Overview of Additive Manufacturing Initiatives at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

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Agenda

NASA’s In Space Manufacturing Initiative (ISM)

• The Case for ISM: WHY
• ISM Path to Exploration
  o Results from 3D Printing in ZeroG Technology Demonstration Mission
  o ISM Challenges
• In Space Robotic Manufacturing and Assembly (IRMA)
• Additive Construction

Additively Manufacturing (AM) Development For Liquid Rocket Engine Space Flight Hardware

MSFC Standard and Specification For Additively Manufactured Space Flight Hardware

Summary
The Case for ISM: WHY

Current maintenance logistics strategy **will not be effective** for deep space exploration missions

Benefits from Incorporation of ISM
ISM offers the potential to:

- Significantly reduce maintenance logistics mass requirements
- Enable the use of recycled materials and in-situ resources for more dramatic reductions in mass requirements
- Enable flexibility, giving systems a broad capability to adapt to unanticipated circumstances
- Mitigate risks that are not covered by current approaches to maintainability
In-Space Manufacturing (ISM) Path to Exploration

**GROUND-BASED**
- Earth-Based Platform
  - Certification & Inspection Process
  - Design Properties Database
  - Additive Manufacturing Automation
- Ground-based Technology Maturation & Demonstration
- AM for Exploration Support Systems (e.g. ECLSS) Design, Development & Test
- Additive Construction
- Regolith (Feedstock)

**EARTH RELIANT ISS**
- ISS Test-bed – Transition to Deep Space Gateway
  - 3D Print Demo
  - Additive Manufacturing Facility
  - In-space Recycling
  - In-space Metals
  - Printable Electronics
  - Multi-material Fab Lab
  - In-line NDE
- External Manufacturing (IRMA)
  - On-demand Parts Catalogue
  - Exploration Systems Demonstration and Operational Validation

**CIS-LUNAR**

**EARTH INDEPENDENT Mars**
- Planetary Surfaces Platform
  - Multi-materials Fab Lab (metals, polymers, automation, printable electronics)
  - Food/Medical Grade Polymer Printing & Recycling
  - Additive Construction Technologies
  - Regolith Materials – Feedstock

**Text Color Legend**
- Foundational AM Technologies
- AM Capabilities for Exploration Systems
- Surface / ISRU Systems
Key ISM Thrust Areas

- **FabLab**
  - MSFC

- **First Plastics Printer**
  - Made In Space

- **2nd Generation Plastics Printer**
  - Made In Space

- **Health & Medical**
  - Tethers Unlimited

- **Printed Electronics**
  - MSFC

- **In-Space Metallics**
  - Made in Space
  - Ultra Tech

- **Common Use Recyclable Materials**
  - Cornerstone Research Group
  - Tethers Unlimited

- **Recycler/Printer**
  - Tethers Unlimited
The 3DP in Zero G Tech Demo delivered the first 3D printer to ISS and investigated the effects of consistent microgravity on fused deposition modeling.

**Phase I Prints (Nov-Dec 2014):** mechanical property test articles; range coupons; and functional tools

**Key Observations:**
- **Tensile and Flexure:** Flight specimens stronger and stiffer than ground specimens
- **Compression:** Flight specimens are weaker than ground specimens
- **Density:** Flight specimens slightly more dense than ground specimens; compression specimens show opposite trend
- **Structured Light Scanning:** Protrusions along bottom edges (more pronounced for flight prints)
- **Microscopy:** Greater Densification of Bottom Layers (flight tensile and flexure)
- **Z-Calibration distance variation** suspected to be primary factor driving differences between flight and ground samples
- **Potential influence of feedstock aging** are being evaluated further
Key Results: The 3D Printing in Zero G Technology Demonstration Mission (Phase II)

- Phase II Prints:
  - 25 specimens (tensile + compression) built at an optimal extruder standoff distance.
  - 9 specimens printed with intentionally decreased extruder standoff distance to mimic Phase I flight process conditions.

- Key findings:
  - No substantive chemical changes in feedstock.
  - No evidence of microgravity effects noted in SEM, SLS, CT analysis. Some internal structure variation between builds and with changes in process settings (primarily compression).
  - All prints to date with 3DP appear to be broadly part of the same family of data.
  - Phase I data variations appear traceable to:
    - Differences in manufacturing process settings (extruder standoff distance).
    - Data scatter characteristic of many additively manufactured materials and processes.
    - Printer variability.

Cross-section of PII tensile specimen manufactured at optimal extruder setting (left) compared with specimen manufactured at a reduced extruder standoff distance (right). Right image has a cross-section characteristic with PI flight prints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen set</th>
<th>Average ultimate tensile strength (KSI)</th>
<th>Coefficient of variation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase II</td>
<td>3.68</td>
<td>6.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II optimal</td>
<td>3.63</td>
<td>6.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase II off-suboptimal</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I ground</td>
<td>3.46</td>
<td>1.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase I flight</td>
<td>4.04</td>
<td>5.95</td>
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</tbody>
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Overall, we cannot attribute any of the observations to microgravity effects.
ISM Utilization and the Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF): Functional Parts

- Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF) is the second generation printer developed by Made in Space, Inc.
- AMF is a commercial, multi-user facility capable of printing ABS, ULTEM, and HDPE.
- To date, NASA has printed several functional parts for ISS using AMF

The Made in Space Additive Manufacturing Facility (AMF)

**SPHERES Tow Hitch:** SPHERES consists of 3 free-flying satellites on-board ISS. Tow hitch joins two of the SPHERES satellites together during flight. Printed 2/21/17.

**REM Shield Enclosure:** Enclosure for radiation monitors inside Bigelow Expandable Activity Module (BEAM). Printed 3/20/17 (1 of 3).

**Antenna Feed Horn:** collaboration between NASA Chief Scientist & Chief Technologist for Space Communications and Navigation, ISM & Sciperio, Inc. Printed 3/9/17 and returned on SpaceX-10 3/20/17.

**OGS Adapter:** adapter attaches over the OGS air outlet and fixtures the velocicalc probe in the optimal location to obtain a consistent and accurate reading of airflow through the port. 7/19/2016.

ReFabricator from Tethers Unlimited, Inc.: Closing the Manufacturing Loop

- Technology Demonstration Mission payload conducted under a Phase III SBIR with Tethers Unlimited, Inc.

- Refabricator demonstrates feasibility of plastic recycling in a microgravity environment for long duration missions
  - Closure of the manufacturing loop for FDM has implications for reclamation of waste material into useful feedstock both in-space and on-earth

- Refabricator is an integrated 3D printer (FDM) and recycler
  - Recycles 3D printed plastic (ULTEM 9085) into filament feedstock through the Positrusion process

- Environmental testing of engineering test unit completed at MSFC in April
  - Payload CDR completed in mid-June
  - Operational on ISS in 2018

Common Use Materials Development: Recyclable Materials

- Logistics analyses show the dramatic impact of a recycling capability for reducing initial launch mass requirements for long duration missions
  - Current packaging materials for ISS represent a broad spectrum of polymers: LDPE, HDPE, PET, Nylon, PVC

- Tethers CRISSP (Customizable Recyclable ISS Packaging) seeks to develop common use materials (which are designed to be recycled and repurposed) for launch packaging
  - Work under Phase II SBIR
  - Recyclable foam packaging made from thermoplastic materials using FDM
  - Can create custom infill profiles for the foam to yield specific vibration characteristics or mechanical properties

- Cornerstone Research Group (CRG) is working under a Phase II SBIR on development of reversible copolymer materials
  - Designs have strength and modulus values comparable to or exceeding base thermoplastic materials while maintaining depressed viscosity that makes them compatible with FDM
Toward an In-Space Metal Additive Manufacturing Capability

- Made in Space Vulcan unit (Phase I SBIR)
  - Integrates FDM head derived from AMF, wire and arc metal deposition system,
  - Ultra Tech Ultrasonic Additive Manufacturing (UAM) system (Phase I SBIR)
  - Uses sound waves to consolidate layers of metal from foil feedstock
- Tethers Unlimited MAMBA (Metal Advanced Manufacturing Bot-Assisted Assembly) (Phase I SBIR)
  - Builds on ReFabricator recycling process
- Techshot, Inc. SIMPLE (Sintered Inductive Metal Printer with Laser Exposure) (Phase II SBIR)
  - AM process with metal wire feedstock, inductive heating, and a low-powered laser
Ground-based Work on Printed Electronics

- Evaluating technologies to enable multi-material, digital manufacturing of components
- Development of additively manufactured wireless sensor archetype (MSFC)
  - Printed RLC circuit with coupled antenna
  - Capacitive sensing element is pressure, temperature, or otherwise environmentally sensitive material developed at MSFC
- Design of pressure switch for urine processor assembly (UPA)
  - Existing pressure switch has had several failures due to manufacturing flaw in metal diaphragm
  - In additive design, switching is accomplished via a pressure sensitive material
- Miniaturization and adaptation of printable electronics for microgravity environment will continue through two Phase 1 contracts awarded under SBIR subtopic In-Space Manufacturing of Electronics and Avionics
  - Optomec working on miniaturization of patented Aerosol Jet technology

MSFC nScrypt multimaterial printer (4 heads and pick and place capability)

Printed wireless humidity sensor (wires attached for characterization purposes)
The Multimaterial Fabrication Laboratory for ISS ("FabLab")

Typical EXPRESS Rack structure

Guardian of a multi-material, multiprocess In-space Manufacturing Fabrication Laboratory for demonstration on the ISS

Minimum target capabilities include:

- Manufacturing of metallic components
- Meet ISS EXPRESS Rack constraints for power and volume
- Limit crew time
- Incorporate remote and autonomous verification and validation of parts

Phased approach

- Phase A – scaleable ground-based prototype
- Phase B – mature technologies to pre-flight deliverable
- Phase C – flight demonstration to ISS
In-space Robotic Manufacturing and Assembly (IRMA) Overview

**Archinaut**
A Versatile In-Space Precision Manufacturing and Assembly System

**Dragonfly**
On-Orbit Robotic Installation and Reconfiguration of Large Solid Radio Frequency (RF) Reflectors

**CIRAS**
A Commercial Infrastructure for Robotic Assembly and Services

**Tipping Point Objective**
- A ground demonstration of additive manufacturing of extended structures and assembly of those structures in a relevant space environment.
- A ground demonstration of robotic assembly interfaces and additive manufacture of antenna support structures meeting EHF performance requirements.
- A ground demonstration of reversible and repeatable robotic joining methods for mechanical and electrical connections feasible for multiple space assembly geometries.

**Team**
- **Archinaut**: Made In Space, Northrop Grumman Corp., Oceaneering Space Systems, Ames Research Center
- **Dragonfly**: Space Systems/Loral, Langley Research Center, Ames Research Center, Tethers Unlimited, MDA US & Brampton
- **CIRAS**: Orbital ATK, Glenn Research Center, Langley Research Center, Naval Research Laboratory
Additive Construction Dual Use Technology Projects
For Planetary and Terrestrial Applications

Additive Construction with Mobile Emplacement (ACME)
NASA

Shared Vision: Capability to print custom-designed expeditionary structures on-demand, in the field, using locally available materials.

Automated Construction of Expeditionary Structures (ACES)
Construction Engineering Research Laboratory - Engineer Research and Development Center (CERL – ERDC)

B-hut (guard shack) 16’ x 32’ x 10’
ACES-3: The World’s Largest 3D Structural Printer

Model of ACES-3 Gantry System

ACES-3 System in Champaign, IL

ACES-3 in Champaign, IL, aerial view

KSC Material Delivery System
Additive Manufacturing Development for Liquid Rocket Engine Space Flight Hardware
Strategic Vision:

- Defining the Development Philosophy of the Future
- Building Foundational Industrial Base
- Building Experience
- Developing “Smart Buyers” to enable Commercial Partners
- Enabling and Developing Revolutionary Technology
- SLM Material Property Data, Technology, and Testbed shared with US Industry

Focus Areas:

- SLS Core Stage Engine, RS-25
  - Process development and characterization
  - Material property characterization and database development (Inconel 718)
  - Pathfinder component fabrication
- In Space Propulsion Class Additive Manufacturing Demonstrator Engine (AMDE)
  - Chambers
  - Injectors
  - Nozzles
  - Valves
  - Turbomachinery
- Small Satellite Propulsion Components
Inconel 718
Used existing design with additive manufacturing to reduce complexity from 127 welds to 4 welds
• 1 of 35 part opportunities being considered for RS25 engine
CubeSat cuboidal tank design:
- Topology optimized
- Printed
- Successfully hydrostatic proof tested

- Topology optimized monopropellant thruster thermal standoffs, injectors
- Reactors with integrated flow passages for small spacecraft
- CubeSat propulsion systems (1 Newton)

Detailed design and fabrication of 3U and 6U CubeSat Propulsion Modules
Additive Manufacturing Demonstrator Engine (AMDE) Development

**Valve Development**
- Oxidizer Turbine Bypass
- Main Oxidizer Valve (MOV)
- Main Fuel Valve/ Coolant Control

**Injector Development**
- 100 lb LOX Propane
- 1.2K LOX Hydrogen
- 20K AMDE Lox Hydrogen
- 4K Methane
- 35k Methane GG
- 20K AMDE Lox Hydrogen

**Copper Main Combustion Chamber Development**

**Liquid Oxygen Turbopump Development**
- Pump Housing
- Impeller
- Turbine
- Stator
- Baffle
- Main Oxidizer Valve (MOV)
- Main Fuel Valve/ Coolant Control
- Inducer Assembly
- Turbopump Assembly
- Turbine Stage

**Fuel Turbopump Development**
- Oxidizer Turbine Bypass
- Main Oxidizer Valve (MOV)
- Main Fuel Valve/ Coolant Control

**Other Materials**
- Valve Development
- Injector Development
- Copper Main Combustion Chamber Development

**Specifications**
- LOX Propane: 100 lb
- LOX: 1.2K
- Lox Hydrogen: 20K AMDE
- Methane: 4K
- Methane GG: 35k
Additive Combustion Chambers Development Assembly and Testing

GRCop-84 3D printing process developed at NASA and infused into industry

GRCop-84 AM Chamber Accumulated 6000 sec hot-fire time at full power with no issues

LOX/Methane Testing of 3D-Printed Chamber Methane Cooled, tested full power

First successful Lox/Hydrogen hot fire test of a regen-cooled GRCop-84 3D printed MCC with an integral Electron Beam Free Form Fabrication (EBF3) deposited nickel superalloy jacket.

Additive Injector Development

- 100# LOX Propane Injector Built 2012 Tested Nov 2013
- 1.2K LOX Hydrogen First Tested June 2013 >7000 sec hotfire
- 20K LPS Subscale Tested Aug 2013 (3) Subscale Injectors Tested
- Methane 4K Injector Printed manifolds Tested Sept 2015
- LPS 35K Injector Welded Manifolds Tested Nov 2015
- CH4 Gas Generator Injector Testing Summer 2017

Ref: Brad Bullard Sandy Elam Greene
Fuel Turbopump Development and Test

Inducer Assembly

Turbopump Assembly

Rotating Assembly

Turbine Stage

Ref: Marty Calvert / NASA MSFC
Liquid Oxygen Pump Development

- Pump Housing
- Impeller
- Turbine Housing
- Turbine Blades
- Shaft Baffle
- Stator

Ref: Derek O’Neal / NASA MSFC
Additively Manufactured Valves Development

Main Oxidizer Valve (MOV)

Oxidizer Turbine Bypass

Fuel Turbine Bypass Valve

Aerospike Engine Multi-Port Valve

Main Fuel Valve / Coolant Control Valve (MFV/CCV)

Ref: Jim Richard, Dave Eddlemen, Travis Davis / NASA MSFC
Large Scale Additive Deposition Nozzle Technology Development

24+” Dia

Large Scale Deposition: Blown Powder and Arc Deposition

Ref: DMG Mori Seiki Hybrid

Additive Wire-based Channel Closeout

Freeform AM Deposition with Integral Channels

27” Dia


Future Outlook

Fundamental Additive Manufacturing M&P Development

- Material Properties & NDE
- Standards & Specs
- Certification Rationale

Lean Component Development

Component Relevant Environment Testing

AMDE Prototype Engine

Methane Propulsion Systems

CCP

Nuclear Thermal Propulsion

SLS: RS-25

Building Foundational Additive Manufacturing Industrial Base

Upper Stage Engine

Future Outlook
Additive Manufacturing at Marshall Space Flight Center

MSFC Standard and Specification for Additively Manufactured Spaceflight Hardware
NASA Exploration Programs and Program Partners have embraced AM for its affordability, shorter manufacturing times, and flexible design solutions.
NASA cannot wait for national Standard Development Organizations to issue AM standards.

- Partners in crewed spaceflight programs (Commercial Crew, SLS and Orion) are actively developing AM parts
- In response to request by Commerical Crew Program (CCP), MSFC AM Standard drafted in summer 2015.
- Draft standard completed extensive peer review in Jan 2016.
- Standard methodology adopted by CCP, SLS, and Orion.
- Continuing to participate with standards organizations and other certifying Agencies.
- Goal is to incorporate AM requirements at an appropriate level in Agency standards and/or specifications.

Standardization is needed for consistent evaluation of AM processes and parts in critical applications.
Conclusions from Systems Analysis of ISM Utilization for the Evolvable Mars Campaign: Why ISM

- Current maintenance logistics strategy will not be effective for deep space missions
- ISM has the potential to significantly reduce maintenance logistics mass requirements by enabling material commonality and the possibility of material recycling and ISRU for spares
- ISM should be considered and developed in parallel with the systems design

NASA is actively working to develop ISM capabilities:

- **Within Pressurized Volume**: Reduce the logistics challenges and keep astronauts safe and healthy in transit and on extraterrestrial surfaces. ISS is a critical testbed.
- **External/Free Space - IRMA**: Develop new commercial capabilities for robotic spacecraft construction, repair, refurbishment, and repurposing in LEO
- **Extraterrestrial Surfaces - Additive Construction**: Enable infrastructure to be robotically constructed pre- or post-arrival of astronauts on the extraterrestrial surface, whether that be the Moon or Mars.

To achieve functional capability supporting the Exploration timeline, ISM must work with Exploration systems designers now to identify high-value application areas and influence process.
MSFC has made a major thrust in the application of AM for development of liquid rocket engines ranging from the Space Launch System Core Stage RS-25 engine, to In-Space Class prototype engines, to Cubesat propulsion systems.

- Process development, material property characterization, and component fabrication trials for RS-25 Inconel 718 material applications.
- New design and development philosophy successfully exercised to build AMDE, a prototype in-space class engine incorporating additive manufacturing to reduce costs, schedule and parts counts.
  - Designed and additively manufactured > 150 rocket engine parts in 2.5 years
  - Encompassed every major component and assembly of the engine
  - Developed and demonstrated capability to additively manufacture with copper.
  - Data, expertise, and testbed shared with industry for current/future developments
- Capabilities developed through AMDE experience have been applied to small satellite propulsion systems components design and development

NASA MSFC created a Standard and Specification for AM Spaceflight Hardware in response to near-term programmatic demand.

- Shaped the approach to additive parts for current human-rated space flight programs through early release of Draft Quality Standard approach.
- Standard and Specification provide a framework for consistent evaluation of AM Laser Powder Bed Fusion processes, properties, and components.