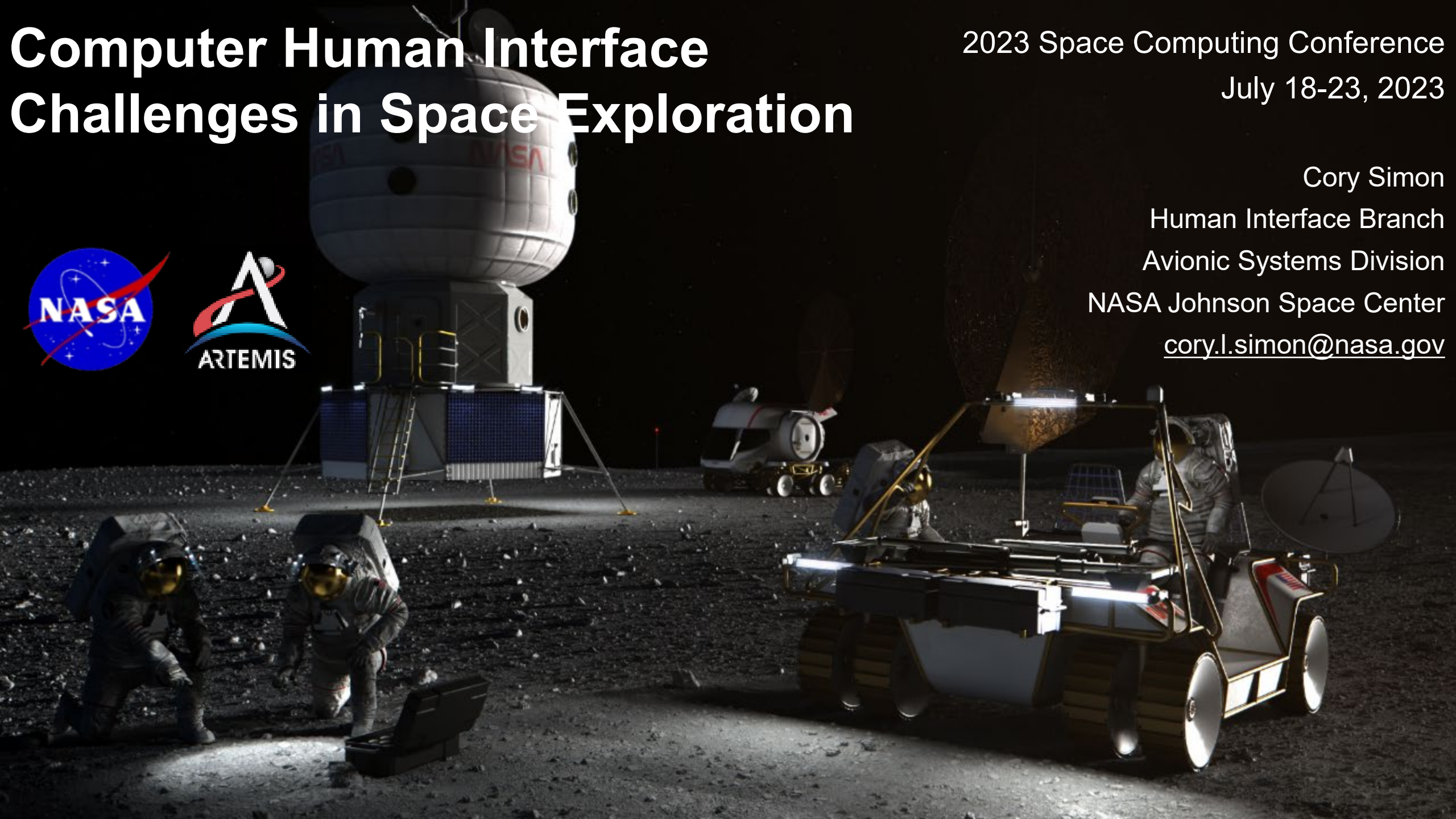


Computer Human Interface Challenges in Space Exploration

2023 Space Computing Conference
July 18-23, 2023

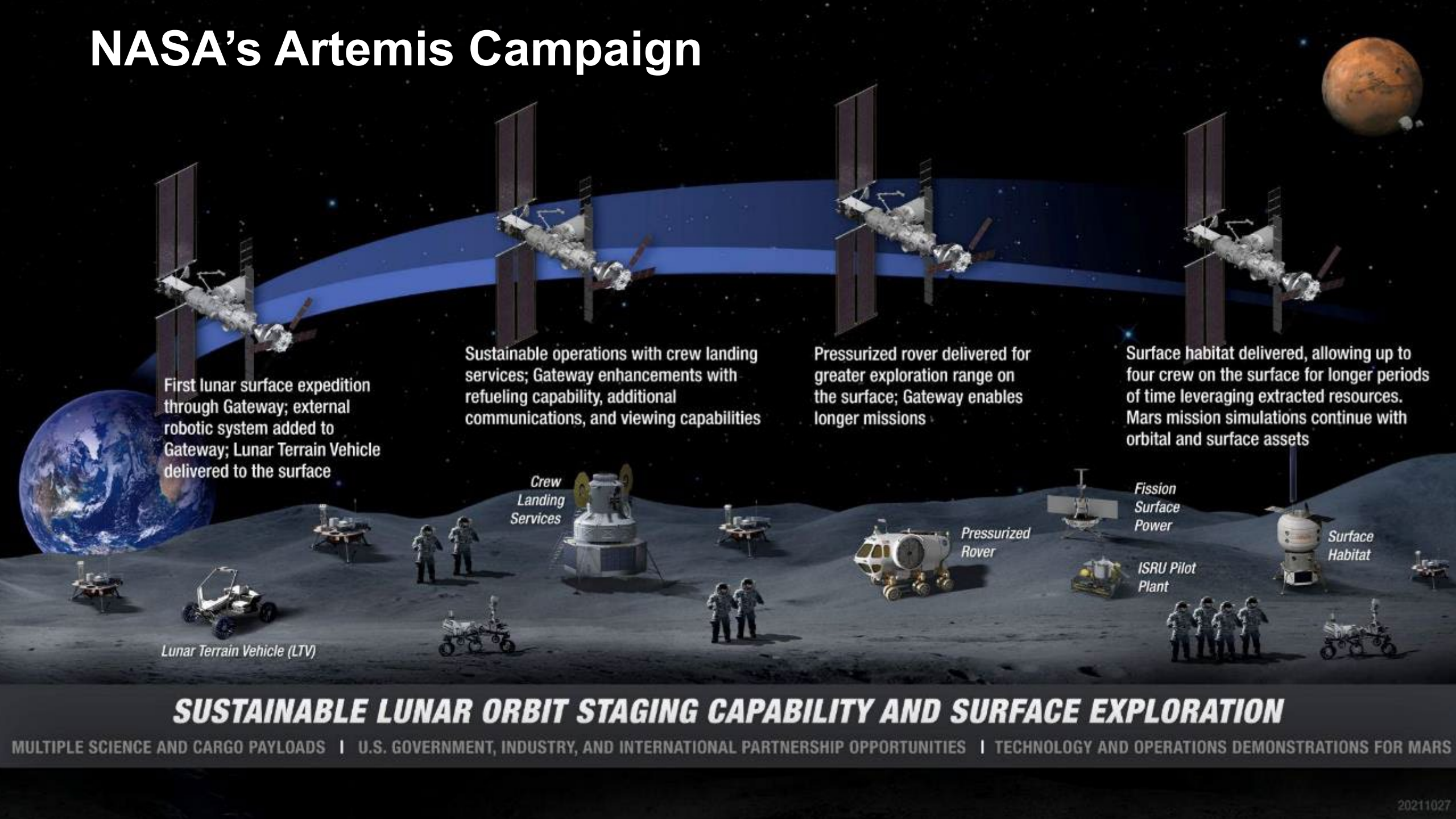


Cory Simon
Human Interface Branch
Avionic Systems Division
NASA Johnson Space Center
cory.l.simon@nasa.gov



- **NASA's Artemis Campaign**
- **Flight Crew's Changing Role in Human Spaceflight**
- **Computer Human Interface Domains**
- **New Missions, Unique Technology Challenges**
- **Reaching Toward Mars**
- **Connecting with NASA**

NASA's Artemis Campaign



First lunar surface expedition through Gateway; external robotic system added to Gateway; Lunar Terrain Vehicle delivered to the surface

Sustainable operations with crew landing services; Gateway enhancements with refueling capability, additional communications, and viewing capabilities

Pressurized rover delivered for greater exploration range on the surface; Gateway enables longer missions

Surface habitat delivered, allowing up to four crew on the surface for longer periods of time leveraging extracted resources. Mars mission simulations continue with orbital and surface assets

Lunar Terrain Vehicle (LTV)

Crew
Landing
Services

Pressurized
Rover

Fission
Surface
Power

ISRU Pilot
Plant

Surface
Habitat

SUSTAINABLE LUNAR ORBIT STAGING CAPABILITY AND SURFACE EXPLORATION

MULTIPLE SCIENCE AND CARGO PAYLOADS | U.S. GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES | TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATIONS FOR MARS

Comm, Nav, Power >>

Surface Habitat >>

<< Resource Utilization

Habitable Mobility Platform >>

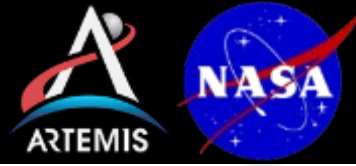
>> Human Landing System

Spacesuits >>

Lunar Terrain Vehicle >>



Flight Crew's Changing Role in Human Spaceflight



Traditional Role

Test Pilot, monitor spacecraft and nav
Control core and payload systems
Caution and Warning (C&W) interaction
Audio and text communication

Current Role

Electronic procedures and checklists
Video conferencing and public outreach
Maintenance, inventory, stowage ops
Telerobotics and telemedicine

Future Role

Autonomy mgmt, collaborative planning
Real time training and remote coaching
Multi-spacecraft and robotics management
Doctor, scientist, inspirational proxy



*Gemini Cockpit
Electromechanical*



*Shuttle CRT
Cockpit*



*Orion Glass
Cockpit*



Tablet in use ISS



*Hololens Demo
ISS*



*EVA HUD
Prototyping*

Multi-vehicle Lunar missions require special attention to information and interaction

- Information availability among mission actors: Crew, Mission Control, Vehicles, Automation, Robotics
- Natural and consistent human interfaces; Lowering the barrier between humans, information, and systems
- Public engagement expectations have increased significantly – real time video, shared experiences, access to crew

Computer Human Interface Domains

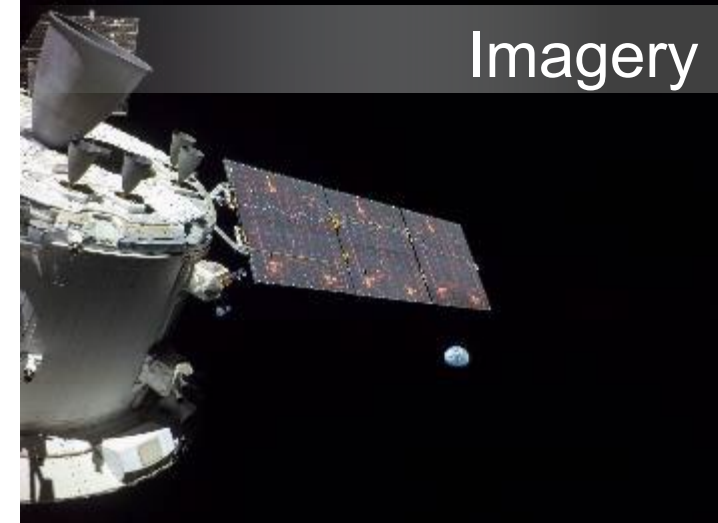
Displays



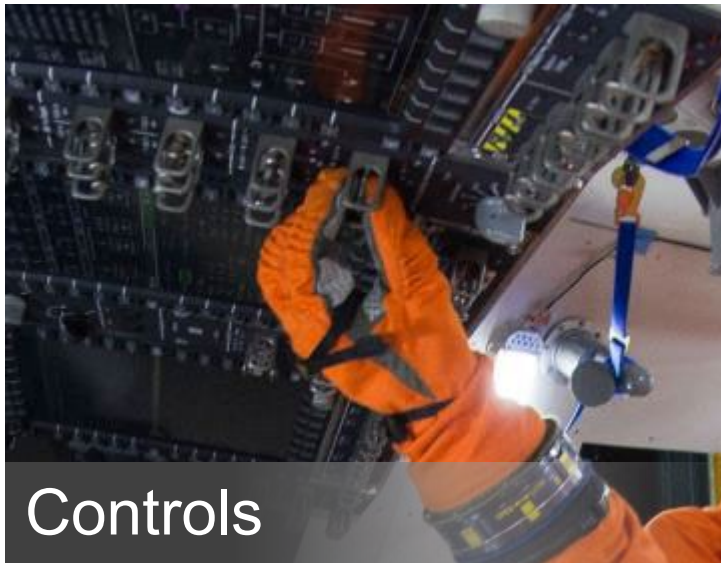
Audio



Imagery



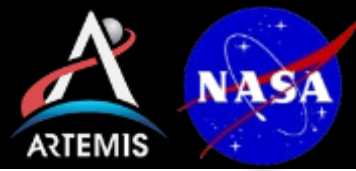
Controls



Lighting



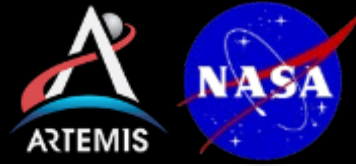
New Missions, Unique Technology Challenges



Foundational Challenges for Spacecraft Computer Human Interfaces

- **Lack of radiation-tolerant electronics drives architectures, designs, performance, and risk**
- **Spacecraft CHI avionics hardware is unique**
 - Humans in space are unique, require systems that are not needed for satellites
 - Needs are not fully met by space-rated parts development to date

Deep Space Crew Display Challenges



Driving Use Cases

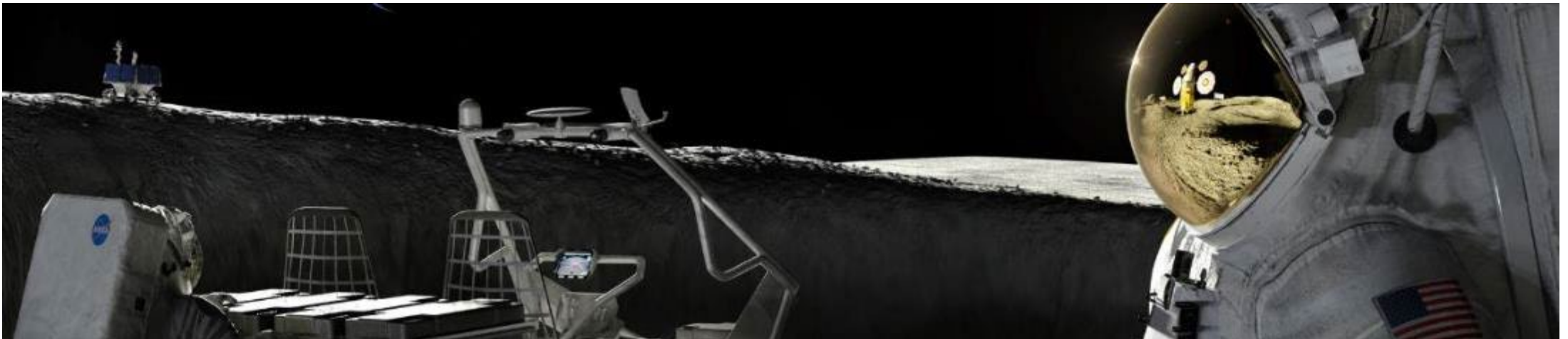
- Enable crew to reliably perform safety-critical and time-sensitive tasks

Key Challenges

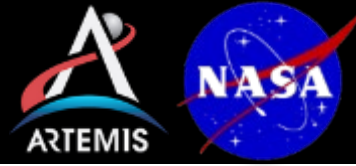
- Pixel Technologies: NASA is wrapping up a study of the radiation tolerance of various pixel technologies (Bautista, Ryder, Garrett)
 - Need to couple best performing pixel tech with driving electronics, processing, and multi-layer software mitigations
- Space Suit Displays: NASA has investigated usability, hardware, and software under Joint AR Project (Mitra, Krygier, Miller)
 - Projection optics on curved helmet bubble remains very challenging
 - Development needed on very low power/processing rendering software
 - Radiation performance characterization of projection technologies is still needed

Display Performance Targets

- NASA-STD-3001 Vol 2, Human Factors, Habitability, and Environmental Health, specifies visual display parameters (Table 10.4-2)
- Display performance requirements vary by how the display is used



Deep Space Audio System Challenges



Driving Use Cases

- Audio systems provide voice communications and alarms – safety-critical time-sensitive functions

Key Challenges

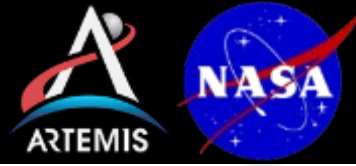
- Industry/market gap: radiation-tolerant audio system with spacecraft network interfaces are not easily available or quickly developed

Performance Targets

- Continuous G.729 or G.711 encoding, decoding, and teleconferencing
- NASA-STD-3001 Vol 2: ensure 90% word recognition using ANSI/ASA S3.2-2009, Method for Measuring the Intelligibility of Speech (10.5.3.7 Speech Intelligibility)



Deep Space IT Infrastructure Challenges



Driving Use Cases

- Basic IT devices: servers, routers/switches, wireless access points, laptops, tablets...
- Functions: portable device communication, network services, data storage, software updates

Key Challenges

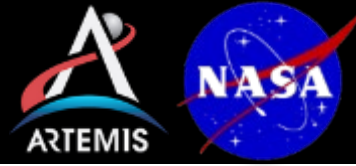
- Very little empirical data on the reliability of modern IT devices in the Lunar radiation environment
 - Artemis I Callisto payload included an iPad (Lockheed Martin/Jones)
 - Two generations of HPE Spaceborne Computer have flown on ISS in low Earth orbit (Hewlett Packard)
- ISS heritage and commercial software depend on modern network services and operating systems (Windows, Windows Server, Linux, iPad OS, etc.)

Performance Targets

- Standards-based, general purpose/multi-use, expandable, virtual machine support, highly reliable
- Support frequent updates - patching, software updates, new features, and unanticipated operational needs



Radiation Tolerance Performance Targets



- Lack of radiation-tolerant electronics drives architectures, designs, performance, and risk
- **RT Design Goal 1: Destructive Single Event Effects (SEEs) Immunity**
 - Up to Linear Energy Transfer (LET) of 60 MeV-cm²/mg
 - SEE characterization of performance, failure modes
- **RT Design Goal 2: Non-destructive SEE Immunity**
 - Minimize probability and duration of down time
- **RT Design Goal 3: Total Ionizing Dose (TID) Tolerance**
 - 100Krad(Si), TNID and ELDRs considered
 - TID characterization of performance, failure modes

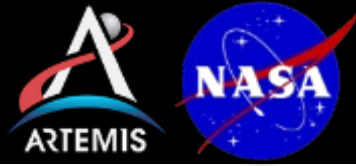
Reference Mission Profiles

Lunar Mission Description <i>Displays, Audio are needed during crewed periods</i>	Example Spacecraft
30 days in Lunar orbit <i>Crewed for full mission</i>	Orion
15 years in Lunar orbit <i>Crewed for 30 days annually</i>	Gateway
10 years on Lunar surface <i>Crewed for 20 days annually</i>	Lunar Rover
10 years in Lunar orbit <i>Crewed for 20 days annually, transported to/from Lunar Surface</i>	Space Suit
3 months in Lunar orbit <i>Crewed for 20 days on Lunar surface</i>	Lunar Lander

Key References

- Cross-Program Design Specification for Natural Environments (DSNE)
- Space System Verification Approach Based on MEAL and Mission Risk Posture (2018 Gonzalez et al)

Reaching Toward Mars



Communication latency drives Earth-independent operations

New roles for crew, new needs for information and interaction, new technology demands



SOLICITATIONS & GRANTS

Advances TRLs and reduces risk for integration in critical NASA missions.

SBIR/STTR

sbir.nasa.gov

EPSCOR

nasa.gov/stem/epscor

INSPIRES

nspires.nasaprs.com

PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with industry and academia to create products/services that further human exploration.

Space Act Agreements

Provides a simple and responsive process for industry to work with NASA in support of US Government proposals.
nasa.gov/johnson/exploration/technology

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

LICENSE JSC intellectual property portfolio in order to share innovations broadly and catalyze new economies.

Technology Licensing

technology.nasa.gov/patents

Software Release Administration

technology.nasa.gov/t2u

OPEN INNOVATION

ENGAGE the crowd to discover new ideas, enable collaboration and drive faster problem solving.

22 Crowd Platforms

www.nasa.gov/solve/