



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Marshall Space Flight Center

Instrument Development, Integration, & Test Branch (ES61)

Space Systems
Department (ES01)



Payload Rack Checkout Unit (PRCU) Capabilities

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- The Payload Rack Checkout Unit (PRCU) is housed in the Space Systems Integration & Test Facility (SSITF) on Marshall Space Flight Center
- SSITF is a multi-purpose facility that enables and supports development, qualification testing, and operation of on-orbit payloads from proof-of-concept to real-time deployment



Available resources

- Internal Thermal Control System (ITCS)
 - MTL or LTL temperatures
 - Flow rate
- Electrical Power System (EPS)
 - Main and Aux Channels
- Vacuum System
 - Pump down to 10^{-5} Torr
- Nitrogen Gas System
- Command & Data Handling
 - MIL-STD-1553
 - Medium Rate Data Link (MRDL)
 - High Rate Data Link (HRDL)



External Connections

- Joint Station LAN (JSL) lab
- Huntsville Operations Support Center (HOSC)
- Remote Payloads
 - Direct connection to payload
 - Via HOSC deployed router that is provided once the requirement is levied



- Flight Engineering Units
 - Payload Multiplexer/Demultiplexer
 - EXPRESS Rack
 - Microgravity Science Glovebox (MSG)
 - Materials Science Research Rack (MSRR)
 - Life Science Glovebox (LSG)
- Computers
 - PLMDM Interface
 - EXPRESS Laptop
 - Enhanced HOSC System PC (EPC)





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What does this mean?

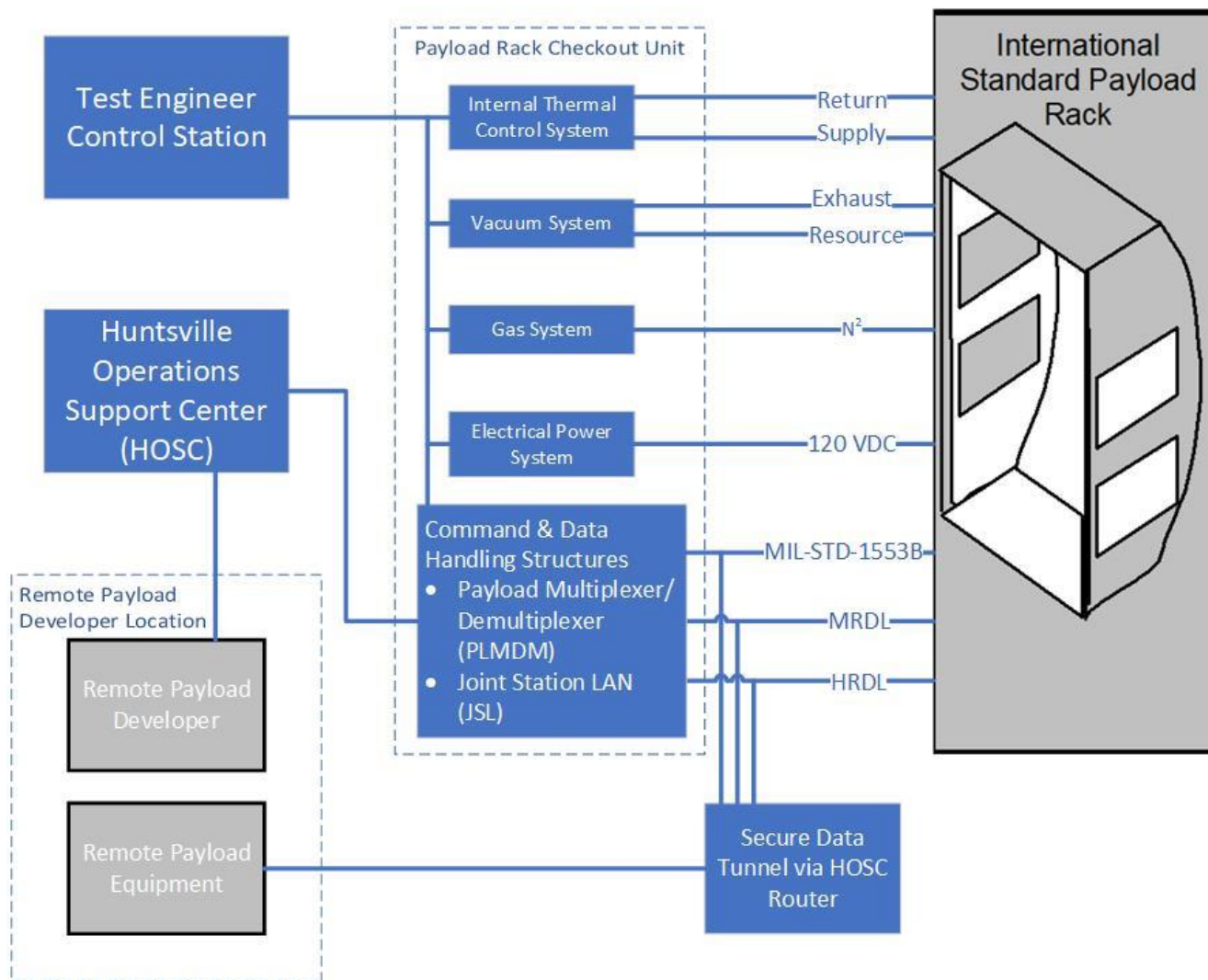


The PRCU enables users to perform qualification and acceptance testing prior to on-orbit operations by providing access to resources in an ISS-analogous environment.

- **Payloads**
 - Directly interface with EXPRESS rack and PLMDM
 - End-to-End testing
 - Systems checkouts
 - Verification with upcoming flight software
- **Payload Developers**
 - Remote payload testing
 - New procedures
 - Hardware verification
 - Firewall checkouts
 - Training



Remote Testing with the SSITF





Space Systems Integration & Test Facility (SSITF)

- Decades of experience with flight hardware
- Development, qualification, and acceptance testing
 - Environmental testing (Thermal vacuum chamber, Vibration, Electromagnetic Interference)
 - Hardware-in-the-Loop avionics and software testing
- Operations support and anomaly resolution
- Labeling and packaging
 - Pre- and post- shipment functional testing
- Proof and leak testing of flight and ground hardware and test systems
- Internal Thermal Control System (ITCS) water fills
 - Pre-flight filling with ITCS water
 - Vacuum leak check is performed as part of the fill process
 - Filtered for particulate below 10 microns
 - Cycled for 24 hours to ensure no air bubbles or particulate remain



Space Systems Integration & Test Facility (SSITF) (cont'd)

- High Bay
 - 10,000 ft², temperature and humidity-controlled ISO 8 Clean Work Area
 - Gas distribution panels
 - 20-ton overhead crane
 - Facility grounding system, Electrostatic Discharge workbenches
 - 100 kVA 80 KW Uninterruptible Power Supply
- Machine Shop
 - Bridgeport mills
 - Precision and motor lathes
 - 50-ton CNC Press Brake
- Leak lab
 - 5,000 psig high-pressure test cell
 - Wide range of pressure and flow instrumentation
 - Leak detection equipment to perform vacuum and pressure decay leak tests and fluid flow testing





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