2) Fracture toughness.
 - (3) Flammability and offgassing characteristics.
 - (4) Corrosion.
 - (5) Stress corrosion.
 - (6) Thermal and mechanical fatigue properties.(7) Creep
- Material Availability/Supply Chain
- Mass requirements
- Process Technologies, both manufacturing and post processing
- Cost

- (8) Glass-transition temperature.
- (9) Coefficient of thermal expansion mismatch.
- (10) Vacuum outgassing.
- (11) Fluids compatibility.
- (12) Microbial resistance.
- (13) Moisture resistance.
- (14) Conductivity

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Example Material Properties for Thrust Chamber Assembly Application:

- Mechanical Properties as F(T):
 - Tensile
 - Compressive
 - Shear
 - Fatigue low and high cycle
 - Fatigue thermal cycling
 - Crack growth
 - Fracture toughness
 - Creep
- Thermal Properties:
 - Conductivity
 - Diffusivity
 - Specific Heat
 - Expansion
- Physical Properties
 - Density
 - Melting Point

NASA's Plans for Development of Standards for Additive Manufactured Components

NASA was not able to wait for America Makes or other national standards organizations to develop AM standards

- 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 <u>principles</u> can be applied to any AM process for the purpose of certification
- The NESC formed a team to create Agency Standards and Specifications for Additively Manufactured (AM) components.
 - Team includes representatives from the FAA, Air Force, Navy, Army and nine NASA Centers.
 - 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

