SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

AGENDA

Orientation and Background

Program New Initiatives and Exemplary Augmentation Opportunities/Payoffs

Program Element Augmentation Budgets and Goals/Objectives

Base Research & Technology Elements

Focused Technology Elements

Flight Test Elements
SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

Focused Program Elements
(Technology-User "Pull")

TRANSPORTATION
Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion
Advanced Cryogenic Engines
Commercial Vehicle Propulsion
Cryogenic Fluid Systems
Auxiliary Propulsion

SPACE PLATFORMS
Nuclear Thermal Propulsion
Nuclear Electric Propulsion
Station Keeping Propulsion

TECHNOLOGY FLIGHT EXPTS
Cryogenic Orbital N2 Expl (CONE)
SEPS Flight Experiment
Cryogenic Orbital H2 Expl (COHE)

Base Research & Technology Elements
(Technology-Developer "Push")

Low Thrust Propulsion
(Primary & Aux)
Advanced Propulsion Concepts
High-Thrust Chemical Propulsion
Cryogenic Fluid Management
Lunar and Planetary Propellants

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS AND MATURATION PROCESS

NASA/OAET

R & T Base

Technology Transfer

OSF

Focused Applications

VEHICLES

STS

OMC

ACRC

ADV. VEHICLES

Technology Development

Basic Fundamentals
Far Term, High Risk
Unfocused

Prototype System Development
Demonstration
Point Design

Certification Products
Operation Improvements

R & T Base

Technology Dev. & Val.

Advanced Development

Flight Systems Development

Operations

Operations Monitor Evaluation Direction and Control

Program Specific Demo

Full Scale Development
C (6.4)

Research

Exploratory Development
Advanced Tech. Development

L1

Basic Principle Obs. and Report

L2

Concept Design Formulated

L3

Concept Design Test and Analysis

L4

Critical Function Breadboard Demo

L5

Component Test & Evaluation Environment

L6

Subscale Model Test

L7

Prototype System Test

L8

Baseline Into Production

L9

Operations

L10

Operations

NASA/John C. Stennis Space Center

PR1-2
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT SOURCES

NASA Office of Space Flight,
Office of Space Science & Applications

- e.g., OSF's "Mission User Technology Needs & Applications"
  Note: ETO & SCET Basic WBS Structure Match "Top 3" Items

Development-Stage and Flight Programs

- e.g., NLS/STME Critical Task-by-Task Applicability Review
  Status: ETO/SCET 3-day Program Review in March 1991, NLS/STME Response in April 1991, Follow-up Meetings Underway at Present

Special Assessments of NASA and Its Programs

- SSTAC/ARTS & NRC/ASEB Propulsion Program Review Feedback
- Augustine and Synthesis Group Reports:
  (Transportation & Propulsion Related Recommendations)

Mission/Vehicle/Propulsion Planning-Visibility Studies
(See later chart)

OSF Technology Requirements Evaluation

NASA Program Unique Technologies

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Industry Driven Technologies

- Signal Transmission & Reception
- Advanced Avionics Software
- Video Technologies
- Environmentally Safe Cleaning Solvents, Refrigerants & Foams
- Non-Destructive Evaluation
SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY

SYNTHESIS GROUP

Key Propulsion-Related Findings/Recommendations

General
- Require Earth-to-Orbit, Interplanetary Transfer and Descent/Ascent Propulsion for Crew and/or Cargo Service

Chemical Propulsion
- Hydrocarbon/Oxygen Propulsion for Boost-stage Applications e.g., F-1 Engines (as updated)
- Hydrogen/Oxygen Propulsion for Space-stage Applications e.g., Upgraded J-2 Engines, NLS/STME
- NASP X-30 "...should be vigorously pursued." i.e., hypersonic airbreathing
- SDIO SSTO concept "...should be carried forward to demonstrate feasibility." i.e., advanced configuration hydrogen, oxygen rockets

Nuclear Propulsion
- Nuclear Thermal Rockets, "...with further development, are the choice propulsion technology for the interplanetary phase of the Mars mission."
- Nuclear Electric Propulsion, "...where transit time is not an important constraint, low thrust nuclear propulsion systems are attractive because of their very high performance levels."

NEW/ETO & SCET

INTEGRATED MISSION/VEHICLE/PROPULSION PLANNING - VISIBILITY STUDIES

Advanced Manned Transportation Systems (AMLS)
- LaRC Vehicle Analysis Branch, Space Systems Division
- Fully Reusable TSTO & SSTO, All-Rocket & Airbreathing

Heavy Lift Transportation Systems (HLLV)
- GD/SRS via MSFC Program Development
- Boost-stage Propulsion, H2/O2
- All-rocket Candidates (SSME Ref.): IME, Plug Nozzle, Full-flow S/C, Split-Expander, etc.

Advanced Upper-Stage Systems
- Martin-Marietta/Aerojet via MSFC Propulsion Lab
- IME Focused, H2/O2 (Incl. SCET transfer, planetary applications)
CREASE-IN-POINT AUGMENTATION OPPORTUNITY

SUBJECT: Applying Emerging Materials Technology to a Turbopump

Specific Example (ETO): Fiber-Reinforced Ceramic Matrix Composite Turbine

Engineering Benefits: C/SiC Blades survive 50 thermal shock cycles to 3300 F

Existing Program: Phase I (GE, Rocketdyne) Feasibility Study completed, Phase II (Rocketdyne) Materials Characterization, Sample Component Fabrication & Test, & Technology Implementation Plan presently underway (44-month effort)

Plan is to fab and test a representative (static) turbine nozzle ring (only)

Proposed Augmented Program:

Using existing LH2 Turbopump (Mk44F), fab nozzle ring and turbine wheel, checkout in hot-gas facility, then install in complete turbopump and run (LeRC)

What Does Augmentation Buy?

- Accelerates effort into full-scale subsystem operating-environment evaluation
- Leverages well timewise on other Government-sponsored work (e.g., IHPTET)
- Provides readiness for overall engine test/flight applications by FY96
- Contractor team willing to cost share/Government facility gains new capabilities
- Keeps U.S. competitive internationally (vs. France's SEP, Japanese work)

Liquid Hydrogen Turbopump (RD Mk44F)

(Proposed for Ceramic Composite Turbine Testing)
Example: Combined-Cycle (airbreathing/rocket) Propulsion

1990 SSTC/ARTS Recommendation (vis-a-vis ETO Program):

"... our Group recommends that the current charter of the effort be enlarged to include combined-cycle propulsion.*

Actions Taken (not necessarily totally ETO instigated):

- Langley's Vehicle Analysis Branch has now examined airbreathing as well as all-rocket ETO systems assuming both available and improved materials availability (e.g., that accorded to NASP X-30)

- Headquarters (ARC/Eagle) is conducting special international hypersonics propulsion activities (assessing combined-cycle work being pursued in France, Germany, U.K., U.S.S.R and Japan)

- ETO Program plans to conduct a Rocket-Based Combined-Cycle (RBCC) SSTO focused Workshop via University of Alabama in Huntsville (there) in November 1991 (FY 91 & 92 supported grant)

SPECIAL INITIATIVE (ETO shared sponsorship)

Operationally Efficient Propulsion System Study

- 3-year assessment: Rocketdyne KSC/Cal Team (for KSC)

- NLS/OSF-MD/OAET-RP Shared Funding (2nd Year just completed)

- Canvassed Shuttle and ELV Launch Teams Re: "non-operability"

- Defined 25 Leading Operability Problems; Technological Remedies for each now documented

- "Rethought" ALS Boost-stage Propulsion System (as example)
  Arrived at IME configuration (vs. standalone engines) for improved operability (this design also is estimated to be superior in terms of reliability, complexity, weight and production costs)

- Have now evolved a quantifiable Operability Index (OI: 0 to 1.0)

- Plan to focus on Space-basing challenge next (SCET to track)
NEW/ETO & SCET

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAMS w/ INDUSTRY
(Low-Cost Commercial ELV Focus)

Hydrodynamic (Foil-type) Bearing Testing
- Allied Signal/LeRC (SCET)
- LH2 & LN2 (sim. LO2) Bearing Rig Tests (Completed)
- Allied Signal/MSFC (ETO)
- LO2 Materials Compatibility and Rig Tests (in Planning)

Low-Cost Thrust Chamber Testing
- TRW/LeRC (ETO)
- LH2/LO2 Operation (Hardware-build stage; Fall 1991 Testing)

Turbopump Testing
- Allied Signal/LeRC & MSFC
- LH2 & LO2 Operation (Discussion stage)

SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY

SPACE PROPULSION SYNERGY GROUP

A National Level Space Propulsion Technology Developer/User Forum
- Sustains the Considerable Momentum of the Penn State Symposium (June 1990)
- All Propulsion-related NASA (now) and DoD (shortly) Offices and Centers aboard
- Propulsion and Space Vehicle Industry and university community being invited in
- Attempting a Vision of the Space Propulsion Future (e.g., via Strategic Planning)
- Looking for "Smarter, Better" Ways of Doing Space Propulsion Business
- Making Developers Aware of User Needs; Involving Users in Technology Planning
- Recognition that our Space Propulsion Institutions Need Rejuvenation (How?)
- Broad cross-section of NASA/DoD with common interests -- achieving balanced representation of technologists, systems developers and systems operators
- Catalyst for free thinking and innovation: cultural change must be achieved
Focused Program Elements

**TRANSPORTATION**
- Earth-to-Orbit Propulsion
- Advanced Cryogenic Engines
- Commercial Vehicle Propulsion
- Cryogenic Fluid Systems
- Auxiliary Propulsion

**SPACE PLATFORMS**
- Nuclear Thermal Propulsion
- Nuclear Electric Propulsion
- Station Keeping Propulsion
- Spacecraft On-Board Propulsion

**TECHNOLOGY FLIGHT EXPTS**
- Cryogenic Orbital N2 Expl (CONE)
- SEPS Flight Experiment
- Cryogenic Orbital H2 Expl (COHE)

**Base R&T**
- Low Thrust Propulsion (Primary & Aux)
- Advanced Propulsion Concepts
- High-Thrust Chemical Propulsion
- Cryogenic Fluid Management
- Lunar and Planetary Propellants

- Ongoing, Extensively Planned (With Updating)
- Recent-start, Planning Mostly Underway
- Prospective, Basically Unplanned

PR1-8
**Purpose of Augmentation Fact Sheet - Format**

**Element Title**

**Low-Thrust Propulsion (LeRC/JPL)**

**Goal:** For a variety of chemical and electric propulsion applications, to develop a technological base for significantly increasing component life, reliability and performance, while decreasing potential life-cycle costs.

**Key Specific Objectives**

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Aggressively Push Toward Transfer]

- Accelerate Hot Rocket Demonstration and Transfer (100 lbf)
- Provide Mission-tailored Space Storable Rocket Capabilities
- Early Integrated H2/O2-Resistojet Combination Demonstrated

**Overarching Theme Statement**

**PROPULSION R&T Base Funding ($M)**

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PR1-9
Low-Thrust Propulsion (LeRC/JPL)

**Goal:** For a variety of chemical and electric propulsion applications, to create a technological base toward increasing component life, reliability and performance, while decreasing program risk and life-cycle costs.

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Assure Readiness for Technology Transfer]

- Accelerate Advanced Earth-storable Rocket Applications
- Provide Mission-tailored Space Storable Rocket Capabilities
- Develop Integrated H2/O2 propulsion systems (Vehicles & Platforms)
- Provide Advanced Electric Platform Station-keeping Propulsion
- Demonstrate Ion Engine readiness for SEP & Robotic NEP Flight Tests

Advanced Propulsion Concepts (LeRC/JPL)

**Goal:** For long-range, high-risk/payoff propulsion concepts of all kinds, to accelerate aggressive feasibility studies and proof-of-concept experiments to provide mission-oriented programs a firm basis of confidence to select new kinds of propulsion systems technologies for focused development.

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Expand Concepts, Researcher Pool]

- Identify and Experimentally Explore High Energy-Density Propellants
- Develop and Life Test Electrodeless Electric Thrusters
- Demonstrate Beamed-Energy Feasibility
- Evaluate Fusion/Anti-Proton Propulsion
- Demonstrate Multi-MWe High-Performance Plasma Propulsion
- Demonstrate Carbon-60 Molecular Ion Propulsion
**High-Thrust Chemical Propulsion** (LeRC, MSFC, JSC)

**Goal:** In the generic analysis/design tools, combustion-device, turbo-machinery and integrated controls and monitoring arenas, to identify and explore, through feasibility studies, code development and critical experiments, "quantum-leap" opportunities to advance the overall Earth-to-orbit and Space Chemical Propulsion state-of-the-art.

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Broaden, Deepen and Accelerate]

- Expand modeling efforts and code development in the subsystem areas and initiate systems-level work, e.g., toward full engine dynamic operational simulation (Example: a Reliability Predictor)
- Explore Innovative Injector/Combustor/Nozzle Concepts and Provide for High-Fidelity Performance-Predictive Capabilities
- Innovate Advances in Turbopump Elements, Components and Subsystems Toward Major Reliability and Operability Improvements (Example: High-Temperature Superconducting Magnetic Bearings)
- Open the Way to all-pervasive Propulsion Health Management and Intelligent Control Capabilities (e.g., Prognostics, Sensor Self-check) including VHM Interfacing
- Attack Non-Engine Propulsion System Problem Areas and Advocate Potential Solutions to Users

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**Cryogenic Fluid Management** (LeRC, MSFC)

**Goal:** To Complement Focused Technology and Flight-Test Programs with Validated Analytical Models and small-scale test data to meet future subcritical cryogen storage and handling design challenges (e.g., Zero-g Venting, Years-duration Cryogen Maintenance)

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Complement and Underpin Focused Efforts]

- Develop Pertinent Thermofluid Models for Subcritical Cryogens in Space and Validate with Small-scale Laboratory Experiments
- Achieve Fundamental Understanding of the Role Gravity/No-Gravity Plays in Subcritical Cryogen Containment and Handling Systems
- Make Available Improved Thermal Insulation and, If Feasible, Active Refrigeration Technologies (toward zero-loss containment)
- Pursue New Gauging Techniques and Sensor/Network Concepts
- Address Space-environment Subcritical Cryogenic Fluid Storage and Supply, Transfer and State-assessment Problems and Develop Hardware Solutions to be Ultimately Verified in the Cryo Fluid Systems focused Program and in adequate-scale Flight Testing (viz., CONE)
R & T BASE PROGRAM ELEMENTS

**Lunar and Planetary Propellants (LeRC, JPL)**

**Goal:** Provide a Verified Technological Strategy for Reaping the Large Logistical Benefits of Utilizing Indigenous Extraterrestrial Energy Materials and Propellants

**Augmentation Objectives:**
- [Theme: Monitor In-Situ Resource Utilization Efforts/Initiate Work Later]
  - Focus on Probable Requirements and Mission Payoffs of Indigenous Lunar and Planetary Propellants Production and Utilization
  - Identify and Critically Assess the Enabling Technologies
  - Experimentally Explore Key Production and End-use Processes (Example: Test LO2/Al "Monopropellant Slurry" in Engine)
  - Explore Ramifications of Terrestrial Energy Use of Indigenous Planetary Energy Resources (e.g., Lunar He3)

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**FOCUSED PROGRAMS FUNDING**

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**EARTH-TO-ORBIT PROPULSION AND ADVANCED CRYOGENIC ENGINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS**

### Work Breakdown Structure
FOCUSED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Earth-to-Orbit (ETO) Propulsion Technology (MSFC, LeRC)

Special Note: Augmentation refers to "Strategic" funding plan; "X" is presently identical to "Current"

Goal: For all Engine Subsystem areas to Provide Advanced Test-Validated Analysis and Design Tools, Materials and Fabrication Processes, and Hardware/Software-Specific New Technologies such that Next-generation ETO Propulsion Systems can be more promptly and systematically developed at significantly lower risk and cost, while being more reliable and operable than current systems, all without compromising performance.

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: Expand the Time-Horizon and Purview]

- Increase the Relevance and "Technology Products" Contribution of the Combustion Device, Turbomachinery and ICHM work-areas to both Ongoing and Planned New ETO (+ in-space) Propulsion Systems
- Redouble Program efforts to mechanize Large-scale Experimental Subsystem Validation Thrusts in Combustion Devices and Turbomachinery areas; complete/operate MSFC "SimLab" (ICHM)
- Expand Program purview into the "beyond-engine" Propulsion System Arena, e.g., Technology for both Ground and Flight components such as zero-leak connections and disconnects (Poor-operability "pull")
- Increase Program technical coverage to include promising non-traditional propulsion systems, e.g., Hybrid and Combined-cycle (airbreathing/rocket) Propulsion (requires systems studies)

FOCUSED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Advanced Cryogenic Engines (Space Chemical Engine Technology, SCET) (LeRC, MSFC)

Goal: "Restore to Health" this just-initiated and ambitious Program which was funding-decimated in association with the FY 1991/92 SEI-program budgets as actually realized (vs. planned).

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: Reaccelerate AETB while reparalleling full component technology-advancement by entire propulsion community]

- Restore AETB contract/government-facility operations to earlier pace and level-of-effort (Contemplate a second AETB?)
- Via NRA (already developed for release) promptly establish a component/subsystem technology-advancement program effort
- Initiate efforts on integrated modular engine (IME) versions of SCET applications
- Better synergize Program taskwork with Base R&T and non-SCET program elements, e.g., Cryogenic Fluid Systems, ETO, Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Programs
Commercial Vehicle Propulsion (MSFC, LeRC, JSC)

Note: Presently worked under CSTI Booster and ETO, and SCET Programs

Goal: Responsively to COMSTAC recommendations to NASA, to meet Commercial ELV technology needs both near term (existing technology/services) and for new-design low-cost systems (advanced technology)

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: Work both immediate retrofit-type engineering and out-year new-design enabling technologies]

Immediate/Near-Term (1-3 years to transfer)
- Analysis and Design Tools, Fabrication Processes
- Low Pc Thrust Chambers (e.g., advanced ablatives)
- Low-Costs, simplified Turbopumps & Pressurization

Longer Term (4-7 years to transfer)
- IME, Advanced Nozzles, Expander-cycle at High Thrust
- Hybrid Solid/Liquid Propulsion for Booster and Upper-stages
SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY

COMSTAC KEY PROPULSION NEEDS
(Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee)

1. Low Cost Liquid Booster Engines - LO2/LH2 (New Expander Cycle)
2. Low Cost Liquid Booster Engines - Hydrocarbon (Evolutionary)
3. Hybrid Propulsion Strap-On Boosters With Transition to High Regression Rate Non-Oxidized Fuel
4. Advanced Low Cost LO2/LH2 Upper Stage Engine (30-50K Lbs Thrust)
5. Advanced Low Cost LO2/LH2 Upper Stage Engine (100-200K Lbs Thrust)
6. Leak Free Tubing and Ducts
7. Low Cost Pressure Fed Engine & Turbopump Technology
8. Clean Burning Solid Motor Technology
9. Improved LOX/RP-1 and Storable Derivative Engine Components

Cryogenic Fluid Systems (LeRC, MSFC)

Goal: Closely coordinating with all NASA and other Government related efforts, develop test-verified cryogenic fluid containment and handling technologies as required for extended spaceflight as, and when needed for development.

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: Maximizing Collateral Support, Achieve Needed Technology Readiness for Spaceflight and Surface-based Systems]

- Develop to the technology-readiness stage advanced Cryogenic Insulation systems (e.g., "thick MLI", MLI + foam)
- Perfect both one-g/zero-g subcritical Fluid Transfer and zero-g control techniques
- Accurately model Cryo-fluid slosh characteristics for operating systems and develop design criteria for effective slosh-control techniques
- Establish generically applicable Cryo-servicing Facility design criteria and hardware-acquisition guidelines
- Document comprehensive Thermal and Pressure-control, Liquid Supply and Handling, and fluid-transfer design/operating guidelines (Dependent on successful conclusion of CONE and CONE flight tests)
NUCLEAR PROPULSION WBS

FOCUSSED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

**Nuclear Thermal Propulsion** (NTP) (NASA*, DOE, DoD)

*NASA Center Involvement: LeRC, MSFC, JSC

**Special Note:** Except 1997, "Strategic," "5X" and "Current" funding plans for NTP are identical

**Goal:** Capitalizing on the significant national NTP hardware-demonstrated background (e.g., NERVA), a multi-agency technology investment, seeking out innovative approaches, will develop a state of technology readiness for initiating the development of an NTP system for human missions to Mars.

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: National program, building heavily on past achievements and current innovation, will achieve a viable system]

- Achieve a safe, reliable and high-performance nuclear propulsion system technology base predicated on past accomplishments
- Seek innovative approaches for improving the NTP S.O.A.
- Achieve a Government + Public consensus supporting the safe use of Nuclear Propulsion in space as being feasible/acceptable
- (NASA) Coordinate with DOE and DoD (including appropriate Agency and National Laboratories) to maximize use of total national expertise and physical resources (e.g. test facilities)
- Conduct a phased, focused NTP technology development and verification program which remains flexibly responsive to Mars precursor and manned missions
FOCUSED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

**Nuclear Electric Propulsion (NTP)** (NASA*, DOE, DoD)

*NASA Center Involvement: LeRC, JSC, JPL

Special Note: Except 1997*, "Strategic", "3X" and "Current" funding plans for NTP are identical

**Goal:** Capitalizing on the significant national hardware-related ongoing nuclear space power efforts (e.g., SP-100), a multi-agency technology investment, seeking out innovative approaches, will develop a state of technology readiness for initiating the development of an NEP system for missions to Mars

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: National program, building heavily on current space nuclear power and innovation, will achieve a viable system]

- Achieve a safe, reliable and high-performance nuclear electric propulsion system technology base predicated partly on ongoing developments
- Seek innovative approaches for improving the NEP S.O.A.
- Achieve a Government + Public consensus supporting the safe use of Nuclear Propulsion in space as being feasible/acceptable
- (NASA) Coordinate with DOE and DoD (including appropriate Agency and National Laboratories) to maximize use of total national expertise and physical resources (e.g. test facilities)
- Conduct a phased, focused NEP technology development and verification program which remains flexibly responsive to Mars precursor and manned missions

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**Spacecraft On-Board Propulsion** (LeRC, JPL)

**Goal:** Provide Dual-mode (NTO/N2H4) Propulsion for Planetary Missions

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Readiness for Planetary Missions]

- Demonstrate dual-mode "hot rocket" and advanced tankage

**Station-keeping Propulsion** (LeRC, JSC)

**Goal:** Provide Integrated H2/O2 + Resistojet Capabilities for Platforms

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: Enable logistics, operations benefits]

- Demonstrate H2/O2 Thrustors & Low-pressure electrolysis
- Demonstrate Single Resistojet for Waste water and gas

**Auxiliary Propulsion** (JSC, LeRC)

**Goal:** Provide Integrated (common-propellant supply) auxiliary propulsion

**Augmentation Objectives:** [Theme: System & Operations simplification]

- Demonstrate radiation-cooled Earth- & Space Storable thrustors
- Provide complete-system technologies for integrated system
Cryogenic Orbital Nitrogen Experiment (CONE) (LeRC, MSFC)

Goal: Acquire low-g Flight Data needed for Design Tool validation for LO2 and LN2 Pressure-control, Liquid Acquisition and Transfer-system transportation and platform applications; extrapolate to at least partially validate LH2 applications

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: LN2 & LO2 Flight-data Validation]

- Assess effectiveness of passive pressure control
- Acquire low-g data for active pressure control system
- Demonstrate 100:1 reduction in mixer power (active control)
- Demonstrate effective zero-g liquid acquisition devices (LAD)
- Demonstrate no-vent fill, and rapid venting and safing
- Explore zero-g tank chilldown, LAD efficiency and autogenous pressurization
- Extrapolate to pressure-control, LAD and transfer of LH2

Cryogenic Orbital Hydrogen Experiment (COHE) (LeRC, MSFC)

Goal: Acquire low-g Flight Data needed for Design Tool validation for LH2 Pressure-control, Liquid Acquisition and Transfer-system transportation and platform applications

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: LH2 Systems Flight-Data Validation]

- Validate predictive analysis tools for liquid withdrawal (LADs)
- Establish criteria and efficiency of no-vent fill
- Demonstrate effectiveness of insulation systems & components
- Demonstrate capability to meet system-safety criteria
- Provide test-proven autogenous pressurization in transfer
- Demonstrate flight-qualified mass guaging in zero-g operation
- Establish effectiveness of passive pressure-control
TECHNOLOGY FLIGHT EXPERIMENTS

SOLAR ELECTRIC PROPULSION (LeRC, JPL)

Goal: Demonstrate Feasibility of SEP via Flight Test

Augmentation Objectives: [Theme: Evolutionary Risk/Cost to Acceptance]

- Launch on Delta ELV
- APSA PV Panels (1-2 kWe) with Two Propulsion Types
  - "Derated" Xenon Ion Thrustor and Low-Power H2 Arcjet
  - Subscale Cryo H2 Container (Mod. Orbiter PSRA Tank)
- Planned Schedule/Costs through Launch
  - Ion: 42 Months, $8.1M
  - Arcjet 48 Months, $14.7M

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- Is the program content/approach correct?
- Is the level of investment correct?
- Given the available funding are the priorities correct?
- Is the user interface being properly coordinated?
- Are the efforts being properly coordinated?
- Are the participants correct?
- Is the R&T Base content innovative enough to provide improved capability for future user/mission applications?
- Does the R&T Base activity maintain or enhance NASA's technical capabilities?