

# Earth Science Capability Demonstration Project



**Brent Cobleigh**  
**Ikhana Project Manager**  
**5/10/06**





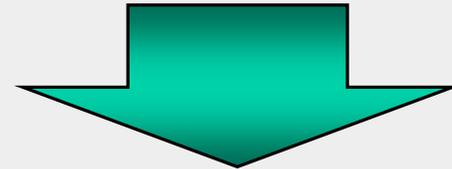
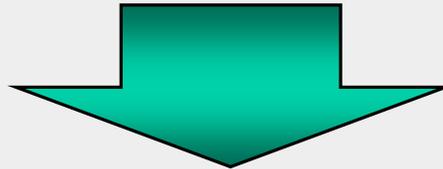
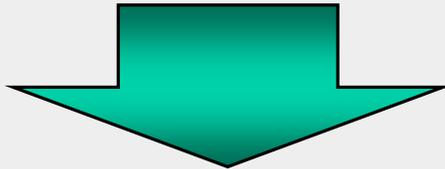
# ESCD Project



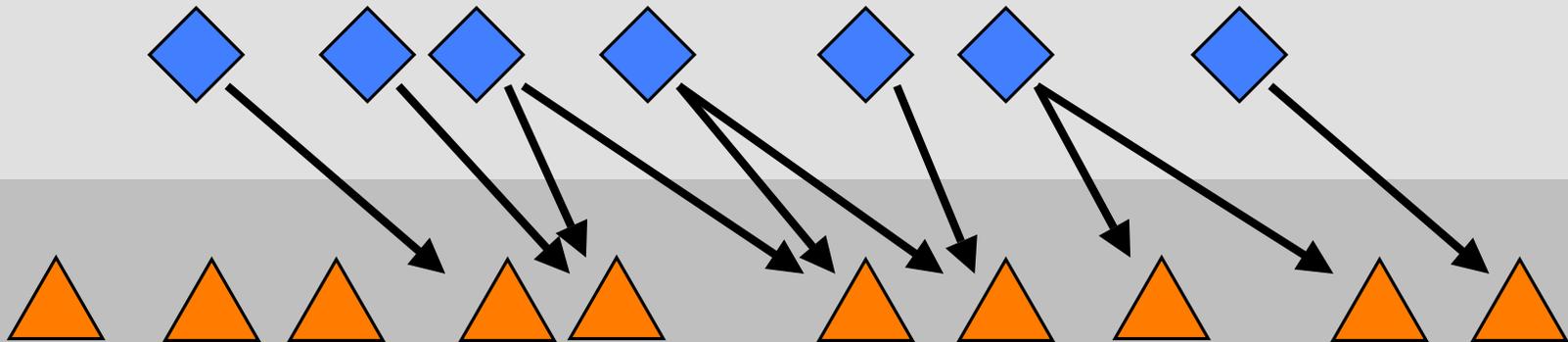
*UAV Capability  
Assessment Needs*

*NASA Earth Science  
Mission Requirements*

*External Customer  
Requirements*



*Technology Demonstrations*



*Mission Demonstrations*





## Available Flight Assets



- **Ikhana (Predator-B)**
  - Delivery in June 2006
- **Altair**
  - First triple redundant Predator-B
  - Long term lease, 300 day/year
  - Manufacturer operated
- **APV-3**
  - Mini-UAV
  - Research flight control development & pilot vehicle interface/displays
- **G-III**
  - DFRC owned
  - UAV surrogate for sensor demonstration



# Ikhana Procurement



- **Predator-B Hunter Killer**
  - 1st Digital Electronic Engine Control
  - Ku Satcom system
  - Contract Delivery June 20, 2006 (on schedule)
- **Aircraft recently moved to Gray Butte for ground and flight test**





# GCS Layout

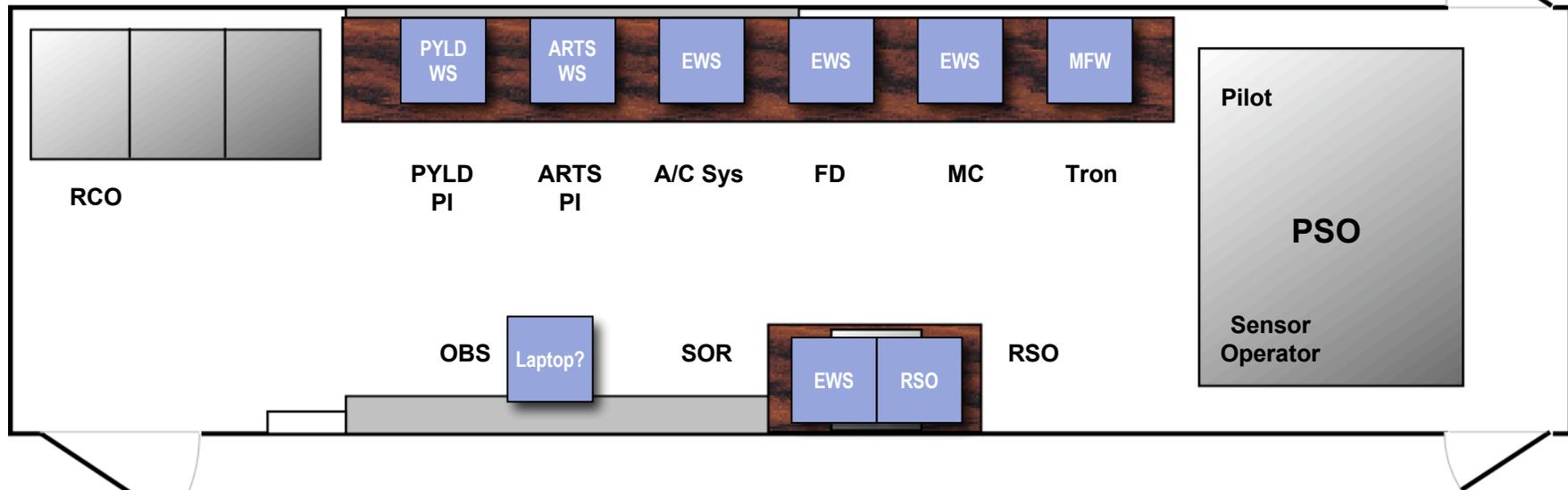


- **Mobile Ground Control Station**

- Standard General Atomics Pilot & Sensor Operator Ground Control Station
- C-130, C-17 Compatible
- Mobile C-band & 4.5m SatCom antenna
- Delivery late Summer 2006



# GCS Layout

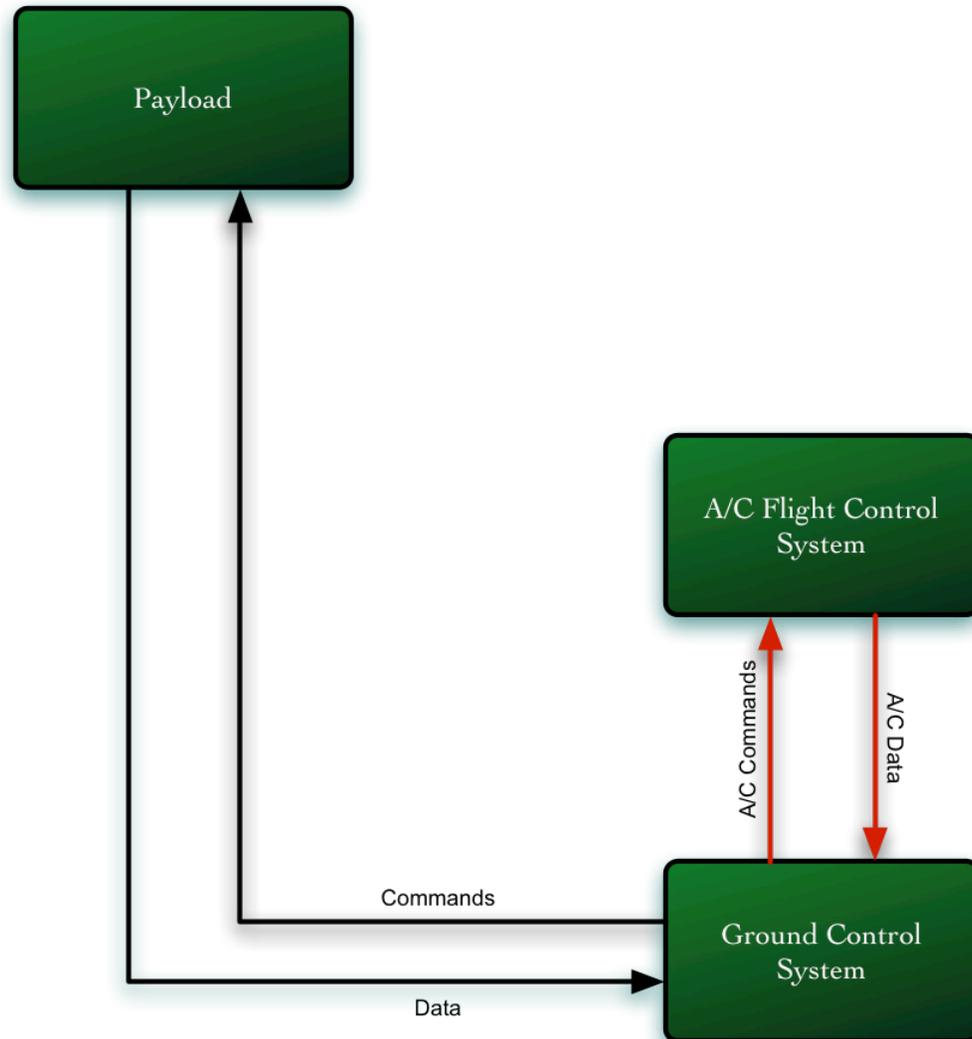


- 6 custom engineering monitoring stations
- Able to monitor & command aircraft and experiments
- Networked to WWW
- Access to aircraft and ground video
- Range Safety/Flight Termination



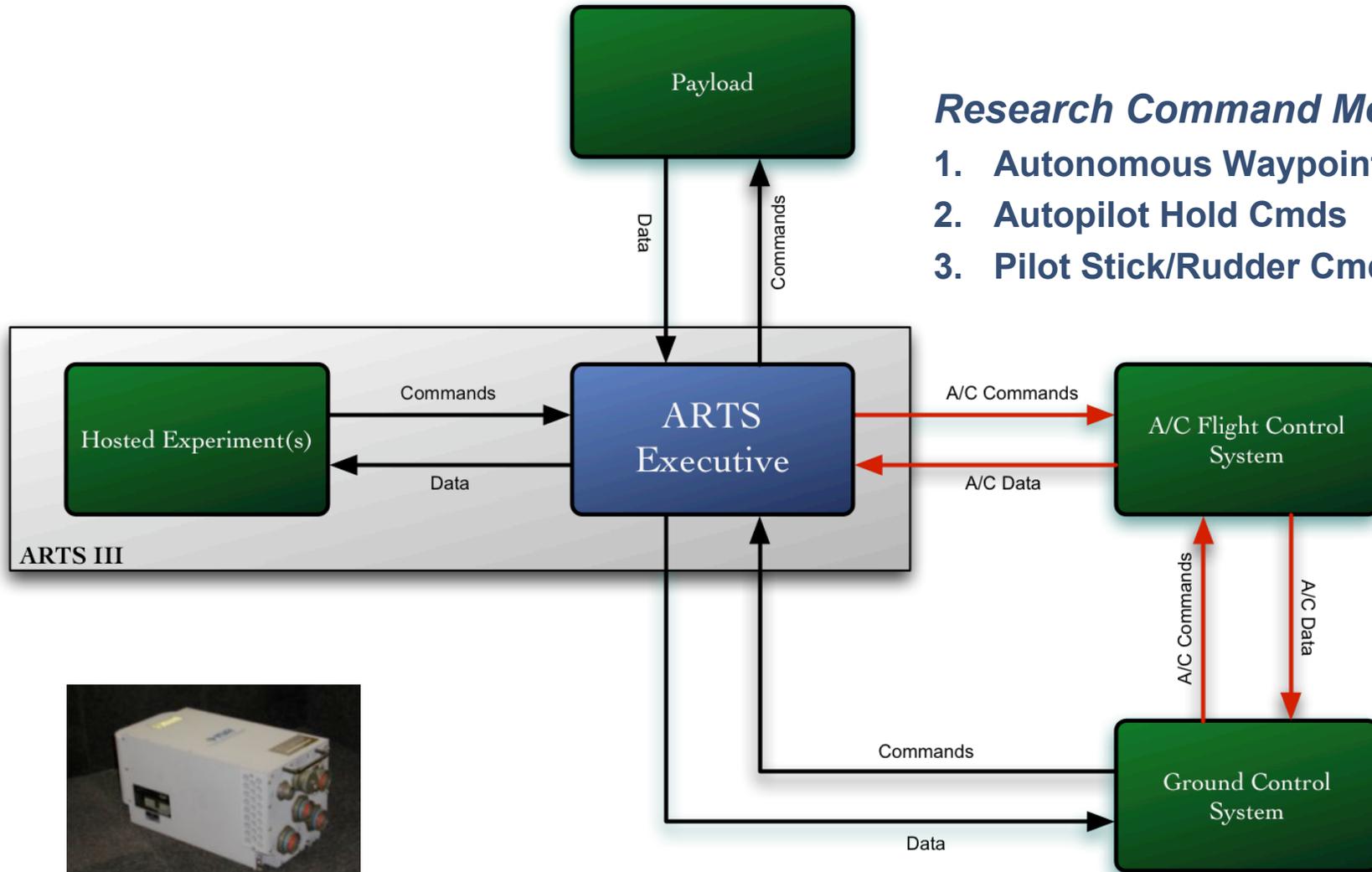


# Baseline Predator B Architecture





# Ikhana Architecture



- Research Command Modes**
1. Autonomous Waypoint Cmds
  2. Autopilot Hold Cmds
  3. Pilot Stick/Rudder Cmds



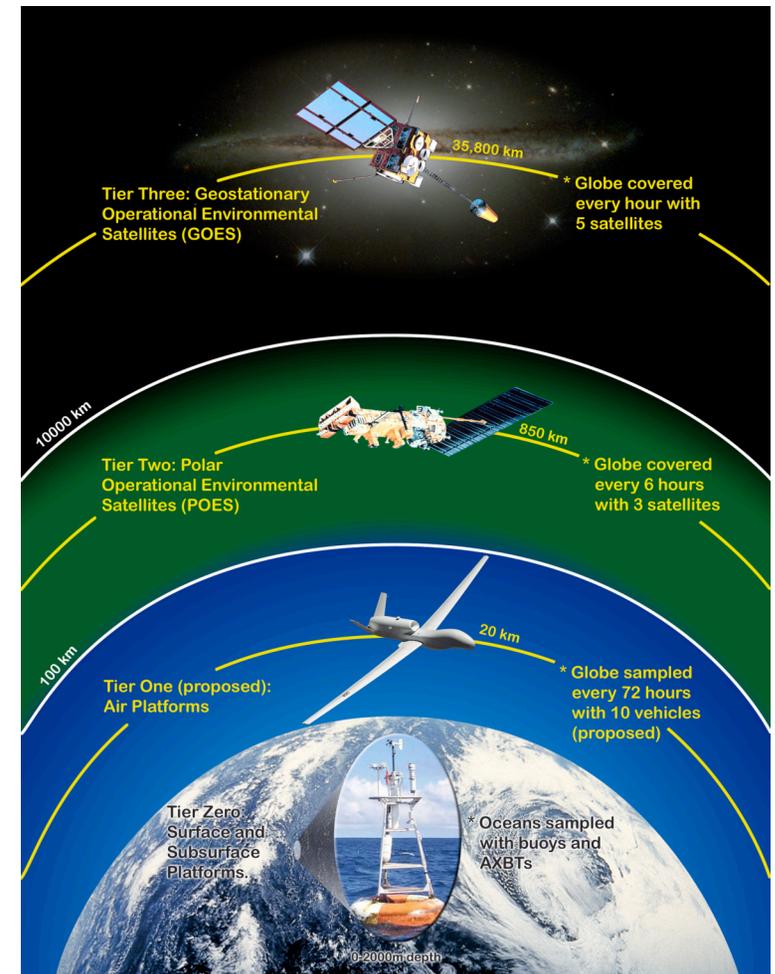
**ARTS II**



# UAV Capability Assessment



- **In depth assessment of UAV capabilities required for Earth Science, Civil, and Homeland Security**
  - Complement to DOD UAV Roadmap
  - Influence the management of the UAV technology portfolio based on user defined future needs
- **6 workshops completed**
  - Sub-Orbital Science Missions of the Future
  - Global Climate Change (2): NASA/NOAA/DOE
  - Science Sensors and Power / Propulsion
  - Homeland Security
  - Land Management and Coastal Zone Dynamics
- **Product is a living document that identifies and tracks relevant technology gaps**
  - Updated annually
  - Vetted with participating agencies



**Website:** <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/research/civuav/index.html>



# The Big Picture



**Access to National Airspace**  
**Remote Command and Control**  
 Long Range and Endurance  
**Increased Platform Availability**  
**Quick Deployment**  
**Terrain Avoidance**  
**Formation Flight**  
**Precision Trajectory**  
**Multi-Ship Control**  
**Precision State Data**  
 High Altitude  
**All Weather**  
**Vertical Profiling**  
**Deploy/Retrieve**  
 Covert Operation

**New Capabilities**

**New Technologies**

**Autonomous Mission Management**  
**Intelligent System Management**  
**Collision Avoidance**  
**Reliable Flight Systems**  
**Sophisticated Contingency Management**  
**Intelligent Data Handling/Processing**  
**Over-the-Horizon Comm**  
 Power and Propulsion  
**Enhanced Structures**  
**Open Architectures**  
**Precision Navigation**



**New Missions**

## **Earth Science**

River Discharge  
 Forecast Initialization  
 Stratospheric Ozone Chemistry  
 Magnetic Fields Measurements  
 Glacier and Ice Sheet Dynamics  
 Cloud and Aerosol Measurements  
 Tropospheric Pollution and Air Quality  
 Focused Observations – Extreme Weather  
 Gravitational Acceleration Measurements  
 Hurricane Genesis, Evolution, and Landfall  
 Ice Sheet Thickness and Surface Deformation  
 Repeat Pass Interferometry for Surface Deformation  
 Topographic Mapping and Topographic Change with LIDAR

## **Land Management**

Precision Agriculture  
 Wildfire/Disaster Response  
 Water Reservoir Management  
 Wildlife Management Population Count  
 Identification and Tracking of Maritime Species

## **Homeland Security**

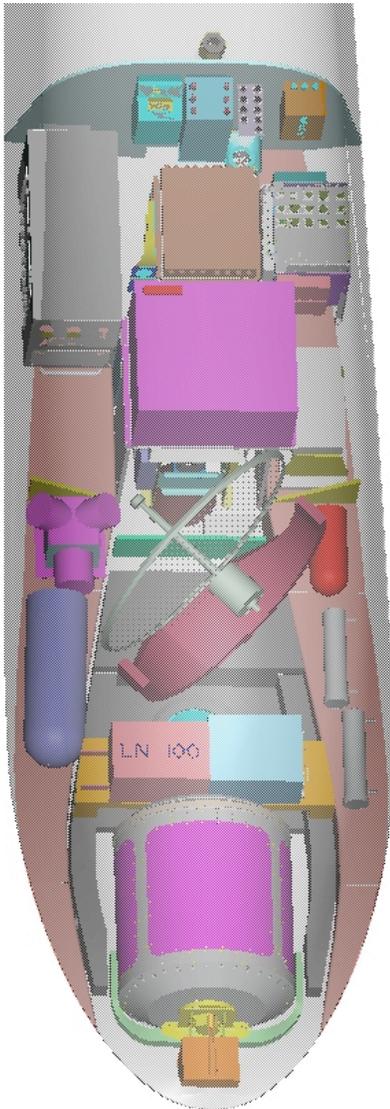
Coastal Patrol  
 Broad Area Surveillance  
 Border Patrol Situational Awareness  
 Marine Interdiction, Monitoring, Detection, Tracking



## *Mission Demonstrations*



# NASA/NOAA UAV Demo (5/05 to 9/05)

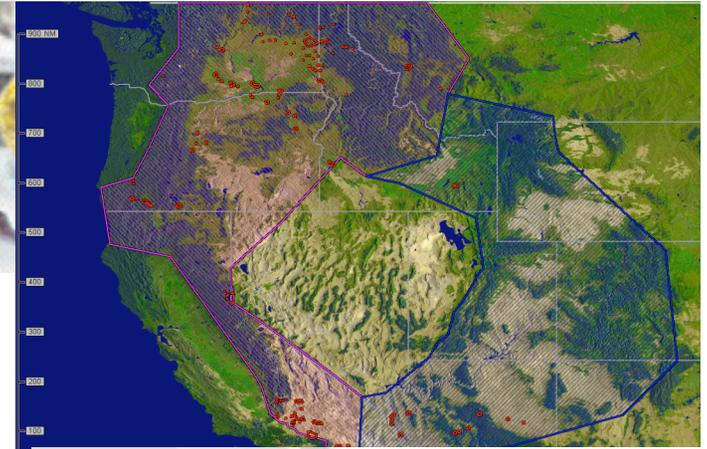


- **5 Missions using Altair**
  - Up to 18.6 hrs
- **Sensors**
  - Ocean Color Sensor/Passive Microwave Vertical Sounder
  - Gas Chromatograph/Ozone Instrument
  - Cirrus Digital Camera System
  - REVEAL
  - EO/IR Skyball
- **Objectives**
  - Atmospheric river sampling
  - Marine sanctuary surveillance/enforcement
  - Channel Island mapping
  - Ocean color profile
- **Objectives achieved**

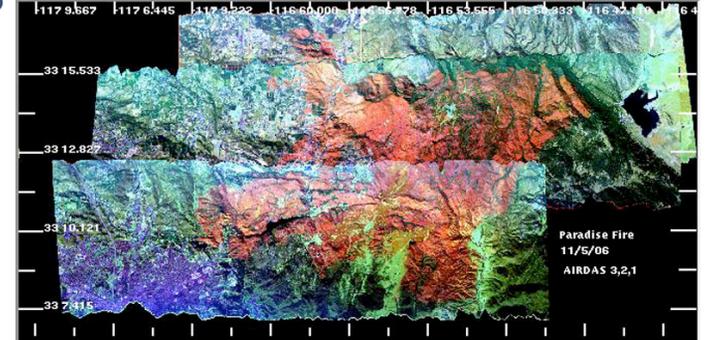
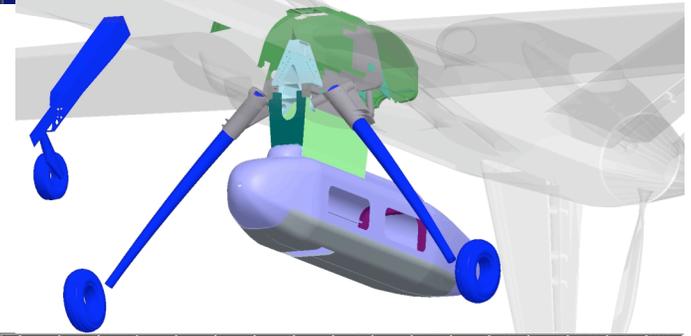




# NASA/USFS Western States Fire Mission (8/06)



- Multi-spectral camera to locate and map known and unknown fires in National Forest (August/September 2006)
- Thermo geo-rectified imagery provided to the National Interagency Fire Center in near real-time
- Sensors pod-mounted for quicker aircraft reconfiguration
- Aircraft will be tasked in similar fashion to other USFS assets
  - Can operate day and night
- Will be ready to respond from So. California to Montana
- Long duration (~20 hours) over-land operation in the NAS will provide challenges





## *Technology Development*

