

Idea evolution ... what's next?

Christopher J. Wohl

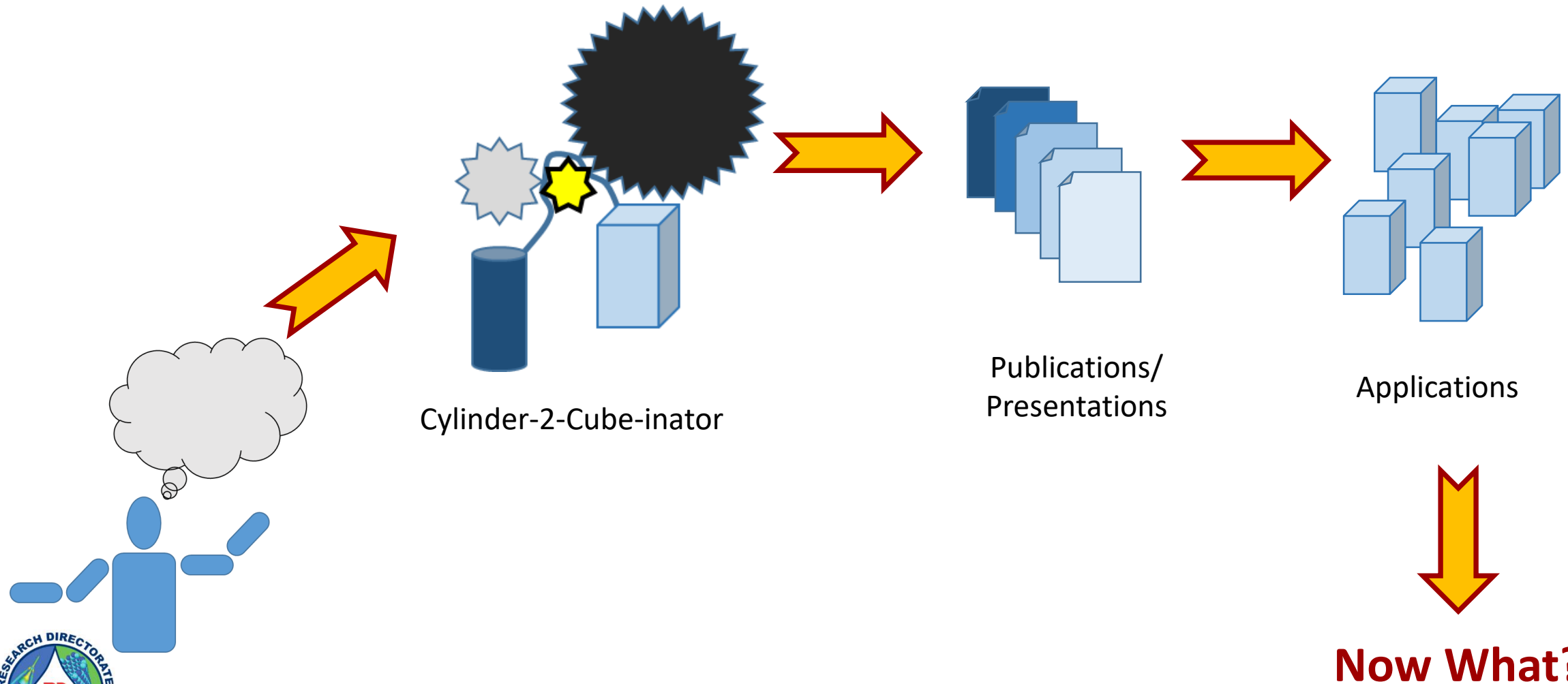
NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681, USA

National Graduate Research Polymer Conference, Virtual
July 26-29, 2021

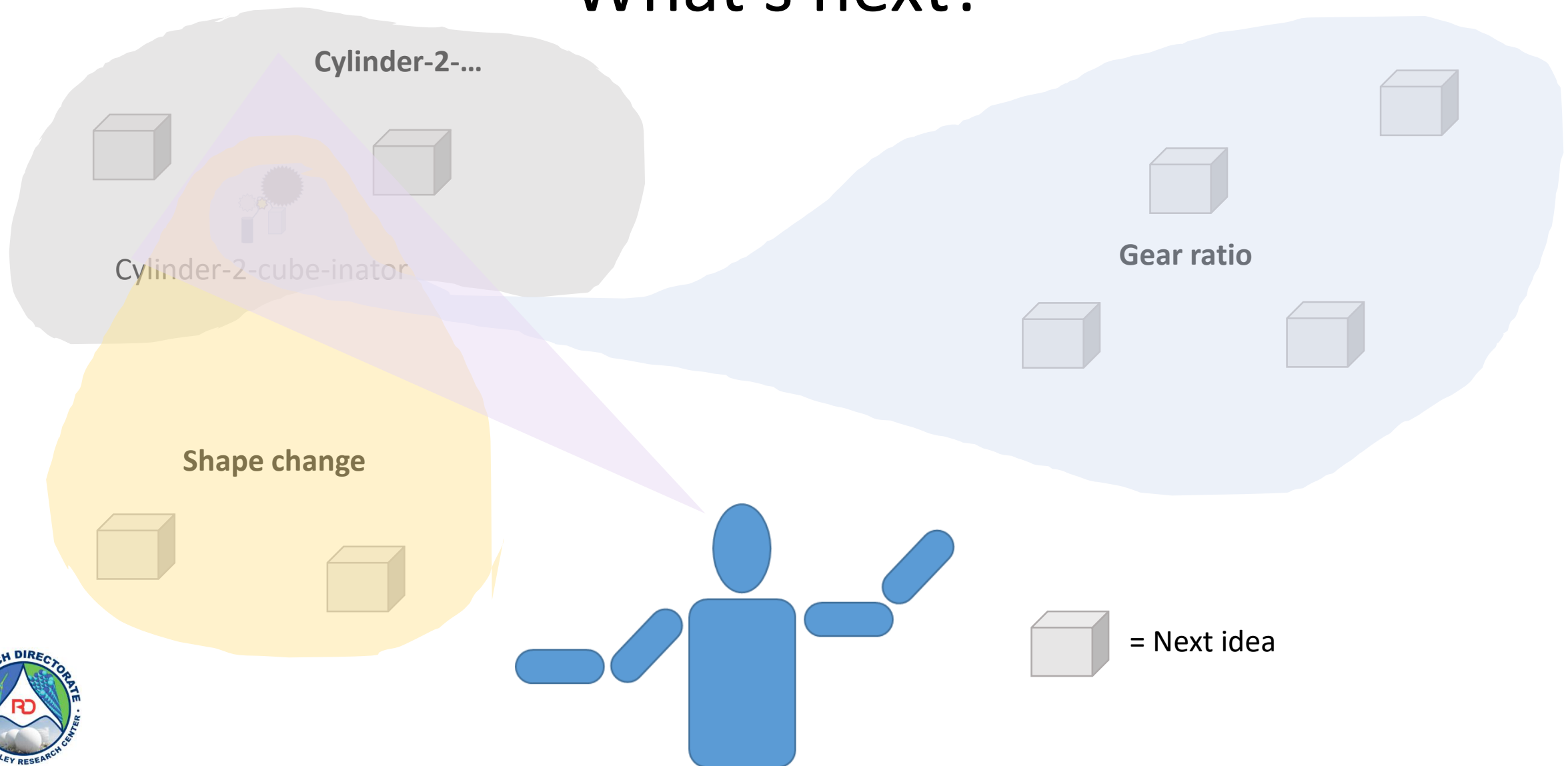
*Unless otherwise indicated, all images were
generated or utilized from NASA sources



I have an idea ...

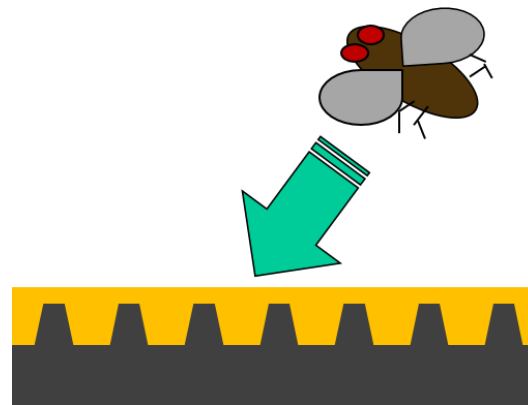
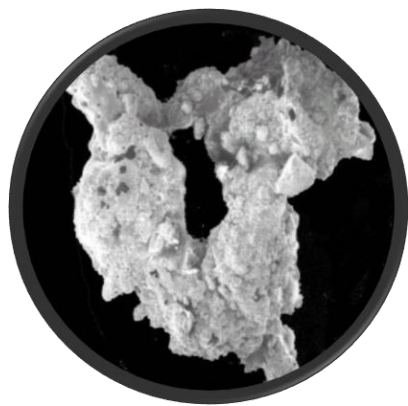


What's next?



Case study

❖ Engineered surfaces for contamination mitigation



Who knew lunar dust was a problem?

Apollo astronauts learned the hard way

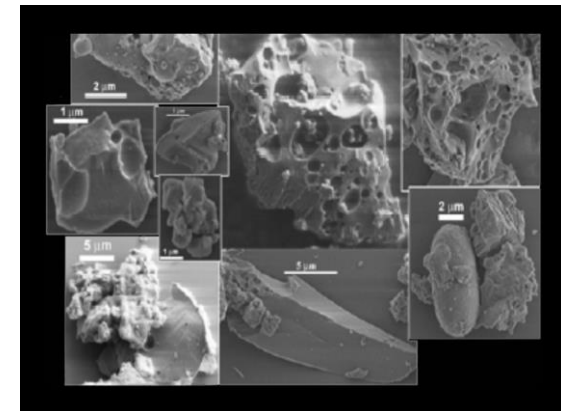


❖ Lunar dust interfered with several different aspects of the Apollo missions:

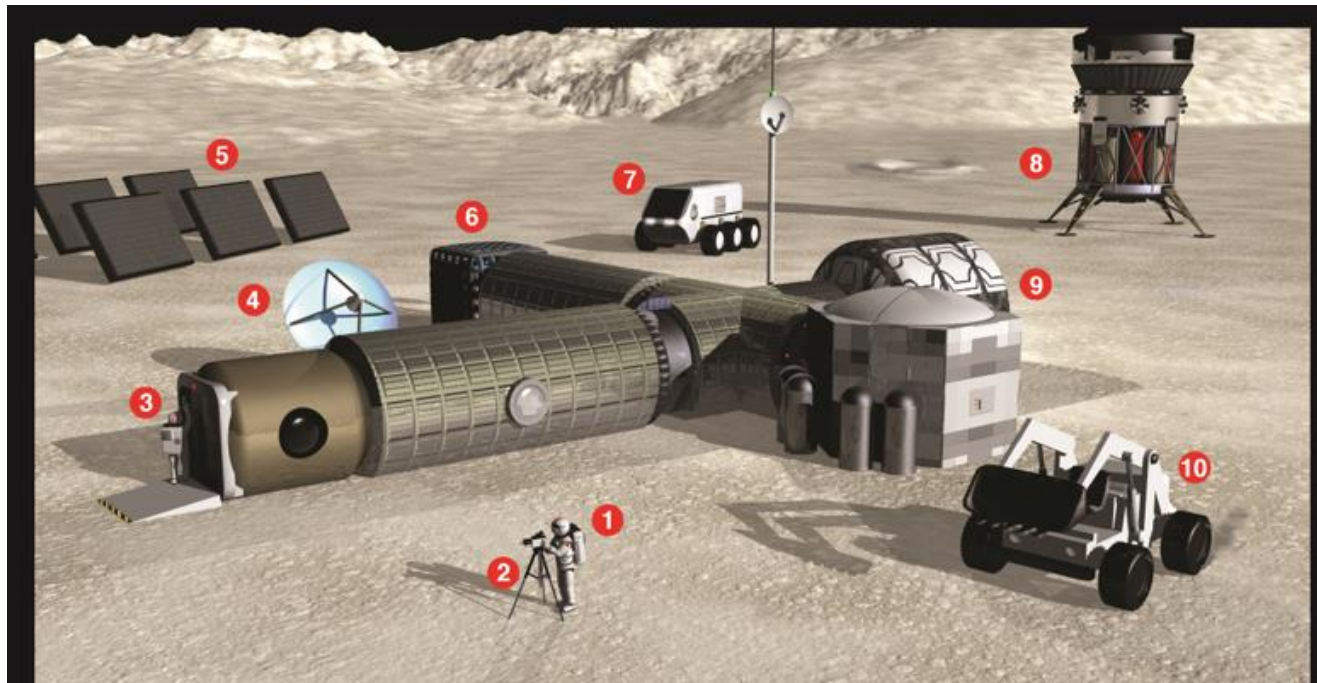
- ❖ Vision obscuration
- ❖ False instrument readings
- ❖ Loss of foot traction
- ❖ Inhalation hazards
- ❖ Seal failures and clogging
- ❖ Thermal control issues

❖ Lunar dust characteristics:

- ❖ Abrasive, jagged edges
- ❖ Chemically reactive
- ❖ Electrostatically charged
- ❖ Sometimes magnetic
- ❖ Strongly adheres to surfaces



Where do we need lunar dust mitigation?



Lunar Dust Adhesion Mitigation Opportunities and Needs

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Environment suits | Visors, joints, controls | 6 Power distribution equipment | Connectors, radiators |
| 2 Sensing / optical equipment | Lenses, sensors, connectors | 7 Lunar rovers | Gears, bearings, shafts, screens, radiators, instrumentation |
| 3 Airlocks | Door seals, interior surfaces, controls | 8 Lander / Landing site | Hatches, instrumentation, fueling equipment |
| 4 Communications equipment | Dish surfaces, sensors | 9 Habitat | Joints / seals / interlocks |
| 5 Solar arrays | Panel surfaces | 10 Excavating equipment | Bearings, controls, gears |

- ❖ Space suits - fabric, unique mechanisms
- ❖ Lunar habitat - outer surfaces, seals
- ❖ Lunar lander - wheels, bearings, gears
- ❖ Instruments - sensors, electronics, motors
- ❖ Thermal control surfaces - radiators
- ❖ Optical surfaces – visors, solar cells, windows

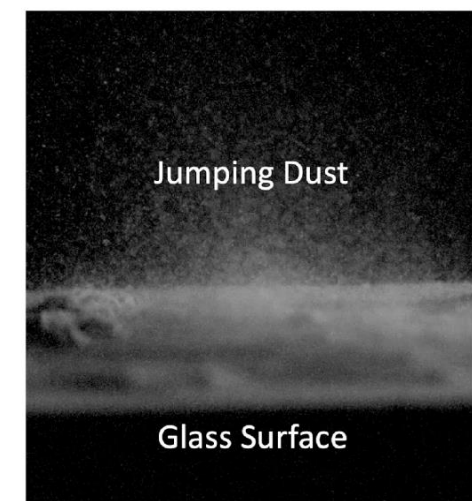
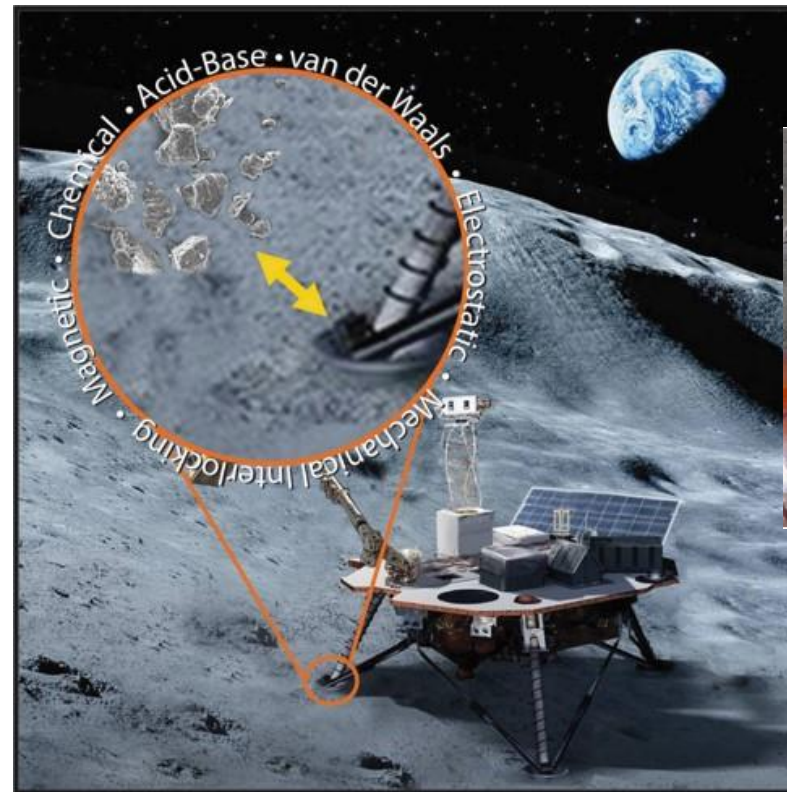
What dust mitigation strategies are there?

❖ Lunar dust adhesion can be attributed to a variety of forces:

- ❖ Mechanical interlocking
- ❖ Van der Waals forces
- ❖ Magnetic forces
- ❖ Chemical bonding
- ❖ Electrostatic and coulombic interactions

❖ 3 strategies to minimize lunar dust adhesion:

- ❖ active - e.g., mechanically powered brushes
- ❖ passive – e.g., low surface energy coatings
- ❖ combination of active and passive



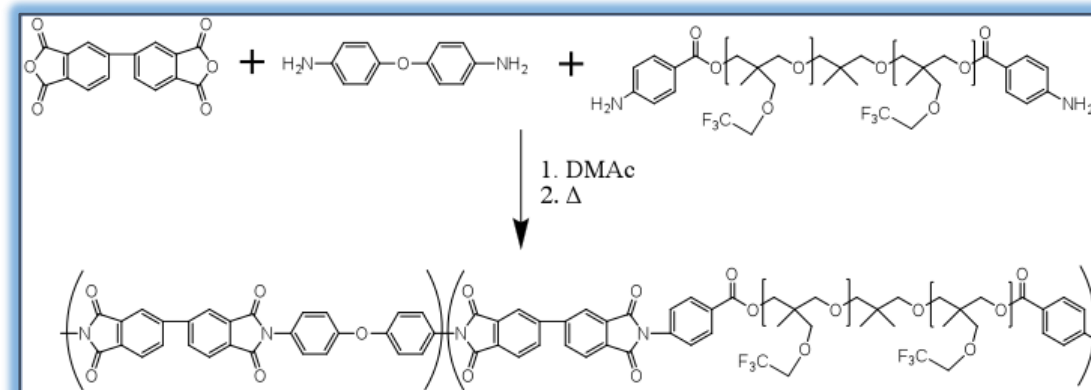
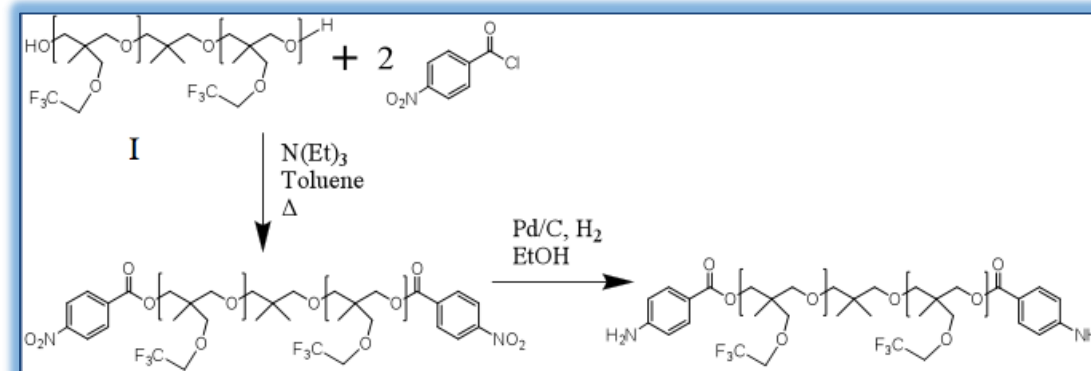
Where did we start? Surface Modifying Agents (SMA)s

Thermodynamic Response of SMA

Lower Interfacial Energy Side (air)

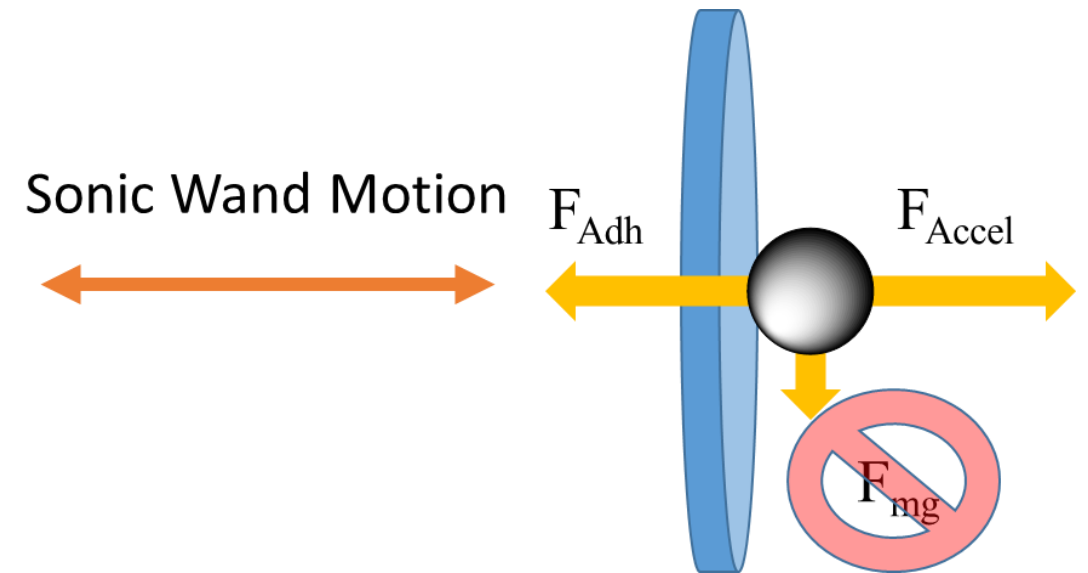
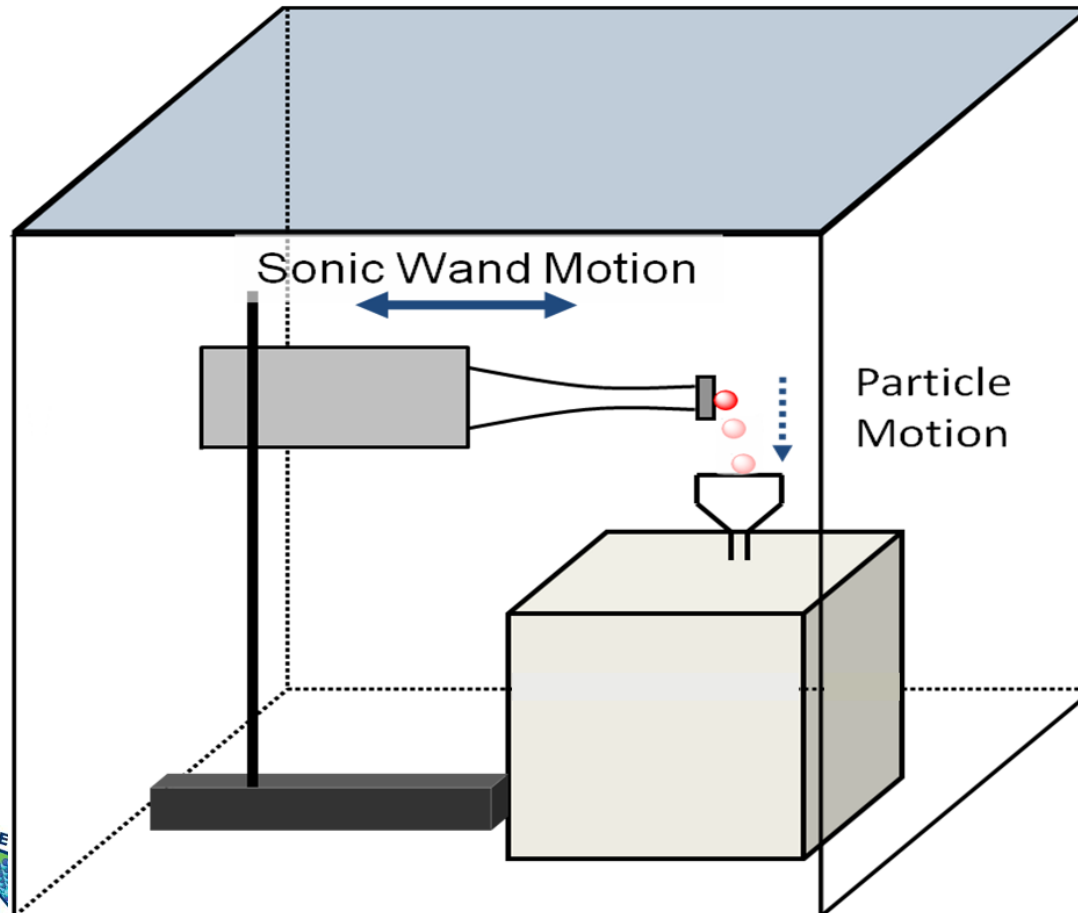
Higher Interfacial Energy Side (substrate, bulk polyimide)

Arrows indicate enthalpy-driven migration of **LOW** and **HIGH** surface energy components.



Copolyimide alkyl ethers

How do we test these materials?



Particle will detach when F_{Accel} is $\geq F_{Adh}$

$$F_{Accel} = ma = m * 4\pi^2 * f^2 * A$$

m = particle mass

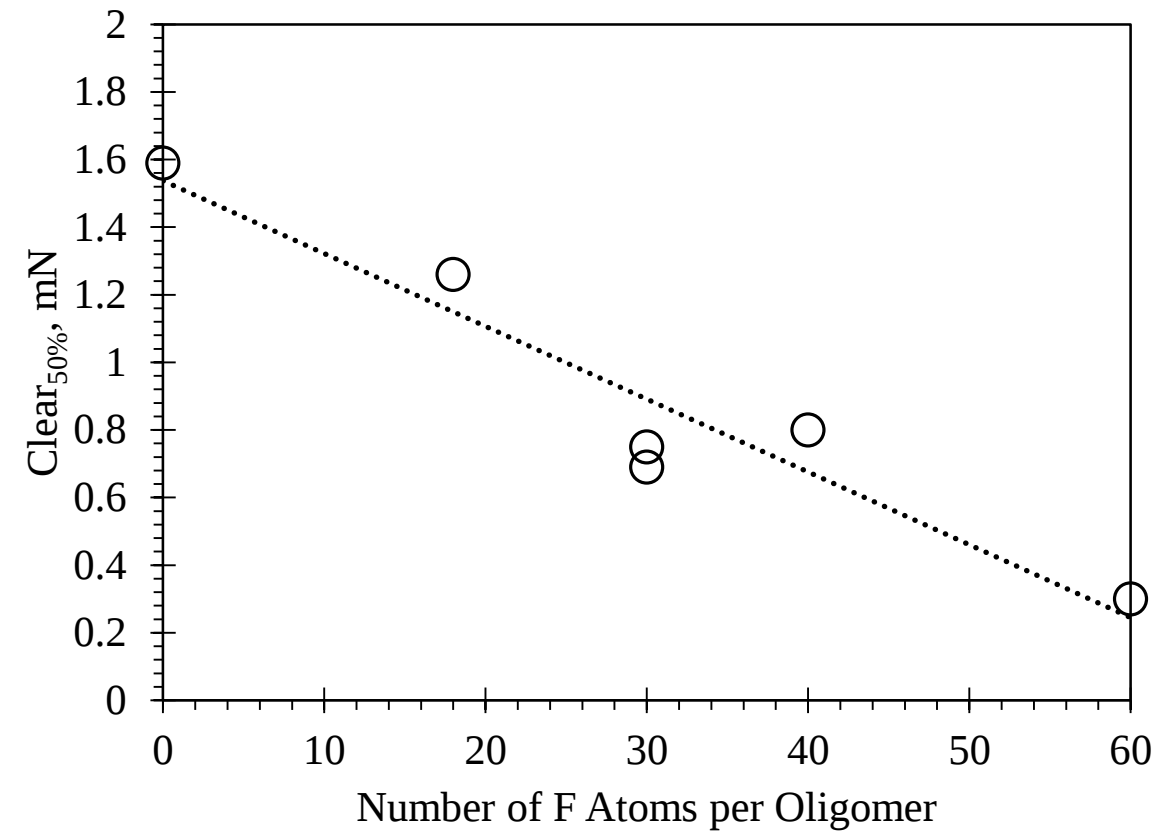
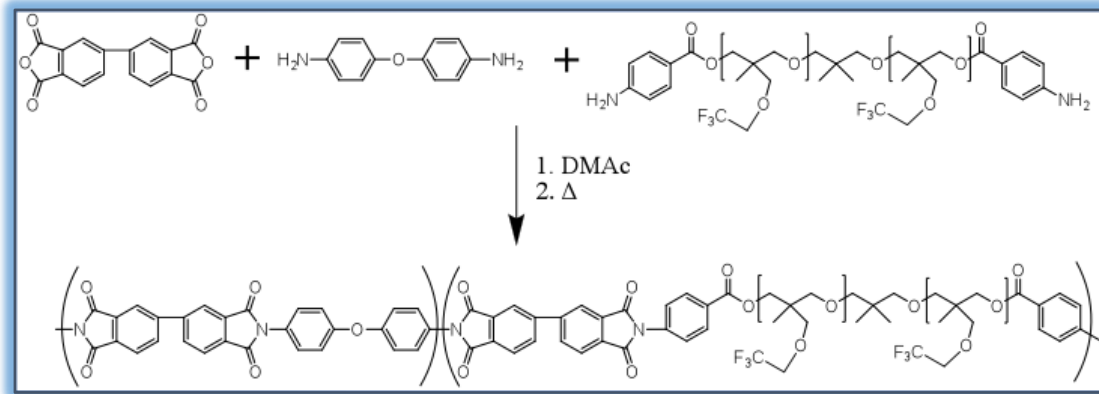
a = acceleration

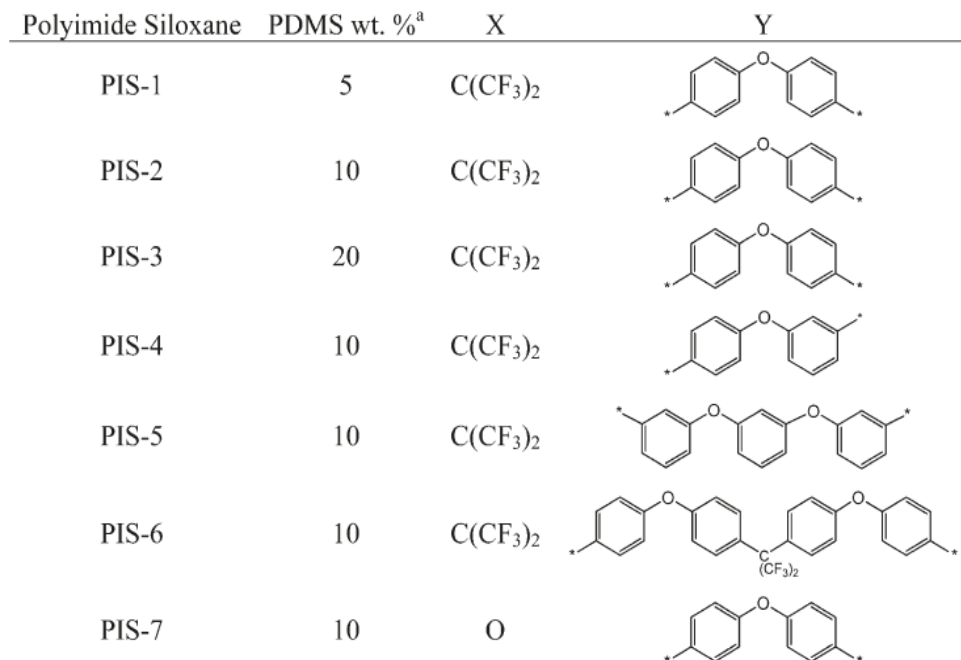
f = sonic wand frequency

A = sonic wand amplitude

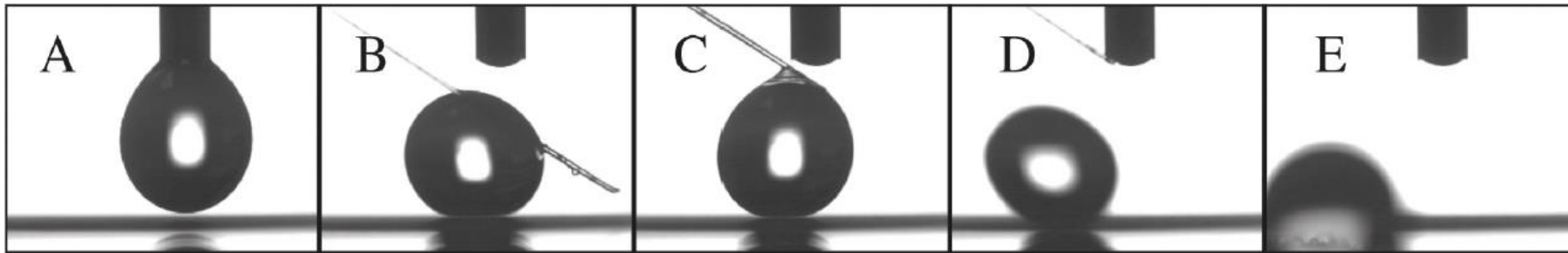
What did we learn from SMAs?

❖ Dependence of adhesion force on fluorinated side chain

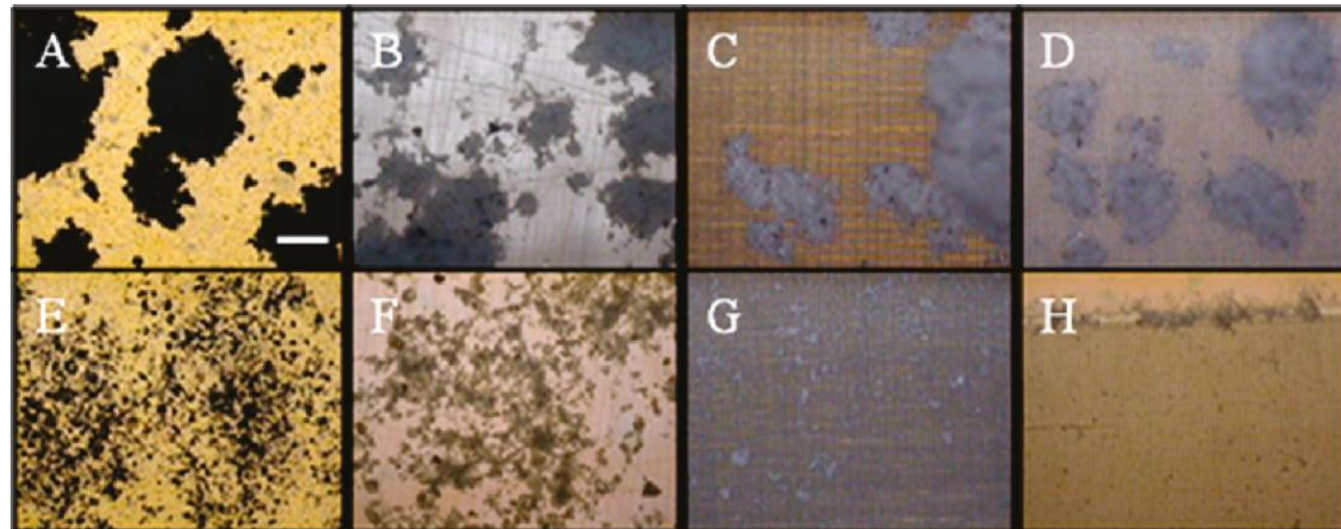




Influence of topography on surface properties?



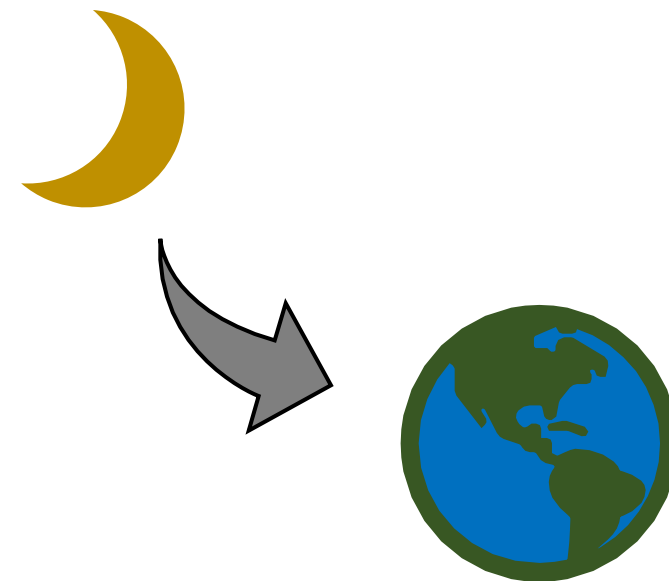
Droplet (8 μL) deposition on superhydrophobic surface



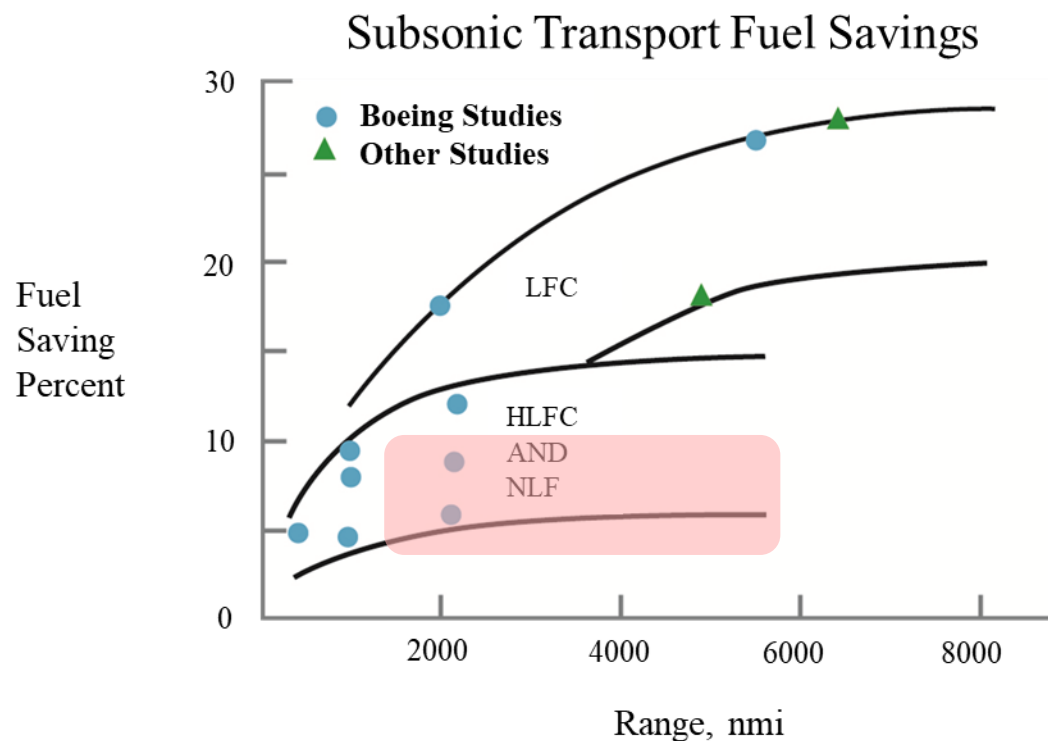
Images from lunar simulant tap testing. Upper and lower images are before and after tapping, respectively. The scale bar is 250 μm .

Then dust funding stopped ...

- ❖ What can be done with this knowledge base of contaminant adhesion prevention/reduction?
- ❖ What do we move forward with?
 - ❖ Surface chemistry
 - ❖ Surface topography



Another extreme environment: commercial aircraft leading edges



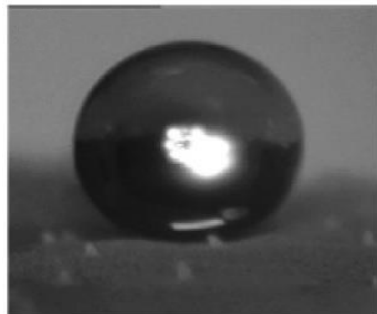
LFC = laminar flow control
HLFC = hybrid laminar flow control
NLF = natural laminar flow



Kirchner, M.E. NASA CP-2487, 1987, Part 1, pp. 24-44.

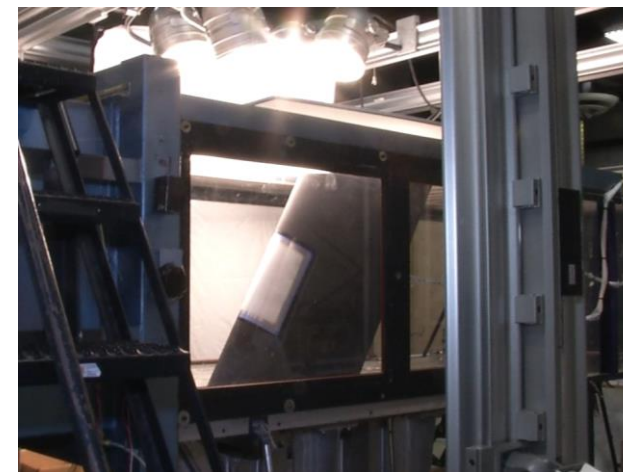
How do we approach studying aircraft wing contamination?

Screen commercial and experimental materials using contact angle goniometry



The Boeing Company

Flight test candidate coatings down-selected from wind tunnel tests

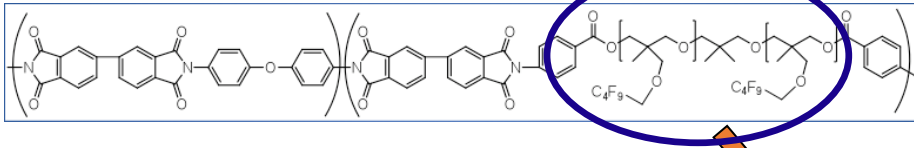


Downselect promising coatings for wind tunnel testing

Starting from lunar dust lessons

Varied surface chemistry

Surface modifying agent in a condensation polymer



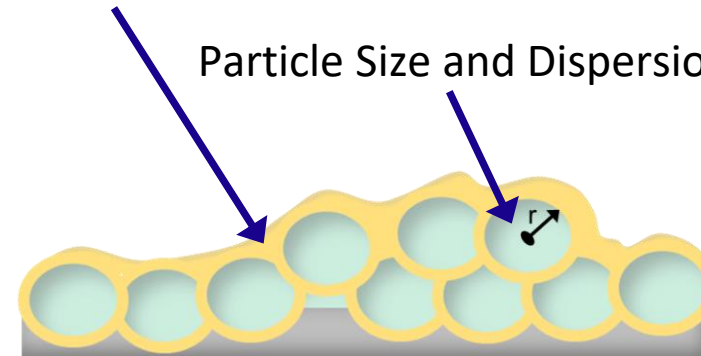
Surface modifying agent in a cross-linked matrix



Varied surface topography

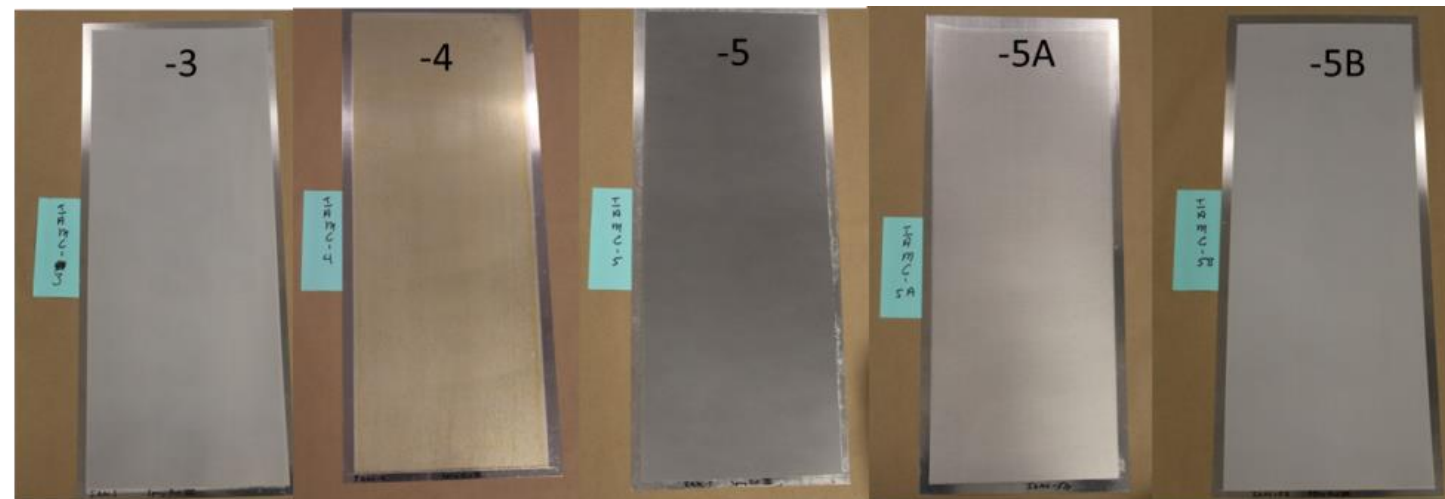
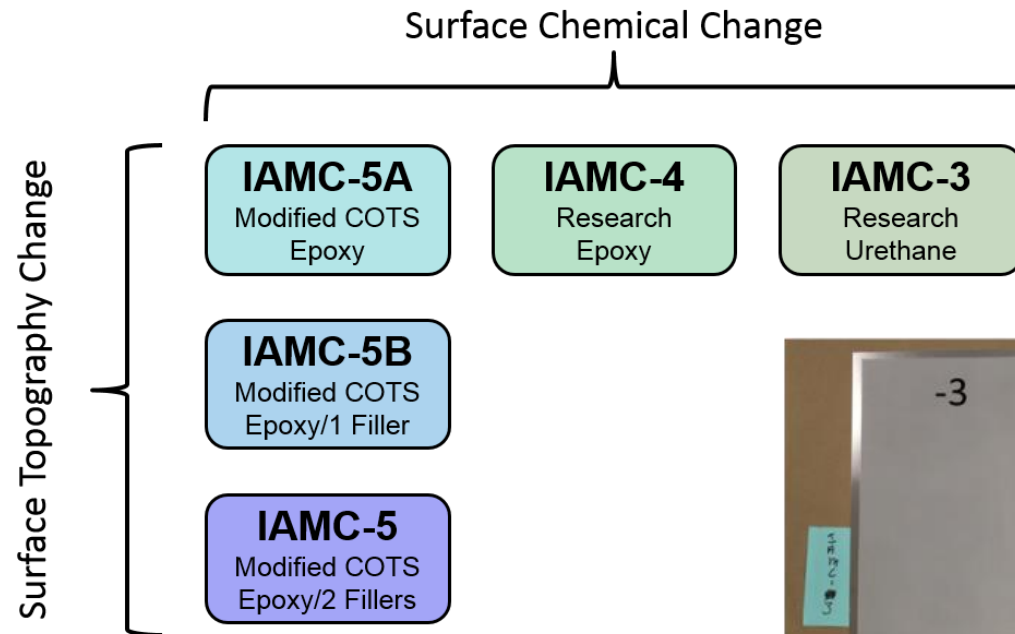
Epoxy Matrix

Particle Size and Dispersion



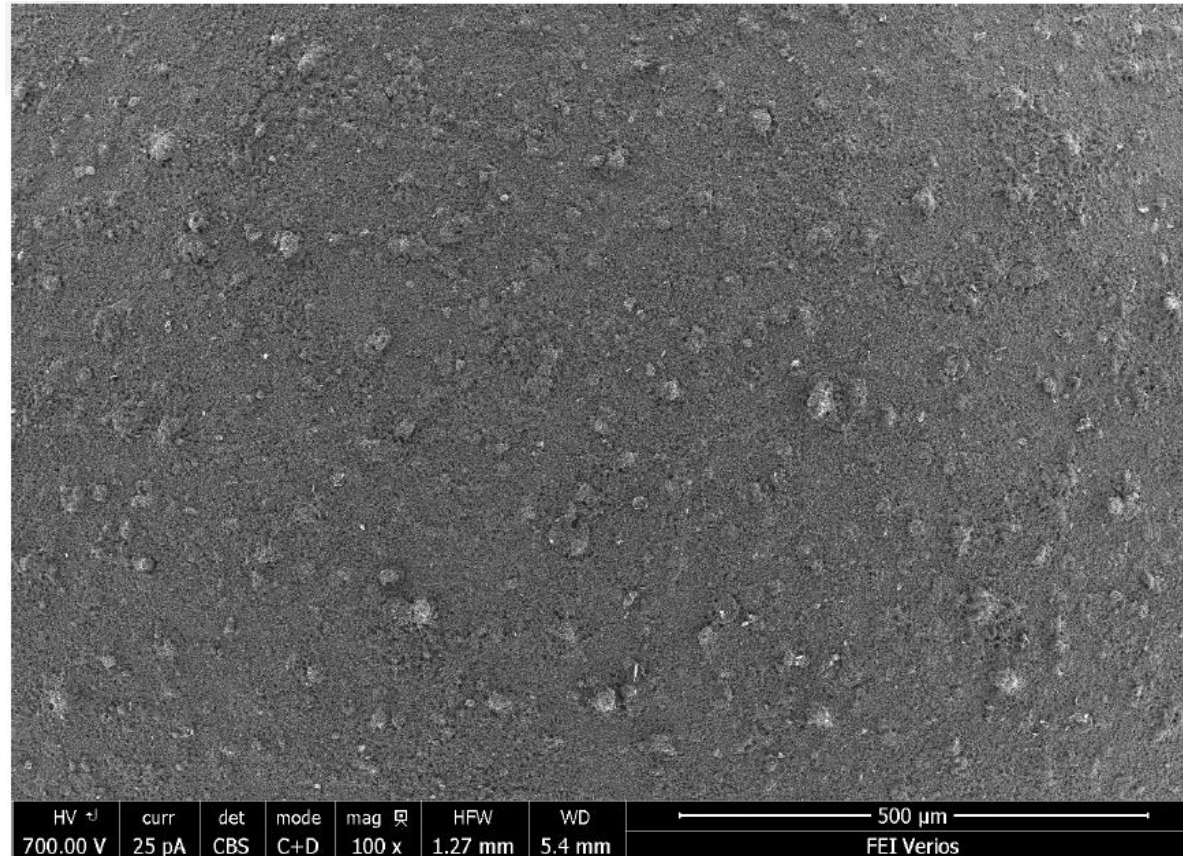
Particulate	Diameter, nm	Note
SiO ₂	7	Fumed Silica, hydrophilic surface
MoS ₂	2,000	Solid lubricant

Fast-forward to flight test campaign



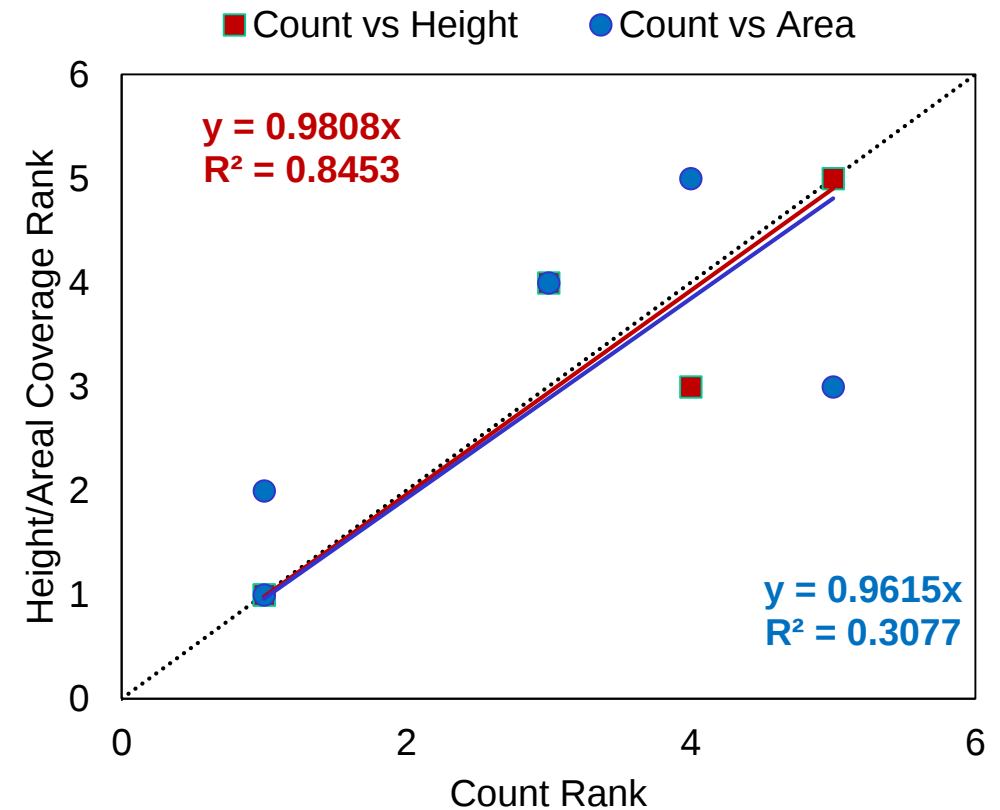
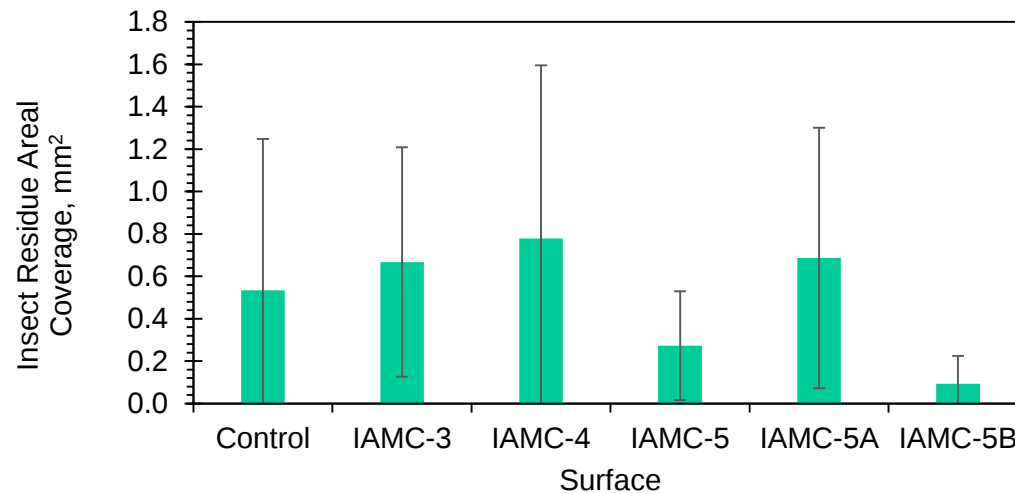
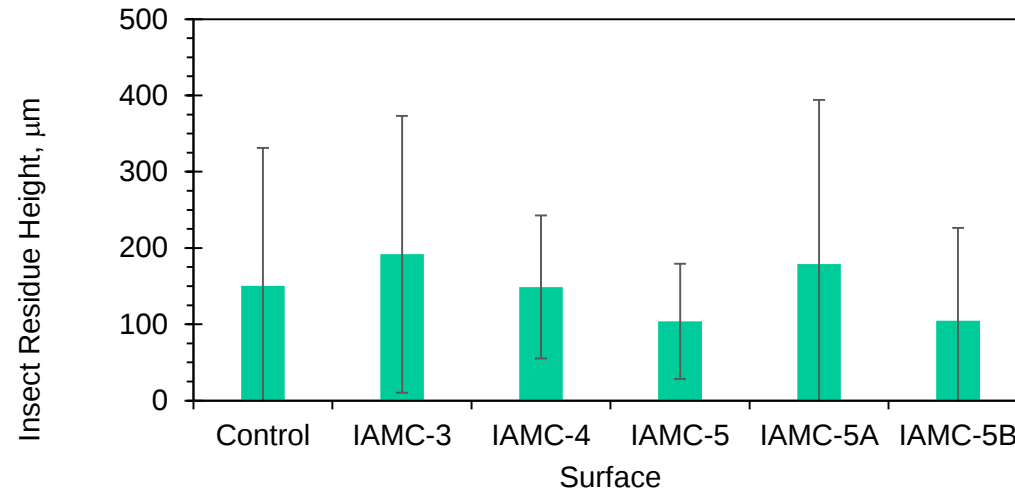
Images of the coatings

What did the topography look like?



Representative mixed filler (MoS_2 and SiO_2) epoxy particulate composite

How did the coatings perform?



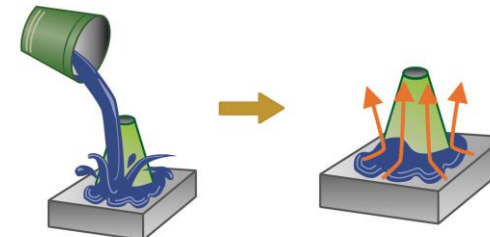
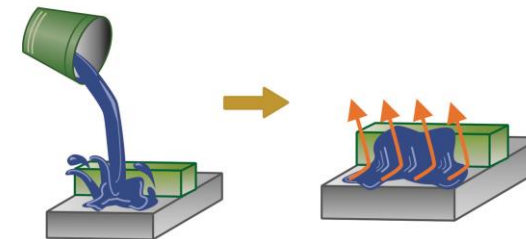
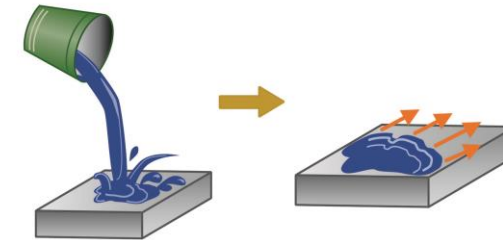
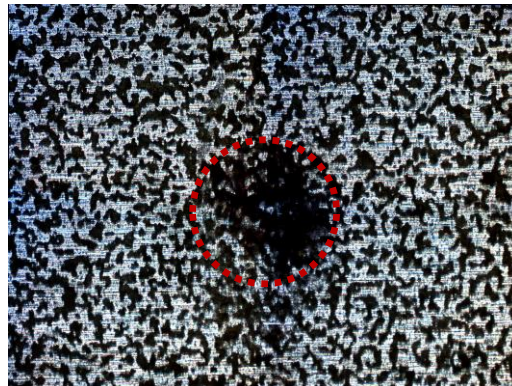
What new information did we gain?

Roughness, dynamics, and lamella stability

Stable lamella expansion

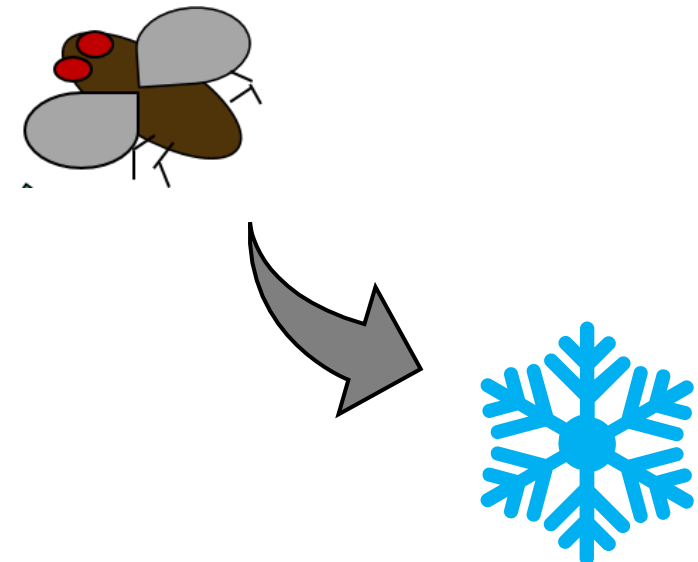


Unstable lamella expansion



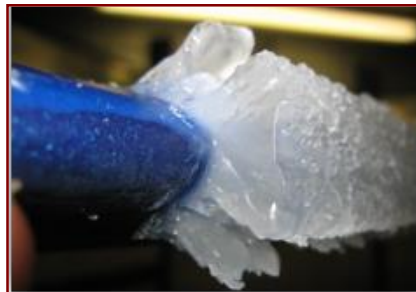
Then ... insect accretion mitigation work ended

- ❖ Where do we pivot next?
- ❖ What do we move forward with?
 - ❖ Surface chemistry
 - ❖ Surface topography
 - ❖ Surface dynamics
 - ❖ Surface morphology



Aircraft impact icing

- ❖ In-flight issue year-round under certain atmospheric conditions
 - ❖ Air temperature (0 to -20°C)
 - ❖ Liquid water content (LWC, $0.3\text{-}0.6\text{ g/m}^3$)
 - ❖ Droplet size [median volumetric diameter (MVD) of 15-40 μm]
- ❖ Result of supercooled water droplets impacting the aircraft surface
- ❖ Icing can range from glaze/clear to rime or a combination of the two



Glaze/Clear



Rime



Mixed

M.K. Politovich, "Aircraft Icing" in Encyclopedia of Atmospheric Sciences, Academic Press, Oxford, 2003, 68-75.
 H.E Addy Jr., M.G. Potapczuk, and D.W. Sheldon, "Modern Airfoil Ice Accretions," NASA TM 107423, 1997.

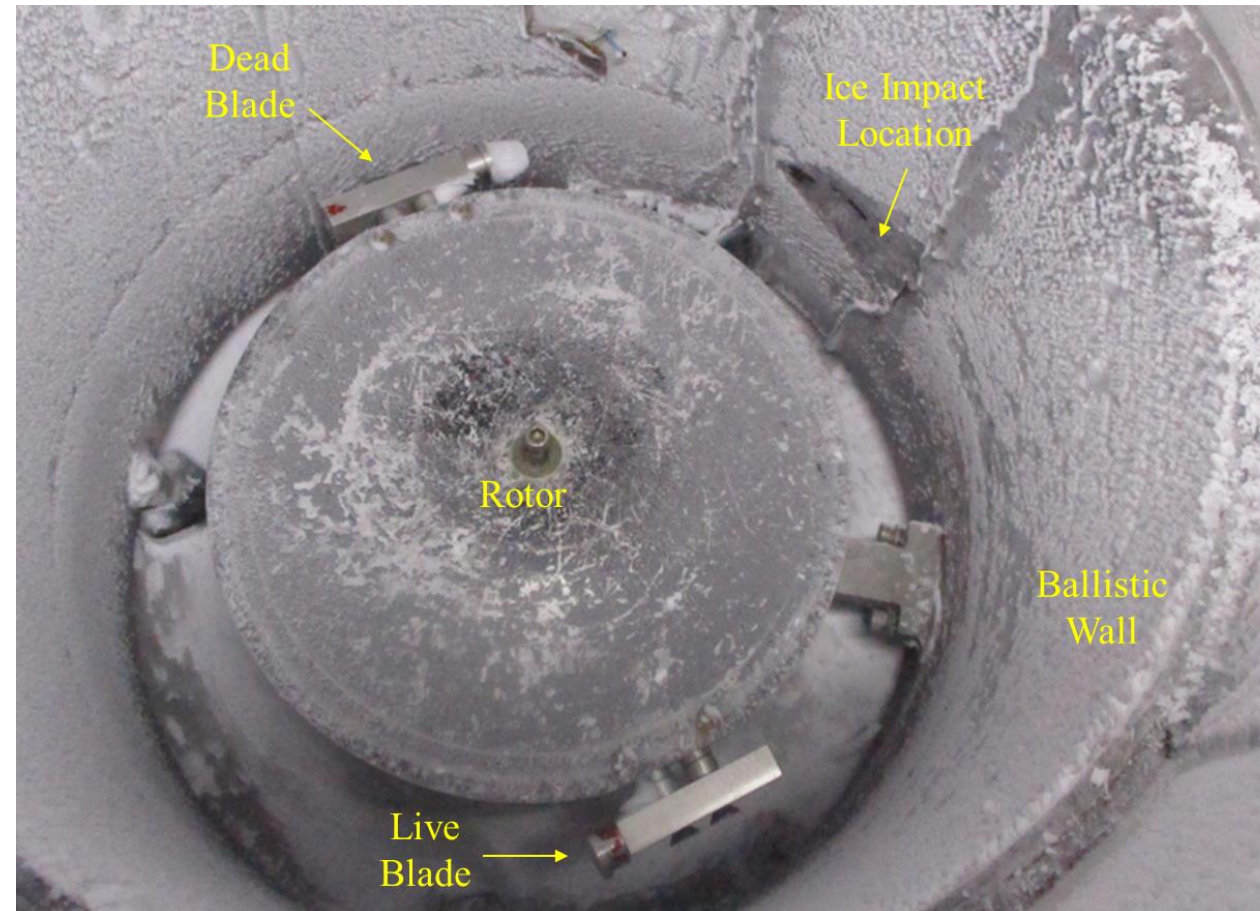
How are we going to study this?

- ❖ Simulates icing conditions within the FAR Part 25/29 Appendix C icing envelope
- ❖ Ice accumulation and subsequent shedding enables determination of IAS after data analysis
- ❖ Test conditions
 - ❖ Linear velocity ~ 93 m/s
 - ❖ LWC = 0.25 to 0.35 g/m³
 - ❖ MVD of 20 mm



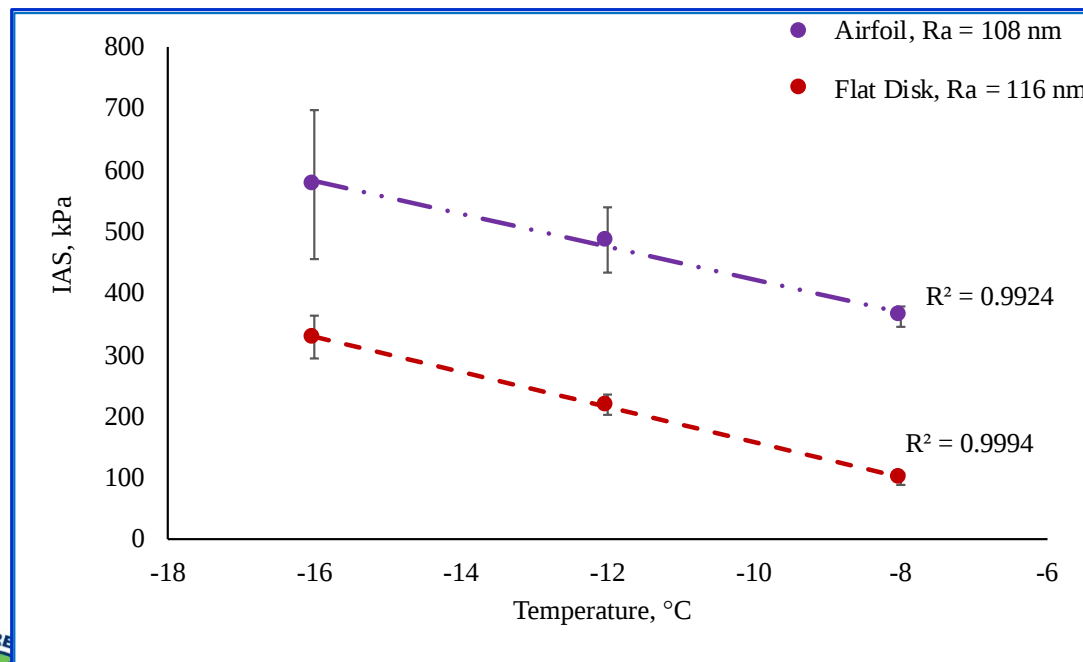
AERTS Jr. (Adverse Environment Rotary Test Stand) based on larger instrument at PSU, POC; Dr. Jose Palacios

How does AERTS Jr. work?

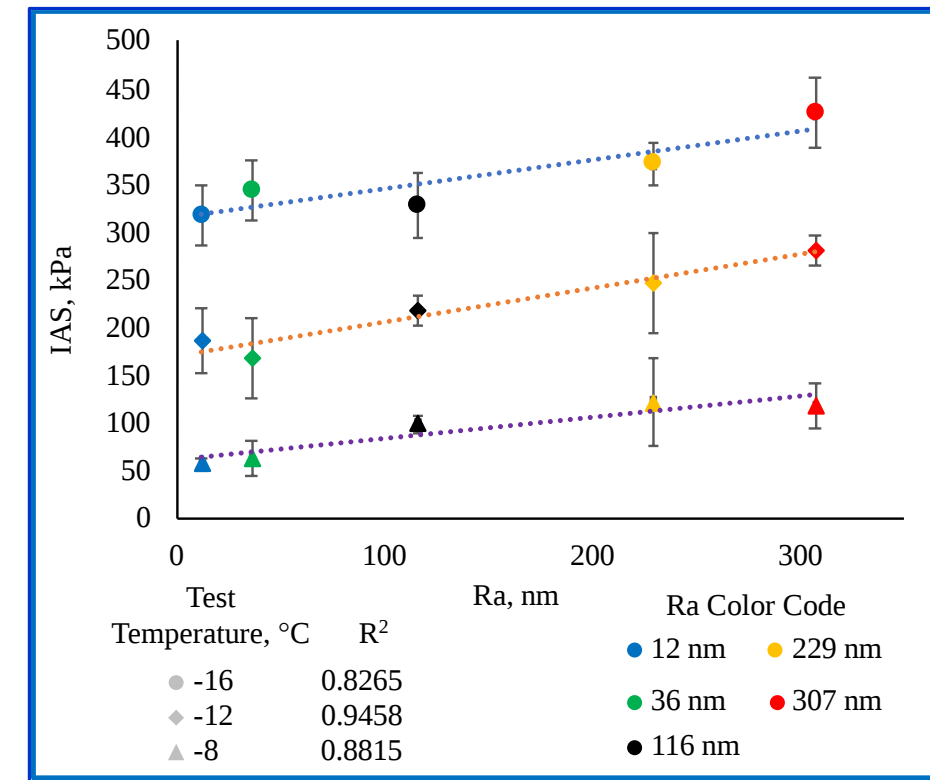


Improved understanding of fundamentals

Stainless steel (304) sample shape



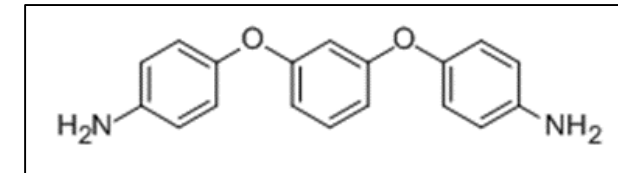
Stainless steel (304) roughness



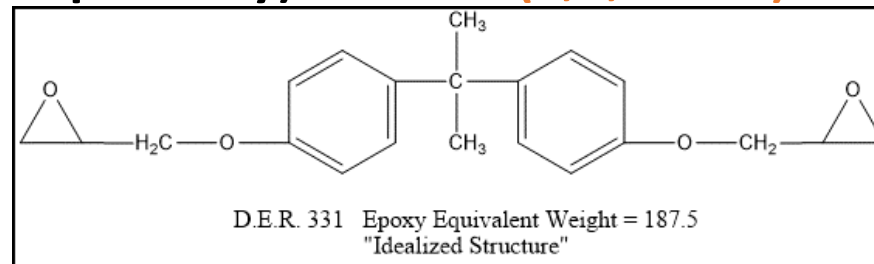
Apply working knowledge for coating development

- Aromatic system consisting of a diamine, a Bisphenol-A based epoxy, a diglycidyl ether, and a solvent

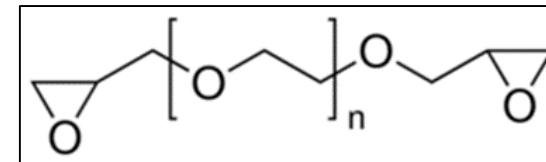
- **1, 3-Bis(4-aminophenoxy)benzene (1,3,4-APB)**



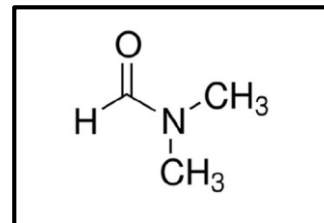
- **DER 331**



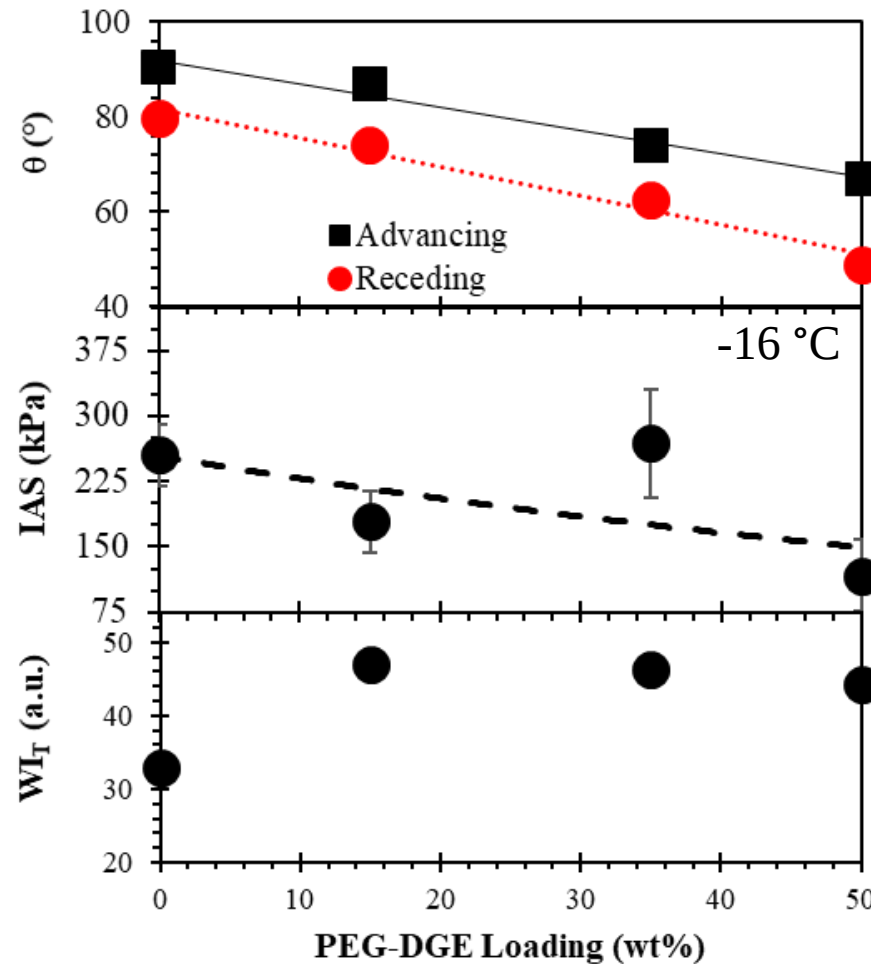
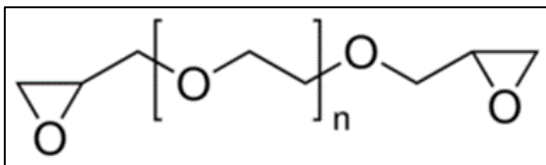
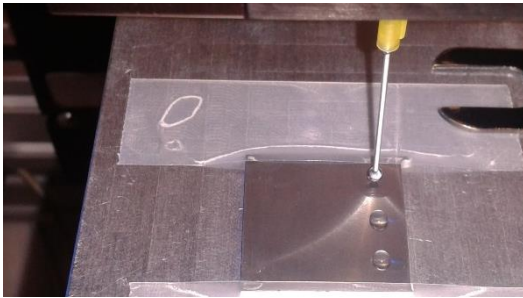
- **Poly(ethylene glycol) diglycidyl ether (PEG-DGE)**



- **N, N'-dimethylformamide (DMF)**



Base resin performance ... with PEG-DGE variation



Taber abrasion test ASTM D4060*

*Modified for thickness dependent response

$$WI_T = \frac{(W_0 - W_{1200})1000}{C} - \alpha_T T$$



Base resin performance ... with PEG-DGE variation

Impact testing

ASTM D2794

- 1 kg drop weight
- 40 cm drop height
- 15.9 mm radius impact surface

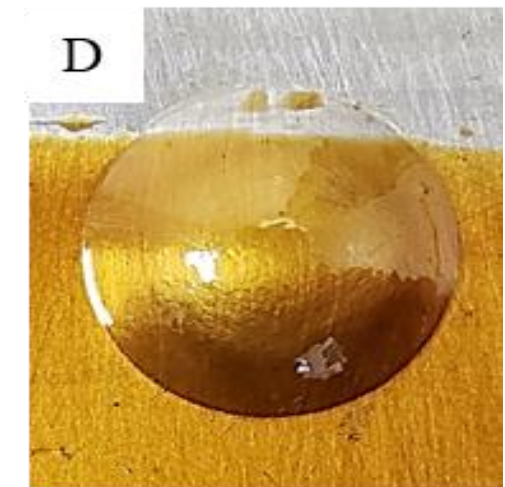
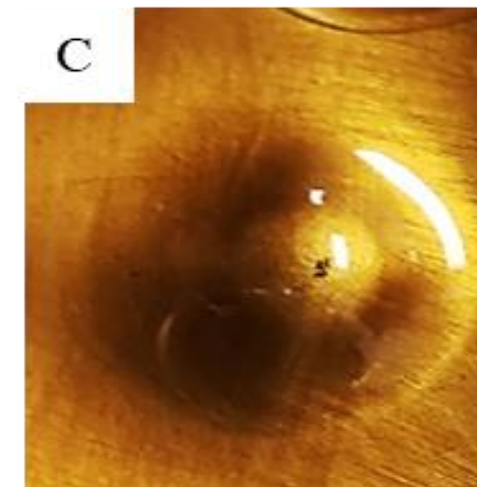
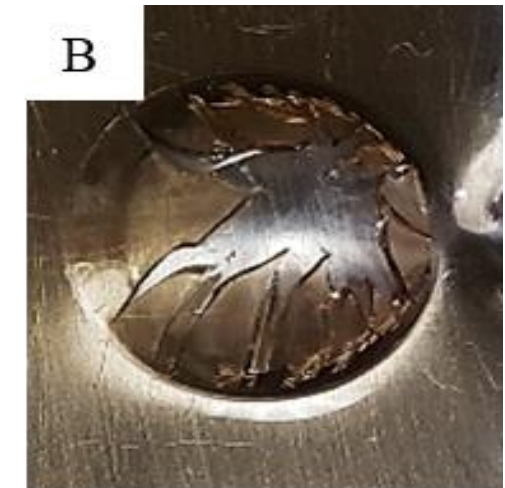
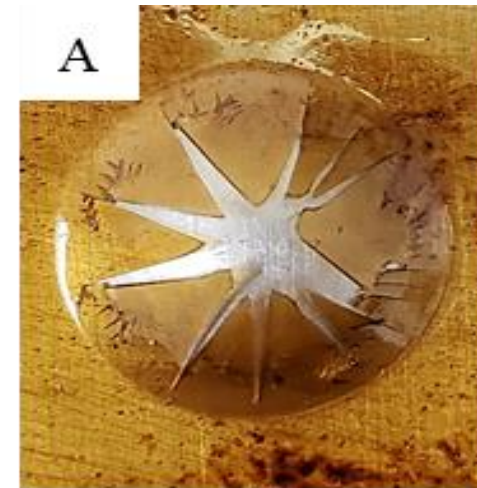
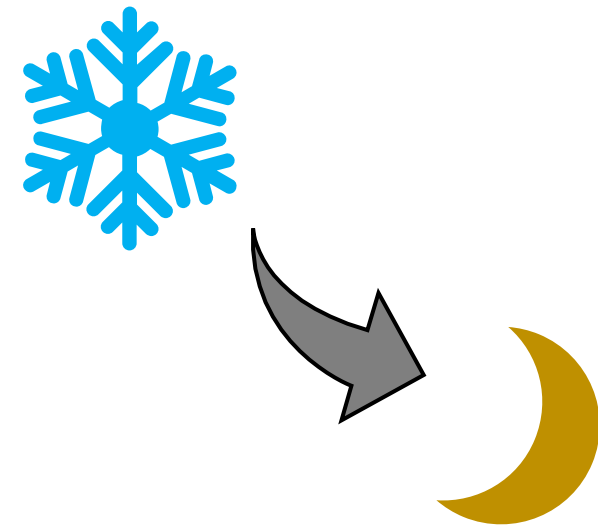


Figure	PEG Loading (wt%)
A	0
B	15
C	35
D	50

Lessons from studying ice adhesion prevention

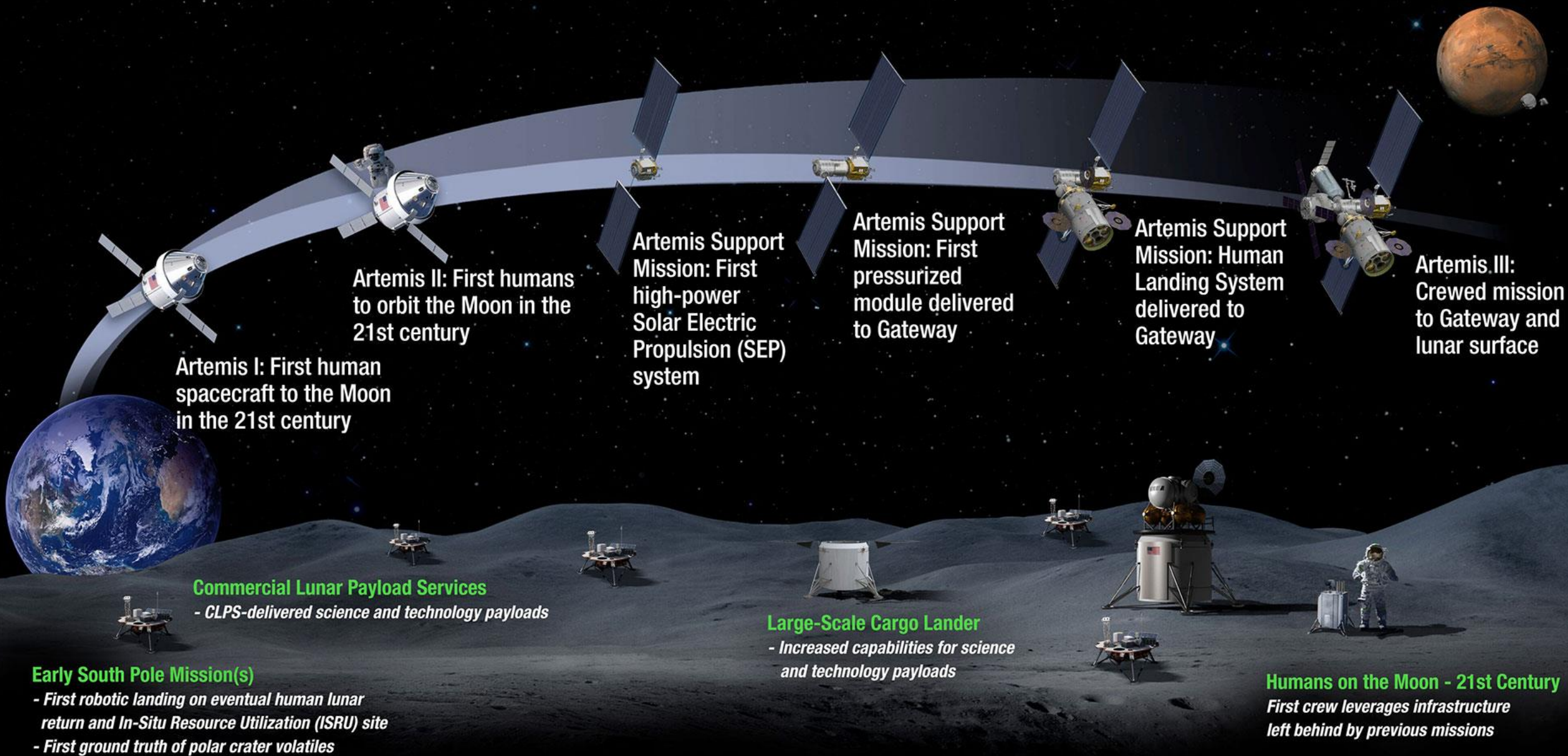
❖ What do we move forward with?

- ❖ Surface chemistry
- ❖ Surface topography
- ❖ Surface dynamics
- ❖ Surface morphology
- ❖ Surface mechanical properties
- ❖ Durability



Then came ARTEMIS ...





Artemis I: First human spacecraft to the Moon in the 21st century

Artemis II: First humans to orbit the Moon in the 21st century

Artemis Support Mission: First high-power Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP) system

Artemis Support Mission: First pressurized module delivered to Gateway

Artemis Support Mission: Human Landing System delivered to Gateway

Artemis III: Crewed mission to Gateway and lunar surface

Commercial Lunar Payload Services
- CLPS-delivered science and technology payloads

Early South Pole Mission(s)
- First robotic landing on eventual human lunar return and In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) site
- First ground truth of polar crater volatiles

Large-Scale Cargo Lander
- Increased capabilities for science and technology payloads

Humans on the Moon - 21st Century
First crew leverages infrastructure left behind by previous missions

LUNAR SOUTH POLE TARGET SITE

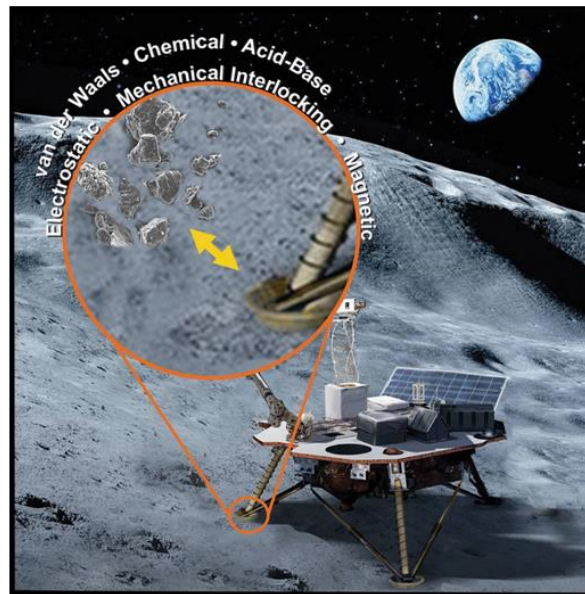
Image credit: NASA

2020

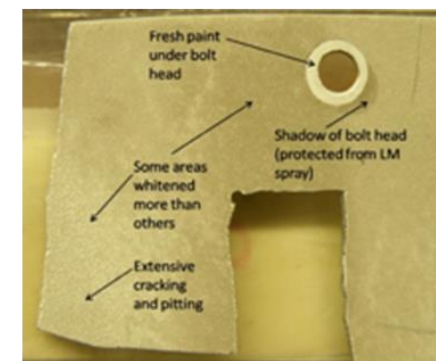
2024

What lessons are we bringing back to lunar dust?

Dust Mitigation-
Must Remove



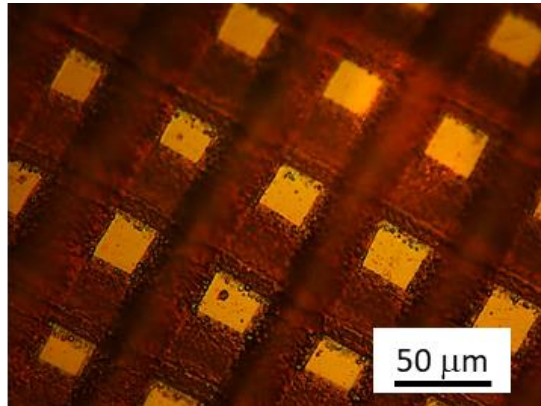
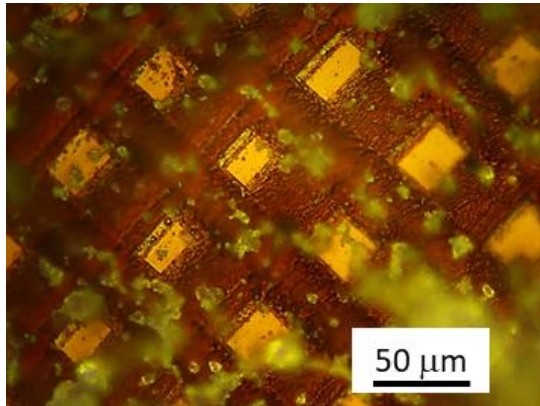
Dust Management-
Must Tolerate



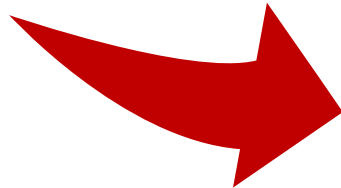
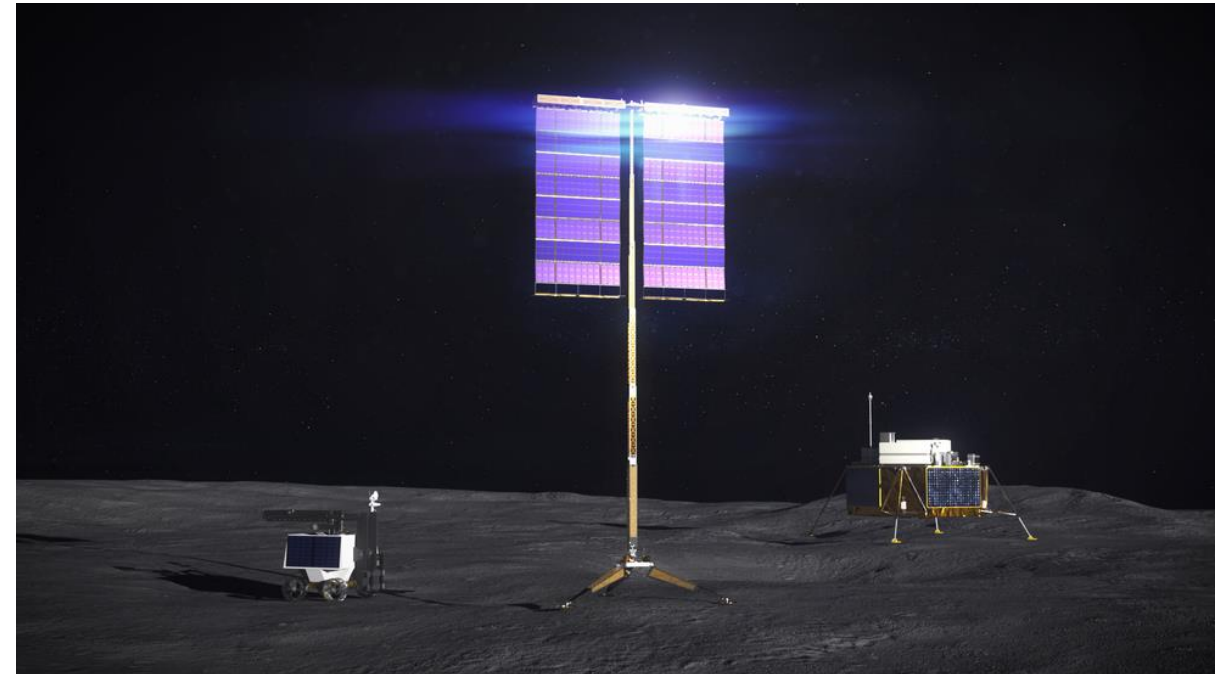
❖ Engaging aspects of lunar dust from mitigation to management

Scalable topography

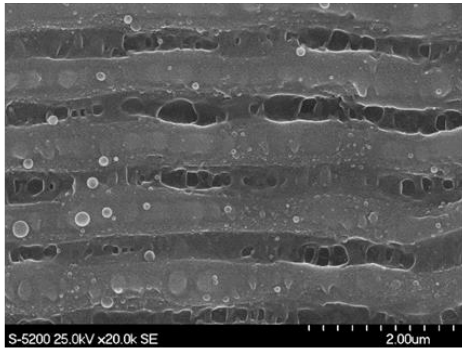
Laboratory scale



Operational scale



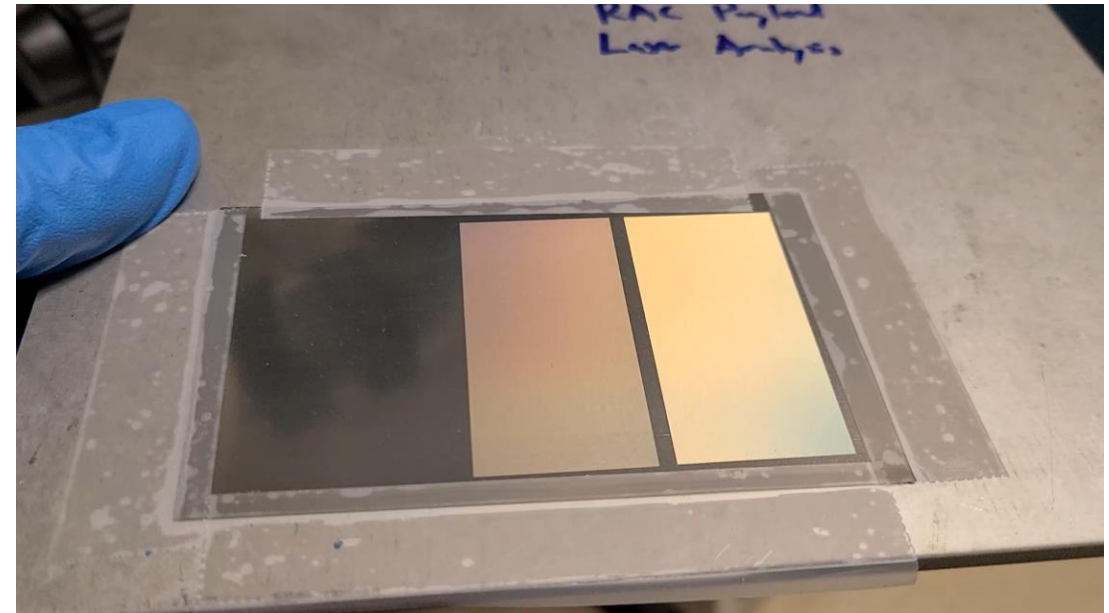
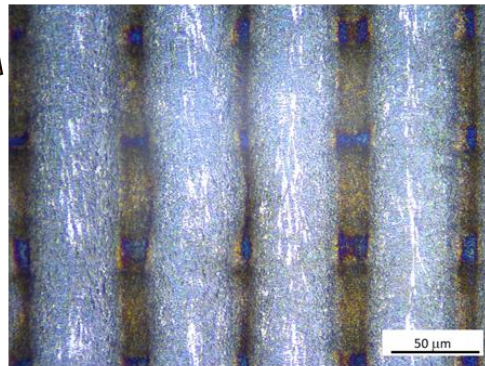
Hierarchical topography



Nanometer-scaled Laser-Induced Period Surface Structure (LIPSS)

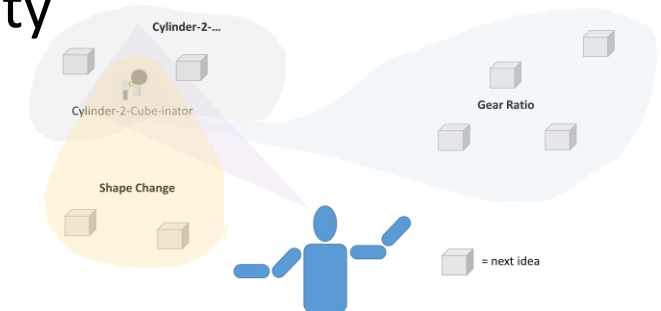


Micrometer-scaled Direct-write Laser Patterning

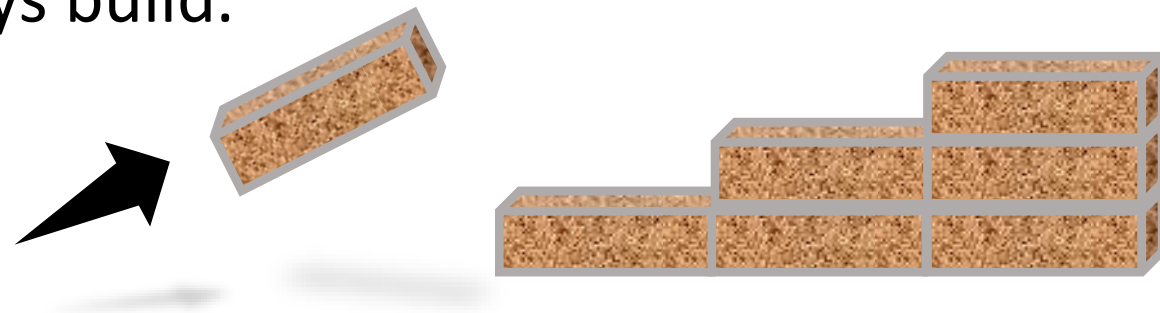


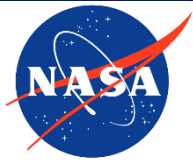
Conclusions

- ❖ As your research progresses and results start to develop ...
 - ❖ Expand your perspective to look for the next opportunity
 - ❖ Apply the lessons you have learned



- ❖ There is no such thing as starting from ground level after your first research activity, it can always build.





Acknowledgements

❖ Advanced Materials and Processing Branch

❖ Lunar Dust Project

- ❖ Dr. Lopa Das
- ❖ Dr. Valerie Wiesner
- ❖ Dr. Keith Gordon
- ❖ Dr. Glen King
- ❖ Dr. Sang Choi
- ❖ Jonathan Hernandez

❖ Environmentally Responsible Aviation

- ❖ Dr. Emilie Siochi
- ❖ Dr. John Connell
- ❖ Dr. Joseph Smith
- ❖ Dr. John Gardner
- ❖ Michelle Shanahan
- ❖ Ron Penner

❖ Low Ice Adhesion Materials Research

- ❖ Dr. Joseph Smith
- ❖ Dr. Keith Gordon
- ❖ Miranda Beaudry

