



Materials, Structures, Mechanical Systems & Manufacturing

TEAM

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OFFICE OF CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST
TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP

Technology Roadmap Briefing to NRC
January 27, 2011

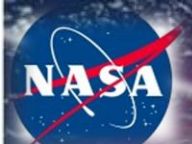


Presentation Outline

- **Overview / Background**
- **Strategic Goals**
- **Materials/Structures/Mechanical Systems/Manufacturing Roadmap**
- **Virtual Digital Fleet Leader**
- **Top Technical Challenges**
- **Technology Area (TA) Interdependencies**
- **Benefits to other National Needs**
- **Summary**



Martian Sunset



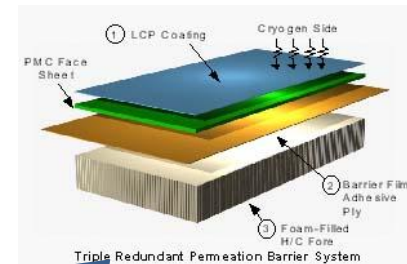
Technology Area Overview

• Technology Area (TA)

- Extremely broad discipline areas, technologies cross cutting into most other Technology Areas
- Area is a high priority for all NASA missions
- Addressing a broad NASA exploration architecture (robotic and human) and aeronautics – much of this architecture is conceptual
- Focused on innovation and Game Changing new inventions or discoveries rather than incremental improvement

• Roadmap Terminology

- Pull - Architecture: address known technology challenges – example: Micrometeoroids and Orbital Debris (MMOD) protection drives need for new materials/structure
- Push - Technology: address technology gaps – example: new physics-based modeling capability drives robust structural certification
- Strategic, long-term, and integrated investment strategy



Permeation Resistant Integrated Composite Tank
Pre-Exploration Systems Mission Directorate



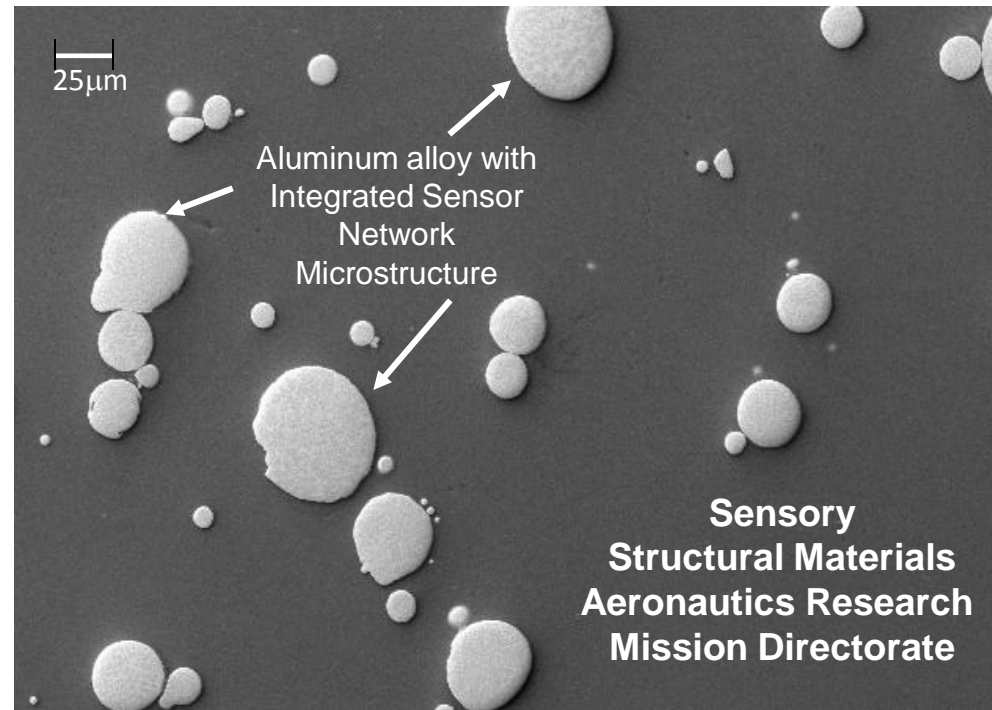
Technology Area Overview

- **Technology Direction**

- Roadmap identifies a technology path (a direction). It should give long term guidance. It identifies obvious technology needs and it stimulates a thought process that should identify new technologies and approaches
- It is NOT a how-to (cook book) document

- **Process (Agency-wide)**

- Team developed strawman roadmap
- Input from > 100 senior scientists/engineers
- Independently vetted by key senior Agency experts



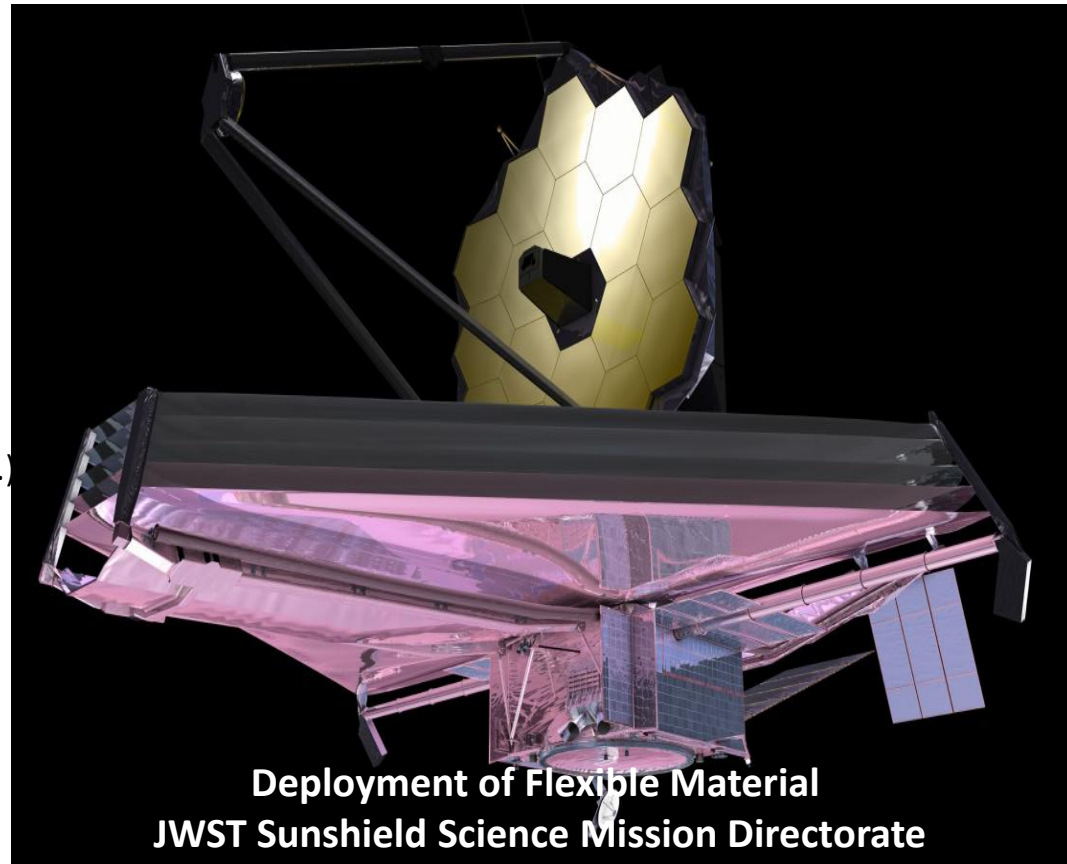


Technology Area Overview

- **Key Roadmap Avenues (themes)**

- Pull Technologies
 - Affordability
 - Multifunctional
 - Lightweight
 - Environmentally Friendly
- Push Technologies
 - Physics-based methods
 - Materials (computational, tailored , etc.)
 - Intelligent Manufacturing
 - Sustainment
 - Reliability

**Virtual Digital Fleet Leader
Integrates multiple technology capabilities**

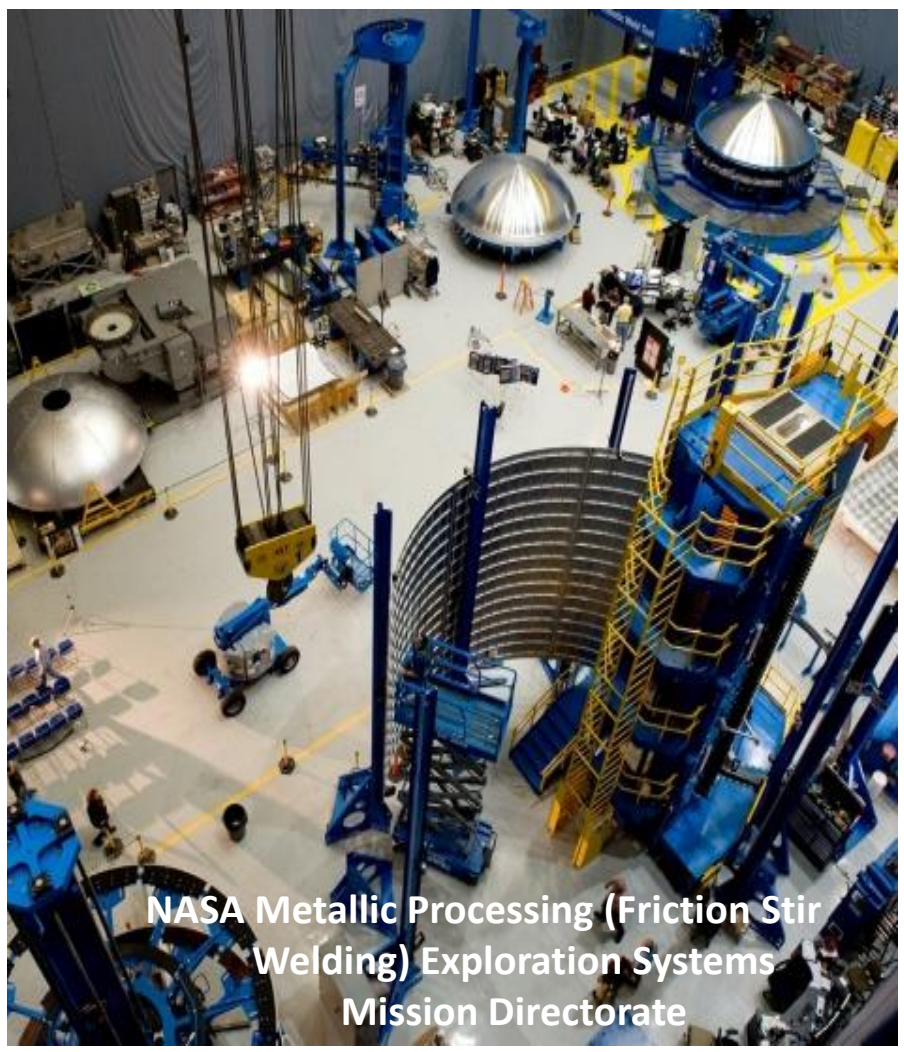


**Deployment of Flexible Material
JWST Sunshield Science Mission Directorate**



Traceability to NASA Strategic Goals

- **Goal of Exploration/Science/Aeronautics missions**
 - Mission technologies are synergistic/cross cutting (lighter, stronger, robust engineering methods, cost effective, sustainable, etc.)
- **Critical support to Space Shuttle and ISS safety of flight/operation**
 - Lessons learned: Importance of certification, sustainment, and reliability
- **Innovation and Education**
 - Development-directed science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) technologies and workforce



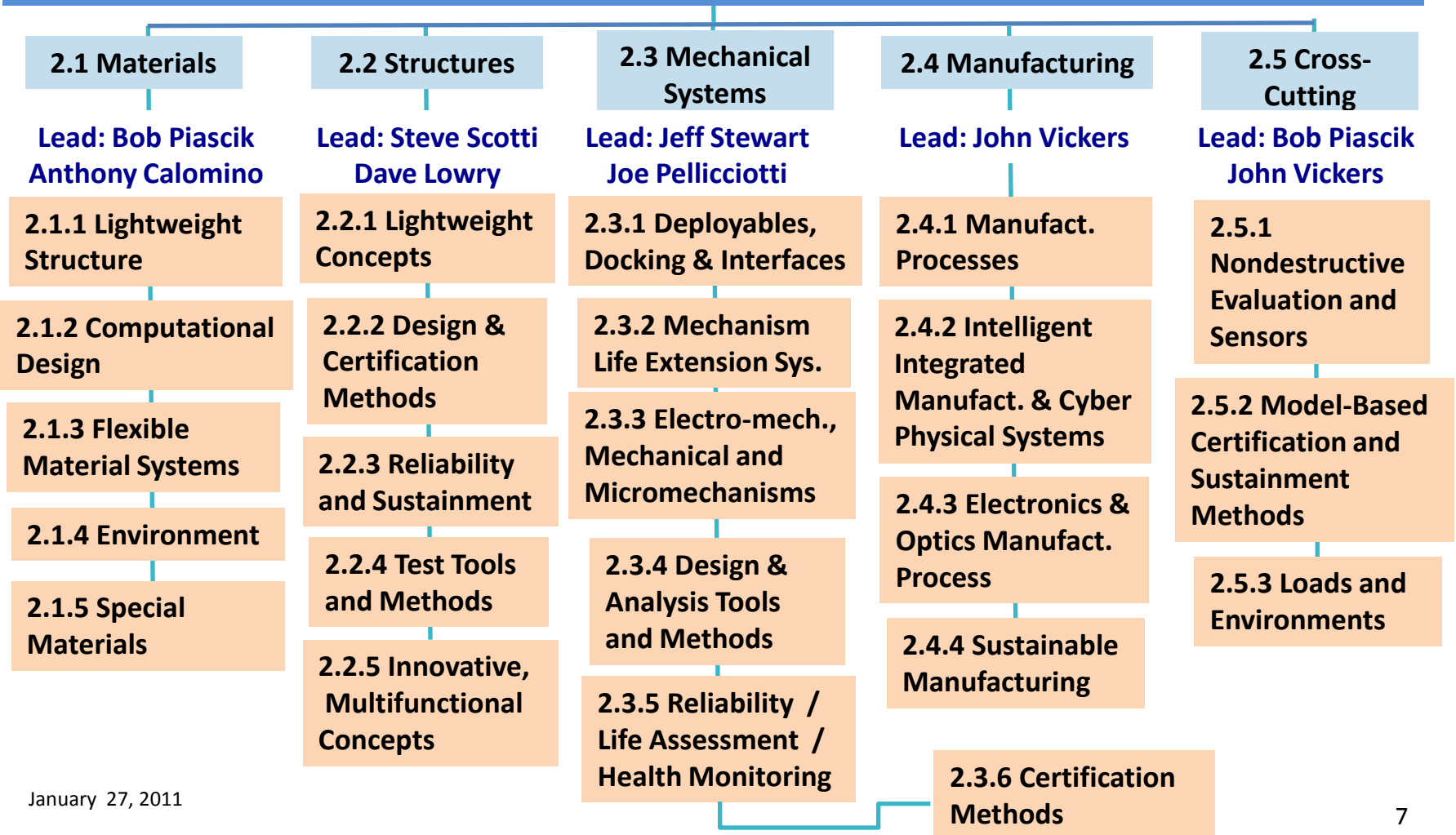
NASA Metallic Processing (Friction Stir Welding) Exploration Systems Mission Directorate



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

Materials, Structures, Mechanical Systems and Manufacturing

Co Chairs: Bob Piascik and John Vickers



NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

Capabilities	Selected Mission Architectures	Exploration Science Aeronautics	2010 WFIRST	LEO Access	2015 Propellant Depot N+1	Radiation Protection Explorer Augmentation	NEO/Mars Precursor
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2.1 Materials

2.1.1 Lightweight Structure	▲ Pull to TRL 6 / Further Push	Non-autoclave Composite ★	Hybrid Laminates ▲	Tailorable (spec. strength, therm. Cond.) ▲	Adv. Propulsion Materials ▲
2.1.2 Computational Design	★ Extensive Push/Game Changing	Micro Design Models ▲	PMC Damage Models ▲	Environment (time dependent degradation) ▲	Physics-based Lamina Models ★
2.1.3 Flexible Material Systems	☐ Cross Capabilities	Expandable Habitat ▲		Flex. EDL Materials ★	
2.1.4 Environment		Cryo-Insulators ▲		Ad. Ablator ▲	Radiation/MMOD Protection ▲
2.1.5 Special Materials		Optical Materials (windows) ▲	Repair ▲	Sensor Materials ▲	Space Suits ▲
					Impermeable PMC ★
					Solid State Elec. Power ★

2.2 Structures

2.2.1 Lightweight Concepts		Non-Autoclave Primary Struct. ★	Composite Cryo Tanks ▲	Probabilistic Design Methodology ★	Composite/Inflatable Habitats ★
2.2.2 Design and Certification Methods		Streamlined DAC Processes ▲	Composite Allowables ▲	High-fidelity Response Simulation ★	In-situ Structural, Thermal Assessment ★
2.2.3 Reliability and Sustainment		Predictive Damage Methods ▲	Life Extension, Prediction ▲	SHM, THM Integration ★	
2.2.4 Test Tools and Methods		Integrated Flight Test Data ID and Usage ▲	Full-field Data Acquisition (non-contact) ★	Full-field Model V&V ★	Active Control of Structural Response ★
2.2.5 Innovative, Multifunctional Concepts		Integrated Cryo tank ▲	Integrated (non-pres) MMOD ★	Reusable Modular Components ▲	Integrated MMOD/Radiation/Permeability ★

2.3 Mechanical Systems

2.3.1 Deployables, Docking and Interfaces		Restraint / Release Devices ▲	Common Universal Interchangeable Interfaces ▲	Deployment of Flex Materials ▲	Large Lightweight Stiff Deployable ▲
2.3.2 Mechanism Life Extension Systems		Long Life Bearing/ Lube Systems ▲		Cryo Long Life Actuators ▲	Relevant Environment Performance Testing (i.e., ISS) ▲
2.3.3 Electro-mechanical, Mech. & Micromechanisms		Robotic Assembly Tools/Interfaces ▲	Cryogenic and Fluid Transfer ▲	Active Landing Attenuation System ▲	
2.3.4 Design and Analysis Tools and Methods		Kinematics & Rotor Dynamics Analysis ▲		Precursor Flight High Rate Data for Design ▲	
2.3.5 Reliability / Life Assessment / Health Monitoring		Relevant Environment Durability Testing (i.e., ISS) ▲		Embedded Systems ▲	Life Extension Prediction ▲
2.3.6 Certification Methods		Loads & Environments ▲	Test Verified Physics ▲	Predictive Damage Methods ▲	Probabilistic Design ▲

2.4 Manufacturing

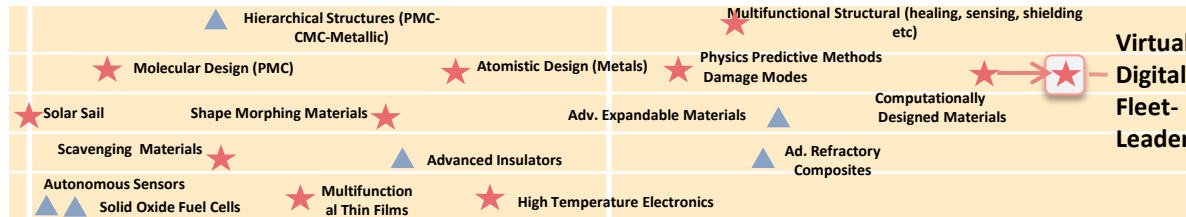
2.4.1 Manufacturing Processes		PMC & MMC Processes ▲	Metallic Processes ▲	In-space Assembly, Fabrication and Repair ▲	Smart Materials Production ★
2.4.2 Intel. Integ. Manufact. & Cyber Phys. Systems		Model-based Supply Network ▲	Virtual Process Conceptualization and Operation ▲	Photovoltaic ▲	Intelligent, Product Definition Model ▲
2.4.3 Electronics & Optics Manufacturing Process		Affordability-driven Technologies ★		Optics Fabrication ▲	Advanced Robotics ▲
2.4.4 Sustainable Manufacturing				Environmental Technologies ▲	Special Elec. Process ▲
				Green Production Processes ▲	

2.5 Cross Cutting

2.5.1 Nondestructive Evaluation and Sensors		NDE Complex Built-Up Structures ▲		Computational NDE ★	Combined NDE and Structural Analysis ★
2.5.2 Model-Based Certification and Sustainment		Combined Environments ▲	Physics-based design models ★		Strategies for Critical Component Reliability ★
2.5.3 Loads and Environments			Test Validation ▲	Design for Monitoring Strategies ▲	
			Improved methods for Accurate Local and Global loads and Environments ★		

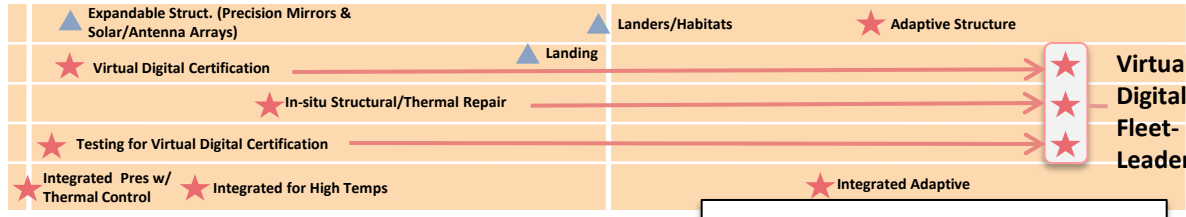
NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

2020	2025	2030	Capabilities
Heavy Lift LISA N+2	Advanced In-Space Propulsion IXO	Space Platforms N+3	



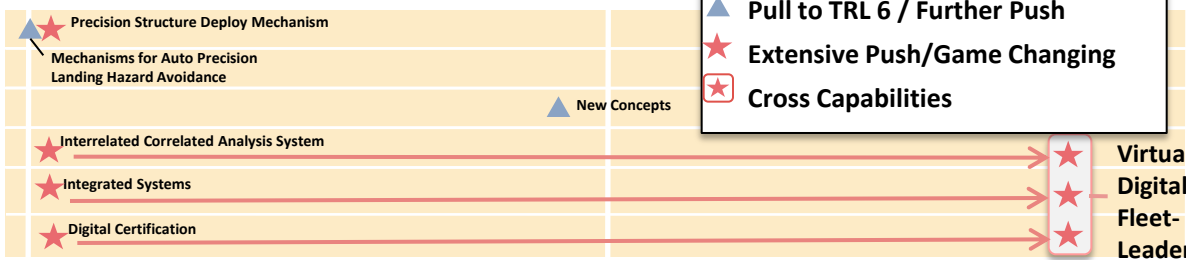
2.1 Materials

Virtual	2.1.1 Lightweight Structure
Digital	2.1.2 Computational Design
Fleet-Leader	2.1.3 Flexible Material Systems
	2.1.4 Environment
	2.1.5 Special Materials



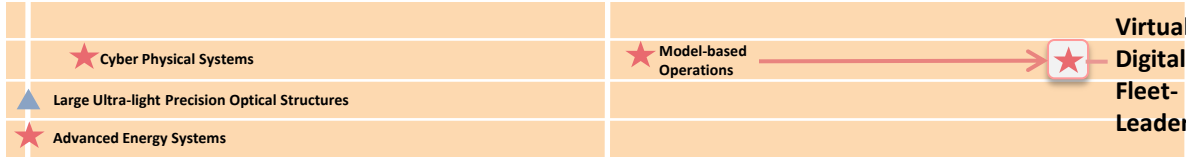
2.2 Structures

	2.2.1 Lightweight Concepts
Virtual	2.2.2 Design and Certification Methods
Digital	2.2.3 Reliability and Sustainment
Fleet-Leader	2.2.4 Test Tools and Methods
	2.2.5 Innovative, Multifunctional Concepts



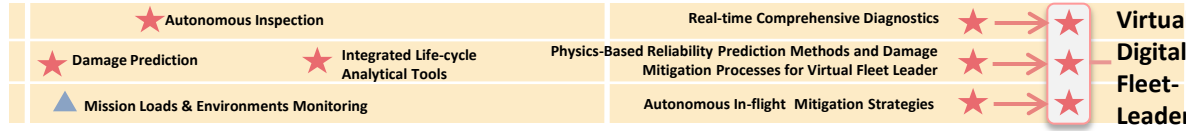
2.3 Mechanical Systems

	2.3.1 Deployables, Docking and Interfaces
	2.3.2 Mechanism Life Extension Systems
	2.3.3 Electro-mechanical, Mech. & Micromechanisms
Virtual	2.3.4 Design and Analysis Tools and Methods
Digital	2.3.5 Reliability / Life Assessment / Health Monitoring
Fleet-Leader	2.3.6 Certification Methods



2.4 Manufacturing

	2.4.1 Manufacturing Processes
Virtual	2.4.2 Intel. Integ. Manufact. & Cyber Phys. Systems
Digital	2.4.3 Electronics & Optics Manufacturing Process
Fleet-Leader	2.4.4 Sustainable Manufacturing



2.5 Cross Cutting

Virtual	2.5.1 Nondestructive Evaluation and Sensors
Digital	2.5.2 Model-Based Certification and Sustainment
Fleet-Leader	2.5.3 Loads and Environments

▲ Pull to TRL 6 / Further Push
★ Extensive Push/Game Changing
★ Cross Capabilities



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.1.3 Flexible Materials Systems

Key Technology/Challenge	What it Enables	TRL/Current Status	Steps to TRL 6
Textile-based materials and thin-film technology for large inflatable or deployable structures.	Lightweight deployed human habitats for space or Mars surface and large space-base observation platforms.	TRL 3; Large structure capability, e.g., McMurdo Antarctica Science Support Center Habitat, ground-based demo for space application.	Earth-based prototype demonstrators need to be applied in relevant environment and tested for long-term exposure effects.
Flexible TPSs for hypersonic entry systems.	Large mass payload delivery to Mars or low-heat entries for high-velocity Earth return.	TRL 3; Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) TPS has been developed and ground tested.	Orbital flight demonstration of an 8-meter diameter aeroshell to demonstrate fluid-structure interaction stability and control authority.
Lightweight aluminized thin film systems for solar sail propulsion.	Fuelless propulsion using solar wind force on large reflective sails.	TRL 3 for second generation; CP1 sails have survived space environment for up to 7 years and meet all near-term performance requirements.	Ripstop and space environment testing UV sublimation at TRL 2.
Shape-Morphing Materials for deployable space structures.	Autonomous deployment and actuated shape control of large space structures.	TRL 2-3; Preliminary identification and process refinement of shape memory materials and self actuating/morphing materials.	Materials designed to actuate hybrid structures featuring embedded SMA must be demonstrated.
Advanced Flexible Materials.	Multifunctional softgoods technologies for self actuating and self sensing structures including habitats and large space platforms.	TRL 1-2; Several polymer and metallic material systems show small scale promise of achieving high strain capability and work output.	Systems are at the concept stage, but could incorporate the ability to provide tailorable properties with coating technologies for high emittance and reflectivity.



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.1.3 Flexible Materials Systems

		2010		2015		
<u>Selected Mission Architectures</u>	Exploration Science Aeronautics	<u>WFIRST</u>	<u>LEO Access</u>	<u>Propellant Depot</u> N+1	<u>Radiation Protection</u> <u>Explorer Augmentation</u>	<u>NEO/Mars Precursor</u>

Capabilities

2.1.3 Flexible Material Systems

Expandable Habitat

Flexible EDL Materials



Develop textile based materials and thin film technology for deployable structures

Enables:

Lightweight deployed human habitats for space or Mars surface and large space-based observation platforms

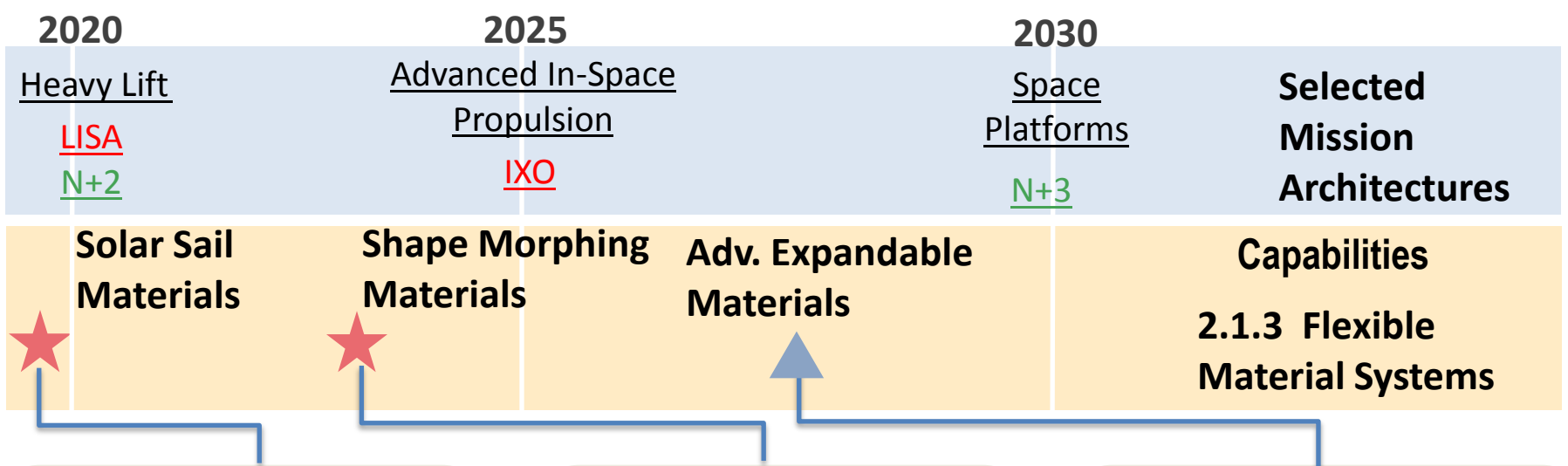
Develop flexible TPS for hypersonic entry systems

Enables:

Large mass payload delivery to Mars or low-heat entries for high-velocity Earth return

NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.1.3 Flexible Materials Systems (cont.)



Lightweight Aluminized thin film systems for solar sail propulsion

Enables:

Fuelless propulsion using solar wind force on large reflective sails

Shape-morphing materials for deployable space structures

Enables:

Autonomous deployment and actuated shape control of large space structures

Advanced flexible materials

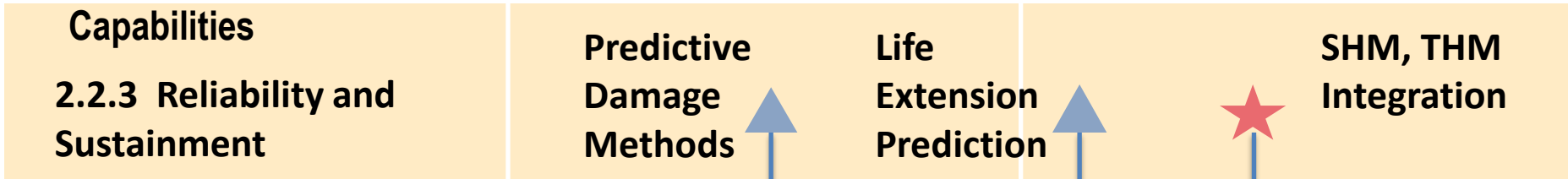
Enables:

Multifunctional softgood technologies for self actuating and self sensing structures including habitats and large space platforms

NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.2.3 Reliability and Sustainment

		2010		2015		
Selected Mission Architectures	Exploration Science Aeronautics	<u>WFIRST</u>	<u>LEO Access</u>	<u>Propellant Depot N+1</u>	<u>Radiation Protection Explorer Augmentation</u>	<u>NEO/Mars Precursor</u>



Experimentally Measure, Analyze and Model Damage Processes

Enables:

Predictive allowables for design; Simulation of initiation and progression to reduce testing schedule and cost

Develop and Validate Life Prediction Models

Enables:

Reduced design conservatism enable lighter weight systems; Modeling for Intrinsic repair capabilities that can lead to new design/sustainment approaches

Develop Sensors, Systems and their Integration to Monitor Structural and Thermal Health

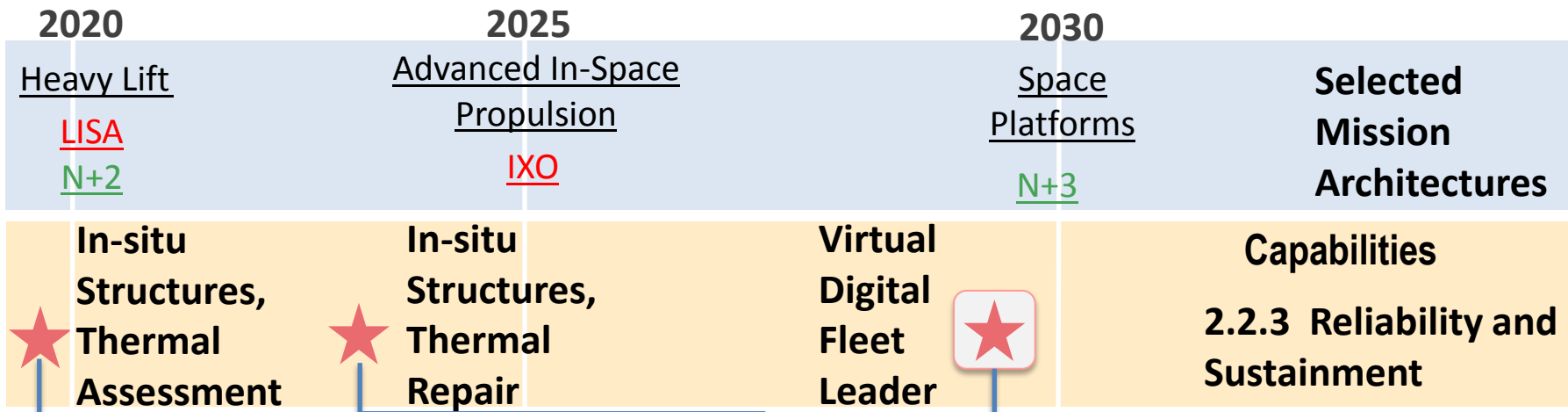
Enables:

Mission monitoring for degradation, damage, and safety margin assessment



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.2.3 Reliability and Sustainment (cont.)



Development and Validation of Inverse Analysis Methods used with Health Monitoring Sensor Data

Enables:

Detection and characterization of degradation and damage during testing and service

Extraterrestrial Repair Materials, Tools, and Procedures (system specific)

Enables:

Validated restoration of thermal and/or structural integrity during a mission

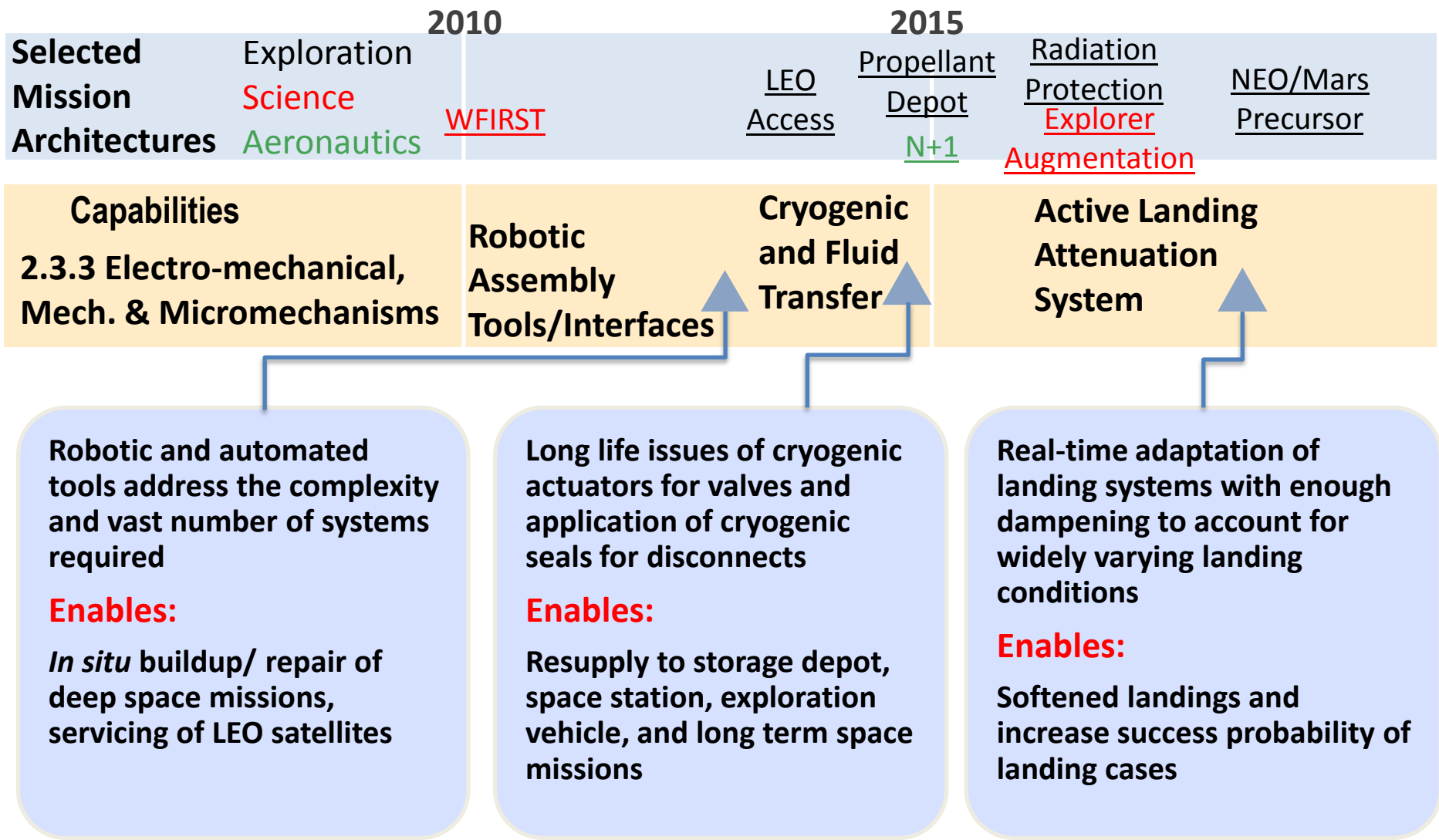
On-vehicle Integration of High-fidelity Models for Response, Damage, and Life Prediction with Health History Data into Full Simulation of Vehicle in its Present State

Enables:

Real-time assessments of margins and safety to support mission decisions

NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

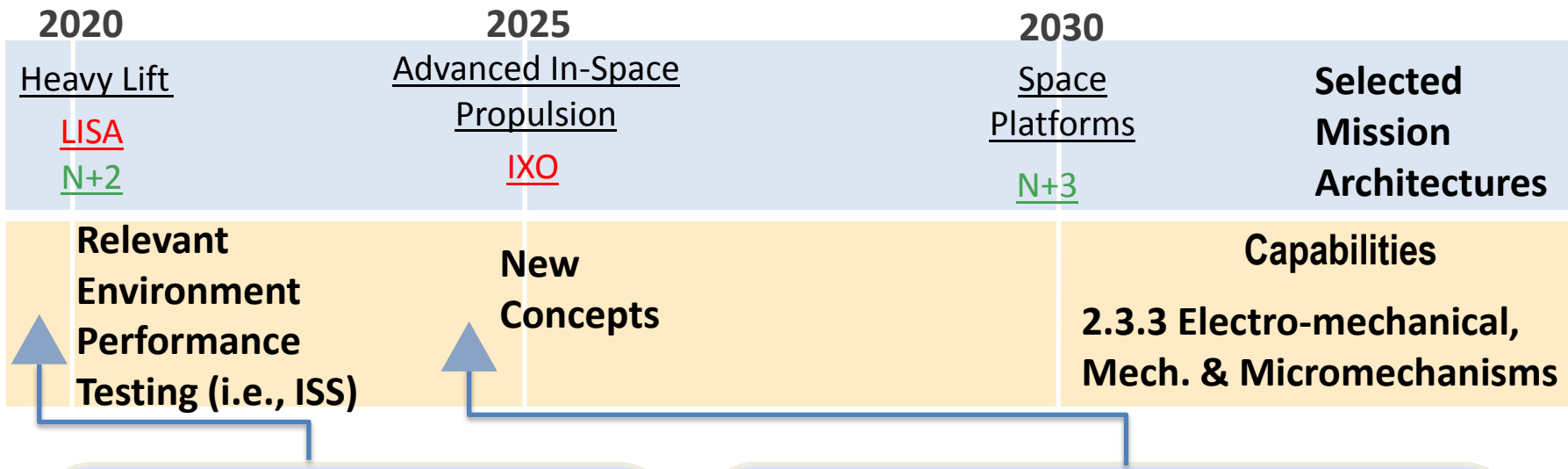
WBS 2.3.3 Electro-mechanical, Mech. & Micromechanisms





Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.3.3 Electro-mechanical, Mech. & Micromechanisms (cont.)



Reproducing and combining of required environments into comprehensive tests (e.g. zero G is extremely challenging)

Enables:

More accurate model correlation/predictive modeling; reduced mass through better understanding of system margins

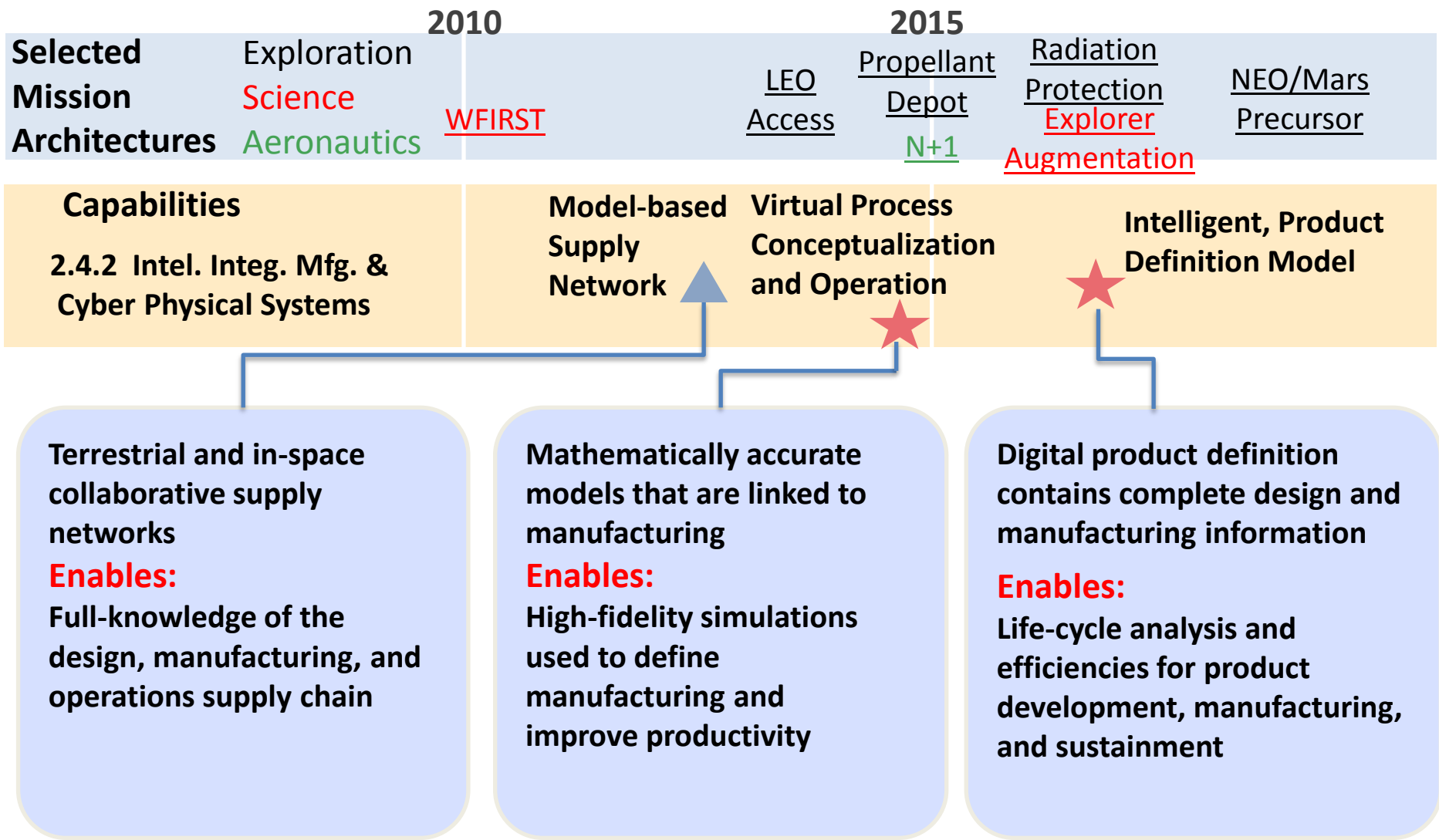
Overcome gearing and reliability problems of current actuators and controllers. Making controllers “bus addressable”

Enables:

Deep space missions due to higher reliability/efficiency simplified control, reduced weight/complexity of geared systems and actuators

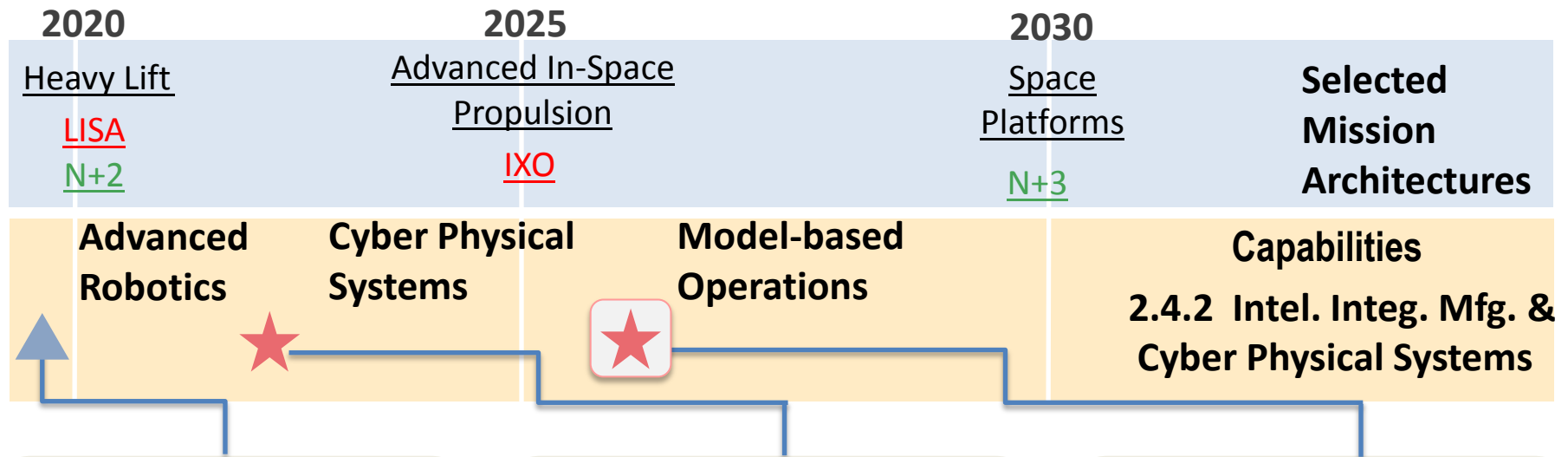
NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

WBS 2.4.2 Intel. Integ. Mfg. & Cyber Physical Systems



NASA Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

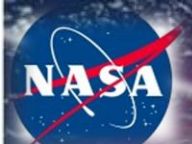
WBS 2.4.2 Intel. Integ. Mfg. & Cyber Physical Systems (cont.)



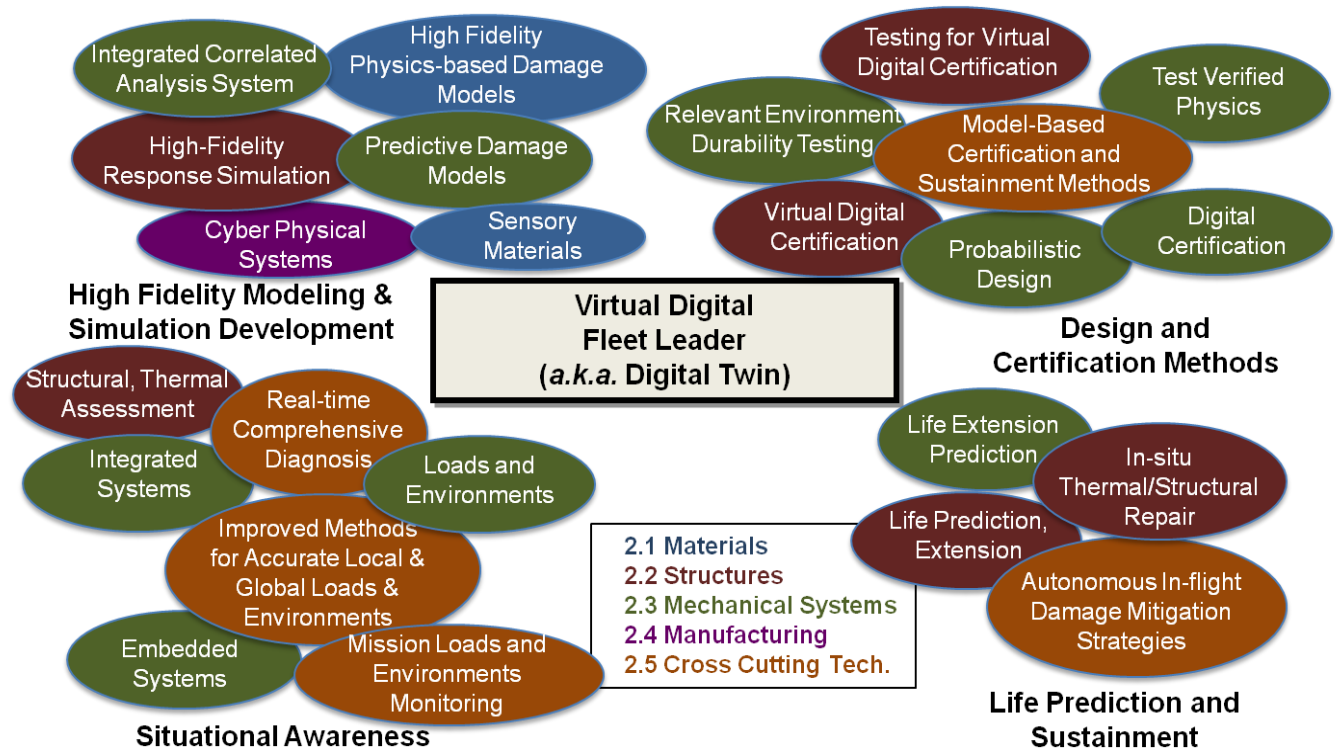
Next generation of robotics and automation for manufacturing
Enables:
 Automated operations capable of intelligent actions and responses

Highly advanced coordination between the system's computational and physical elements
Enables:
 New manufacturing capability, systems and facilities operated for optimum availability and performance

Integrates factory, process, reliability and equipment models
Enables:
 Virtual design, checkout, and optimization of processes and physical operations



Virtual Digital Fleet Leader (VDFL) – Advanced Technology for Cost Effective, Reliable & Safe Space Travel

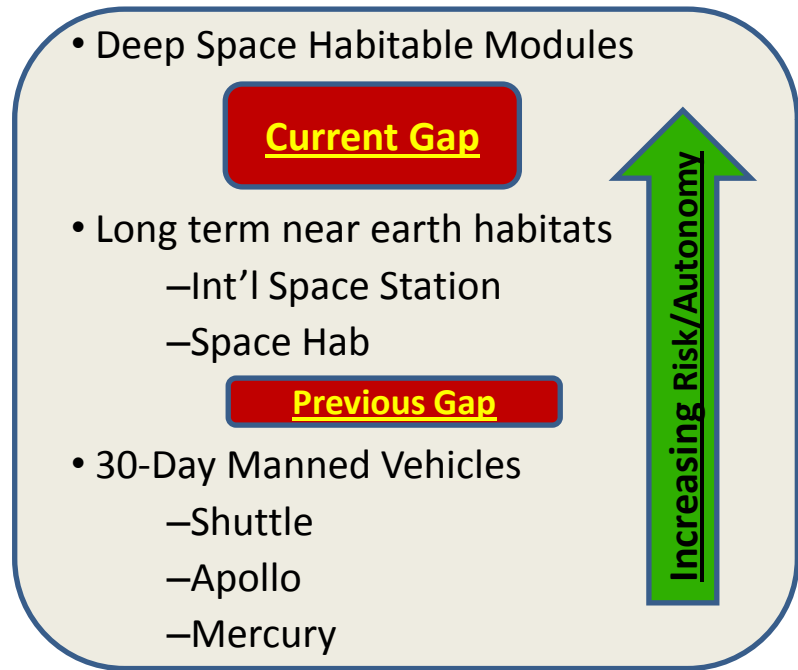


- Real-time-mission-life virtual construct of system
- Continuous monitoring provides model updates for high-fidelity, multi-physics, multi-scale system simulation
- Comprehensive diagnostic and prognostic capabilities for system health, life, and probability of mission success



Why Virtual Digital Fleet Leader (VDFL)

- Extended duration deep space travel requires a shift away from “low-earth-orbit strategies” (safe haven, resupply, replace, etc.)
- VDFL is a suite of technologies that focus on certification of physics-based models to enable lower cost, higher reliability, long life structures/systems with reuse & autonomous life assessment/update, etc. (i.e. hardware designed to 3- σ conditions that sustain a nominal launch could then be reassessed *in situ* for longer life)
- This synergistic approach will spin off critical technologies (NASA and National)
 - Health monitoring, probabilistic design/assessment, life prediction/extension, self-healing, sustainment, *in situ* repair/mfg, computational materials design, etc.

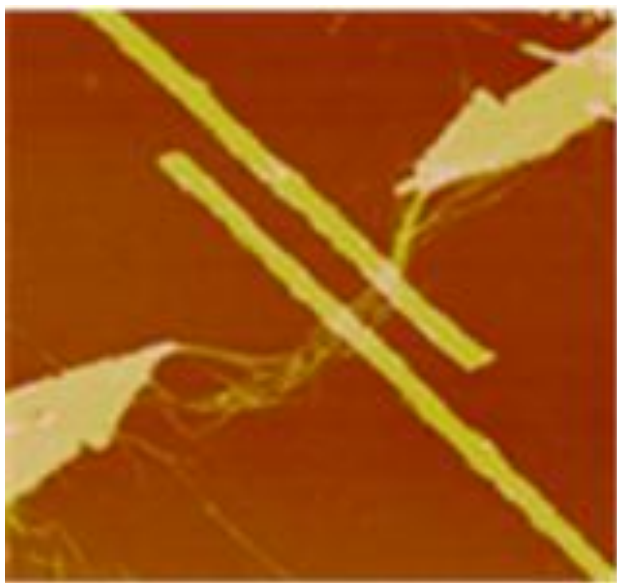




Top Technical Challenges

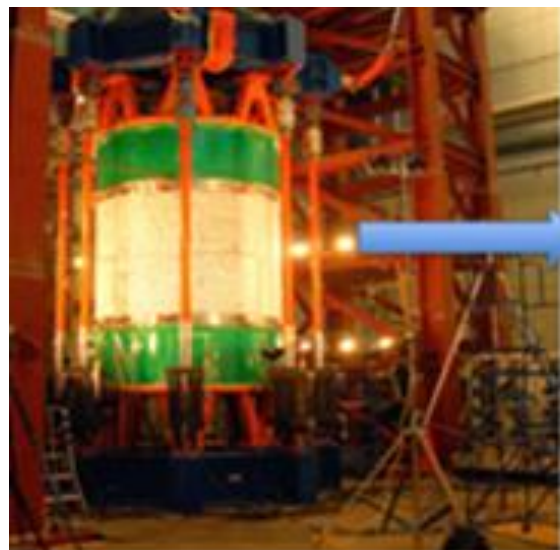
Overall Top Challenges

1. **Radiation protection** (multifunctional materials & design and unique manufacturing)
2. **Reliability** (Cross Cutting)
 - a. Physics-based performance modeling (understanding damage/failure modes)
 - b. Advanced certification methods (design, materials, manufacturing)
 - c. Sustainment (environment and health monitoring, repair)

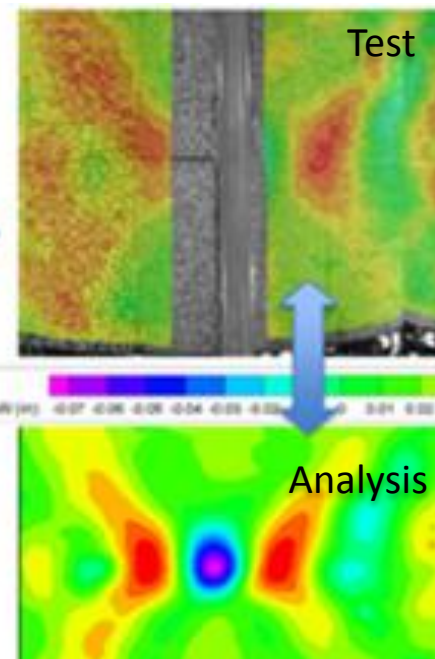


Photonic fiber loaded with fluorescent material for radiation detection

January 27, 2011



Cylinder compression test



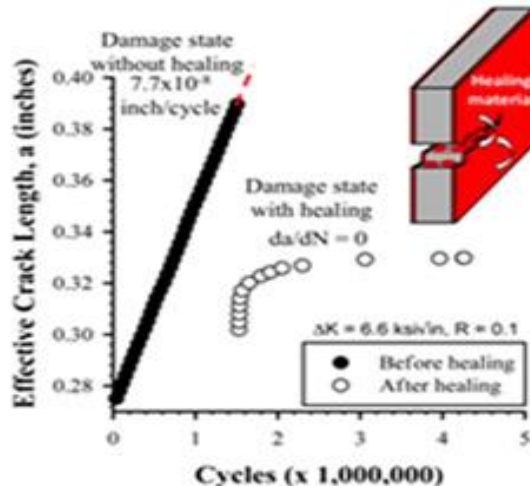
High-fidelity analysis of non-linear shell buckling and verification with full-field test data



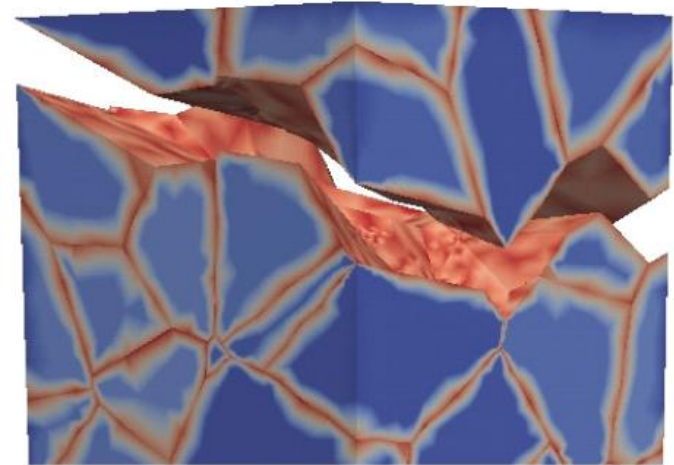
Top Technical Challenges

Materials

1. **New tailored materials** developed and utilized for specific applications (laminate, extreme environment, healing, sensory, MMOD, etc.)
2. **Computational materials technologies** matured for effective low cost materials design and physics-based certification / sustainment methods



In-situ Healing Coating for Ti Alloys



Simulation of microstructurally small crack growth in an aluminum alloy



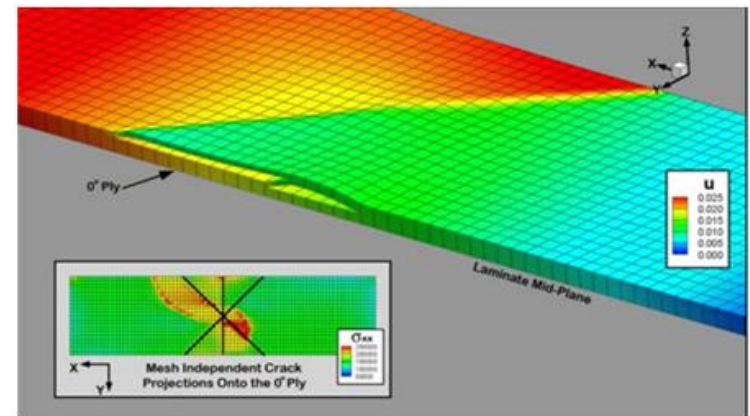
Top Technical Challenges

Structures

1. **Robust lightweight structures** developed and utilized that are **multifunctional** (e.g. thermal, expandable, protective - radiation and MMOD)
2. **Virtual digital fleet leader** develop first-of-a-kind real-time reliability and physics-based methodologies



Predictive damage methods for laminated composites



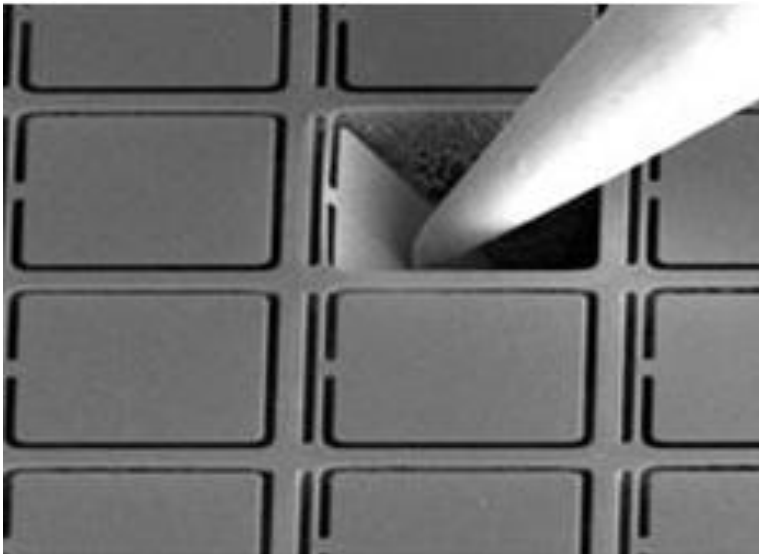
Shape-morphing structures provide variable geometry aerodynamic surfaces



Top Technical Challenges

Mechanical Systems

1. **Highly reliable** (predictable performance) mechanical systems for extreme environments
2. **Precision deployable** mechanisms for large space structures



JWST microshutter (micromechanism)



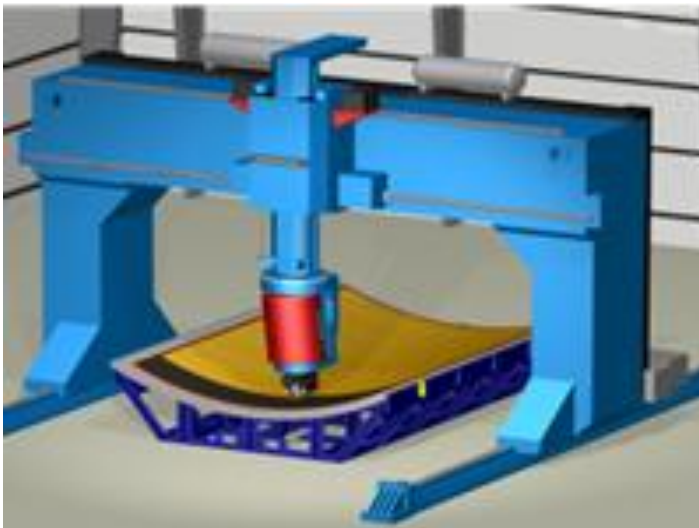
Large deployable mesh antenna



Top Technical Challenges

Manufacturing

1. **Advanced manufacturing process technology** fundamentally changes how products are invented and manufactured
2. **Sustainable manufacturing** transforms manufacturing of products to minimize negative environmental and economic impacts



Virtual process manufacturing concepts

January 27, 2011



In-space assembly, inspection and repair



Top Technical Challenges

National Challenges Addressed

- 1. **Restore and improve urban infrastructure** (NAE) – Sustainment methodology (self healing, sensory, structural health management, hydrogen containment, etc.)
- 2. **Make solar energy economical** (NAE) – new materials
- 3. **“Building a Smarter Planet”** IBM in the NY Times (biggest leap in business, science and society for the next decade is the use of data) - Practical applications of virtual methods for MSMM multi-disciplinary life-cycle



January 27, 2011



Benefits to Other National Needs

- **Development and operation of efficient civil and military aircraft**
 - Incorporate new materials with quantified reliability
 - Streamlined development and certification through physics-based modeling
 - Knowledge-based maintenance for reducing costs while maintaining safety
- **Quantified methodologies for aging US infrastructure (e.g., bridges, dams, buildings)**
- **Improved efficiency (i.e., energy use, life, etc.) and safety in transportation sector (e.g., lightweight structures, self-healing materials, low-wear mechanisms)**
- **Broadened manufacturing base and faster product improvement through cyber-physical approaches (e.g., direct CAD-driven part fabrication)**



Interdependency with Other TAs

Roadmap TA Interactions with Materials, Structures, Mechanicals Systems & Manufacturing	
Technology Area (TA)	Technical Areas Requiring Interactions
TA1 Launch Propulsion Sys.	Propellant, case, insulation, nozzle, and engine materials
TA2 In-Space Propulsion Sys.	High Temperature Materials, Structures and Circuits
TA3 Space Power and Energy Storage Sys.	Solar arrays (Mech. Sys.), materials*, manufacturing*
TA4 Robotics, Tele-robotics, and Auto Sys.	Rendezvous/capture, docking, health monitoring, etc. (Mech. Sys), Materials*, Manufacturing*
TA5 Communication and Navigation Systems	Bandwidth for Health Monitoring/Test correlation
TA6 Human Health, Life Support and Hab. Sys.	Radiation shielding/protection
TA7 Human Exploration Destination Sys.	In-space manufacturing assembly and repair*
TA8 Scientific Instruments, Observatories and Sensor Sys.	Optics manufacturing, large precision structures
TA9 Entry, Descent, and Landing Sys.	Pyros. and deployable descent mechanisms, deployable landing mechanisms, high temp. structures (re-entry), structural response/attenuation (landing)
TA10 Nanotechnology	Computational materials design, structure needs, manufacturing*
TA11 Modeling, Sim., Info., Tech. and Processing	Model/Test Correlation, Vehicle Certification
TA13 Ground and Launch Processing	Environmental technologies, modeling to support design and operations, Integrated vehicle health mgmt, composite system repair
TA14 Thermal Management Sys.	Insulation and TPS materials, environmental effects on materials, TPS, and hot structures, novel thermal control sys. (e.g., flexible shields and radiators), thermal-structural dimension control

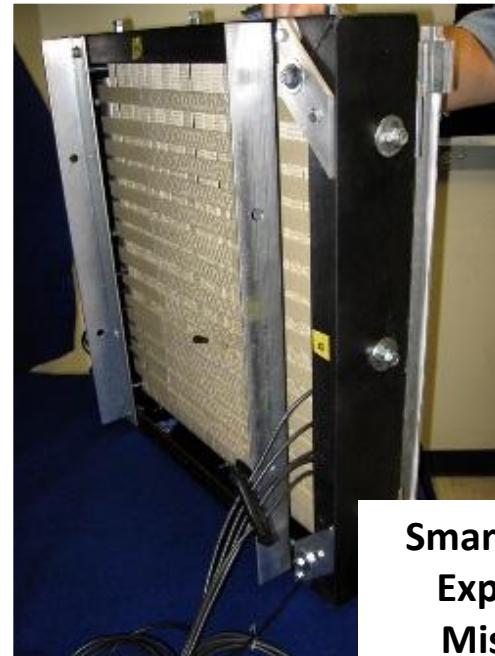
* Denotes broad areas of interdependencies



Summary

- **TA 12 technologies enable future human/science space exploration**
- **Roadmap includes 23 critical Agency capabilities focused on innovations and game changing inventions or technologies**
- **The roadmap addresses mission architecture timing – “pulls” and important technology needs, “push” not addressed by the missions**
- **Roadmap technologies are aligned with NASA’s strategic objectives and other National needs**
- **The Roadmap identifies/addresses top overall NASA technical challenges**
 - **Radiation protection**
 - **Reliability (Cross Cutting)**

Hypervelocity Impact



**Smart MMOD Shielding
Exploration Systems
Mission Directorate**



BACK UP CHARTS



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

Selected Mission Architectures - Aeronautics

NASA's Subsonic Transport System Level Metrics

<u>CORNERS OF THE TRADE SPACE</u>	<u>N+1 = 2015***</u> <u>Technology Benefits Relative To a Single Aisle Reference Configuration</u>	<u>N+2 = 2020***</u> <u>Technology Benefits Relative To a Large Twin Aisle Reference Configuration</u>	<u>N+3 = 2025***</u> <u>Technology Benefits</u>
<u>Noise (cum below Stage 4)</u>	<u>-32 dB</u>	<u>-42 dB</u>	<u>-71 dB</u>
<u>LTO NO_x Emissions (below CAEP 6)</u>	<u>-60%</u>	<u>-75%</u>	<u>better than -75%</u>
<u>Performance: Aircraft Fuel Burn</u>	<u>-33%</u>	<u>-50%**</u>	<u>better than -70%</u>
<u>Performance: Field Length</u>	<u>-33%</u>	<u>-50%</u>	<u>exploit metro-plex* concepts</u>

*****Technology Readiness Level for key technologies = 4-6. ERA will undertake a time phased approach, TRL 6 by 2015 for “long-pole” technologies**

**** RECENTLY UPDATED. Additional gains may be possible through operational improvements**

*** Concepts that enable optimal use of runways at multiple airports within the metropolitan area**



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

Selected Mission Architectures - Space

NASA's Space Missions

LEO Access	LEO Missions	Cargo and Crew Transportation to LEO and the International Space Station (ISS) .
Propellant Depot	In space or on-orbit propellant depot	An on-orbit propellant depot allows spacecraft to be fueled in space. The depots are likely to be placed in LEO, at the Lagrange points or in Mars orbit.
Radiation Protection	Space Radiation Protection to achieve human exploration objectives	The primary radiation sources in outer space are the galactic cosmic rays (GCR), and the solar particle events (SPE). Research and develop advanced materials and design concepts for improved radiation shielding for future exploration missions to Mars.
NEO/Mars Precursor	Exploration Precursor Robotic Missions	Exploration Precursor Robotic Program and Exploration Scout: Two Elements of ESMD's Preparation to Explore Near Earth Objects. Mars Orbiter/Mars Lander.
Heavy Lift Vehicle	Broad HLV vehicle architecture and propulsion tradespace	Research and development required for a Heavy Lift System required to conduct human space exploration activities.
Advanced In-Space Propulsion	Advanced in-space propulsion technologies	In-space propulsion begins where the launch vehicle upper stage leaves off, performing the functions of primary propulsion, reaction control, station keeping, precision pointing, and orbital maneuvering.
Space Platforms	Human space Platforms	A series of human-rated 'platforms' that could be outfitted for different missions to enable deep space missions.



Technology Area Strategic Roadmap

Selected Mission Architectures - Science

NASA's Science Missions

WFIRST	Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope	An observatory designed to settle questions in both exoplanet and dark energy research, and which will advance topics ranging from galaxy evolution to the study of objects within our own galaxy
Explorer Program Augmentation	The Explorer Program	Augmenting a program that delivers a high level of scientific return on relatively moderate investment and that provides the capability to respond rapidly to new scientific and technical breakthroughs
LISA	Laser Interferometer Space Antenna	A low frequency gravitational wave observatory that will open an entirely new window on the cosmos by measuring ripples in space-time caused by many new sources, including many nearby white-dwarf stars, and will probe the nature of black holes
IXO	International X-ray Observatory	A powerful X-ray telescope that will transform our understanding of hot gas associated with stars and galaxies in all evolutionary stages