



Water Processing for Space Exploration

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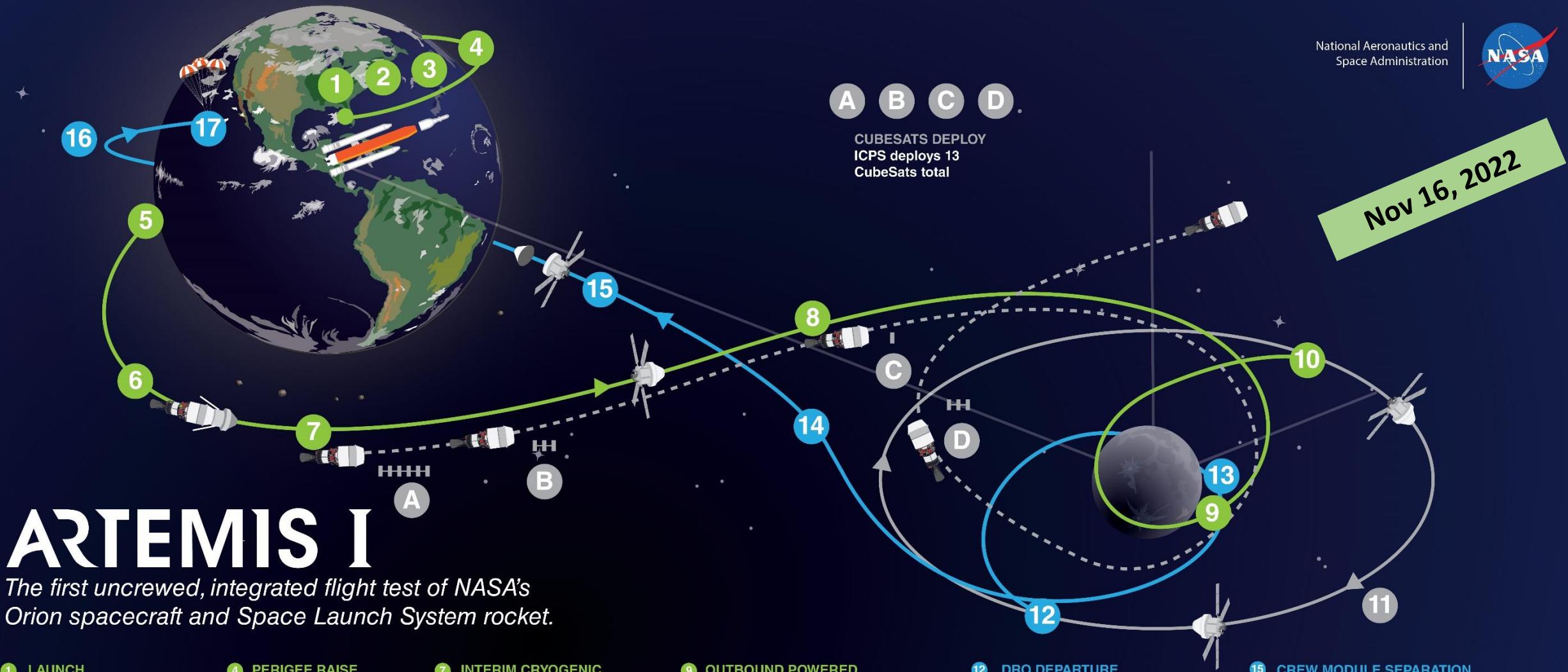
The Artemis Program

Artemis is the twin sister of Apollo and goddess of the Moon in Greek mythology. Now, she personifies our path to the Moon as the name of NASA's program to return astronauts to the lunar surface.

When they land, Artemis astronauts will step foot where no human has ever been before: the Moon's South Pole.

With the horizon goal of sending humans to Mars, Artemis begins the next era of exploration.





1 LAUNCH
SLS and Orion lift off from pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center.

4 PERIGEE RAISE MANEUVER

2 JETTISON ROCKET BOOSTERS, FAIRINGS, AND LAUNCH ABORT SYSTEM

5 EARTH ORBIT
Systems check with solar panel adjustments.

3 CORE STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF
With separation.

6 TRANS LUNAR INJECTION (TLI) BURN
Maneuver lasts for approximately 20 minutes.

7 INTERIM CRYOGENIC PROPULSION STAGE (ICPS) SEPARATION AND DISPOSAL
The ICPS has committed Orion to TLI.

8 OUTBOUND TRAJECTORY CORRECTION (OTC) BURNS
As necessary adjust trajectory for lunar flyby to Distant Retrograde Orbit (DRO).

9 OUTBOUND POWERED FLYBY (OPF)
60 nmi from the Moon; targets DRO insertion.

10 LUNAR ORBIT INSERTION
Enter Distant Retrograde Orbit for next 6-23 days.

11 DISTANT RETROGRADE ORBIT
Perform half or one and a half revolutions in the 12 day orbit period 38,000 nmi from the surface of the Moon.

12 DRO DEPARTURE
Leave DRO and start return to Earth.

13 RETURN POWER FLY-BY (RPF)
RPF burn prep and return coast to Earth initiated.

14 RETURN TRANSIT
Return Trajectory Correction (RTC) burns as necessary to aim for Earth's atmosphere; travel time 5-11 days.

15 CREW MODULE SEPARATION FROM SERVICE MODULE

16 ENTRY INTERFACE (EI)
Enter Earth's atmosphere.

17 SPLASHDOWN
3/1/2021
Pacific Ocean landing within view of the U.S. Navy recovery ship.

April 2026



1 LAUNCH
Astronauts lift off from pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center.

2 JETTISON ROCKET BOOSTERS, FAIRINGS, AND LAUNCH ABORT SYSTEM

3 CORE STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF
With separation.

4 PERIGEE RAISE MANEUVER

5 APOGEE RAISE BURN TO HIGH EARTH ORBIT
Begin 42 hour checkout of spacecraft.

6 PROX OPS DEMONSTRATION

Orion proximity operations demonstration and manual handling qualities assessment for up to 2 hours.

7 INTERIM CRYOGENIC PROPULSION STAGE (ICPS) DISPOSAL BURN

8 HIGH EARTH ORBIT CHECKOUT
Life support, exercise, and habitation equipment evaluations.

9 TRANS-LUNAR INJECTION (TLI) BY ORION'S MAIN ENGINE

10 OUTBOUND TRANSIT TO MOON
4 days outbound transit along free return trajectory.

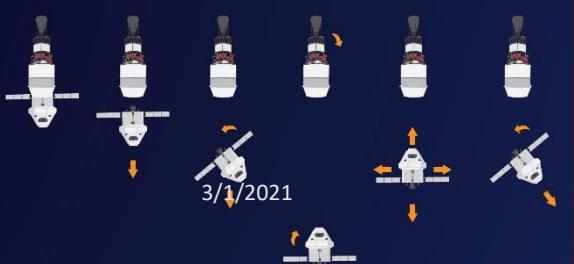
11 LUNAR FLYBY
4,000 nmi (mean) lunar farside altitude.

12 CREW MODULE SEPARATION FROM SERVICE MODULE

13 ENTRY INTERFACE (EI)
Enter Earth's atmosphere.

14 SPLASHDOWN
Astronaut and capsule recovery by U.S. Navy ship.

PROXIMITY OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATION SEQUENCE



Mid 2027

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

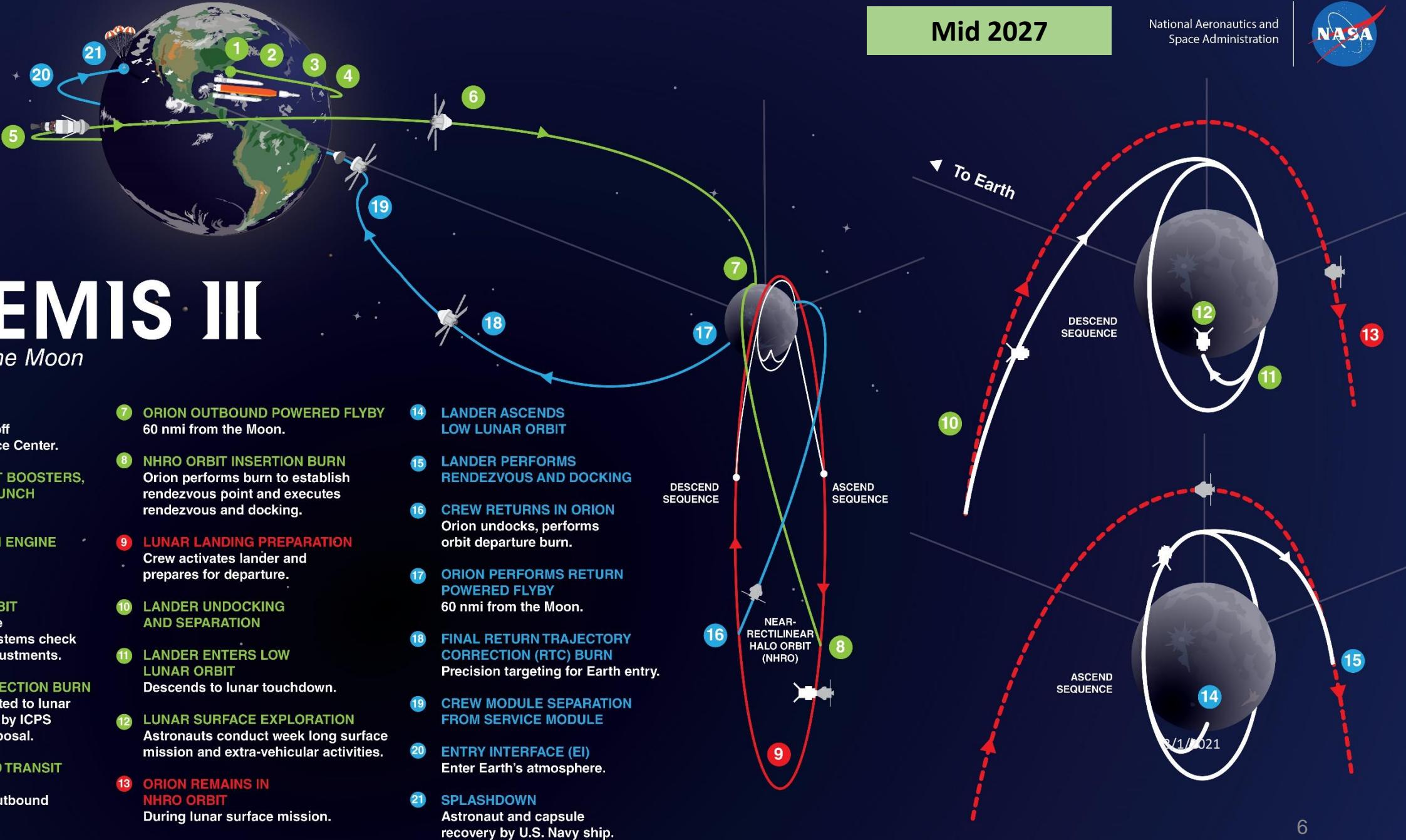


ARTEMIS III

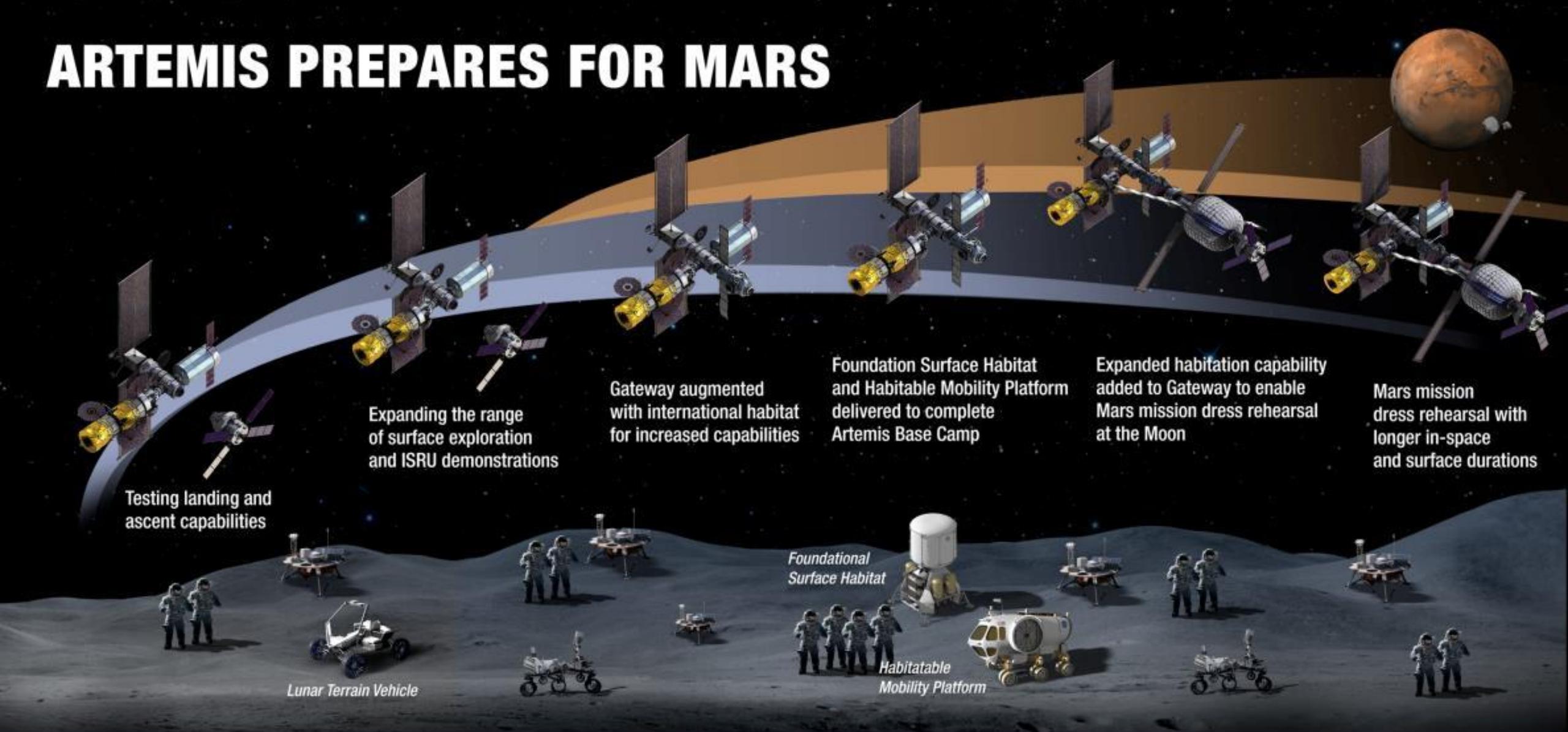
Landing on the Moon

- 1 **LAUNCH**
SLS and Orion lift off from Kennedy Space Center.
- 2 **JETTISON ROCKET BOOSTERS, FAIRINGS, AND LAUNCH ABORT SYSTEM**
- 3 **CORE STAGE MAIN ENGINE CUT OFF**
With separation.
- 4 **ENTER EARTH ORBIT**
Perform the perigee raise maneuver. Systems check and solar panel adjustments.
- 5 **TRANS LUNAR INJECTION BURN**
Astronauts committed to lunar trajectory, followed by ICPS separation and disposal.
- 6 **ORION OUTBOUND TRANSIT TO MOON**
Requires several outbound trajectory burns.

- 7 **ORION OUTBOUND POWERED FLYBY**
60 nmi from the Moon.
- 8 **NHRO ORBIT INSERTION BURN**
Orion performs burn to establish rendezvous point and executes rendezvous and docking.
- 9 **LUNAR LANDING PREPARATION**
Crew activates lander and prepares for departure.
- 10 **LANDER UNDOCKING AND SEPARATION**
- 11 **LANDER ENTERS LOW LUNAR ORBIT**
Descends to lunar touchdown.
- 12 **LUNAR SURFACE EXPLORATION**
Astronauts conduct week long surface mission and extra-vehicular activities.
- 13 **ORION REMAINS IN NHRO ORBIT**
During lunar surface mission.
- 14 **LANDER ASCENDS LOW LUNAR ORBIT**
- 15 **LANDER PERFORMS RENDEZVOUS AND DOCKING**
- 16 **CREW RETURNS IN ORION**
Orion undocks, performs orbit departure burn.
- 17 **ORION PERFORMS RETURN POWERED FLYBY**
60 nmi from the Moon.
- 18 **FINAL RETURN TRAJECTORY CORRECTION (RTC) BURN**
Precision targeting for Earth entry.
- 19 **CREW MODULE SEPARATION FROM SERVICE MODULE**
- 20 **ENTRY INTERFACE (EI)**
Enter Earth's atmosphere.
- 21 **SPLASHDOWN**
Astronaut and capsule recovery by U.S. Navy ship.



ARTEMIS PREPARES FOR MARS



SUSTAINABLE LUNAR ORBIT STAGING CAPABILITY AND SURFACE EXPLORATION

MULTIPLE SCIENCE AND CARGO PAYLOADS | INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES | TECHNOLOGY AND OPERATIONS DEMONSTRATIONS FOR MARS

Mission Needs Drive Design

LOW EARTH RETURN

3 HOURS

3,000°F

17,500 MPH

250 MILES



LUNAR RETURN

3 DAYS

5,200°F

24,700 MPH

240,000 MILES



MARS RETURN

9 MONTHS

6,200°F

26,800 MPH

39,000,000 MILES



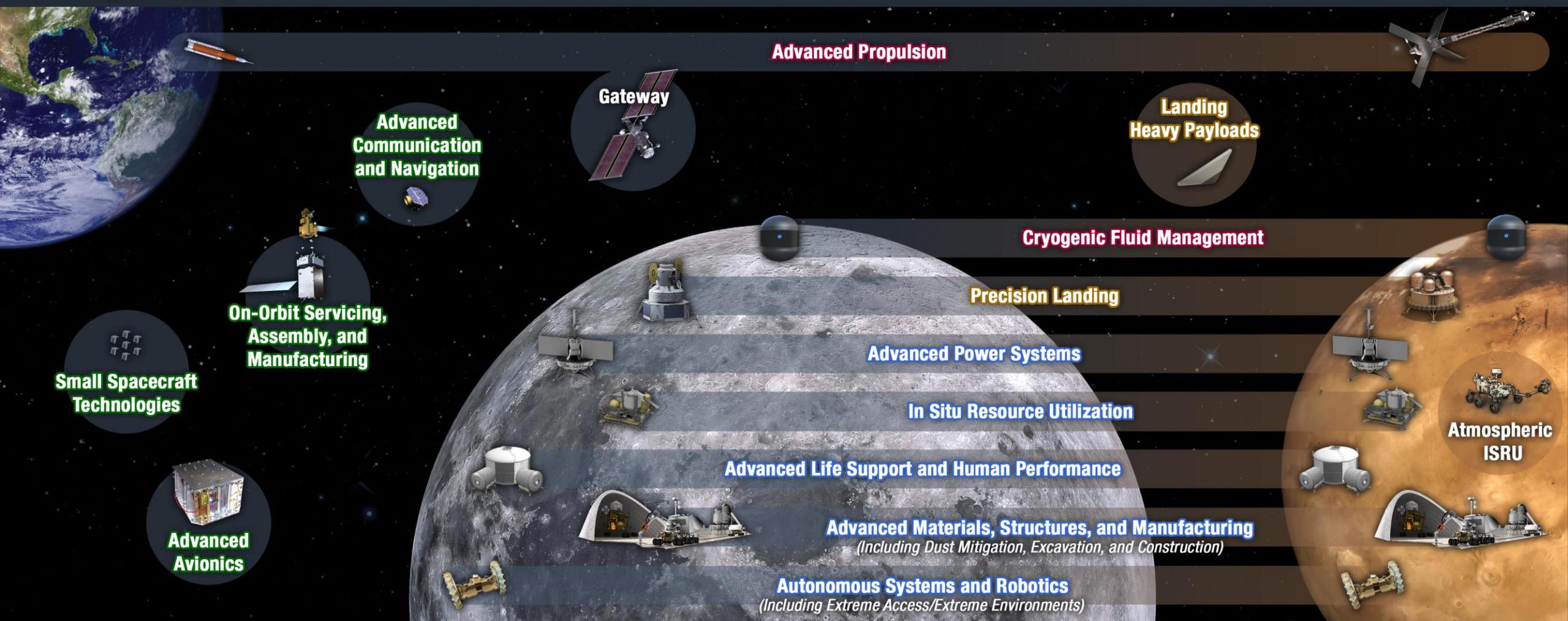
TECHNOLOGY DRIVES EXPLORATION

Rapid, Safe, and Efficient
Space Transportation

Expanded Access to Diverse
Surface Destinations

Sustainable Living and Working
Farther from Earth

Transformative Missions
and Discoveries

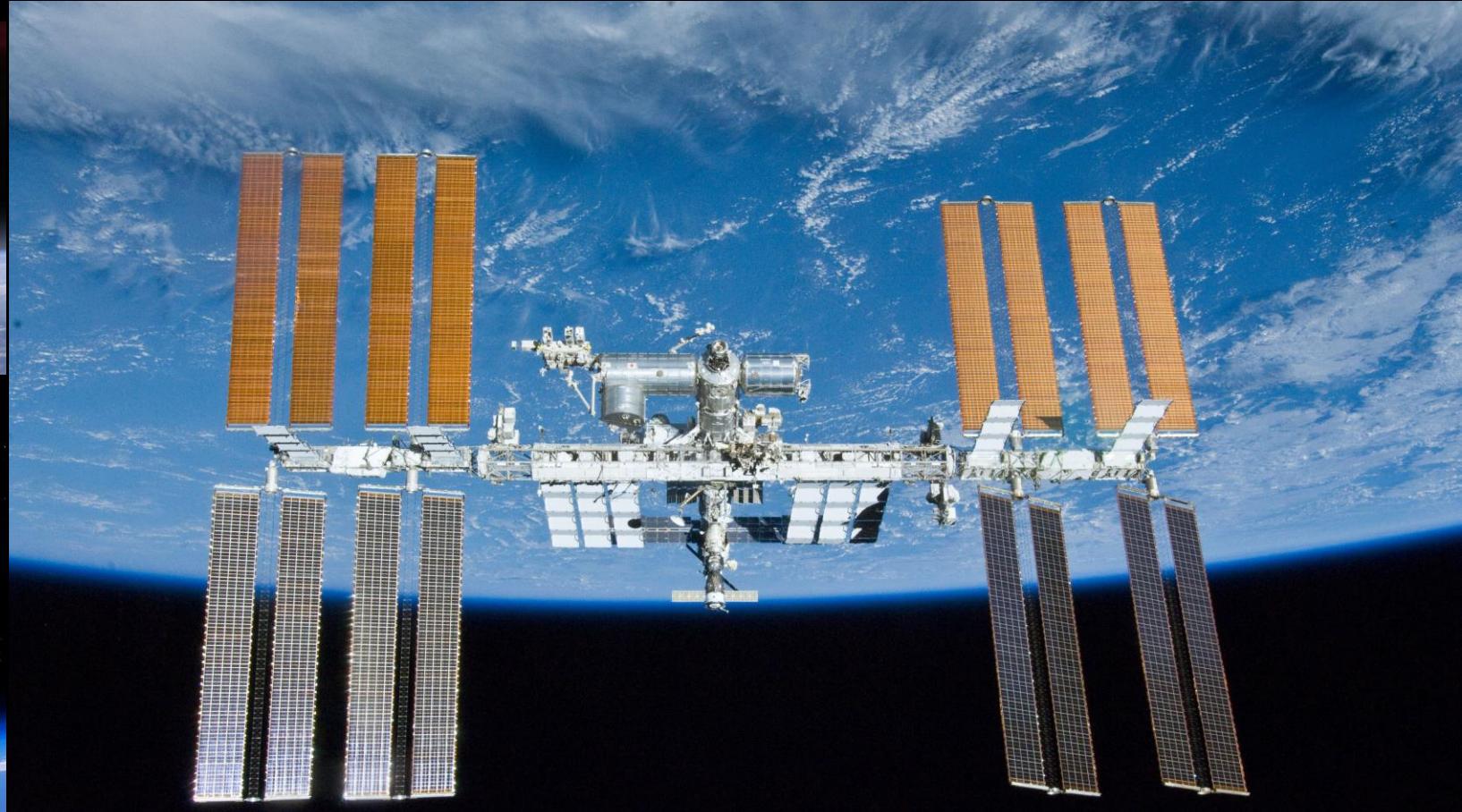


2020

GO | LAND | LIVE | EXPLORE

203X

Physical/Chemical Water Processing for ISS and Crew



Simple. Short Duration. Easy Resupply.
Focus: Water recovery

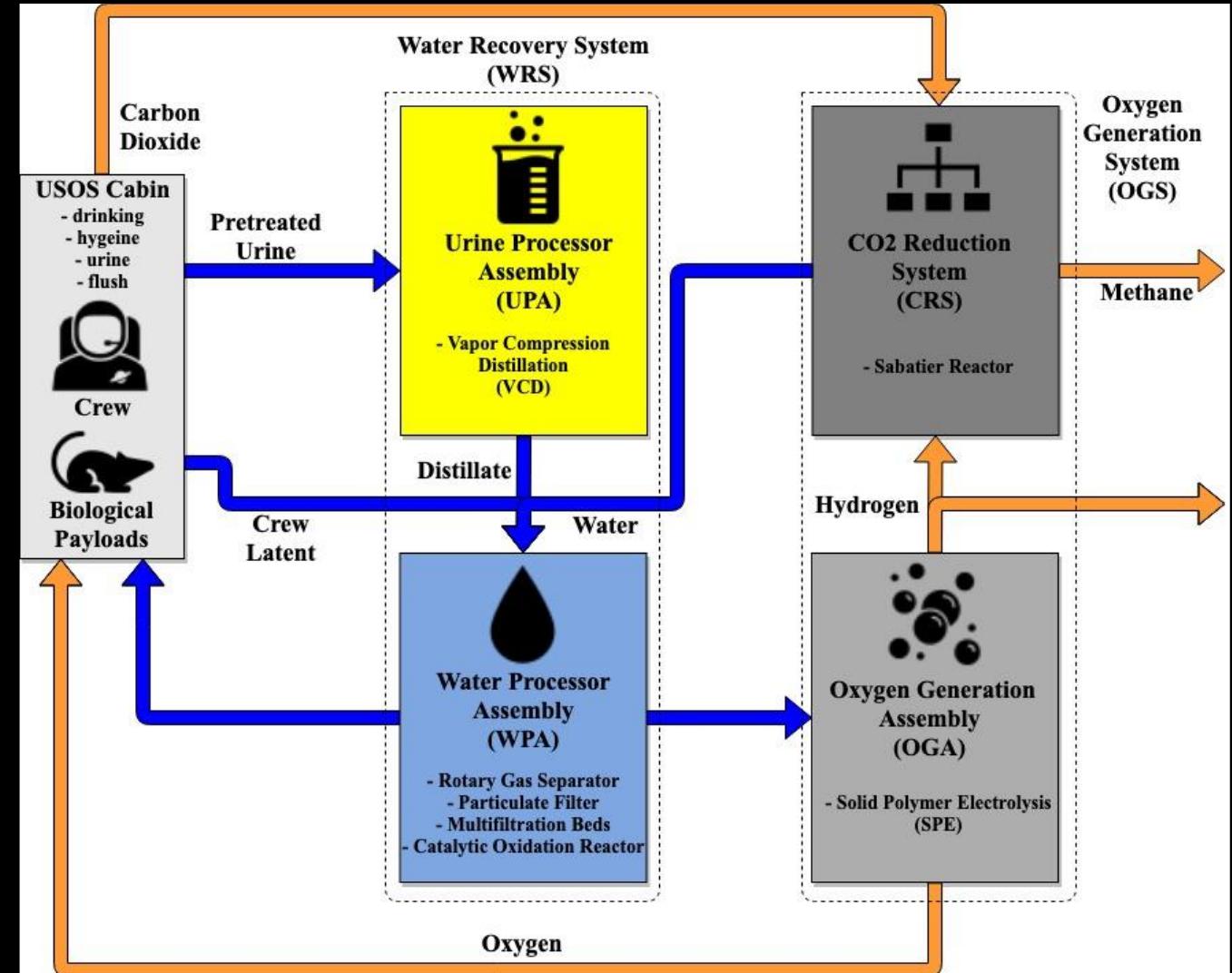
ISS Water Processing

Water Recovery System (WRS)

Urine Processor Assembly (UPA)

Brine Processor Assembly (BPA)

Water Processor Assembly (WPA)





ISS Water

- 2-3 missions per year resupply the ISS with the pretreat solution
- All flight hardware is sterilized with a silver water biocidal solution prior to pretreat tank/hose filling
- Additional flight hardware is filled with a higher concentration silver water solution to maintain sterility until hardware is utilized on orbit

Pretreat Tanks

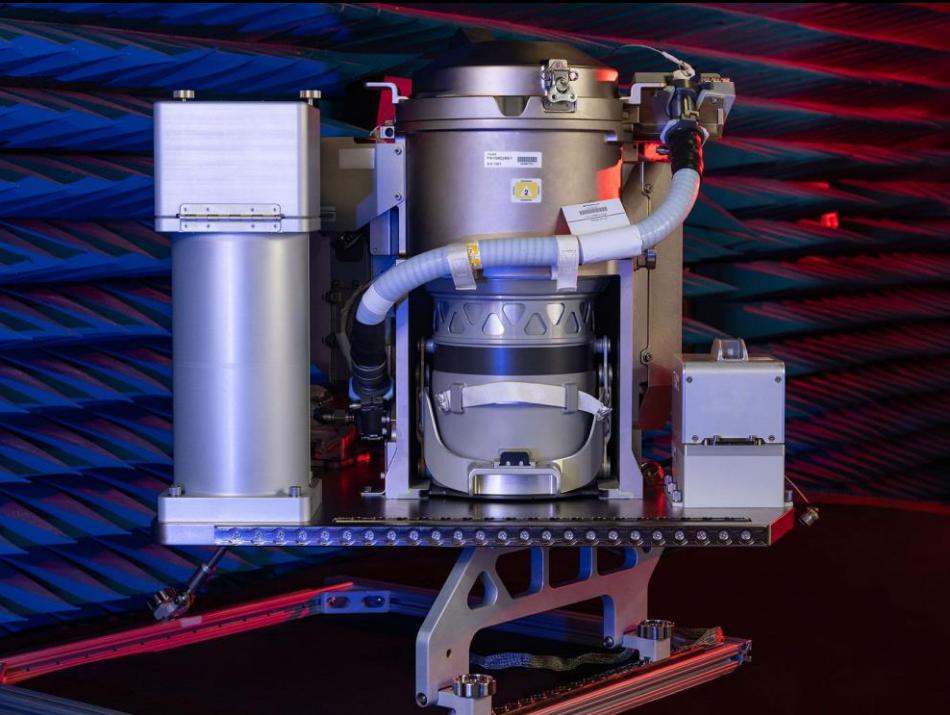


- NASA has developed an alternate urine pretreatment formula for use in the Waste and Hygiene Compartment. The new formula uses phosphoric acid, rather than the sulfuric acid that was previously used in both the Russian and US Segments.
- Switching to phosphoric acid allows NASA's Urine Processor Assembly (UPA) to increase the amount of water recovered from 75% to over 85% by volume, which greatly reduces the amount of water that needs to be resupplied to the International Space Station (ISS).
- Pictured are the tanks that house the pretreatment solution.

ISS Solid Waste Processing

Solid waste is collected using **single-use bags**, stored, followed by jettison offboard to burn up on reentry or returned to Earth for testing.

To store the fecal waste of a crew of 4 for a 1000-day mission (30 months) it will require 400 fecal canisters



For long duration missions to the Moon and Mars:

- Can't abandon trash
- Can't ship back to Earth
- Storing and processing hazardous waste is risky
- Or...Continuously process and treat

Food Production

Sustainable technologies: Veggie/APH at TRL 9 aboard ISS; OHALO TRL 2-3
Cultivation resources (fertilizer, water, seeds) currently depend on resupply



**Issues: Systems designed for food studies, not food production.
Size/Volume constraints limit types of food. Only crops.**

Current Physical/Chemical Architecture for ISS

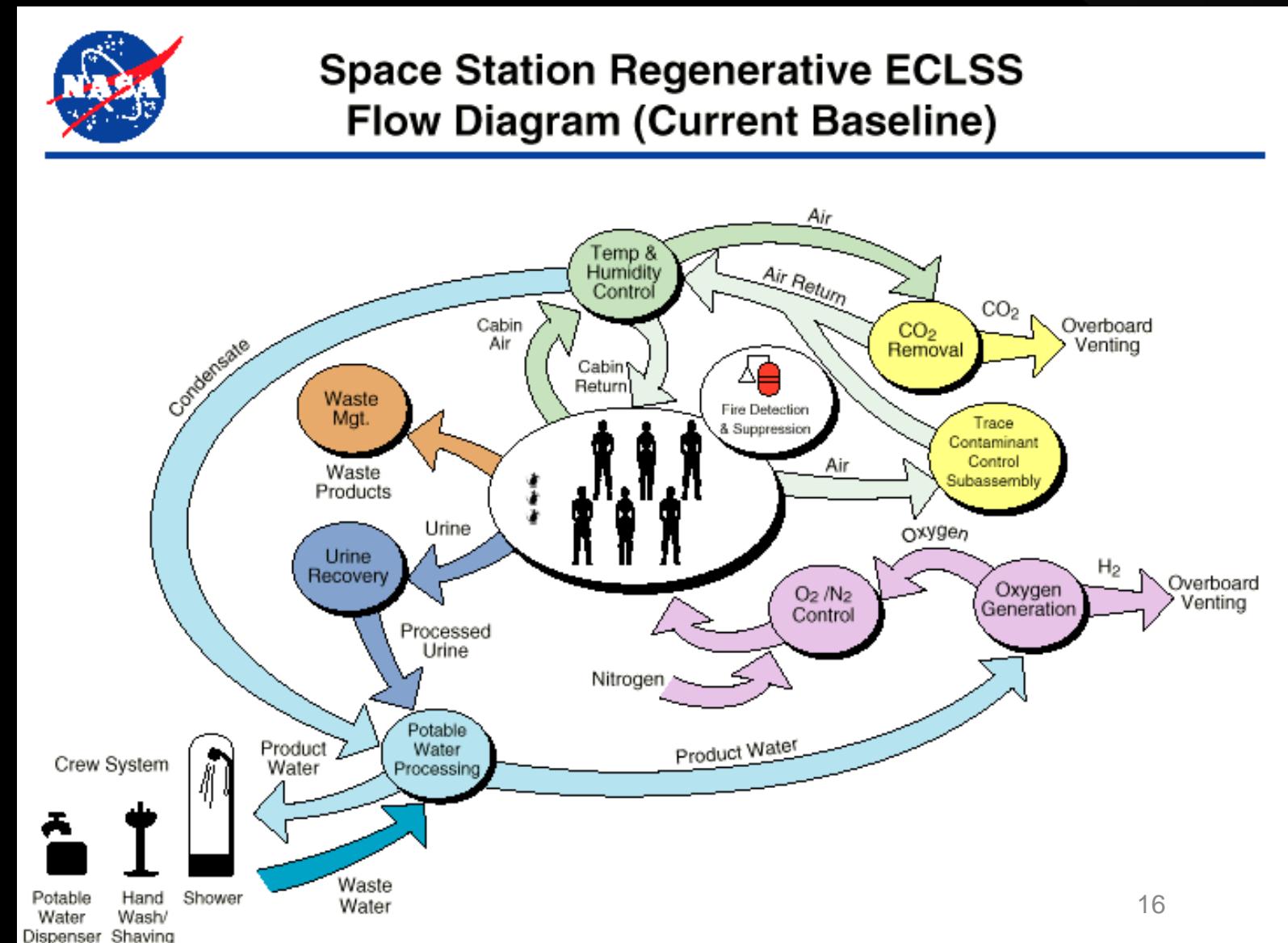


NASA's current "ECLSS Flow" doesn't include half of the operations and inputs/outputs of the real system!

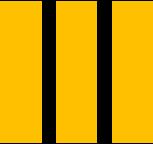
There are NO human inputs into the system that are regenerative aside from O2. Meaning the system ISN'T regenerative.

ALL food, water, air (nitrogen) MUST be brought or resupplied.

Waste is use as a VERY generic catch-all to include metal, plastic, fecal, menstrual/blood, hazmat. Where does that really go? Overboard ISS isn't possible on the Moon or Mars...

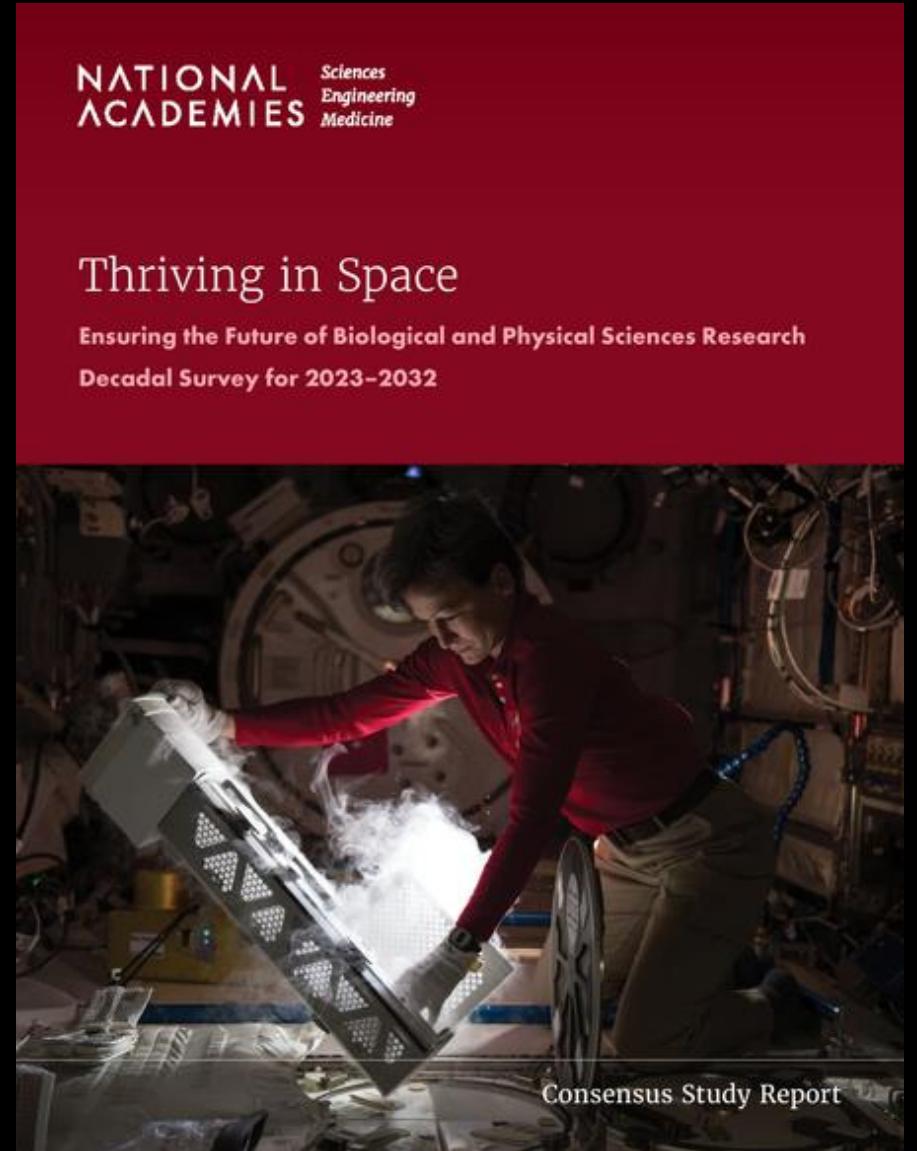


2023 NASA DECadal SURVEY



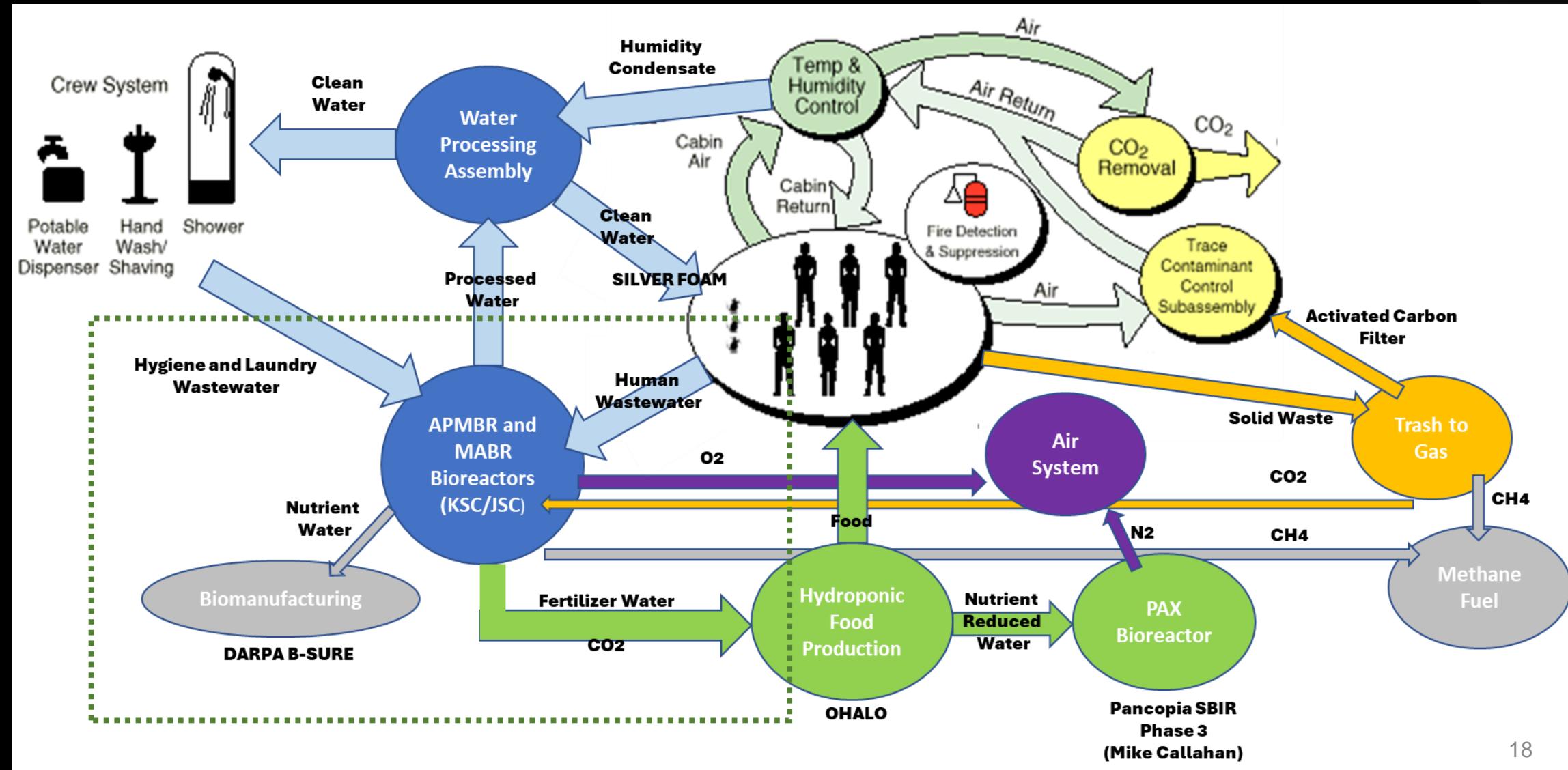
This report identifies key scientific questions, priorities, and ambitious research campaigns that will enable human space exploration and transform our understanding of how the universe works.

Report recommends NASA focus more on Bioregenerative Life Support Systems (BLiSS) and Manufacturing in space – specifically biomanufacturing.

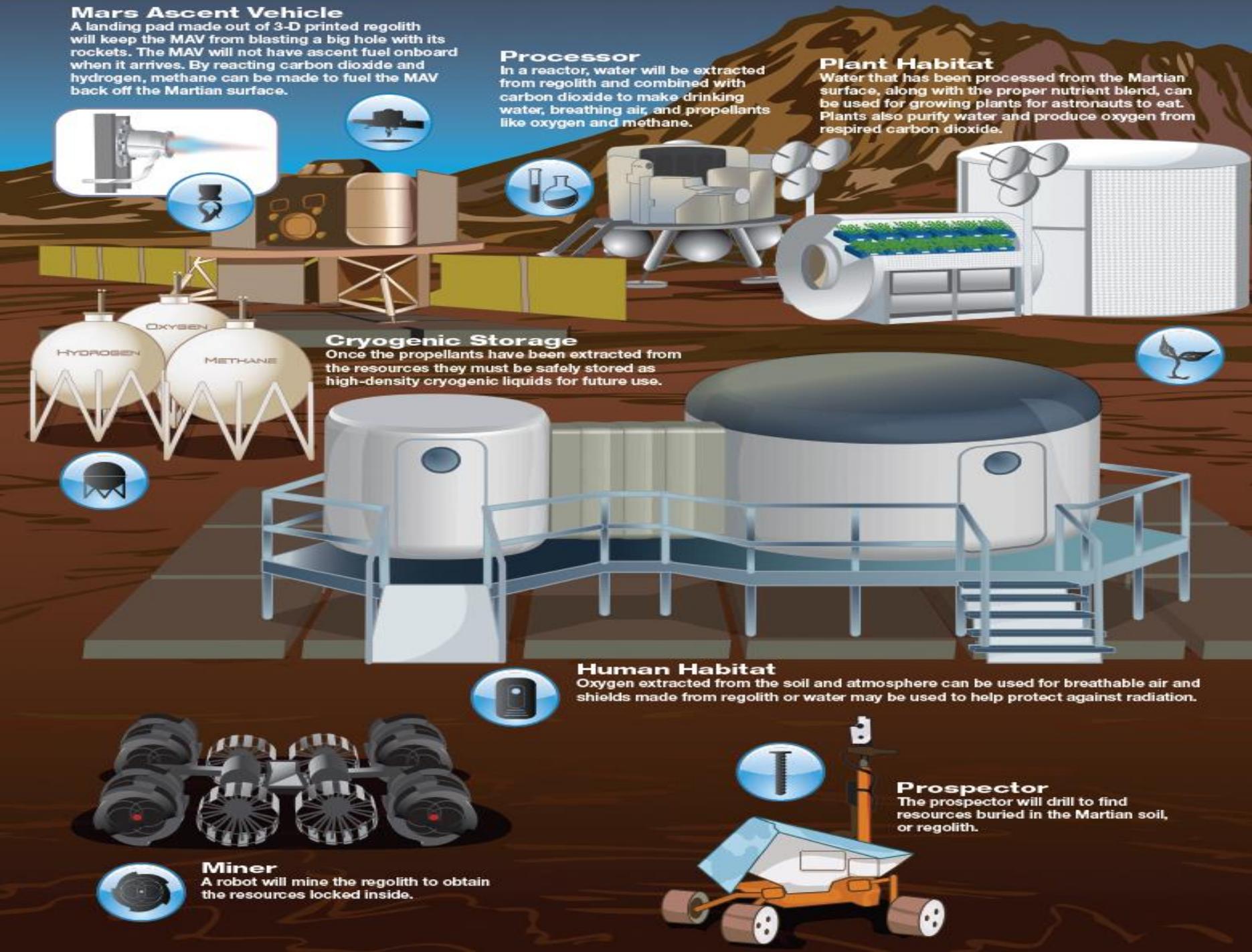


<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/26750/thriving-in-space-ensuring-the-future-of-biological-and-physical>

Proposed BLiSS Architecture for Partial Gravity Habitats



NASA Surface Systems



2024 NASA Technology Taxonomy (TX)

BLiSS Driven Challenges

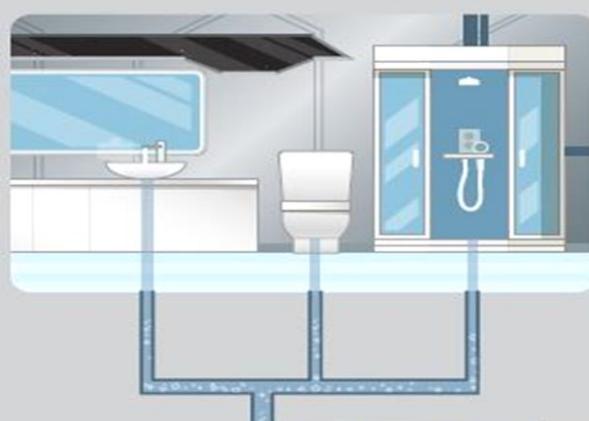
	Goals	Challenges
TX 6.1.2 Water Recovery and Management	Increase re-useable water recovered from sources	Production of water with minimal expendables and maintenance Tolerance to dormancy Recovery of water from complex mixture of inorganic and organic sources
TX 6.1.3 Waste Management	Enable the utilization of solid and liquid metabolic wastes and trash	Effective separation and treatment of metabolic liquid and solid waste
TX 6.3.5 Food Production, Processing, and Preservation	Reduce food resupply requirement	Sustainable food growth , processing, and preparation

WATER: SUSTAINING LIFE ON THE MOON

Sustainably exploring the Moon will require a safe habitat for the crew. To stay on the Moon, new technology is needed to simulate Earth's environment that will reliably regenerate water, air, and food. Smart water recycling within the habitat will treat wastewater, provide necessary fertilizers and water for food crops, and create safe drinking water for our explorers. Proving these technologies will then take us to Mars and beyond.

1

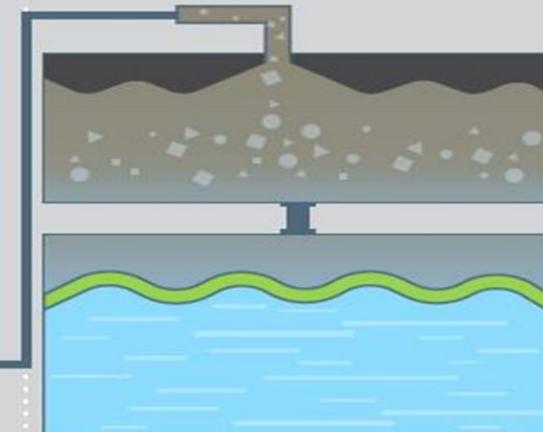
Waste Water Collection



C N P K H₂O

2

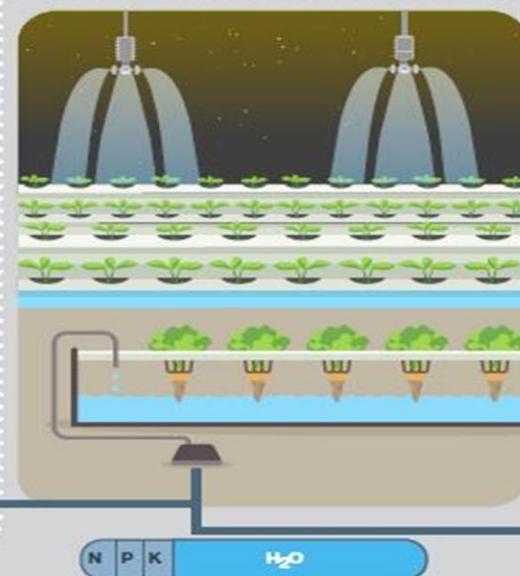
Waste Water Treatment



N P K H₂O

3

Water & Fertilizer for Plants



N P K H₂O

4

Clean Water & Food for Humans

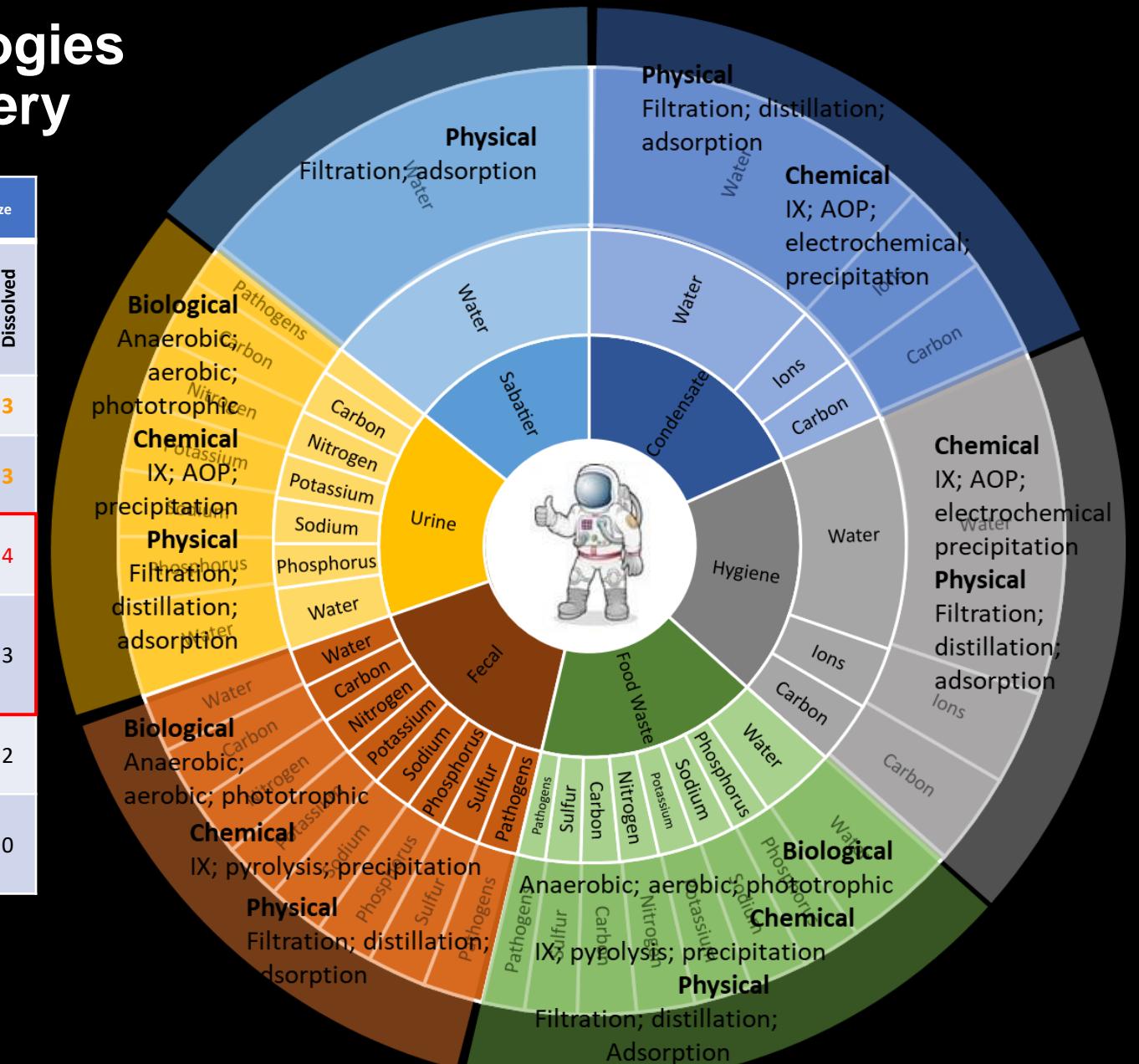


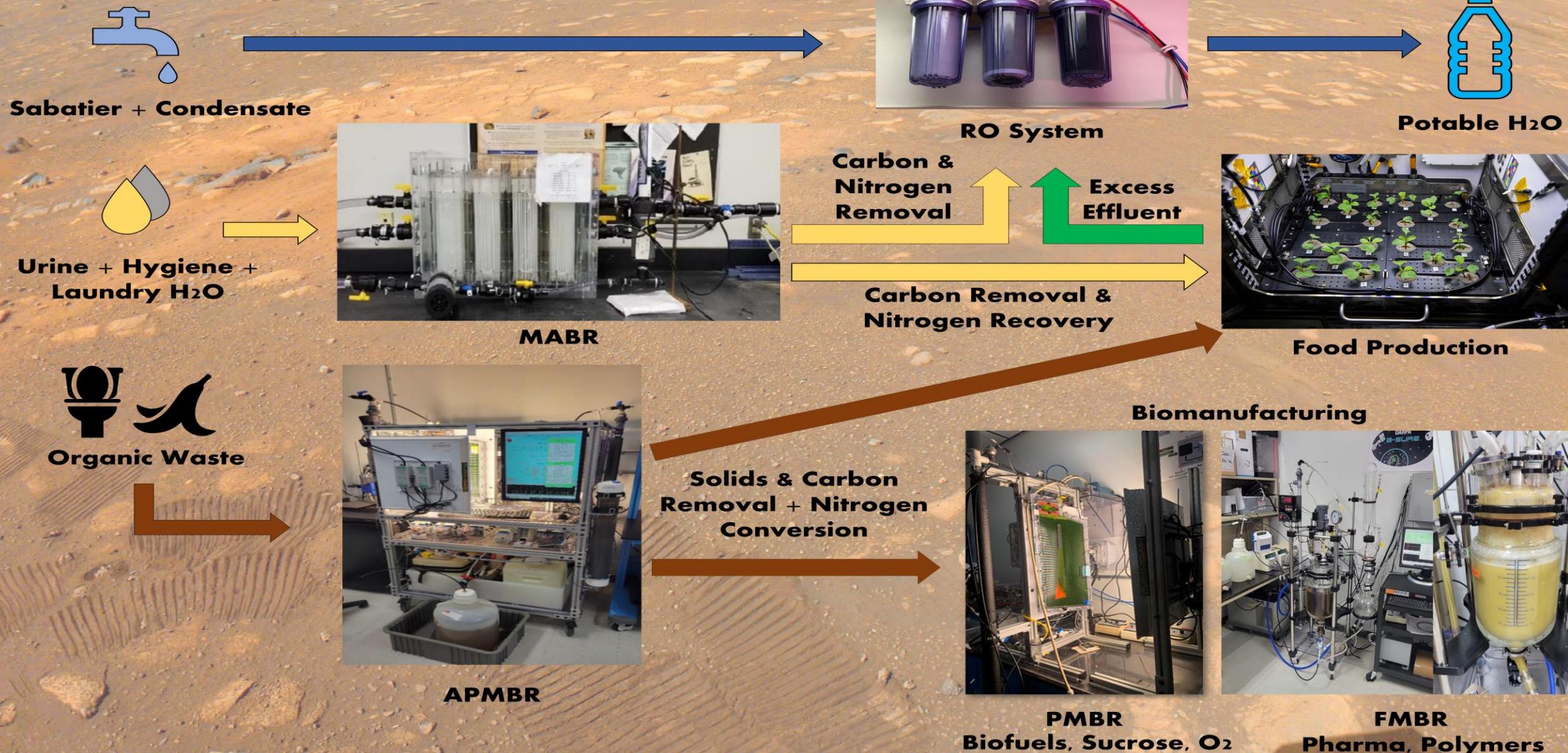
H₂O

Primary Wastewater Streams: Constituents and potential technologies for treatment and resource recovery

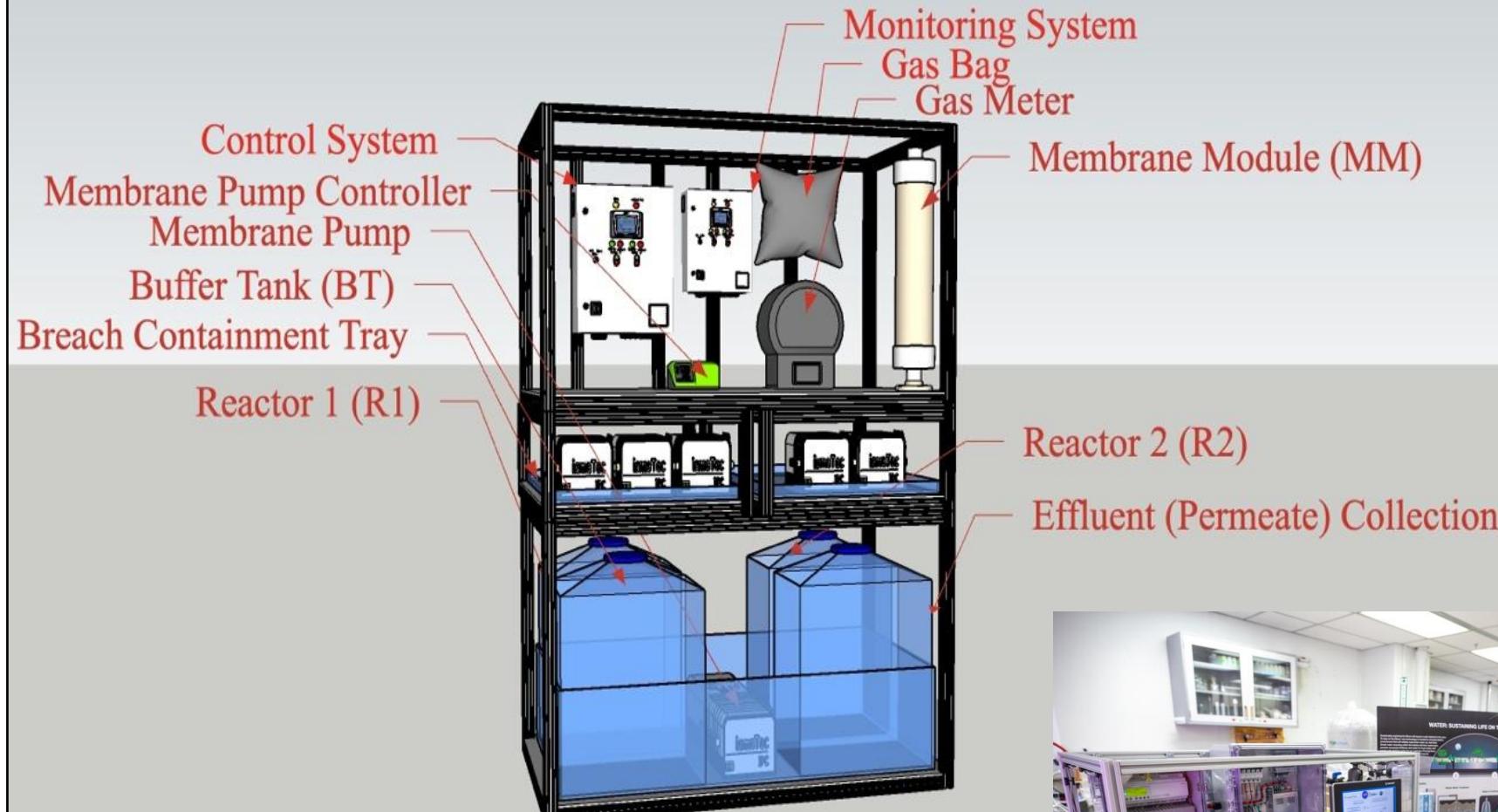
Process Stream	Description	Constituents by type										Constituents by size		
		C	N	P	K	S	Na	Ca	Mg	Other ions	Pathogens	Particulate	Colloidal	Dissolved
Food Waste	High content of complex particulate OM, fibers, COD	4	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	3
Fecal	High content of complex particulate OM, fibers, COD, pathogens	4	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	3
Urine	Mod COD, organic N, urea, ammonium, phosphate, other salts	3	4	4	4	2	3	2	2	3	2	0	2	4
Hygiene	Low COD, constituents from skin and body secretions, environmental contaminants	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	3
Humidity	Mostly pure condensate, with contaminants from air and surfaces	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Sabatier	Pure, potentially aggressive, can use for dilution, regeneration, backwash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

Notes: First two rows denote streams currently not addressed by technologies on ISS
 Relative concentration: Very High (4) High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), Trace (0)
 COD = chemical oxygen demand





THE ANAEROBIC MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR

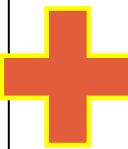


THE ANAEROBIC MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR

Anaerobic Microbiome

“Wet combustion”

Passive breakdown of particulate organic matter and liberating nutrients



Ultrafiltration Membrane

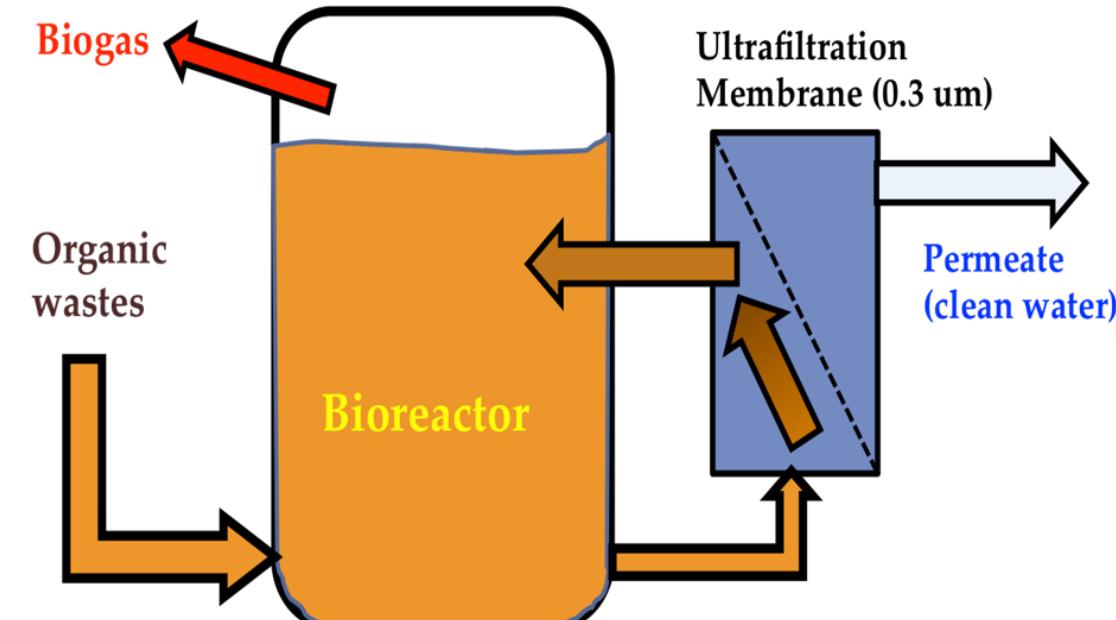
Solids /liquid separation (0.03 μm)

Consists of multiple tubular (5.2 mm diameter), ultrafiltration, PVDF membranes, with an average pore size of 0.03 μm .



AnMBR

Removes solids and organic carbon
Recover nutrients already in a liquid form

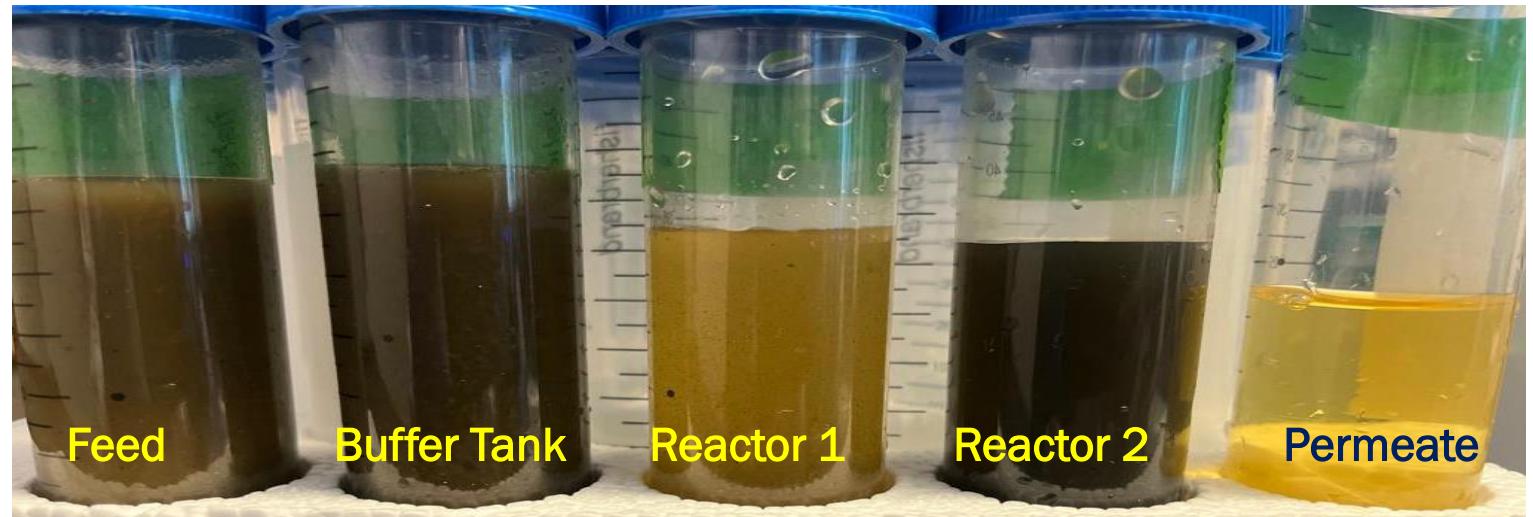
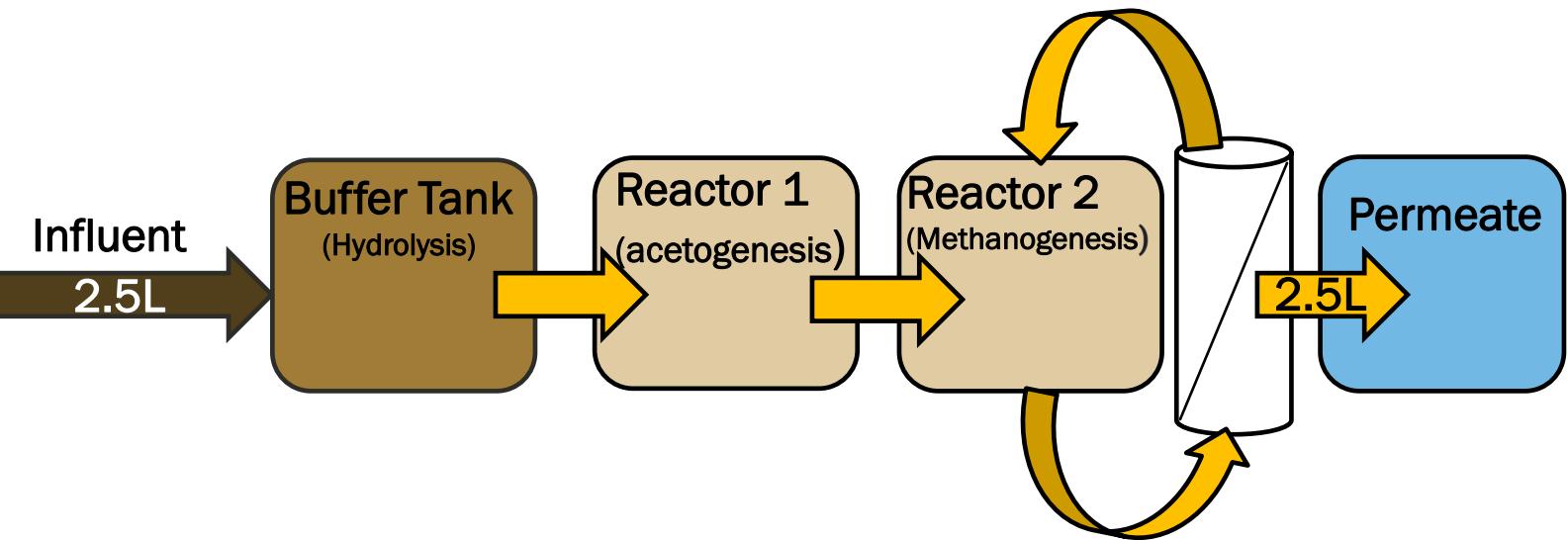


ANMBR TREATMENT RATE

- 2.5 L/day is the estimated volume produced by 4 crew members (waste + flush)*
 - 0.132 kg/CM-day (0.032 kg/CM-day dry weight) and accounting for 0.5 kg/CM day of flush water*
- Input volume = output volume. 2.5 L/day of product water.
- Product water (permeate) a nutrient-rich liquid byproduct that can be used downstream
 - Algae photobioreactor
 - Hydroponics
 - Further polishing



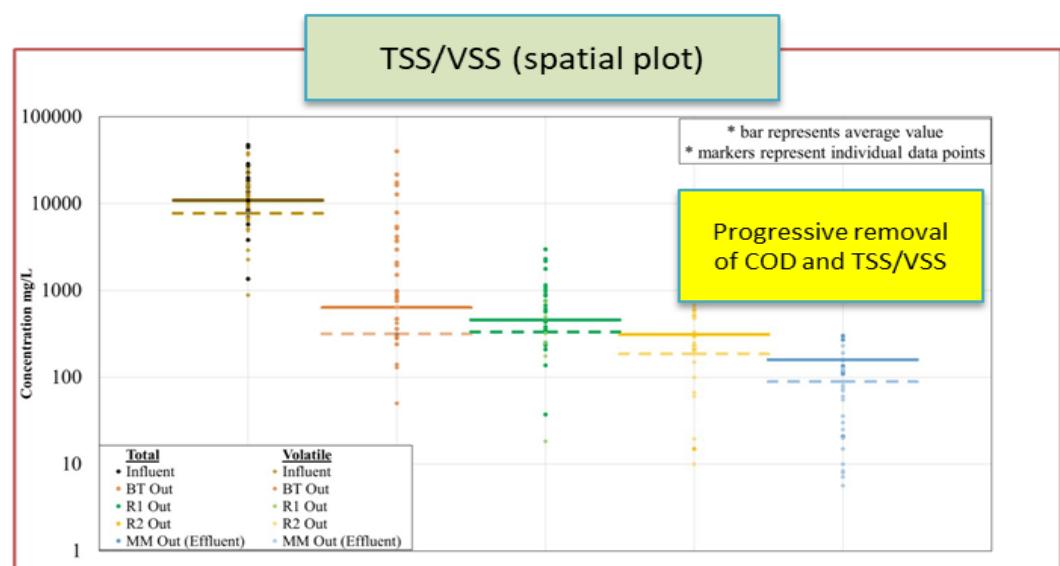
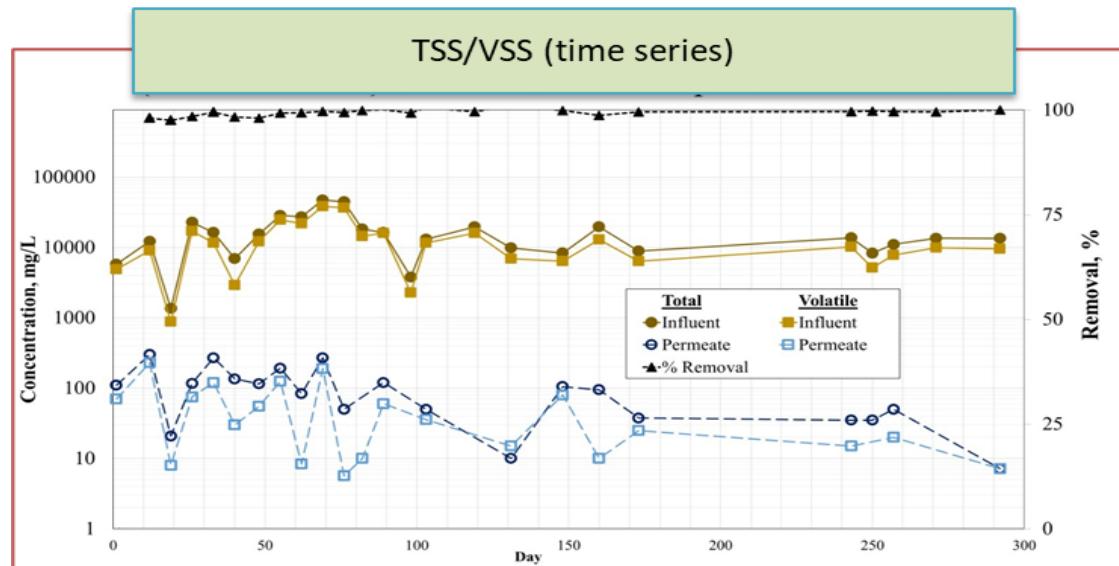
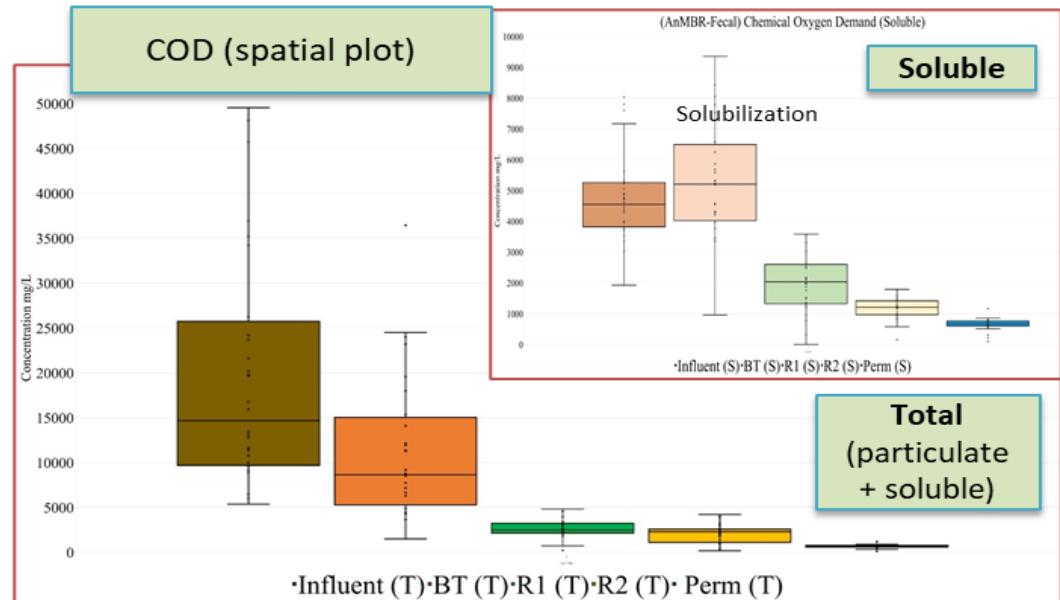
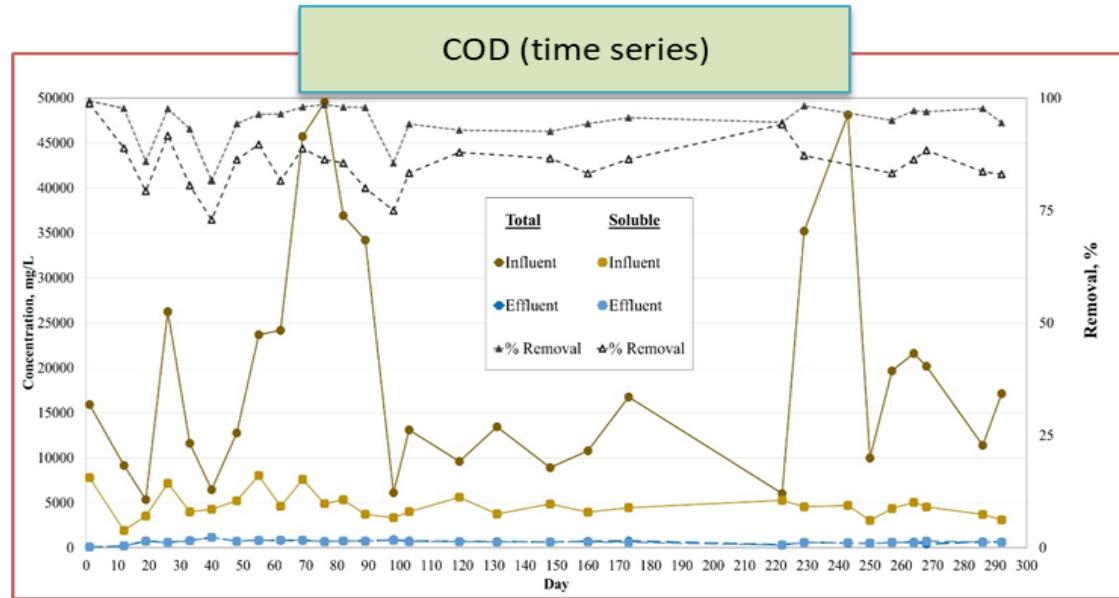
ANMBR PROCESS FLOW



ANMBR DATA SETS

AnMBR 1 (influent: canine fecal waste, 5%)

Smith, Roberson, Yeh, et. al. "Management of fecal and food waste utilizing a hybrid anaerobic membrane bioreactor. International Conference on Environmental Systems." ICES-2022-272



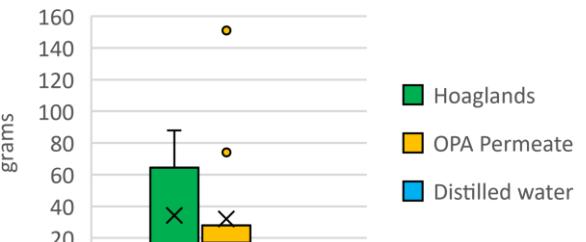
ANMBR HYDROPONIC TEST



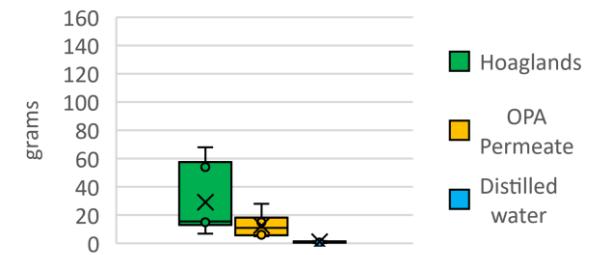
Recap:
AnMBR1 permeate was used in comparison to $\frac{1}{2}$ concentration Hoagland's nutrient solution and distilled water in hydroponic Nutrient Film towers using dwarf Pak Choi, both grow outs spanning 40 days from germination to harvest.



Averaged edible biomass



Edible biomass from Grow out 1



Edible biomass from Grow out 2

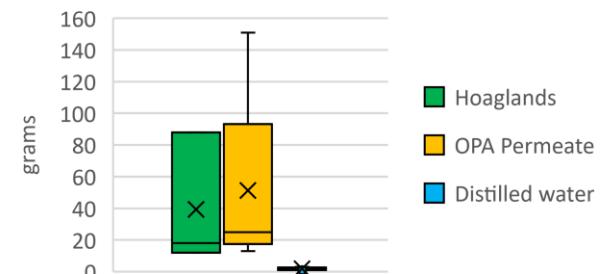


Photo Membrane Bioreactors for Nitrogen Balance

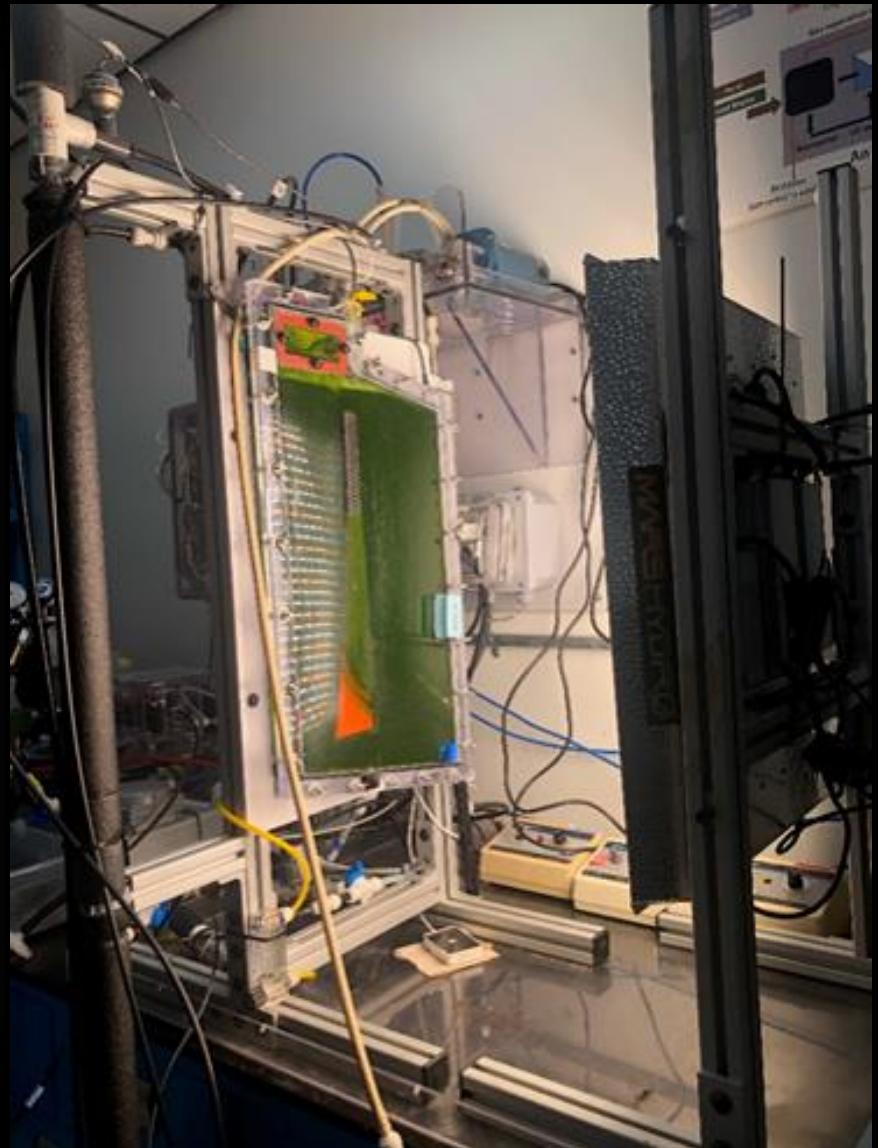
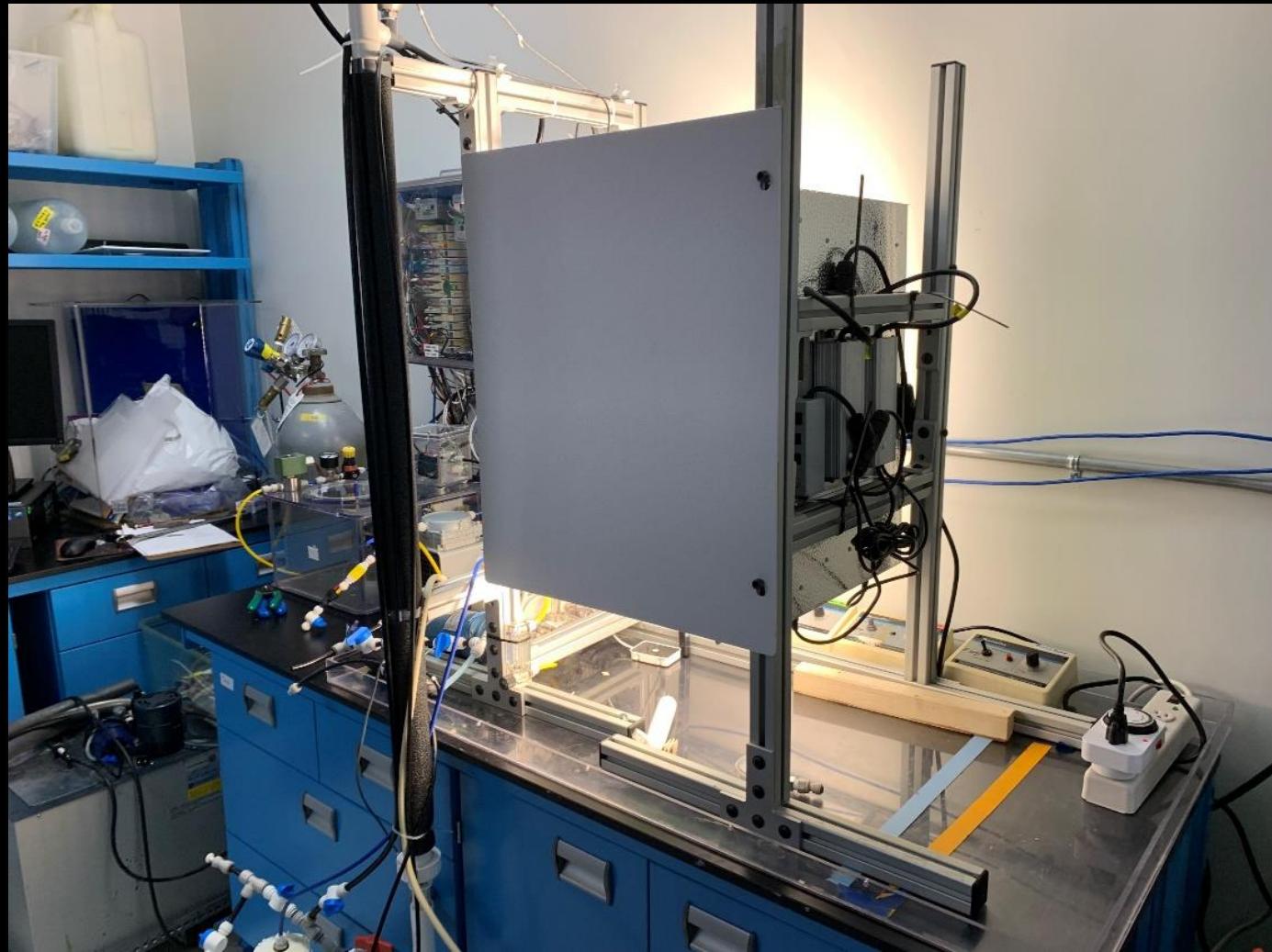
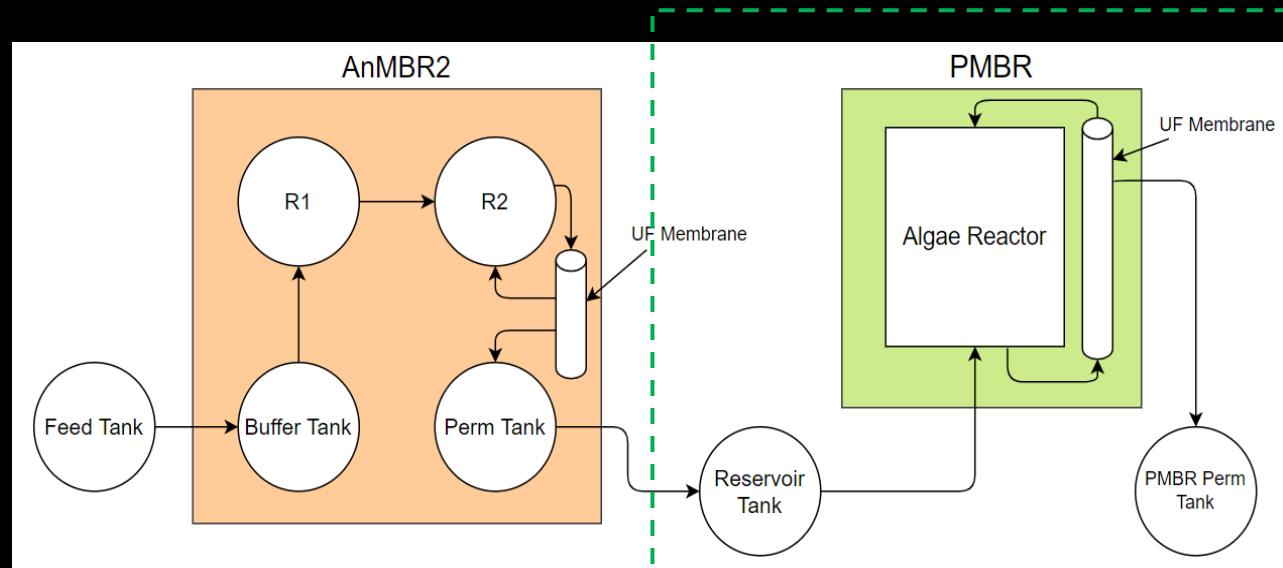
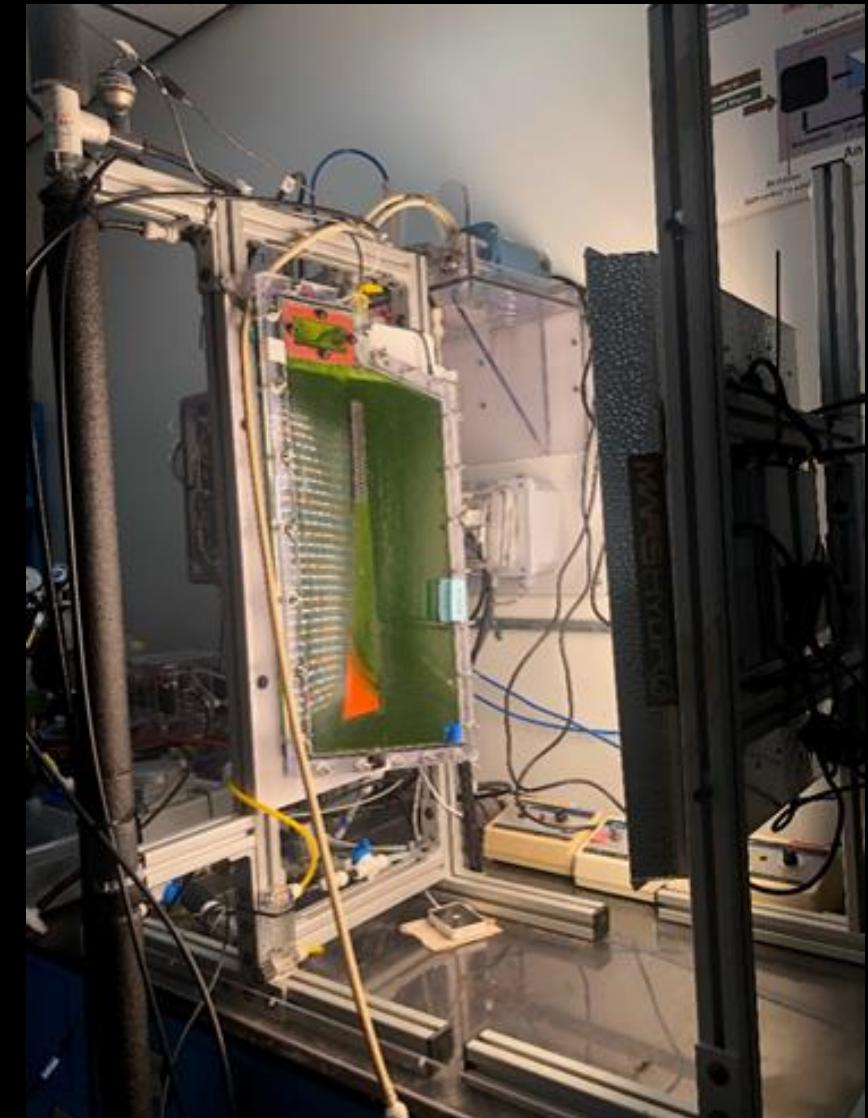


Photo Membrane Bioreactors for Nitrogen Balance

- GOAL: Use the algae/bacteria community to balance the nitrogen cycle in the AnMBR effluent.
- The PMBR nitrifies the ammonia in the AnMBR effluent into nitrate, a more suitable form of plant fertilizer.



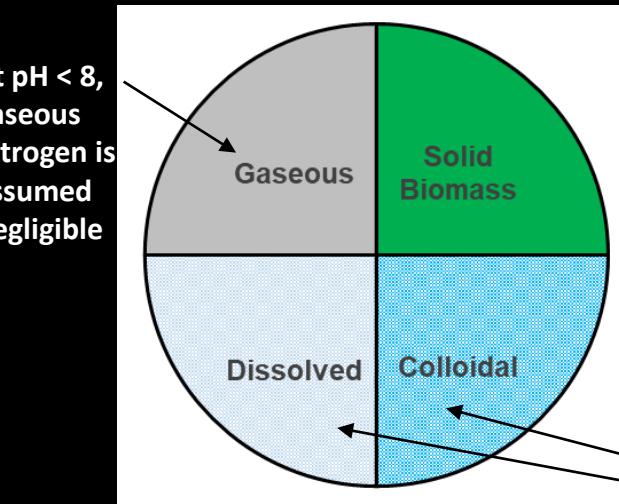
Measured Parameters	
Optical Density	Total Organic Carbon
Ammonia	Total Suspended Solids
Nitrate	Reservoir tank pH
Nitrite	pH/CO ₂ /DO on-line sensors
Total Nitrogen	



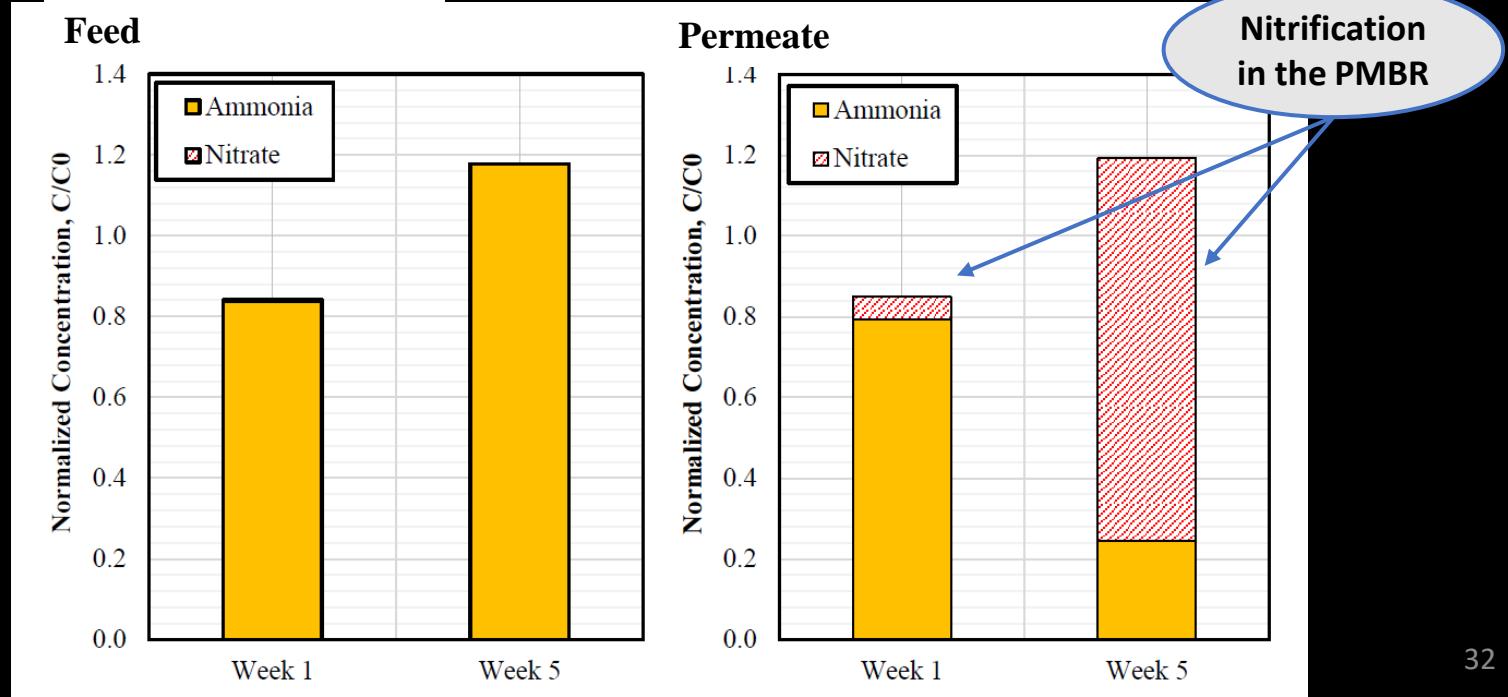
PMBR for Nitrogen Balance



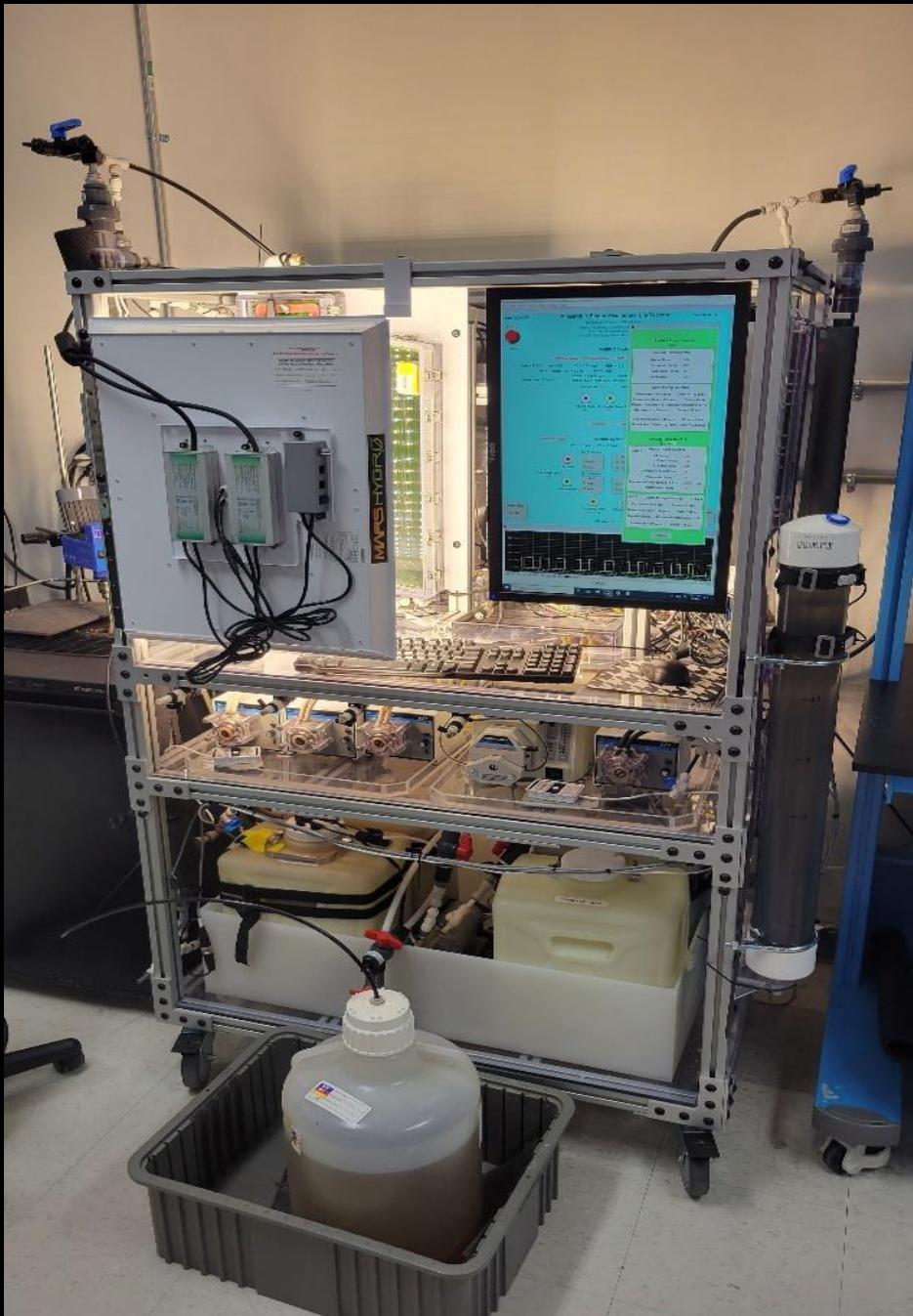
Daniella, Riley, and Jason in front of PMBR



Liquid phase in PMBR, can be ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, or organic nitrogen

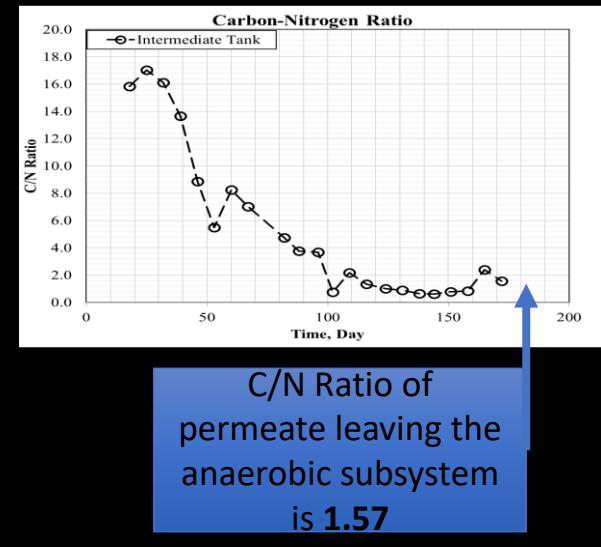
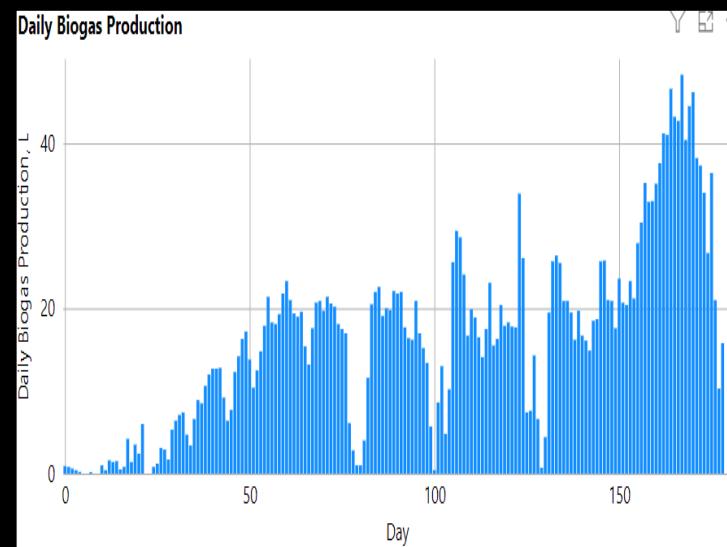
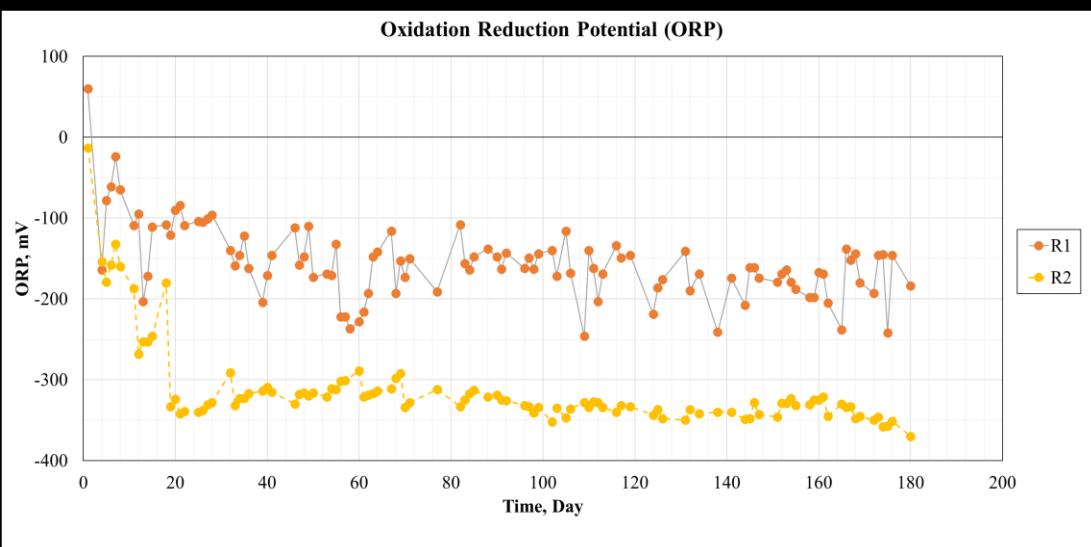
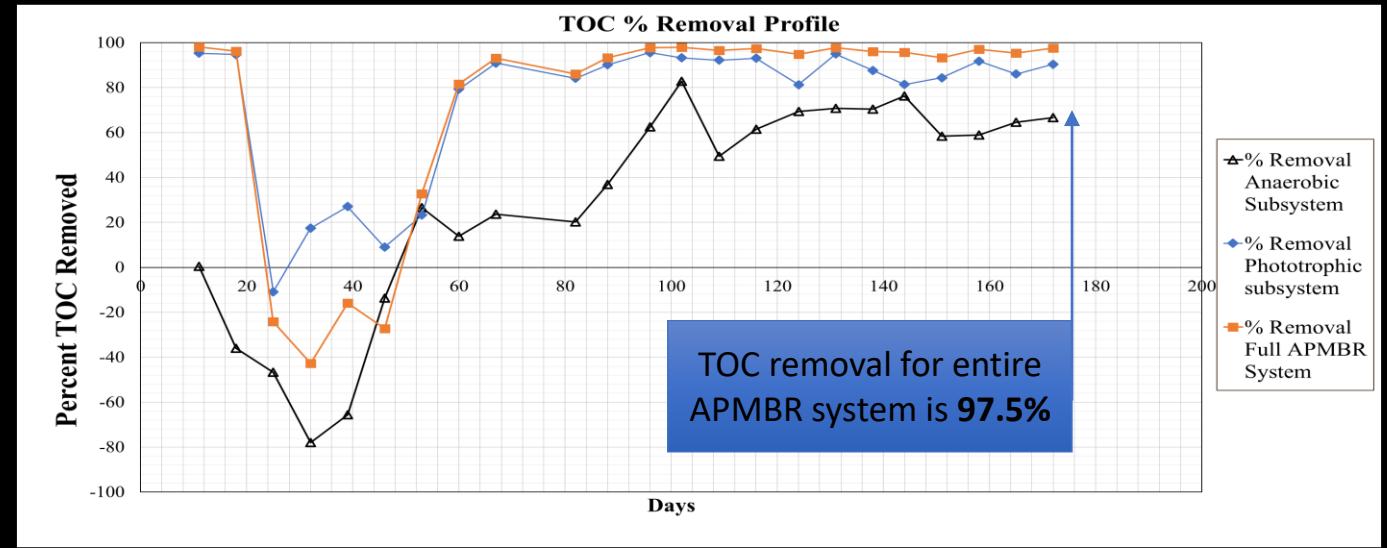
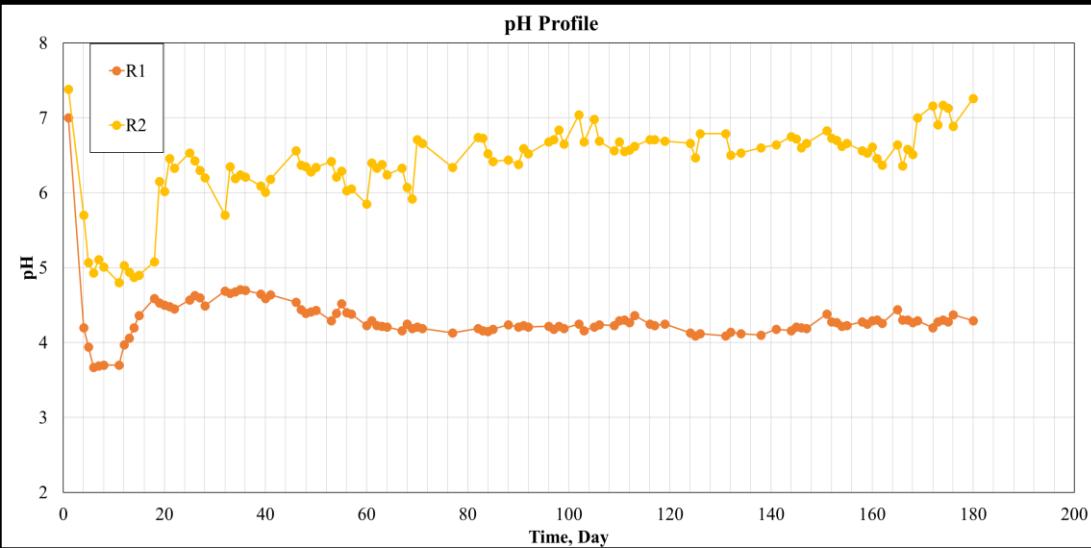


APMBR Treatment Process

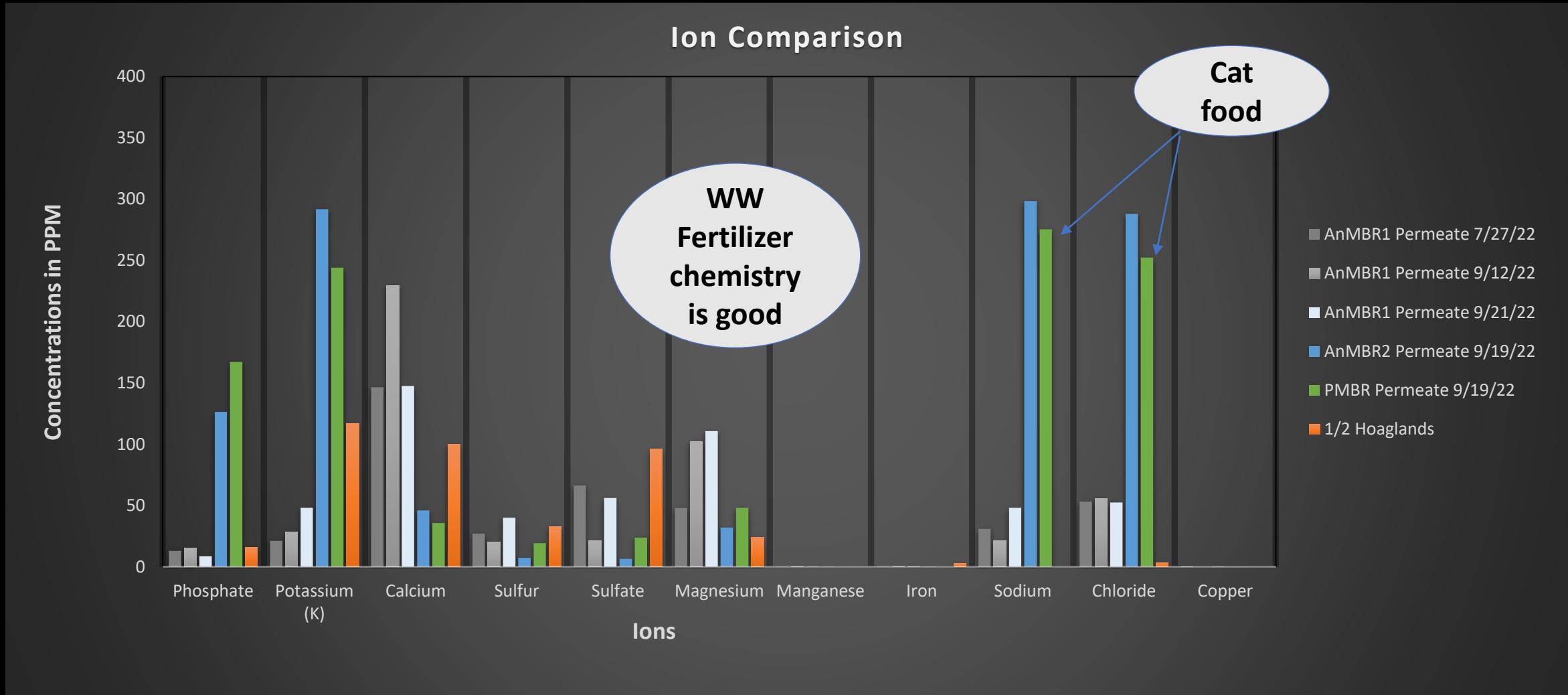


- APMBR has operated over a year using simulant feedstock.
- C/N Ratio of AnMBR perm remains close to 1 indicating proper microbial processing.

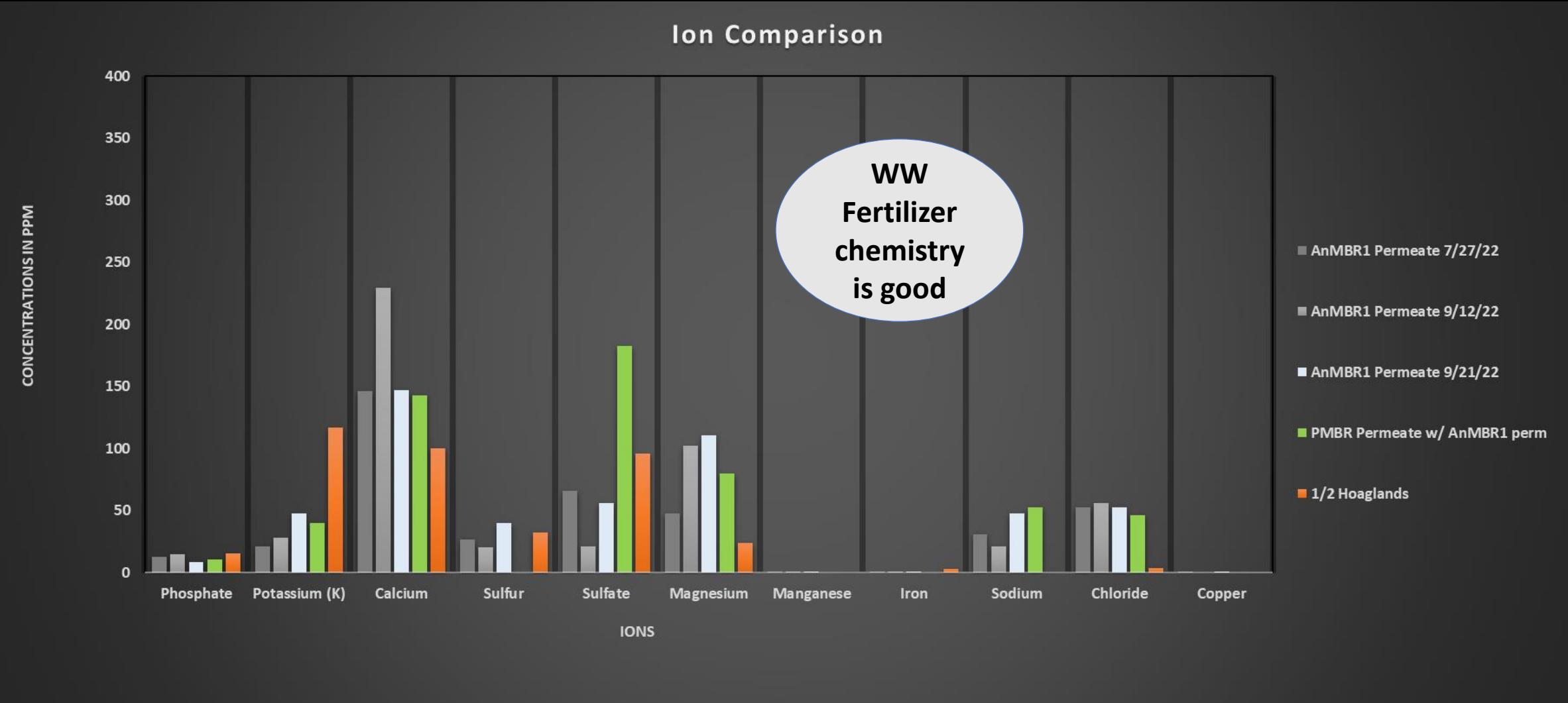
APMBR Treatment Data



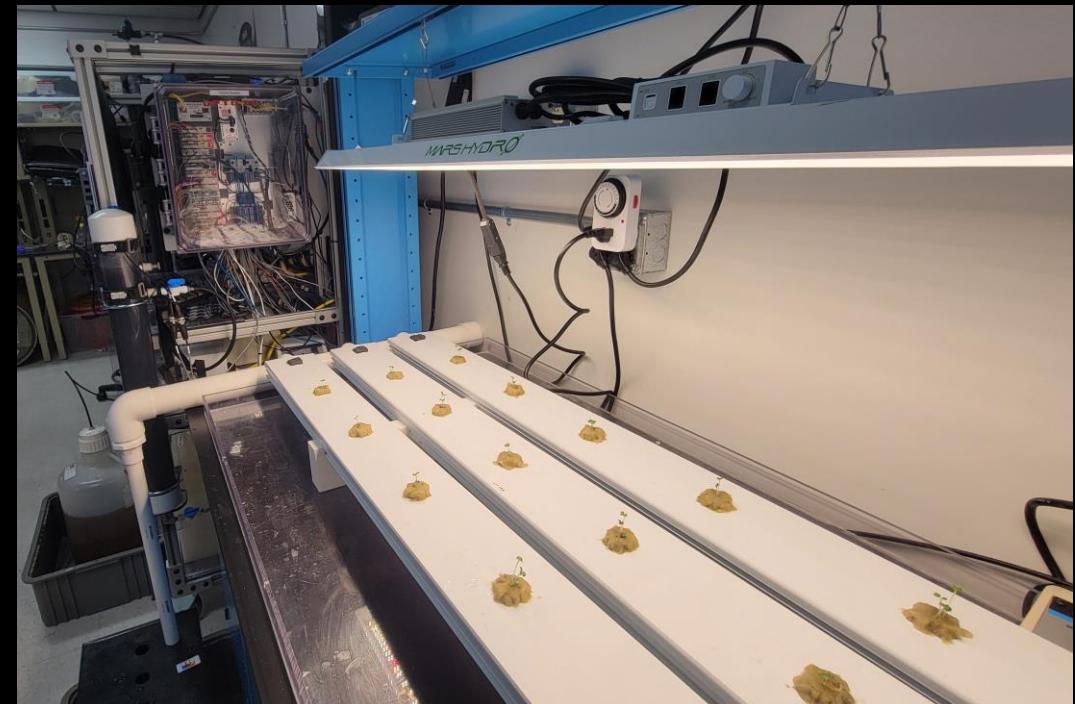
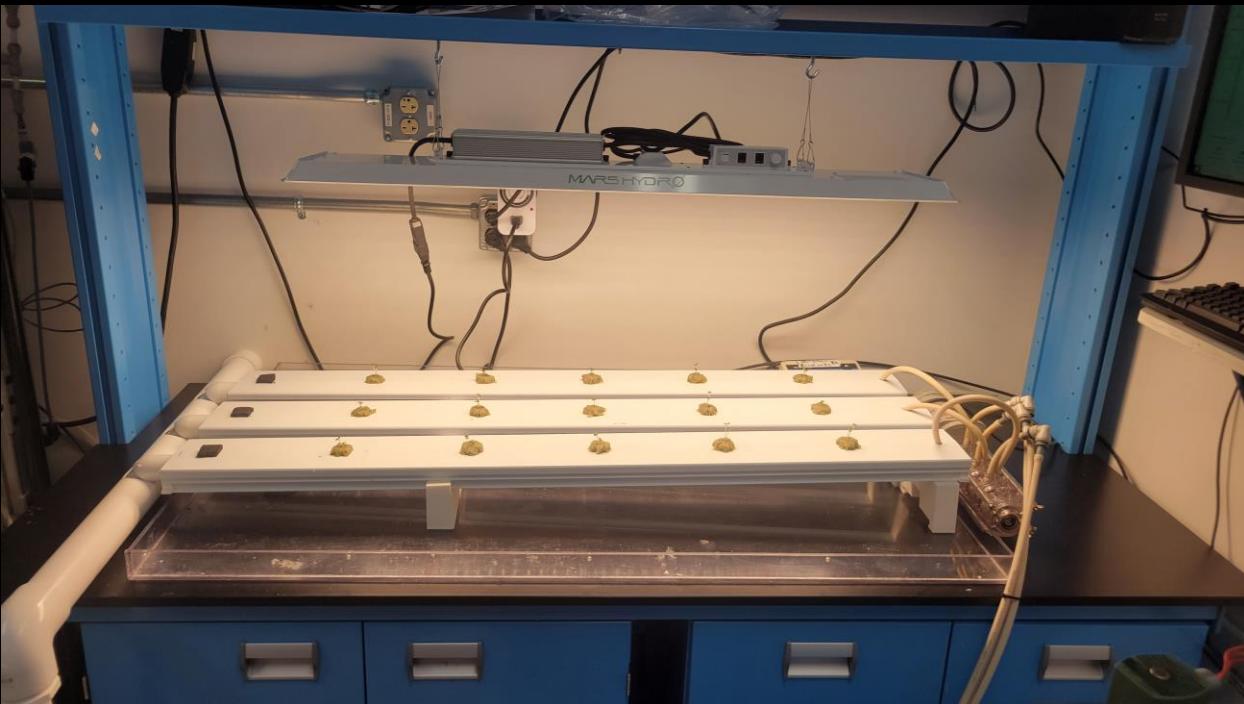
Biomanufacturing Wastewater into Fertilizer – AnMBR2



Biomanufacturing Wastewater into Fertilizer – AnMBR1



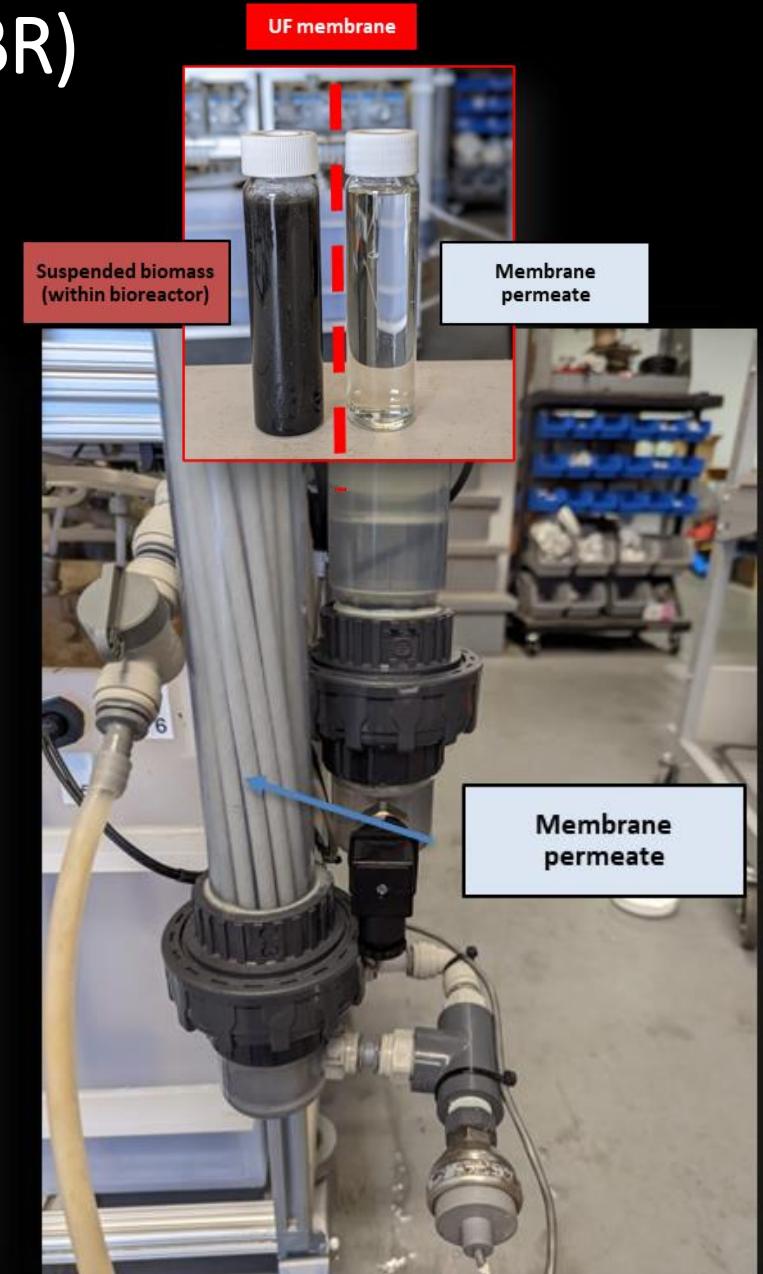
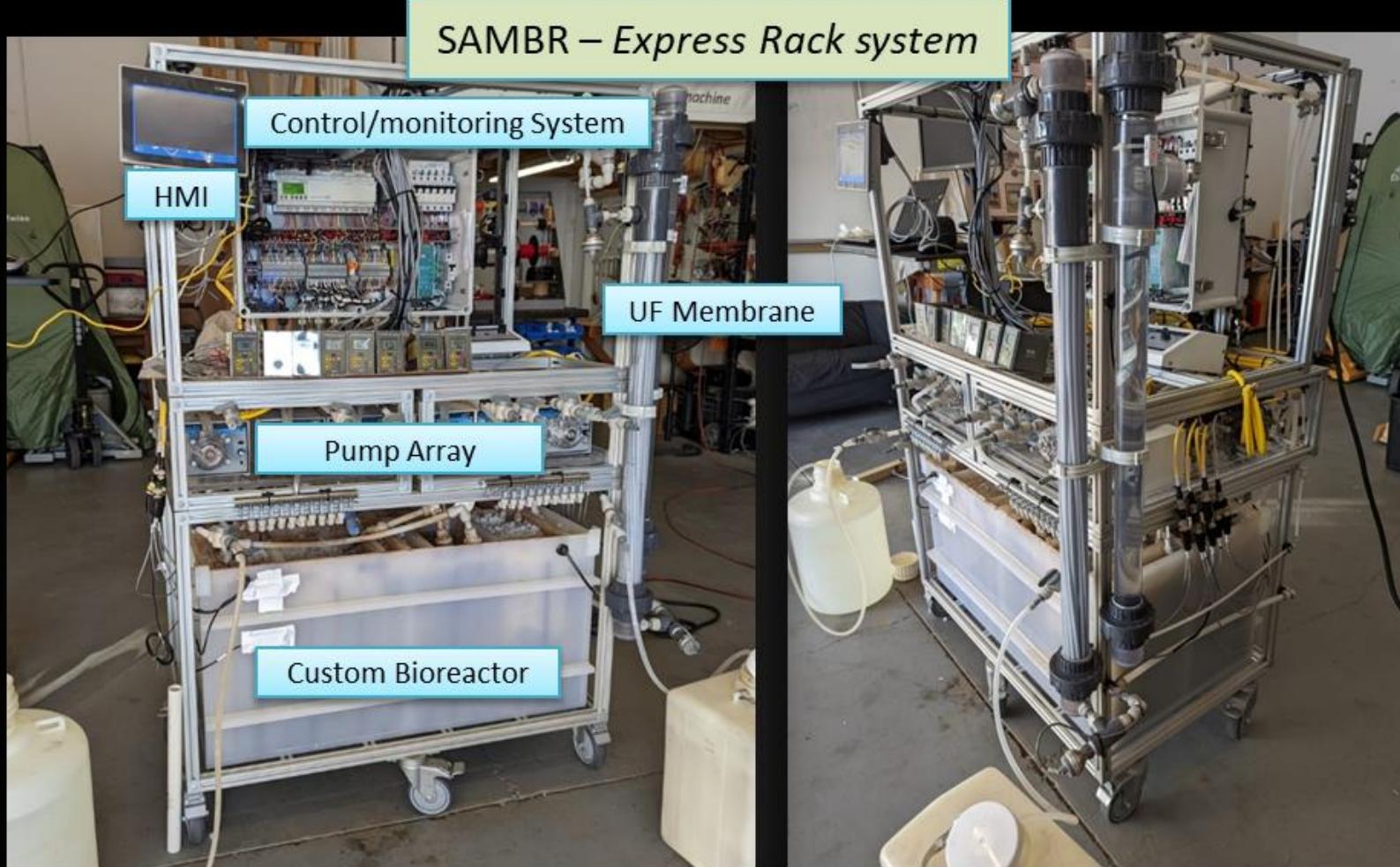
APMBR + Hydroponics



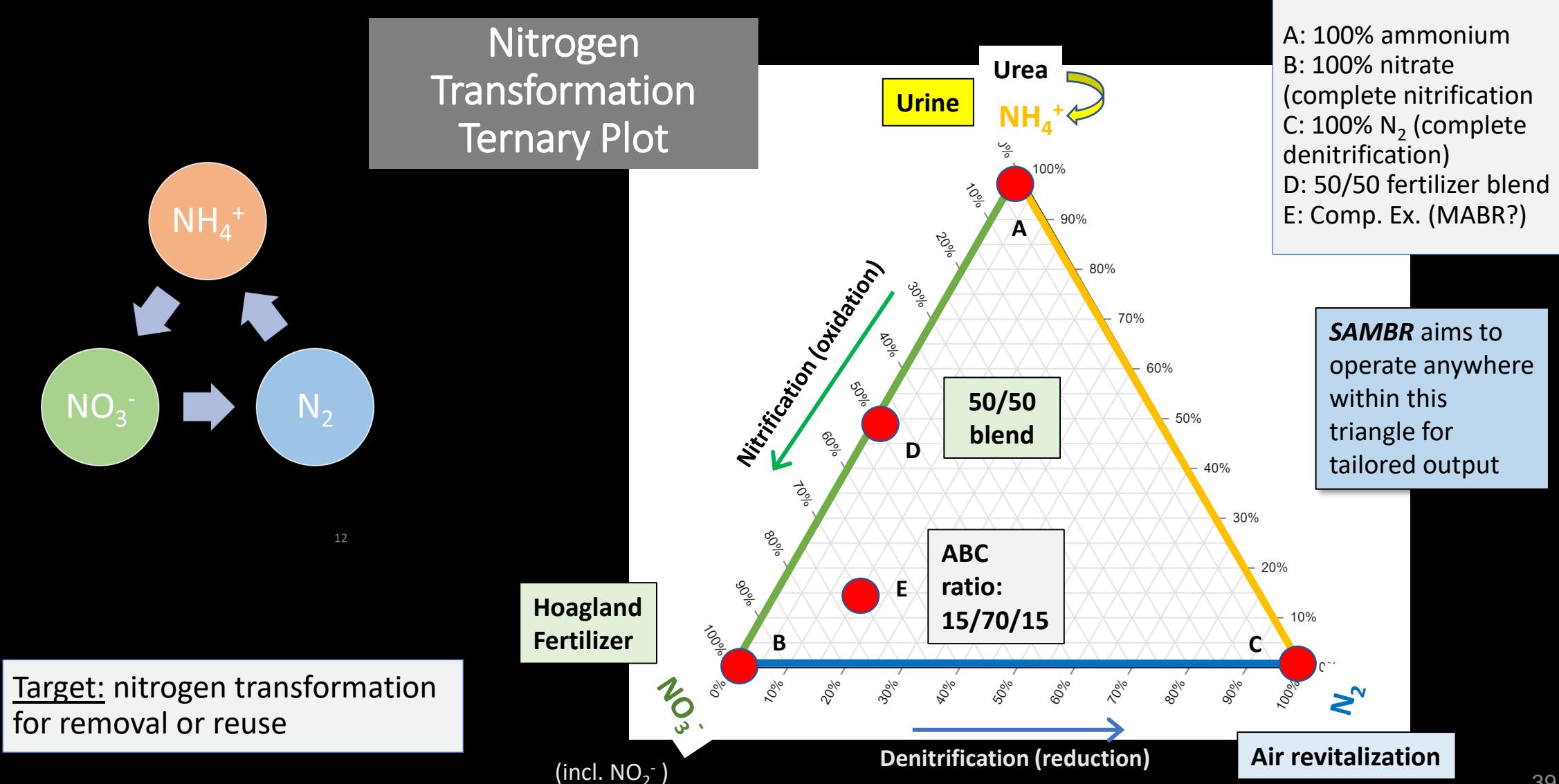
Hydroponics control grow out of Extra Dwarf Pok Choi on 1/2x Hoaglands nutrient solution started. The plants will reach maturity at 28 days at which point they will be harvested and analyzed. The nutrient solution is also being sampled and analyzed throughout the grow out to determine plants effects on water chemistry. After the control grow out, we will test the same batch of plant seeds using APMBR permeate as the nutrient solution in recirculating flow.

Suspended Aerobic Membrane Bioreactor (SAMBR)

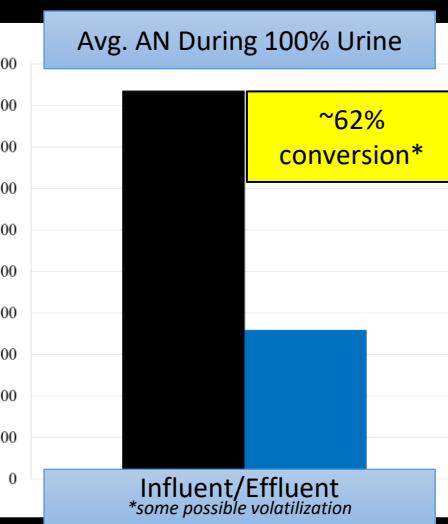
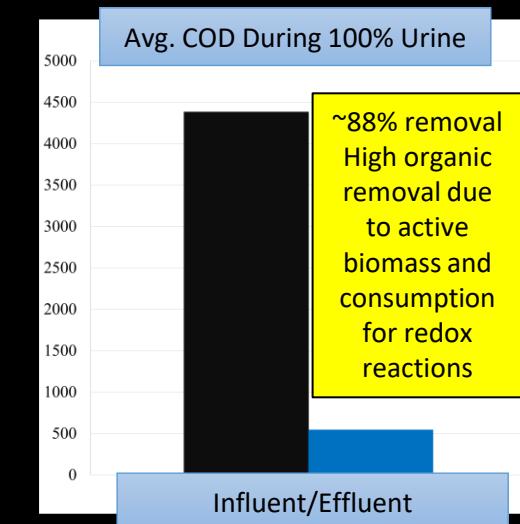
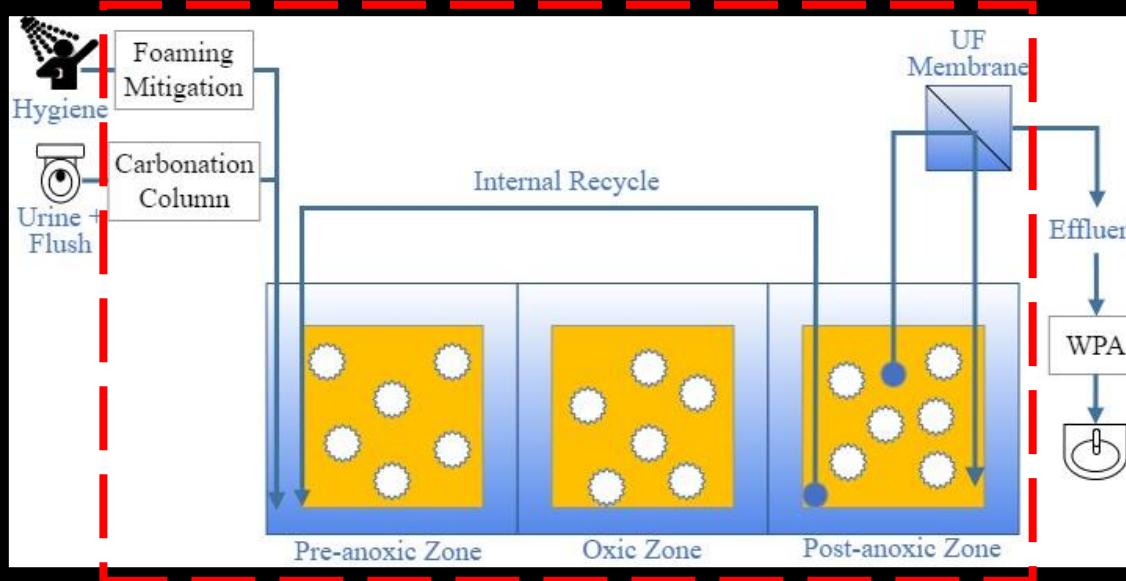
Function: to process **urine** and **hygiene water** for a crew of 4
** alternative to the urine processor assembly (UPA) **



Suspended Aerobic Membrane Bioreactor (SAMBR)



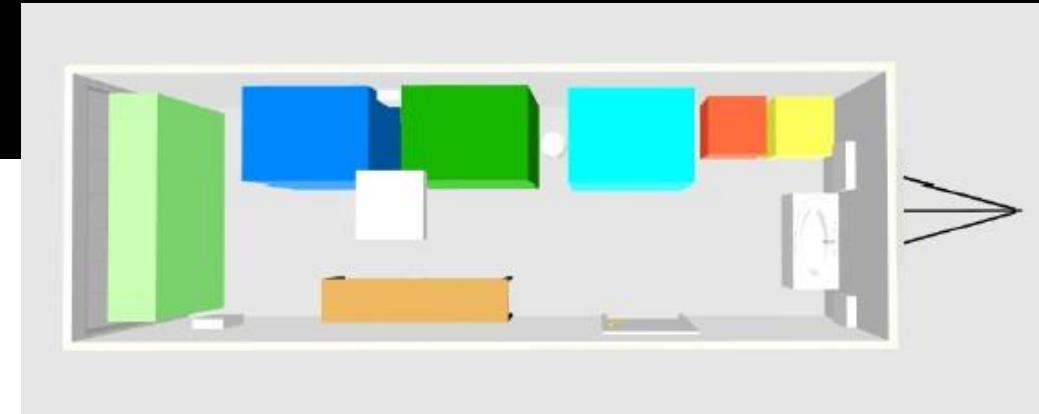
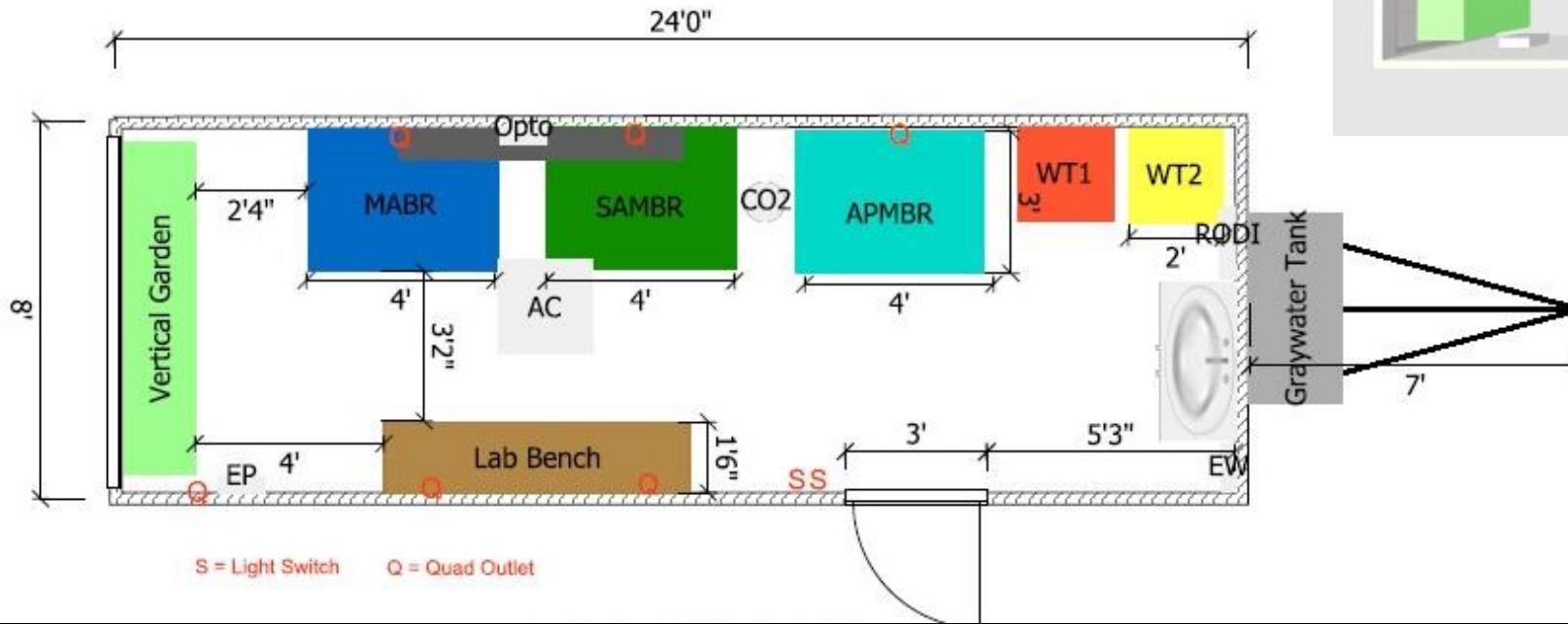
Suspended Aerobic Membrane Bioreactor (SAMBR) DATA



Phase	Preliminary	Evaluation		Phase I Experimental						Phase II Experimental	
	A-1	A-2	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Base Feed Type	Synthetic: Ammonium bicarbonate	Synthetic: Ammonium bicarbonate + carbon source		Urine (actual) and Flush						Urine (actual), Flush, and Hygiene (Ersatz)	
Objective	Assess and validate oxic zone performance/operation (nitrification only)		Couple anoxic/oxic zones and validate operation w/ Internal Recirculation (IR) (nitrification + denitrification)	Assess performance, and acclimate consortia with increasing concentrations of urine to reach full strength (nitrification + denitrification)						Expand treatment to include simulated hygiene water (N + D)	Incorporate Algal Photo-Bioreactor (APBR) (N + D)
Influent nitrogen (mg-N/L)	46	46	46	46	450	1700	3500	5000	7061	1701	1701
Influent COD (mg/L)	0	70	70	70	693	2617	5388	7697	10870	2618	2618
Influent carbon (mg/L)	0	44	44	44	431	1630	3355	4793	6769	1630	1630
Vol (urine + flush) as % of total influent	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%	24%	50%	71%	100%	24%	24%
Q (L/d)	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	38.2	38.2
HRT (d)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	2.9	2.9
Internal recirculation (IR)	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON

Deployable WWTF

24FT Enclosed Trailer Without Bath Proposed Layout 5



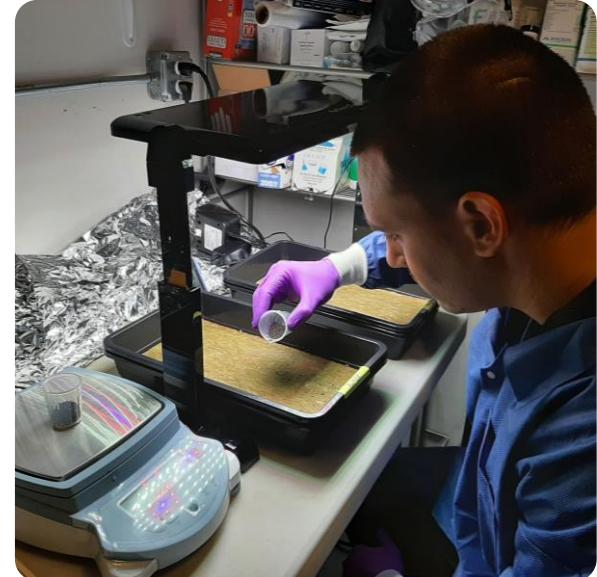
Integration of wastewater processes for a deployable wastewater treatment facility (DWWTF)

Treats divergent wastewater streams into nutrient solutions and potable water

Easily transferred to low fidelity analog mission

HI-SEAS

- Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation is an analog habitat and environment purposed to simulate manned Mars/Lunar surface missions.
- Missions take place in a dome structure that is 36 feet in diameter and has about **1150 square feet** of living space. Power and heat are supplied via the solar panel farm, as well water is housed in a storage unit outside the habitat structure.
- Provides a great environment to perform feasibility studies for a variety of projects. NASA hardware such as VEGGIE has been tested at HISEAS!
- Future longer-term feasibility studies with bioregenerative purification systems at HISEAS would garner a better understanding of how these systems work in a simulated high-fidelity early planetary base-like habitat.



NDU - ILMAH

- **North Dakota University (NDU) Inflatable Lunar/Mars Analog Habitat (LIMAH)** is a low fidelity analog habitat and environment used to simulate manned Mars/Lunar surface missions.
- Missions combine habitat, exploration rover, and EVA suits for full experience.
- Provides TRL advancement for providing a better understanding of how these systems work in a simulated low-fidelity early planetary base-like habitat.
- Provides testing platform to meet requirements for longer-term, higher-fidelity studies at HERA & CHAPEA.



CHAPEA

- Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog is an analog habitat and environment purposed to simulate manned Mars/Lunar surface missions at Johnson Space Center.
- 1-year missions take place in a 3D printed structure that has about **1700 square feet** of living space. Four private crew quarters, dedicated medical and workstations, lounge areas, galley, and food growing areas.

2024-28 Test Plan

Phase 1: Integrate wastewater treatment processes into CHAPEA and test their engineering constraints, performance, and capabilities. (FY25-26)

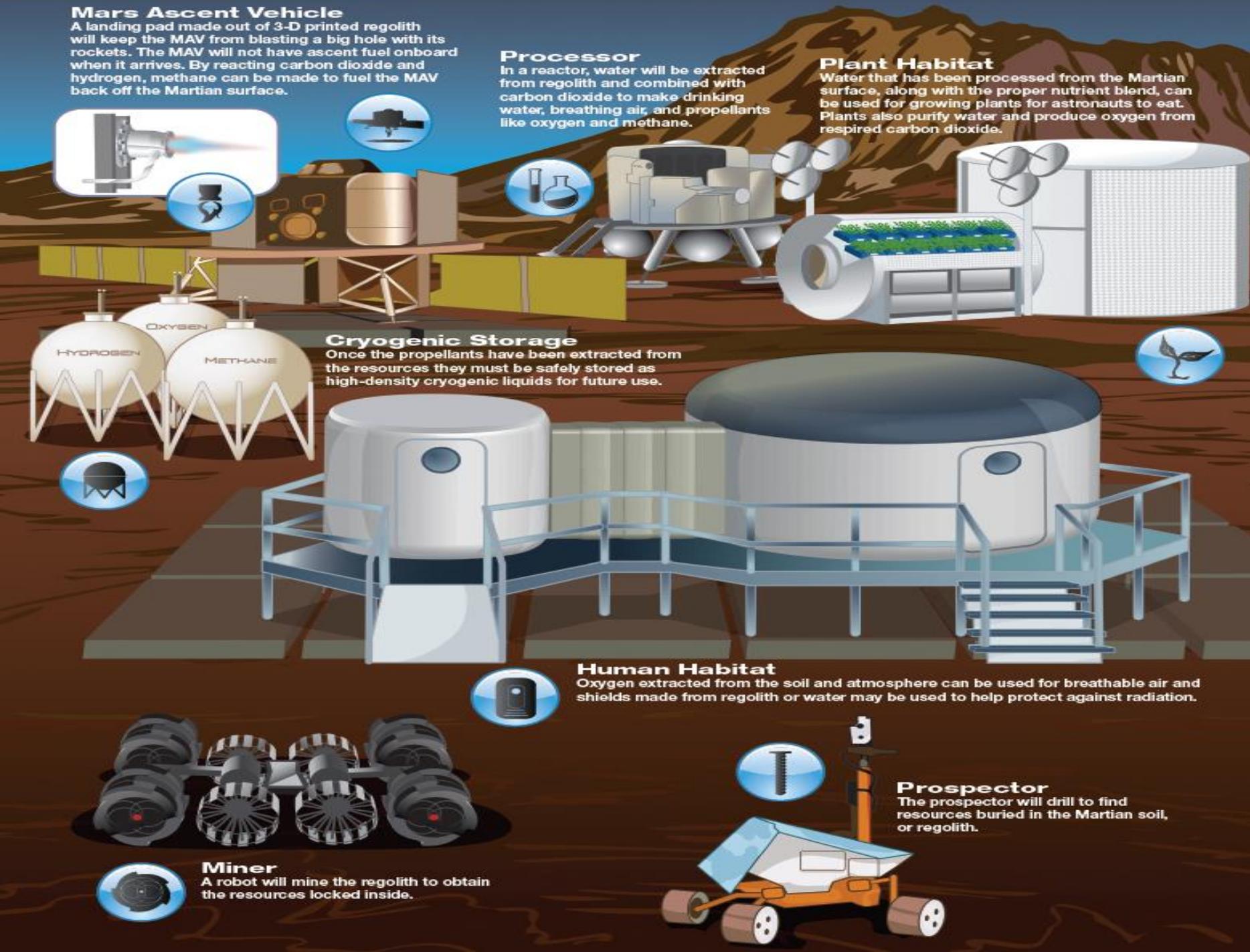
Phase 2: Develop post-processing treatment methods that generate value added products and test for requirement conformance. (FY27)

Phase 3. Develop air and trash integration points for a fully sustainable architecture, integrate those systems, and test full system performance. (FY28)



<https://www.nasa.gov/human-in-space/chapea/>

NASA Surface Systems





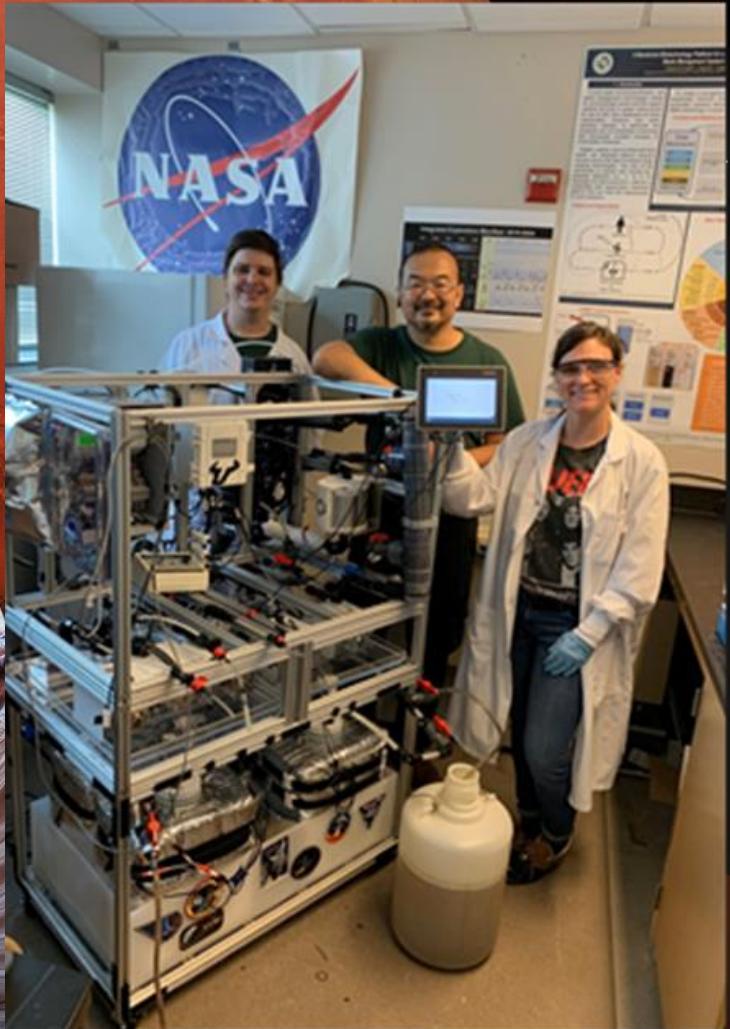
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!!!

www.intern.nasa.gov

www.usajobs.gov

www.nspires.nasa.gov

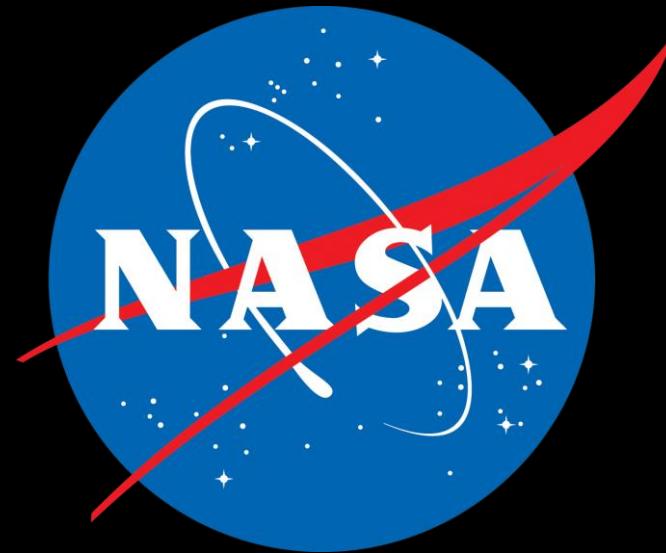
www.KSCpartnerships.ksc.nasa.gov



Acknowledgements



QUESTIONS?



Back Up Slides

Humans on Mars

*Pushing the Boundaries
of Current Possibilities*



Go
*Rapid, safe, & efficient
space transportation*

Land
*Expanded access to
diverse surface
destinations*

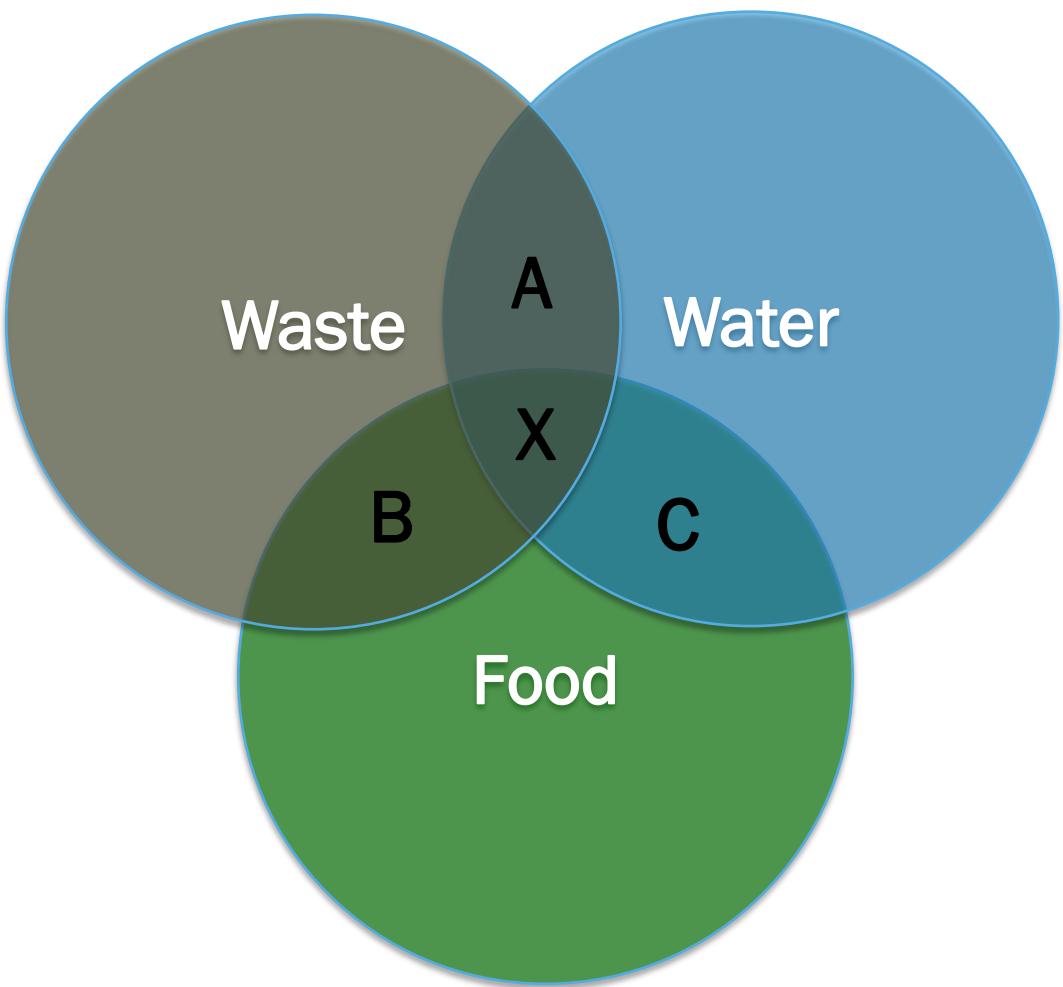
Live
*Sustainable living
and working farther
from Earth*

Explore
*Transformative missions
and discoveries*

Lack of Gravity Has a Huge Impact

An integrative approach is needed

Region	Problems	Opportunities
A	Wet metabolic wastes (e.g., fecal)	Wastewater treatment; Water recovery
B	Plant residues; food wastes	Fertilizer recovery
C	Plant irrigation needs	Use plants to remove ions to clean water
X	Efficient & integrative treatment	Resource recovery



X – integrative bioregenerative approach at KSC/USF to simultaneously sustain water recycling, waste management, and food production

ECLSS SUSTAINABILITY

For a 30-month mission, a single Crew Member (CM) will require:

2250 kg water

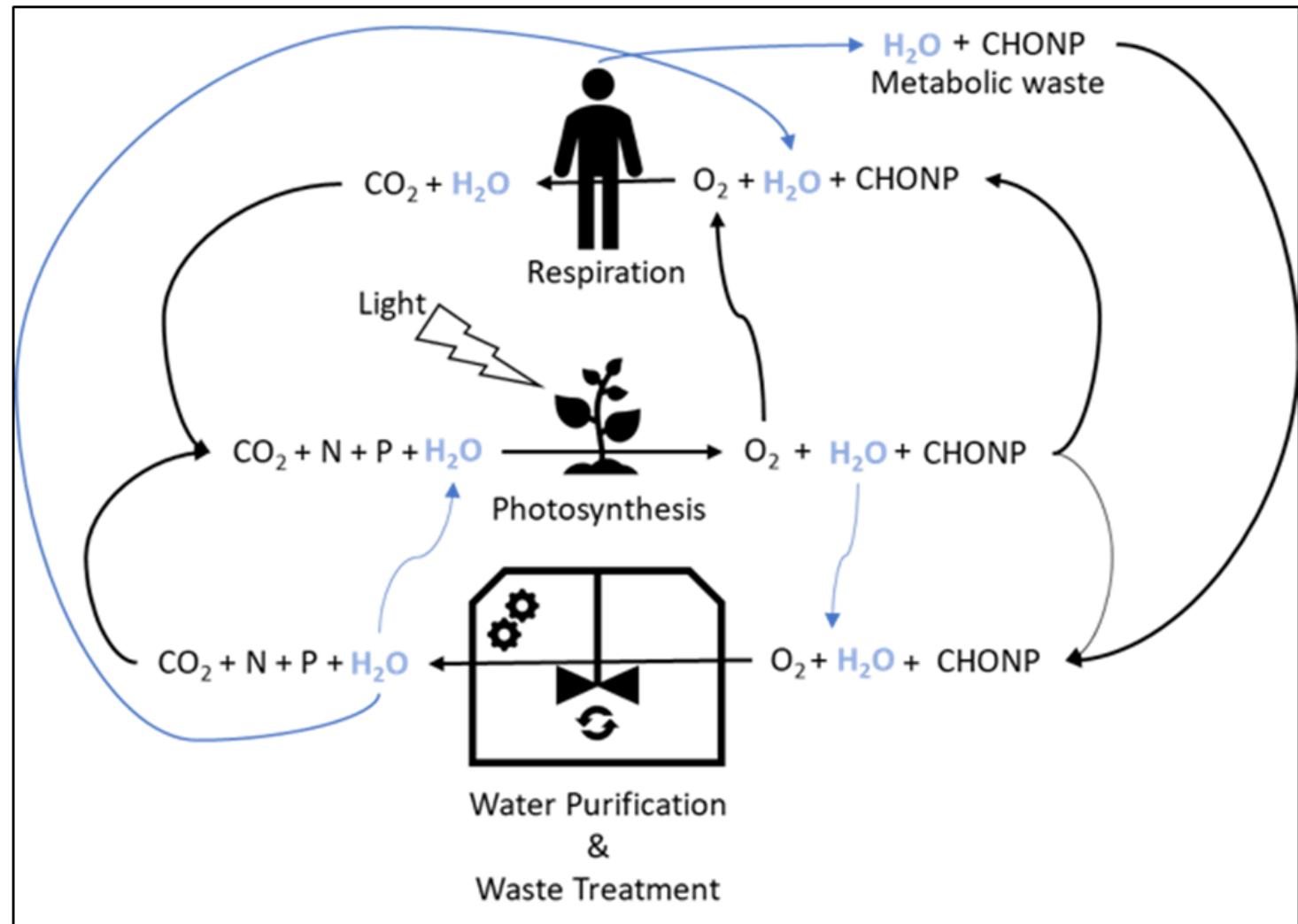
1359 kg food

And generate:

5678 kg total waste

1612 kg metabolic waste

Exceeds \$16M/CM at a payload cost of \$10,000/lb (~\$4,535/kg)



Developing Future ECLSS

- Wastewater Processing enables cross cutting technologies for sustainably managing metabolic waste.
- Trades better than Phys/Chem systems over 120 days.
- Benefits:
 - Significantly decreases requirement for waste storage
 - Addresses wet-waste tech gap
 - Increased water recovery
 - Enables sustainable food production

Current and Developing Enabling Technologies

