



## **Morpheus GNC Development and Testing**

**Dr. Timothy P. Crain / NASA Johnson Space Center  
Tye Brady / Charles Stark Draper Laboratory**

May 13, 2011

- Morpheus Background
- Tale of Two Paradigms
- Phase 1: Early GNC Development and Testing
- Phase 2: Vehicle Development and Testing
- Phase 3: ALHAT Testing
- Conclusion





# Project M Heritage of Morpheus



- Morpheus evolved from Project M mission application to become a terrestrial vertical testbed (VTB) for LOX/LCH4 and ALHAT technologies

## Key Enabling Technologies

LOX Methane



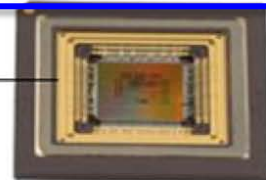
Robotics



Autonomous Safe Landing



Radiation Hardened by Design Processor



## Demonstration in a Relevant Environment



- In-space Cryogenic Propulsion
- On-ramps ISRU: Key to power propulsion and life support
- Advances TRL of key Cryogenic Fluid Management Devices
- Robotic assistance path sustains Human Exploration
- Demo supervised autonomy with human factors and EVA tools
- Provides human scale perspective
- Hazard Avoidance Landing System
- AR&D sensor and algorithm commonality

*Mission Focus on inspiring STEM Education at all levels*

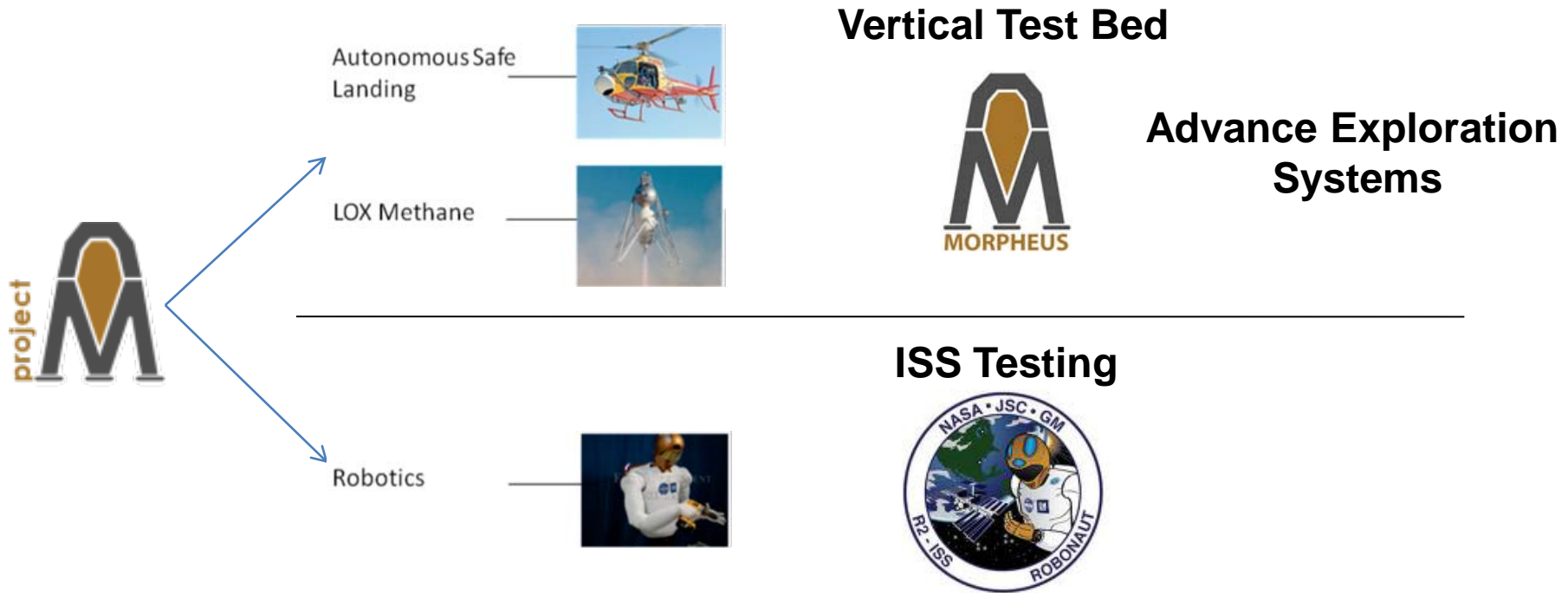


# Transition from Project M to Morpheus



Context Feb 1, 2010

- Presidential Budget ends Cx and puts NASA in strategic replanning mode
- Very difficult to get approval for a lunar mission in this environment
- Robonaut2 focuses on ISS deployment and continued terrestrial leg development
- LOX/LCH4 and ALHAT technologies demonstration carry on in the Morpheus VTB

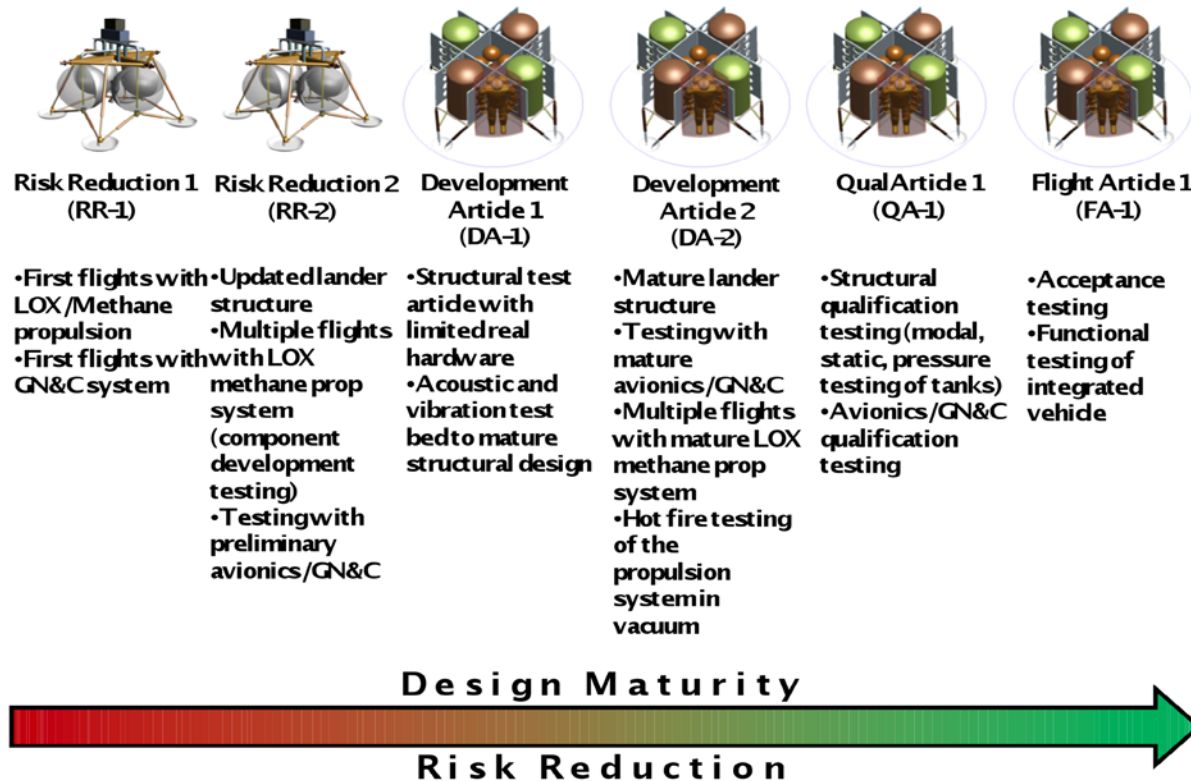




# Test-early, Test-often

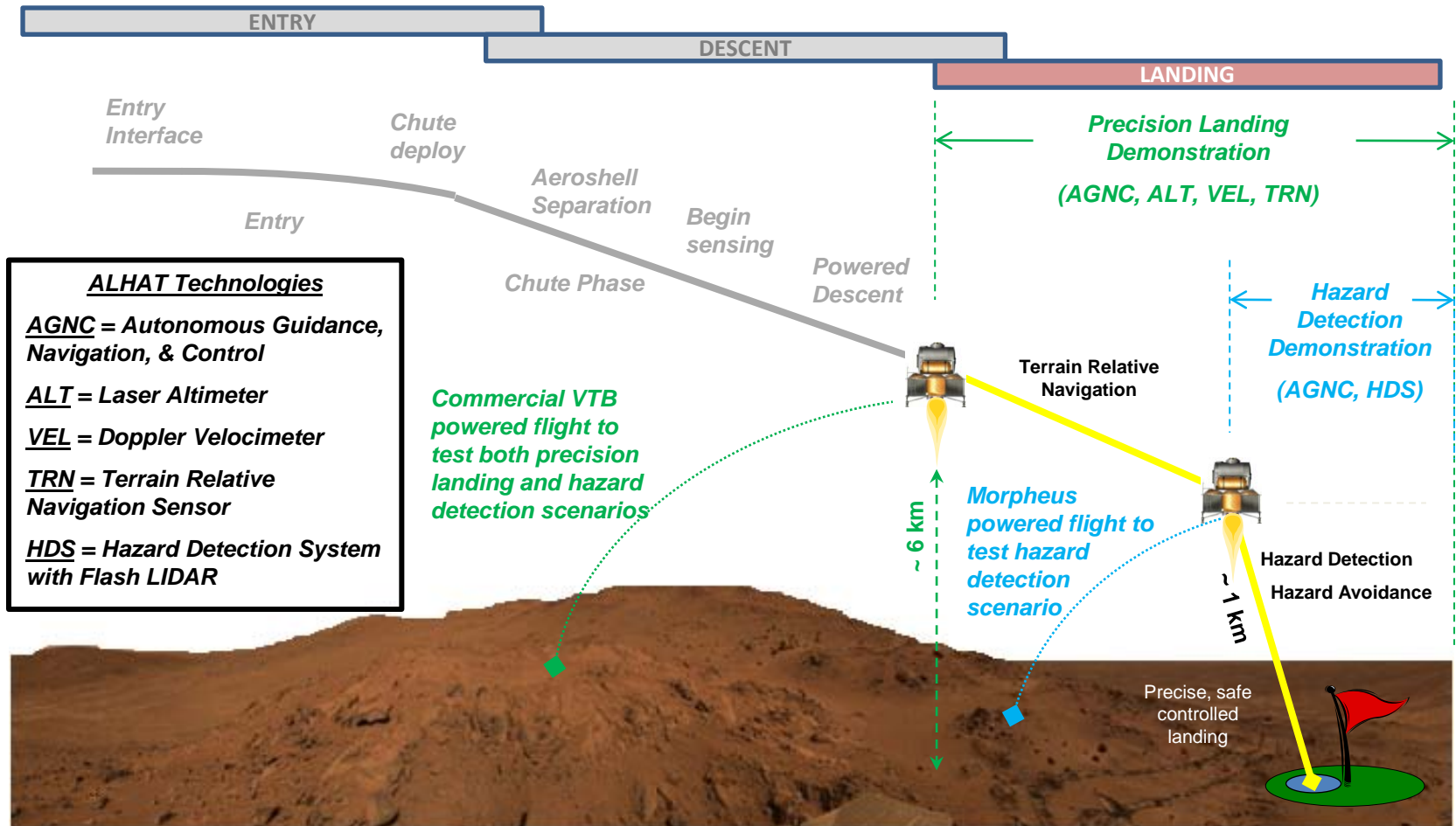


- The Morpheus VTB inherited the test-oriented development approach of ProjectM and is effectively the Project M Risk Reduction 2 (RR2) test vehicle.
- Early GNC and propulsion system development was performed on the RR1 vehicle built by Armadillo Aerospace.





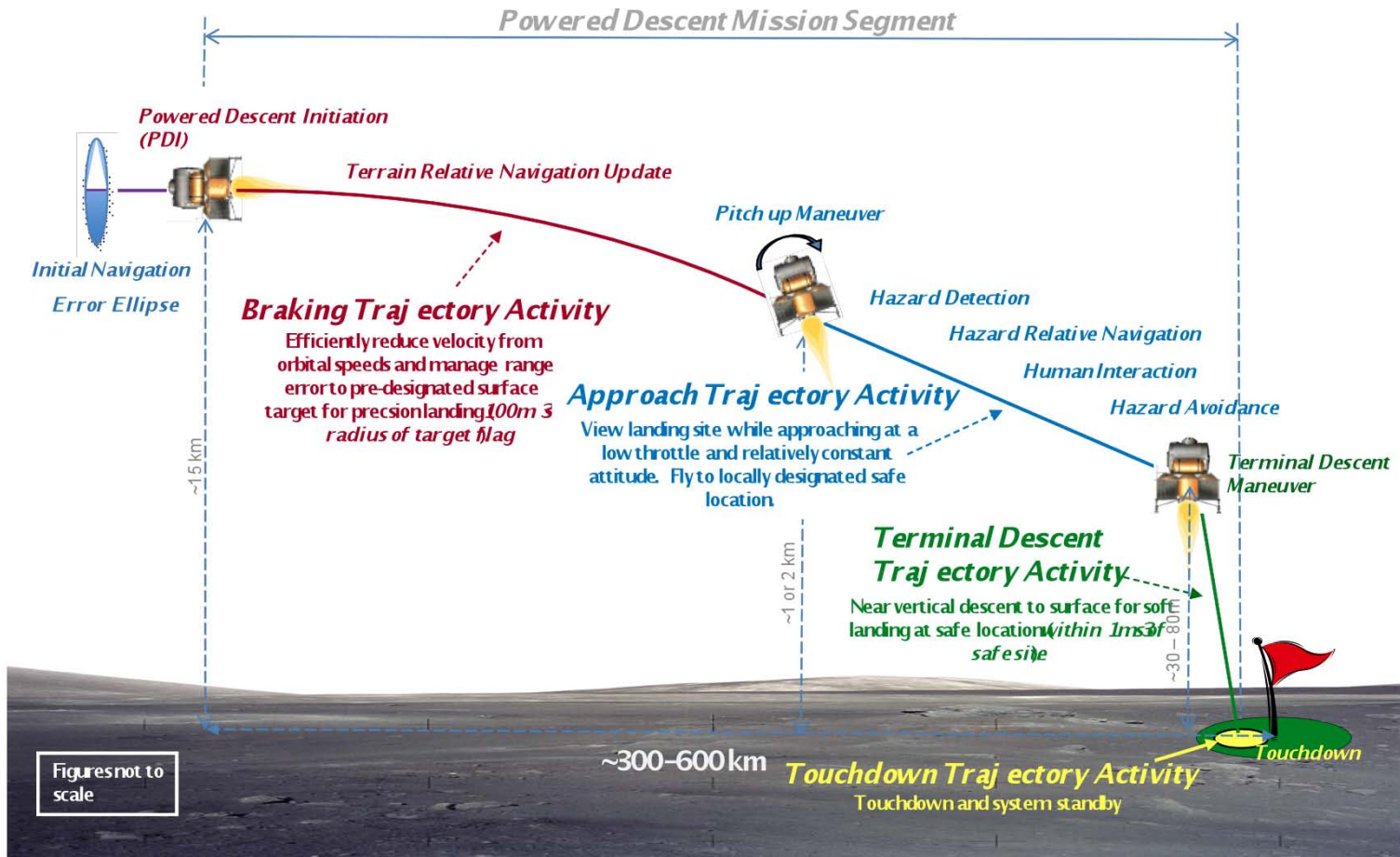
# ALHAT Demonstration Description



Trajectories are not to scale and are only illustrations of phases



# ALHAT Powered Descent



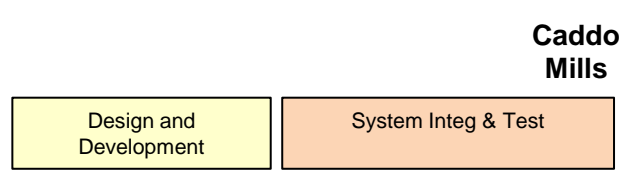


# RR-2 (Morpheus) Development Phases



July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May June July Aug Sept Oct

- PHASE 1**
- New RR-2 Structure
  - New RR-2 Engine
  - Uses Armadillo's Avionics, Remote Control and Ops

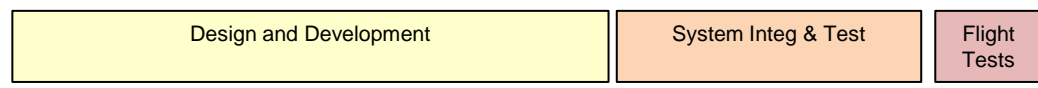


Caddo Mills

Flight profiles will be "short hops" on the order of 30 m altitude



- PHASE 2**
- Same engine as Phase 1
  - Uses NASA's Avionics, Remote Control and Ops

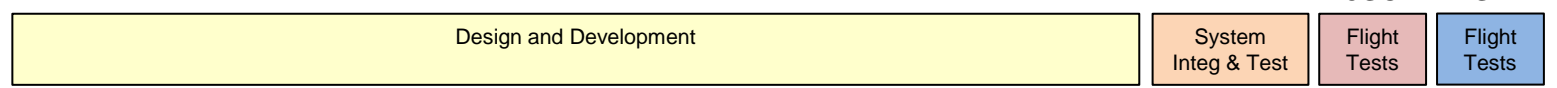


JSC

Flight profiles will include full "ALHAT"-type final approach trajectory from about ~1.6 km downrange, ~800 m altitude to landing

**DATES**  
Oct +

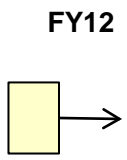
- PHASE 3**
- Another new engine
  - New prop components
  - Additions to precision landing sensors



JSC

WSTF

- PHASE 4**
- Capability for hazard detection and avoidance







# ALHAT PROJECT



- ALHAT MISSION STATEMENT
  - Develop and mature to TRL6 an autonomous landing GN&C and sensing system for crewed, cargo, and robotic planetary descent vehicles. The System will be capable of identifying and avoiding surface hazards to enable a safe precision landing to within tens of meters of certified and designated landing sites anywhere on a planetary surface under any lighting conditions.
- The ALHAT Project started in 2006 and has essentially completed the development of software and hardware systems
  - AGNC
  - Terrain Relative Navigation
  - Hazard Detection and Avoidance



# ALHAT DEMONSTRATIONS



- The Project will be ready in FY12 to demonstrate the following capabilities on a Vertical TestBed
  - Autonomous closed loop precision landing from approximately 500m altitude and 1000m slant range with real-time hazard detection and avoidance on the Morpheus VTB
    - Utilizes Hazard Detection System (HDS) which consists of a gimbaled flash lidar with real-time compute element and associated software. Identifies safe landing aim point in less than 10 sec
    - Utilizes Doppler lidar velocimeter and laser altimeter plus COTs navigation sensors such as IMU
    - AGNC with extended Kalman filter navigation which utilizes inputs from all of the above sensors to provide landing precision to within 3m ( $3\sigma$ ) of the real-time determined safe landing location
    - Utilizes Hazard Relative Navigation – terrain relative navigation by tracking features and comparing to HDS determined feature location



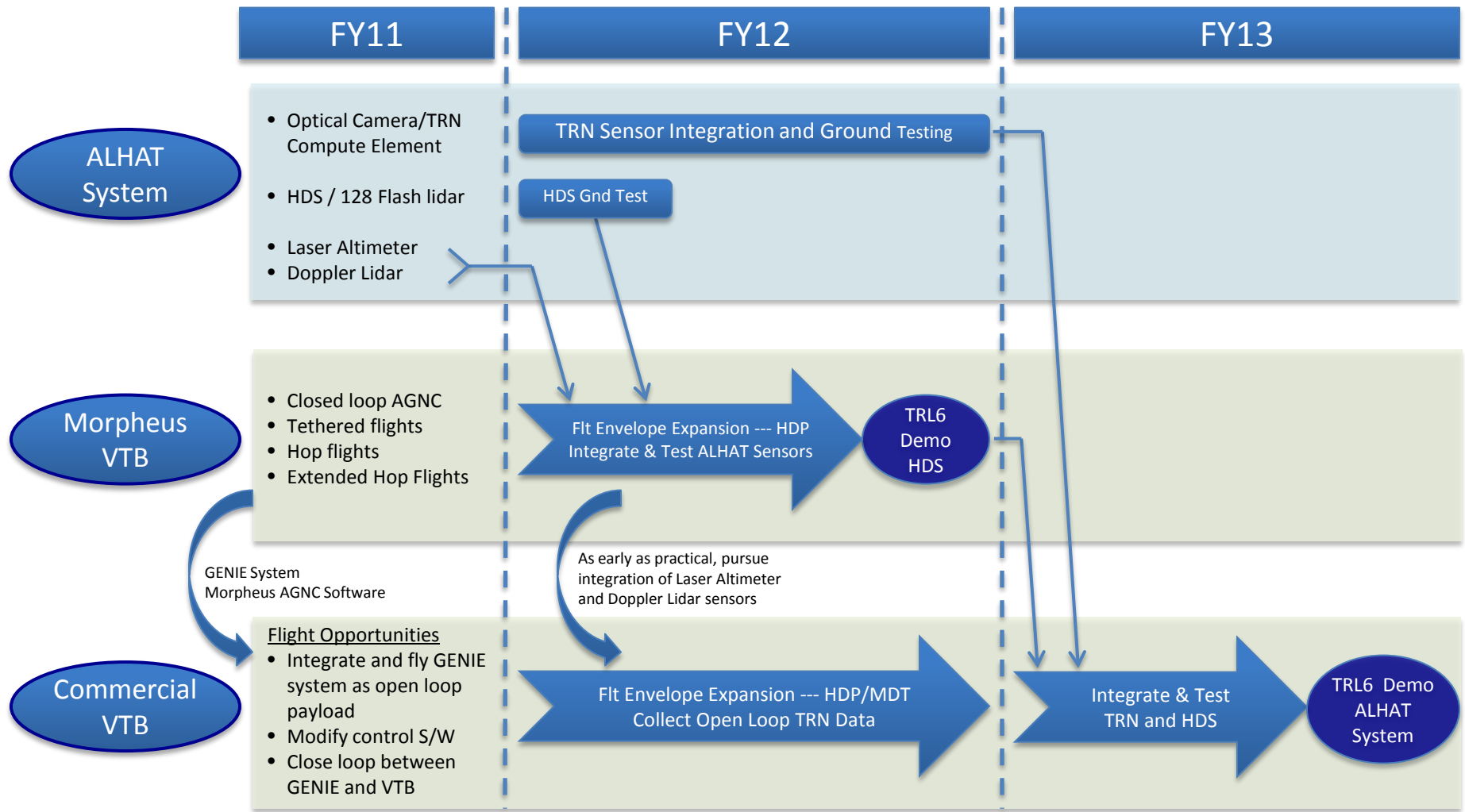
# ALHAT DEMONSTRATIONS



- The Project will be ready in FY13 to demonstrate the following capabilities on a Vertical TestBed
  - Autonomous closed loop precision landing from approximately 6 km altitude using real-time Terrain Relative Navigation (TRN) and hazard detection and avoidance on a commercial VTB
    - Utilizes passive optical TRN from high altitudes to the start of the hazard detection phase followed by hazard detection and avoidance with the HDS for safe precision landing
    - Doppler lidar velocimeter and laser altimeter plus COTs navigation sensors such as IMU
    - AGNC with extended Kalman filter navigation which utilizes inputs from all of the above sensors to give landing precision to within 3m ( $3\sigma$ ) of the real-time determined safe landing location and within 90m ( $3\sigma$ ) of the prelaunch landing target
    - Demonstrates all of the ALHAT techniques and sensors



# ALHAT Project Flow



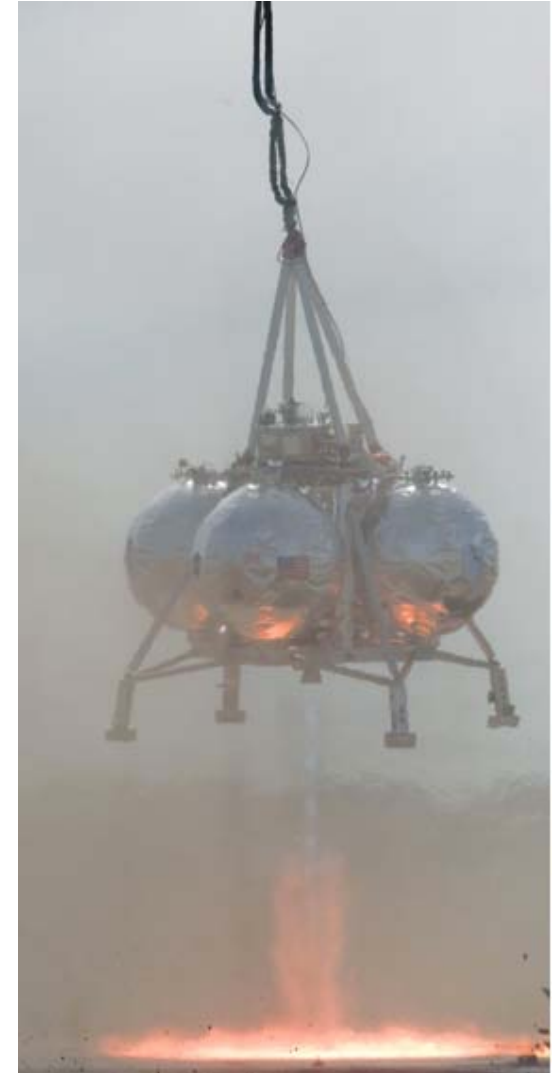
HDS – Hazard Detection System      HDP – Hazard Detection Phase      MDT – Mars Descent Trajectory  
 TRN – Terrain Relative Navigation      GENIE – Guidance Embedded Navigation Integration Environment



# Morpheus Vehicle Overview



- Vertical Take-off / Vertical Landing
  - Impulse for 60-210 seconds of flight
- Pressure Fed Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane (LNG) propulsion (235 PSIG)
- Single Film Cooled Rocket engine
  - 2000 or 4000 lbf Thrust
  - Two axes Gimbaled and 4:1 Throttled
- Autonomous Flight Control
  - Nav Base : IMU (2), GPS (2), and Laser Altimeter
  - Ground Command and Telemetry through RF link
- Stand alone Flight Termination System





# Tale of Two Paradigms



- Traditional spacecraft development relies on comprehensive requirements development and analysis, varying time in integrated testing early, and late integration of long lead or high value assets into a flight configuration. This approach is not risk tolerant and experiences significant performance, cost, and schedule impacts when issues are discovered at integration.
- Morpheus adopted a test oriented paradigm where a small set of spacecraft level requirements were developed to guide early subsystem design and development.
  - Metal was cut early and subsystem requirements refined in parallel
  - Integration of subsystems was performed with available/affordable assets.
  - Approach is tolerant of flight failures as test successes

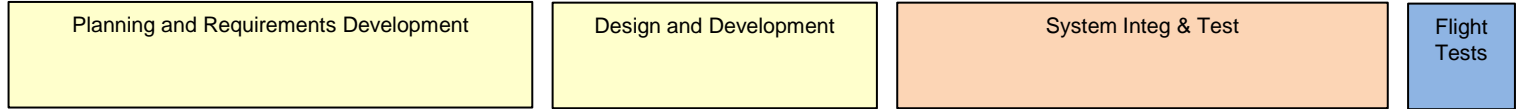


# Traditional vs. Test, Test, Test Development



## Traditional

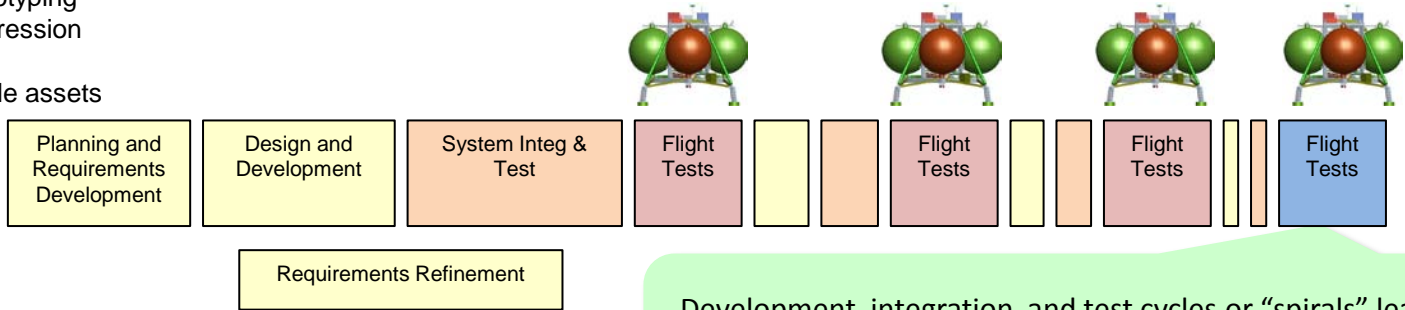
- Heavy emphasis on early trades and analysis
- Cost/schedule impacts deferred to late in project
- Serial progression
- Risk averse
- May not flight test
- Spec assets



"Flight" article is well thought out and tested at subsystem/component level. But has no "real-world" exposure.

## Test, Test, Test

- Emphasis on rapid prototyping
- Cyclic and parallel progression
- Accepts risk early
- Uses available/affordable assets



Development, integration, and test cycles or "spirals" lead to a robust design where project energies are focused on issues discovered in testing.



# Traditional vs. Test, Test, Test Development



## Traditional

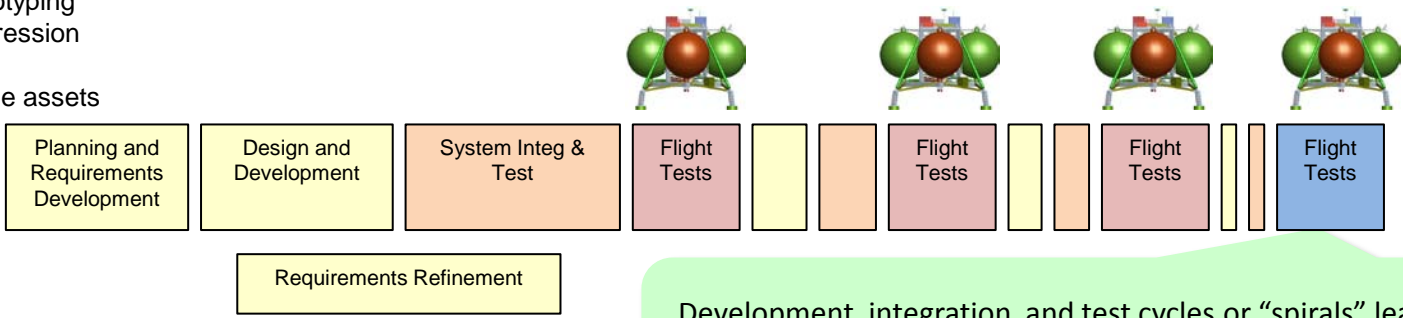
- Heavy emphasis on early trades and analysis
- Cost/schedule impacts deferred to late in project
- Serial progression
- Risk averse
- May not flight test
- Spec assets



"Flight" article is well thought out and tested at subsystem/component level. But has no "real-world" exposure.

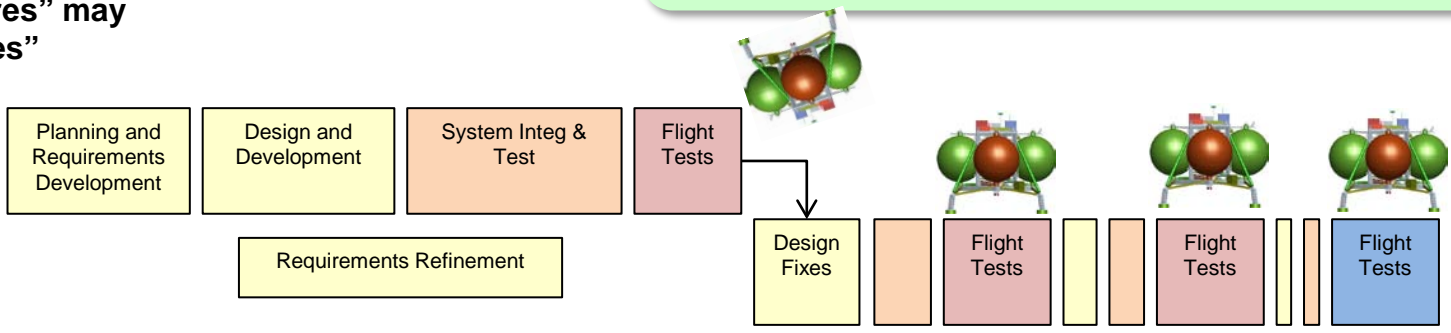
## Test, Test, Test

- Emphasis on rapid prototyping
- Cyclic and parallel progression
- Accepts risk early
- Uses available/affordable assets



Development, integration, and test cycles or "spirals" lead to a robust design where project energies are focused on issues discovered in testing.

Early flight "failures" may be test "successes"





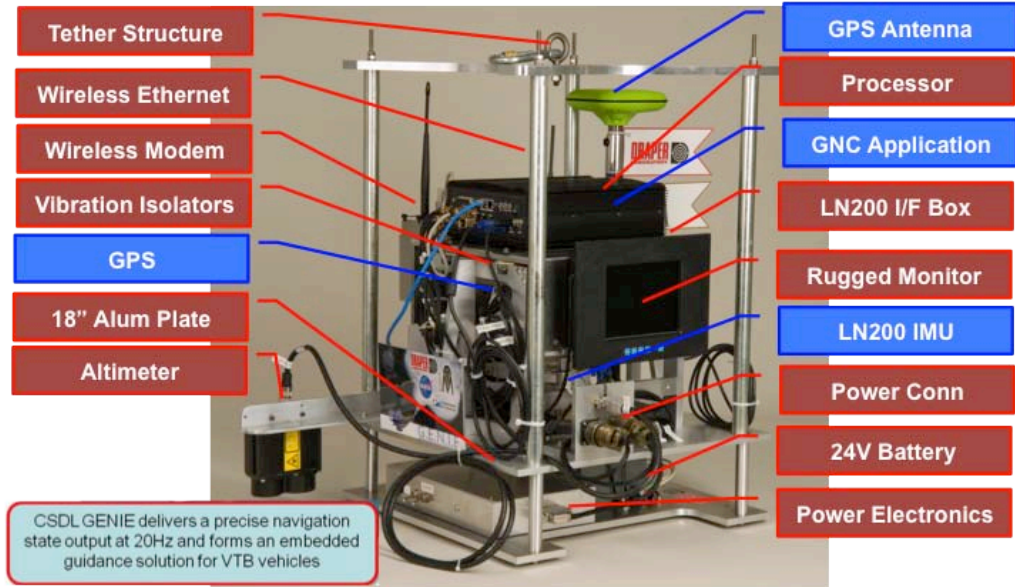
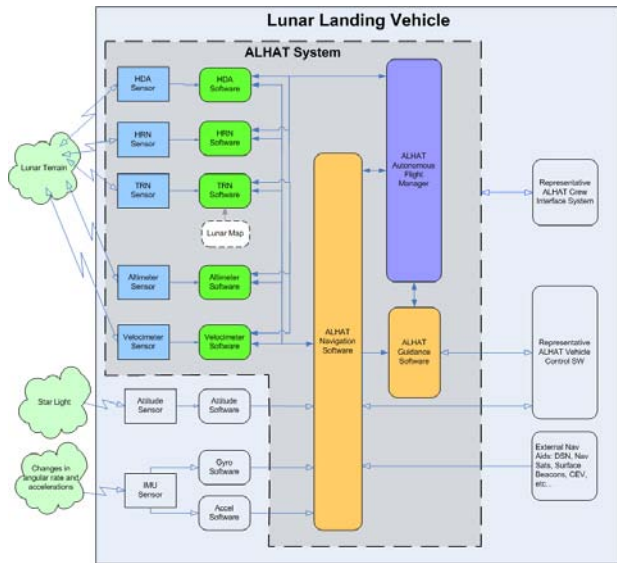


# Morpheus Lean Management



- Flat organization
- Small teams / co-location
- Open source tools
- Available/affordable asset re-use and utilization
- Online collaboration through Sharepoint
- Engagement of safety/qa early as part of team
- Incremental and tangible test milestones - genie, mast demos, cold flow, hot fire, tether, vertical, hops, high energy

- 2-3 charts
- ALHAT analysis GNC package start background description and rationale
- Letting the genie out of the bottle.....genie overview, purpose to test realtime feasibility of basic guidance and nav approach with basic sensors
- Commonality with ft4
- Flight details and results
- Successful distributed team collaboration
- Cart testing
- Sim development with laptop, realtime, flight processor etc support (technology simulation levels?)
- Cool pictures, movie?



- Autonomy (AFM)** – Combines precise navigation, surface imaging, adaptive vehicle maneuvering outside the nominal profile, and human input to enable safe and precise lunar landing.
- Guidance** – Provides burn targeting & maneuver guidance for end-to-end lunar landing mission. Supports precision landing (dispersion correction) and hazard avoidance.
- Navigation** – Estimates vehicle states for end-to-end lunar landing mission. Dual-state filter architecture for precise vehicle delivery.
- Control** – Provides 6DOF control (RCS and main engine) for Crewed lunar landing vehicle.
- Hazard Detection System** – Provides hazard detection sensors and algorithms/software



# GENIE Field and Flight Testing

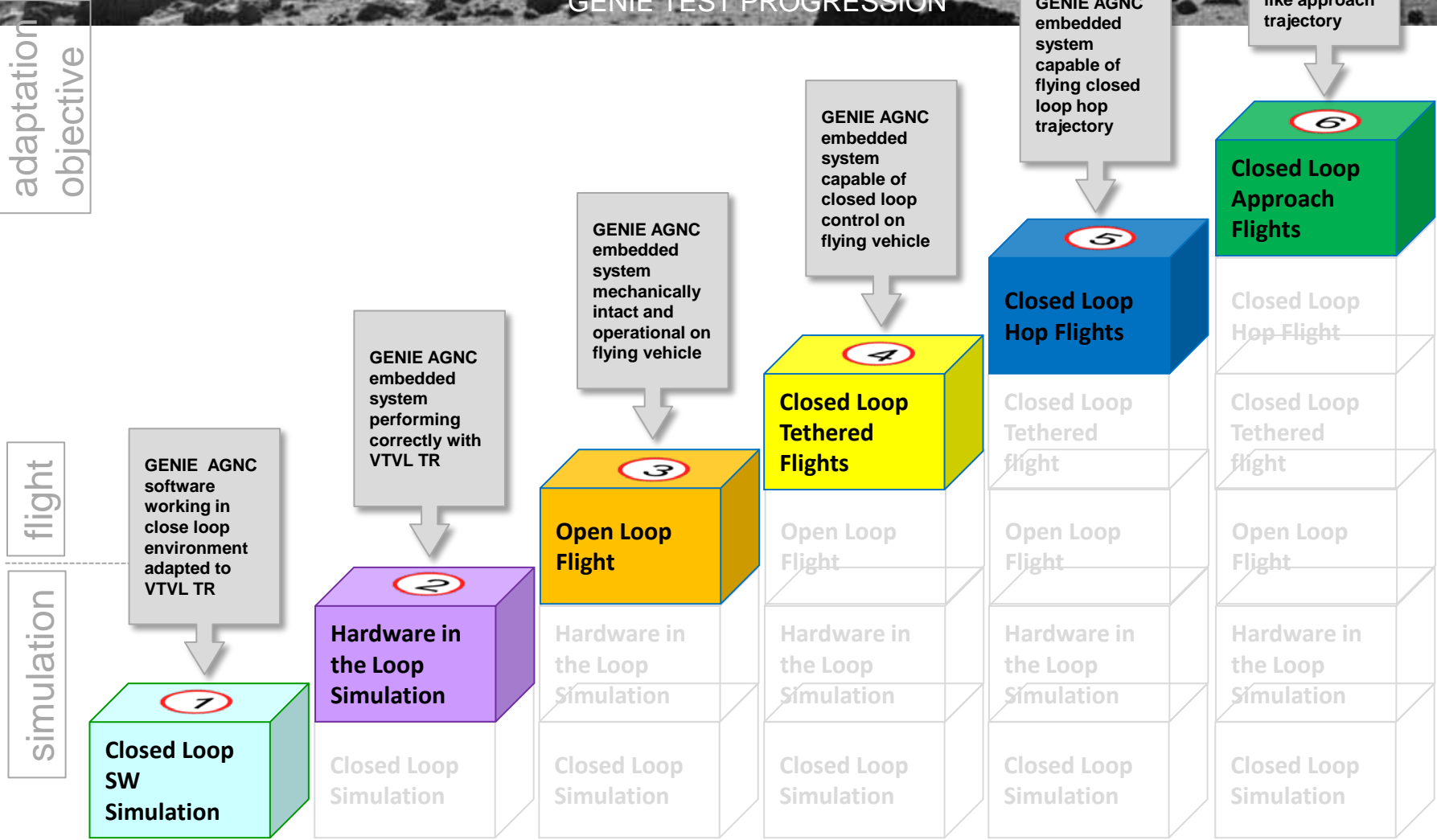




# Six GENIE Adaptation Steps to High Performance Flight on a VTVL Terrestrial Rocket



## GENIE TEST PROGRESSION



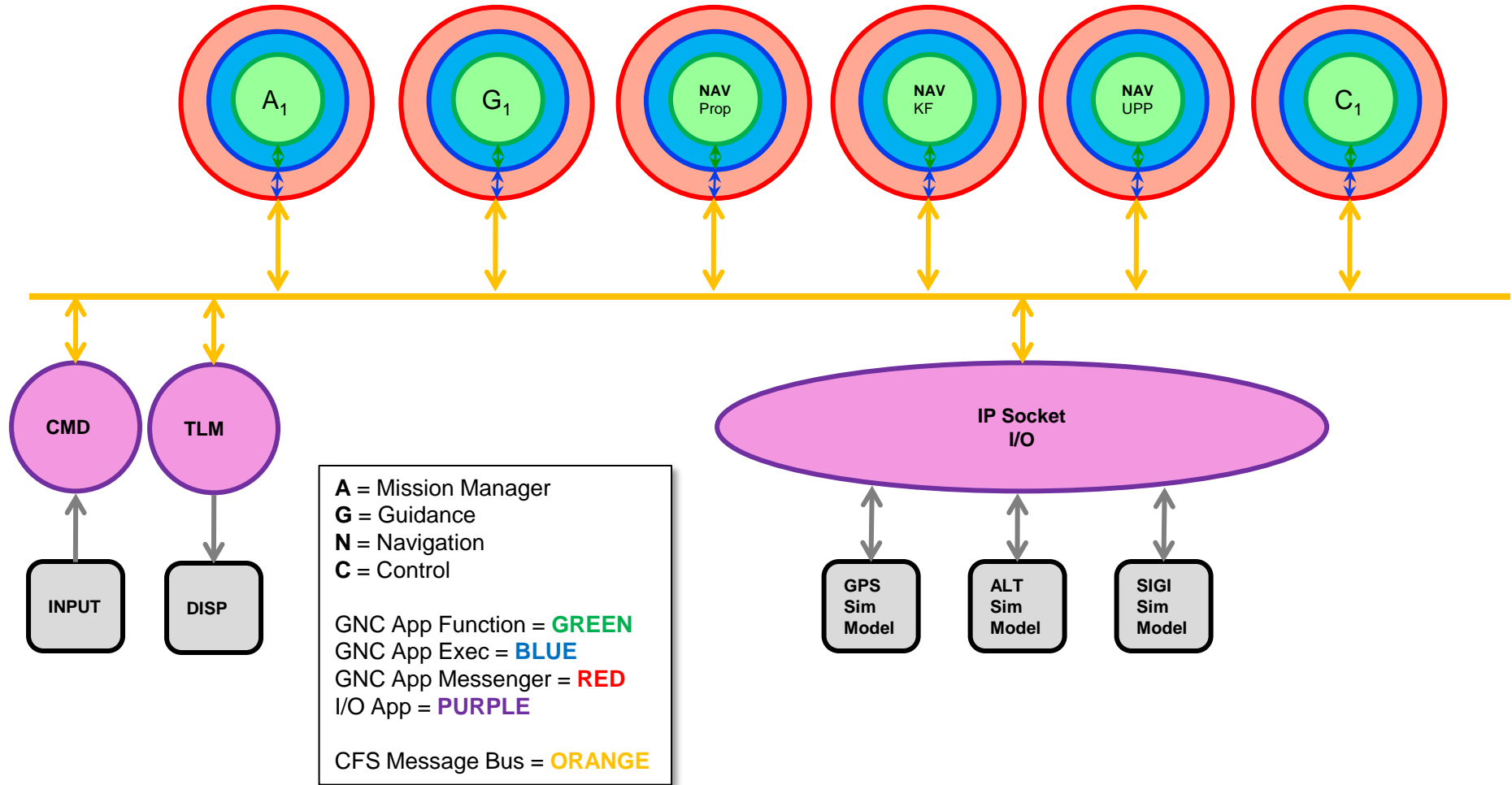
Adaptation Step Completion Number



# RR2 Rev1 Build2 GNC FSW Architecture



"Core AGNC FSW" retains only the blue and green layer





# GNC App Function, Executive, and Messenger



“Core AGNC FSW” retains only the blue and green layer

## CFS SW Message Bus



a GNC app messenger handles the CFS specific messaging and executes the GNC app executive

*The place where the CFS message subscribe, CFS message send occurs along with other CFS specific detail*

a GNC app executive calls the GNC app function and extracts necessary data for the function call

*Literally calls the GNC app function*

a GNC app function performs the GNC algorithm

*Isolating the functions from particular architecture allows for extensible and reusable GNC SW development*



# Phase 2: vehicle development and testing



- 3-4 charts
- Integration with CFS and flight processor, ported from genie...but maintaining genie
- Breaking up nav into rate groups
- Simplified guidance
- Added flight control
- Added AFM
- Added sigi as prime imu
- Display development
- GNC bunker, mast demo 1 ("failure"), mast 2 demo (Ethernet sim), mast demo 3 (socket sim), flat sat testing, cold flow, hot fire, tether timelines pictures and some details

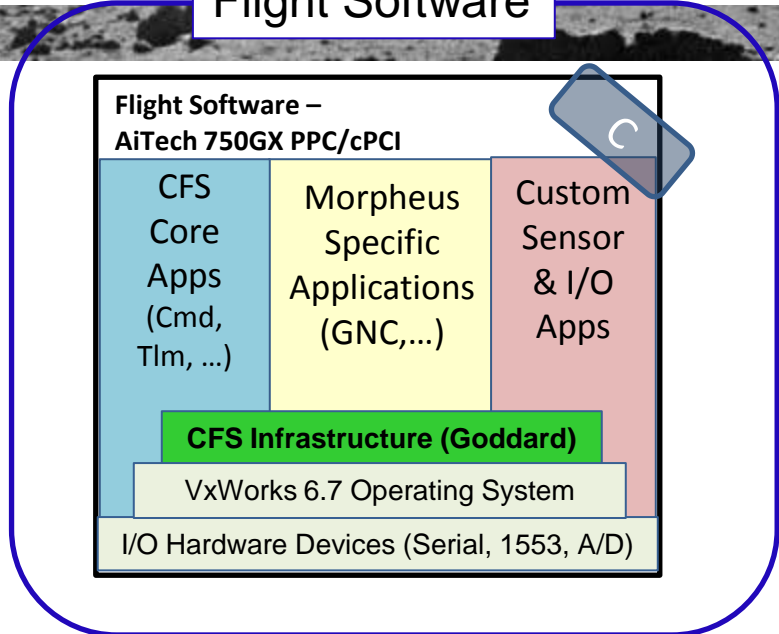




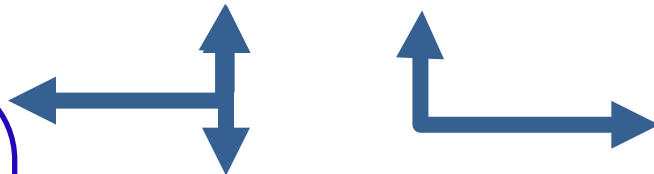
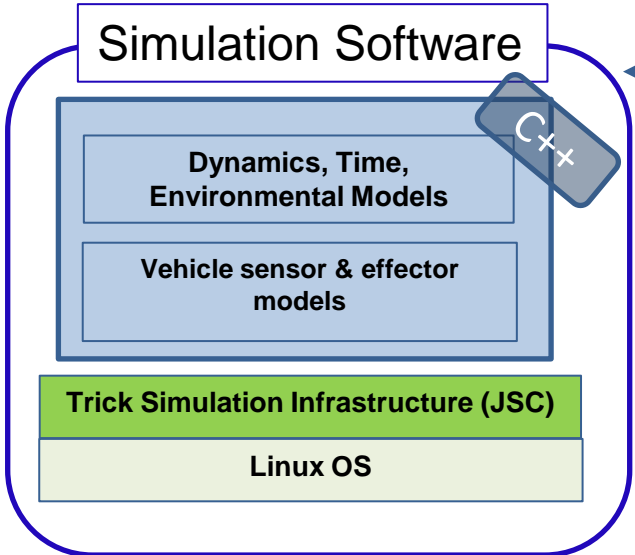
# Morpheus Software Components



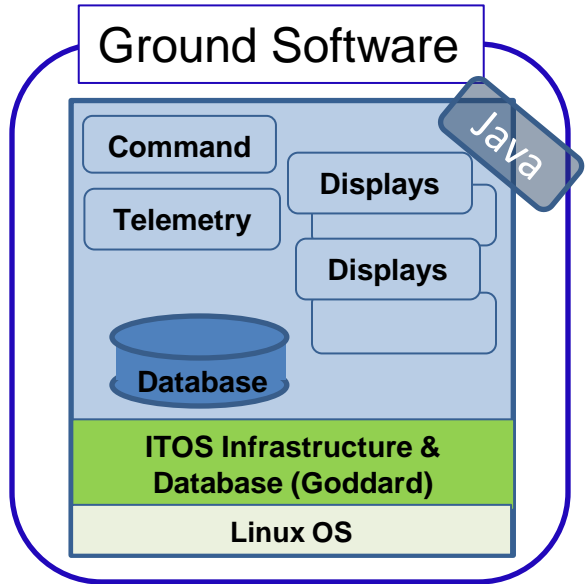
## Flight Software



## Simulation Software



## Ground Software





# Morpheus Embedded Simulation



11:11 AM

Applications Places System

DOUG ENG\_GRAPHICS : CEV

File Display Edit JntSystems Reconfig Toggles Options Help

Simdata Dlg

Pick API File /userdata/sim\_data/cev\_graphics\_all\_trans.api

Pick Data Source Host: krusty Port: 7000 Rate: 0.02 **Running** Reconnect

Playback Speed 1X 2X 4X User Defined 0.1

163.20

Simulation Control Panel

File Actions

Run

Step	Data Rec On	Time
Start	RealTime	RET (sec) 163.11
Freeze	Dump Chkpt	Real Time (sec) 163.11
Shutdown	Load Chkpt	MET 000:00:02.43
Lite	Exit	GMT 001:00:02.43
		Sim / Real Time 1.00

Simulations/Overruns

/Users/smstewar/Morpheus\_SIM/sims/SIM\_CORE\_GNC\_FSW\_07/S\_main\_Linux\_4.1\_25.exe RUN\_morphe 0

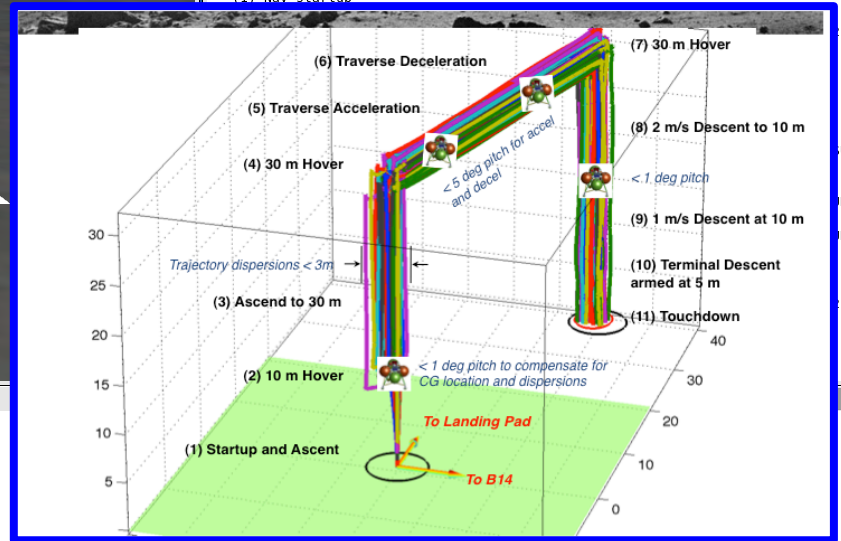
Status Messages

```

2011-012-12:02:15.17729 -- AFM Out---
2011-012-12:02:15.17729 GuidExecCmd 0, GuidHopCmd 0, NavPwrFltCmd 0, GuidMode 2,
NavMode 1, CntrlMode 0, PropMode 0
2011-012-12:02:15.17729 cPhase 2, cSubPhase 5, cActivity 5, cEvent 7
-- (1) Nav_startup -----

```

Terminal DOUG EN... Terminal Simulation C...

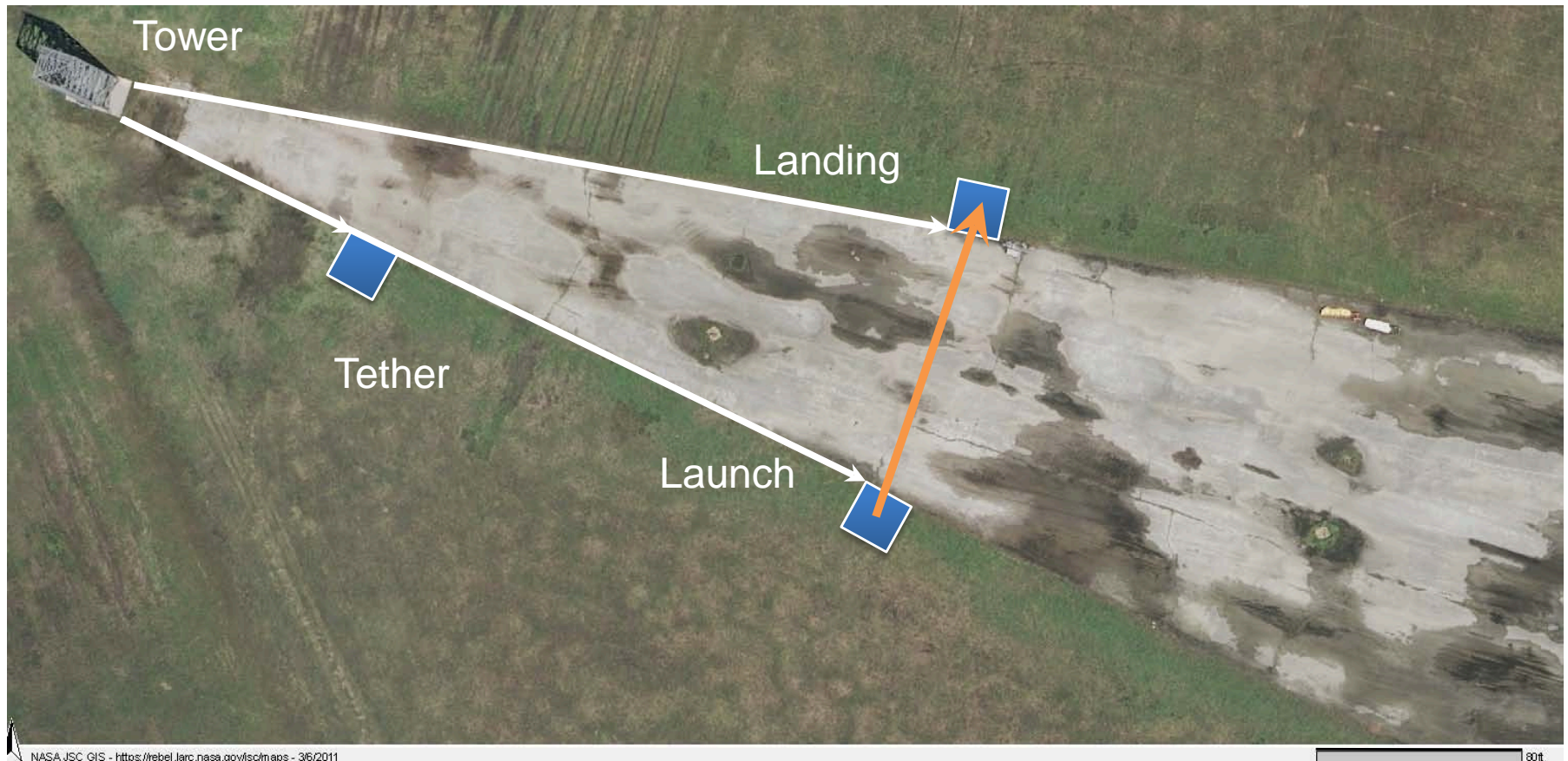




# Phase 2 Vehicle Testing at JSC




Extensive non-realtime and realtime simulations in the Morpheus Avionics/Software Testbed (MAST)  
Completed Hotfire and Tether testing at the JSC VTB Flight Complex  
Continuing Tether testing at the JSC VTB Flight Complex  
Planned Free Flight Vertical and Hop Trajectories at JSC VTB Flight Complex



NASA JSC GIS - <https://rebel.larc.nasa.gov/misc/maps> - 3/6/2011

80ft

\*Scale, 1.24" = 80' = 24.384 m

 = Pads are 6m x 6m (20' x 20')



# Morpheus Control Room



The screenshot displays a complex software interface with multiple windows and data panels. The main window is titled "gnc\_table - ITOS Page Display" and contains several data sections:

- Vehicle State:** A table with columns for Time (s), Altitude (ft), CR (ft/s), VTE (ft/s), VTE (ft/s), Roll (deg), Pitch (deg), Yaw (deg), Roll (deg), Pitch (deg), Yaw (deg).
- Nav Data:** A table with columns for Altitude (ft), CR (ft/s), VTE (ft/s), Roll (deg), Pitch (deg), Yaw (deg).
- Balance and Control Data:** A table with columns for Thrust (lbf), Thrust (lbf), Thrust (lbf), Thrust (lbf).
- Abort Triggers:** A table with columns for Abort (lbf), Abort (lbf), Abort (lbf).
- gnc\_table - ITOS Page Display:** A window showing various data points and status indicators.
- gnc\_table - ITOS Page Display:** A window showing various data points and status indicators.
- gnc\_table - ITOS Page Display:** A window showing various data points and status indicators.

The interface also includes a taskbar at the bottom with several application icons and a system tray on the right showing the time as 9:10 AM.



# Morpheus Tethered Flight





# Phase 3: ALHAT testing



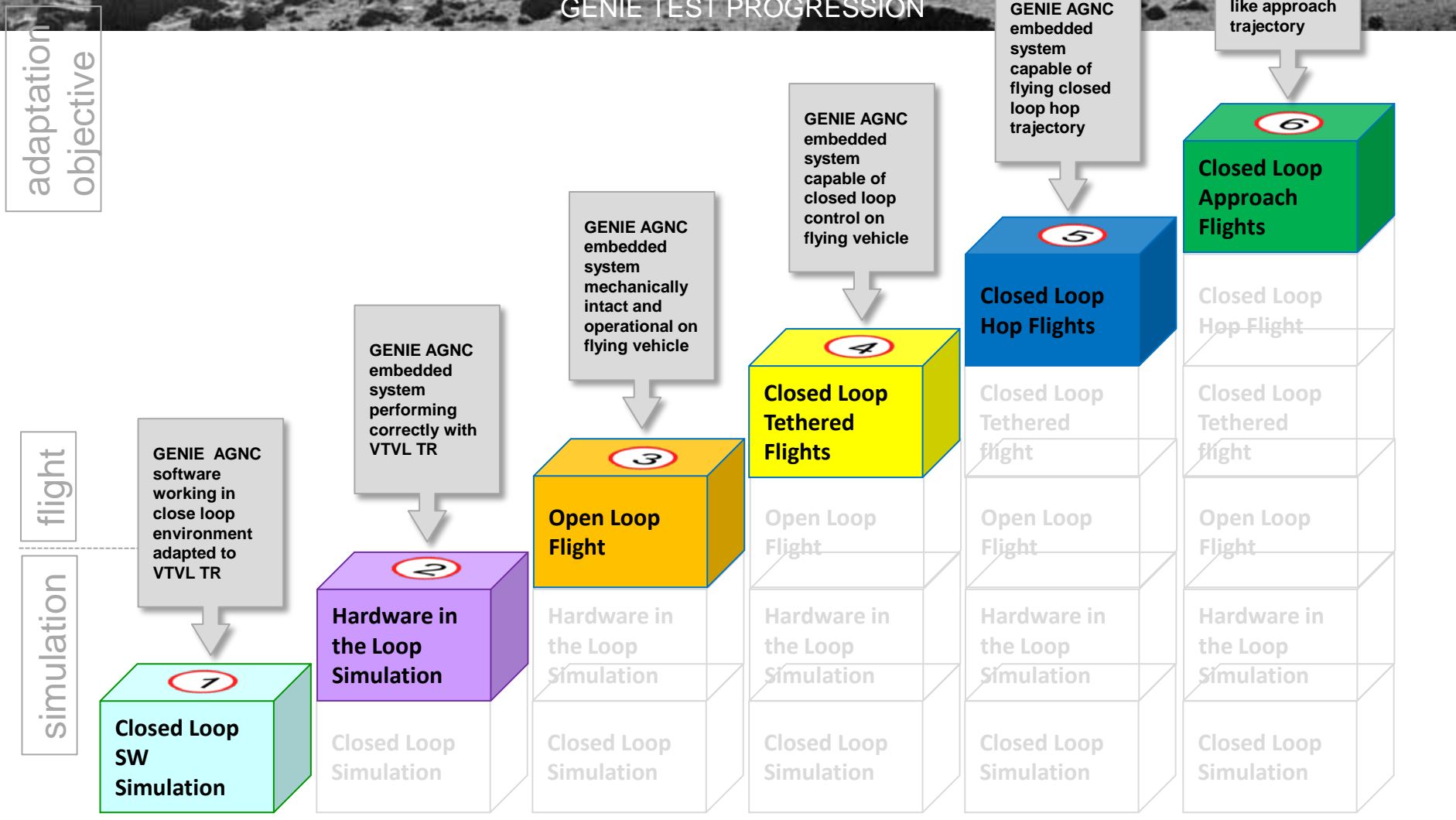
- 1-2 charts
- Future tether test, vertical free flight, hop free flights
- Transition to high energy testing, trajectory plot?
- Integration with ALHAT
- Integration with Masten for commercial ALHAT demo



# Six GENIE Adaptation Steps to High Performance Flight on a VTVL Terrestrial Rocket



## GENIE TEST PROGRESSION



Adaptation Step Completion Number



# Big Picture – 2010 in review



11/09  
Team Formed (EA, DA, KA, NA, JA, LE, BA, MA, AD)

Mar 2010  
GENIE ground testing

May 2010  
Leg Prototype in ARGOS

Jun 2010  
Pixel Lander Free Flight #1

Jul 2010  
Second Lander Morpheus start

Sep 2010  
GN&C Bunker

Dec 2010  
Morpheus Complete

JPL Team X

Robot Env. testing

Design Analysis Cycle #1 complete

Project transition to Morpheus

NASA HD Engine test

Morpheus FF at JSC

Jan 2010

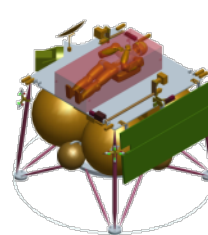
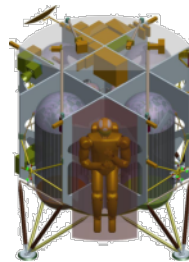
Feb 2010

May 2010

Jul 2010

Oct 2010

Apr 2011



## Pixel Lander:

Armadillo Aerospace hardware with LOX/LCH4 engine  
NASA GN&C collecting data  
~20 tethered flights, 3 free flights

## Morpheus Lander:

All NASA design  
Constructed, assembled, and tested by AA and NAS  
Flying at JSC will be all NASA team





# Big Picture – 2011 in review



Jan 2011

Feb 2011

Mar 2011

More GN&C & Software Bunker

Energy Absorber testing

Propulsion System Assembly

N2 Cold Flow

Tank cycle testing  
B220 Set-up

End to End Wiring Checks

Software Talks to the Vehicle Avionics for the First Time

Vehicle Arrives at JSC

NASA HD Engine test(s)

Power GSE plugged to Vehicle for the First Time



# Conclusion



- 1 chart
- Rate of progress to date
- Test paradigm with lean management
- Forward plans with ALHAT
- Could be right back on track for lunar mission with little loss of pace...i.e. We needed to do this testing anyway!

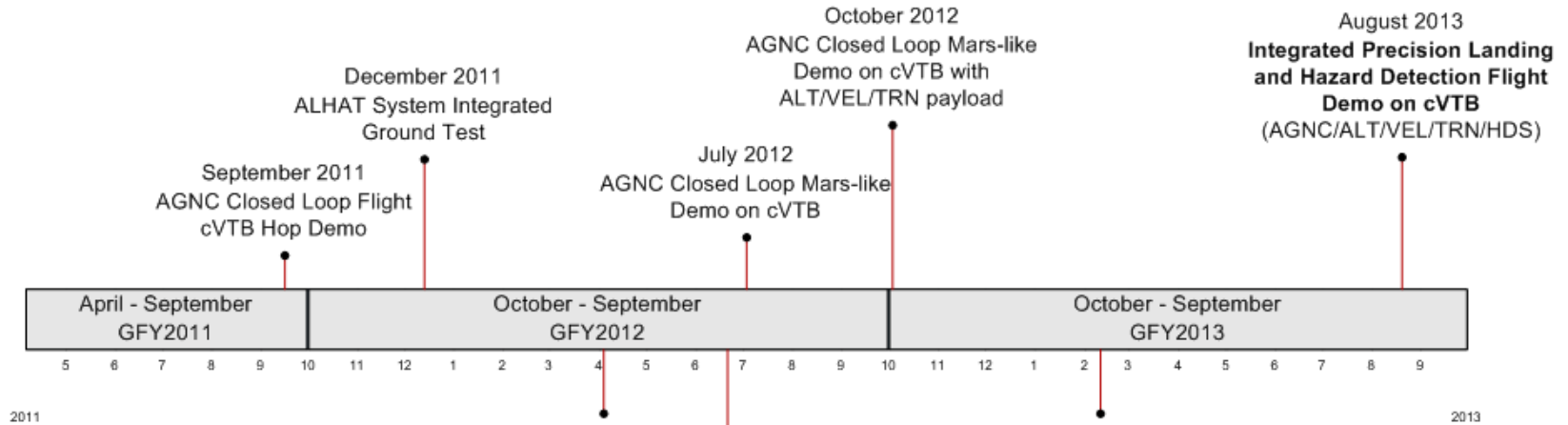




# Backup Material



# SCHEDULE SUMMARY



**ALHAT Technologies**

**AGNC** = Autonomous Guidance, Navigation, & Control

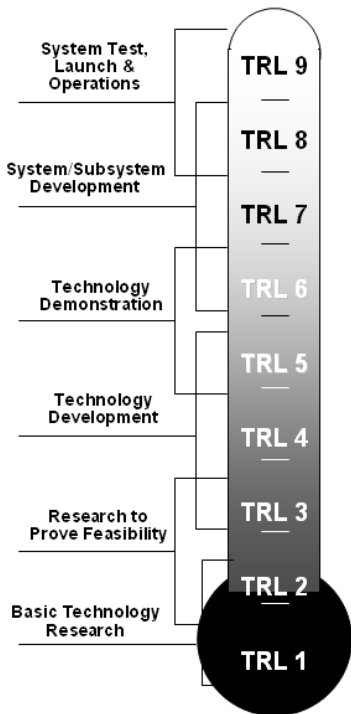
**ALT** = Laser Altimeter

**VEL** = Doppler Velocimeter

**TRN** = Terrain Relative Navigation Sensor

**HDS** = Hazard Detection System with Flash LIDAR

**cVTB** = Commercial Vertical Test Bed



**TRL 9: Actual system “mission proven” through successful mission operations**

*Thoroughly debugged software readily repeatable. Fully integrated with operational hardware/software systems. All documentation completed. Successful operational experience. Sustaining software engineering support in place. Actual system fully demonstrated.*

**TRL 8: Actual system completed and “mission qualified” through test and demonstration in an operational environment**

*Thoroughly debugged software. Fully integrated with operational hardware and software systems. Most user documentation, training documentation, and maintenance documentation completed. All functionality tested in simulated and operational scenarios. V&V completed.*

**TRL 7: System prototype demonstration in high-fidelity environment (parallel or shadow mode operation)**

*Most functionality available for demonstration and test. Well integrated with operational hardware/software systems. Most software bugs removed. Limited documentation available.*

**TRL 6: System/subsystem prototype demonstration in a relevant end-to-end environment**

*Prototype implementations on full scale realistic problems. Partially integrated with existing hardware/software systems. Limited documentation available. Engineering feasibility fully demonstrated.*

**TRL 5: Module and/or subsystem validation in relevant environment**

*Prototype implementations conform to target environment / interfaces. Experiments with realistic problems. Simulated interfaces to existing systems.*

**TRL 4: Module and/or subsystem validation in laboratory environment**

*Standalone prototype implementations. Experiments with full scale problems or data sets.*

**TRL 3: Analytical and experimental critical function and/or characteristic proof-of-concept**

*Limited functionality implementations. Experiments with small representative data sets. Scientific feasibility fully demonstrated.*

**TRL 2: Technology concept and/or application formulated**

*Basic principles coded. Experiments with synthetic data. Mostly applied research.*

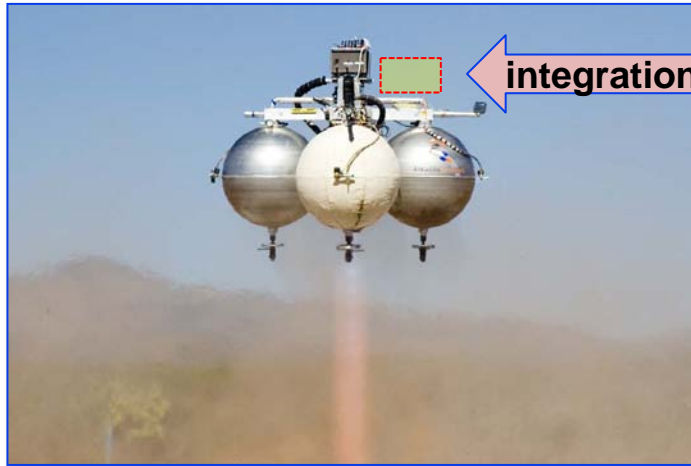
**TRL 1: Basic principles observed and reported**

*Basic properties of algorithms, representations & concepts. Mathematical formulations. Mix of basic and applied research.*



# About Project M RR-1

First in a series of specially developed field tests for Project M



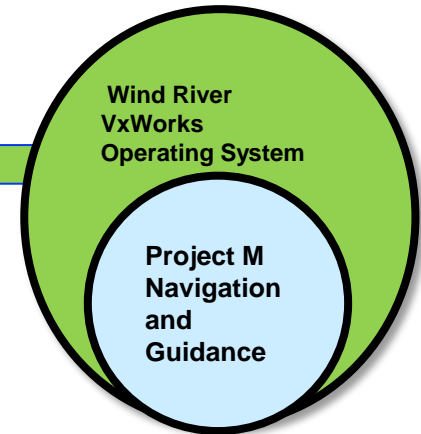
Armadillo Aerospace Vertical TestBed (AA-VTB) Pixel Vehicle

← integration



NASA/Draper Developed GNC HW Solution

← software



NASA/Draper/UT Developed SW Solution

## MISSION STATEMENT

- The Project M Field Test effort aims to demonstrate high rate inertial Guidance, Navigation, and Control (GNC) with low rate representative Kalman filter updates in a free-flying terrestrial lander environment.

## AA-VTB-FT1 OBJECTIVE

- The primary objective of the Project M Tier 1 FT is the open loop navigation demonstration of Project M Autonomous GNC (M-AGNC) using data from a tactical grade IMU, GPS, and altimeter with telemetry and data recording on the AA-VTB.



# CSDL GENIE



GENIE shown with additional power plate and tether structure

Tether Structure

Wireless Ethernet

Wireless Modem

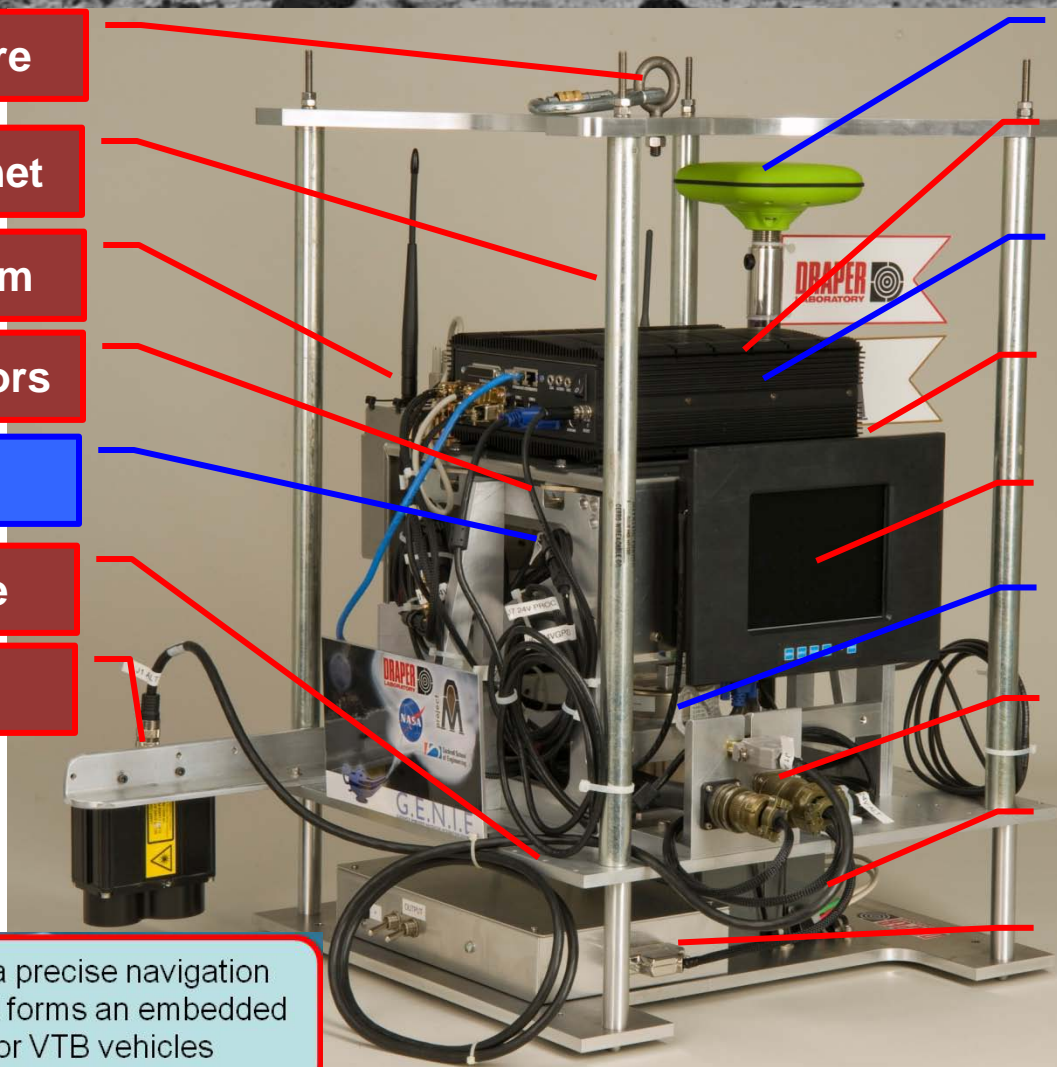
Vibration Isolators

GPS

18" Alum Plate

Altimeter

CSDL GENIE delivers a precise navigation state output at 20Hz and forms an embedded guidance solution for VTB vehicles



GPS Antenna

Processor

GNC Application

LN200 I/F Box

Rugged Monitor

LN200 IMU

Power Conn

24V Battery

Power Electronics