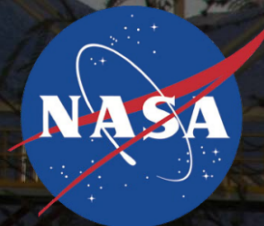


Systems Engineering Approach for the Orion Pad Abort-1 Flight Test

John Saltzman
NASA Dryden Flight Research Center
February 10, 2011





Outline



- PA-1 Introduction (short video)
- PA-1 Roles & Responsibilities & System Providers
- Gathering inputs from Parent Stakeholders
- Organizing the project to build the system – (project-centric culture)
- Project Structure used to cross communicate
- Defining the system architecture & requirements
- PA-1 Lifecycle approach
- Verification approach
- Conclusions

NOTE: Lessons learned embedded throughout presentation



Presentation Context



- Slides also intended to serve as a future use reference
 - Slides will tend to have more stand-alone wording
- Will not delve into specific SE data base tools, Config. Mgmt. processes, etc...
 - PA-1 Project did have Config. Mgmt. process, Risk Mgmt. processes, problem reporting process, data base tool (for requirements traceability & verification tracking),
 - Focus more on basic approaches & lessons learned rather than specific process & tools
- Made approach & lessons learned more generalized - apply to most SE challenges
- Address the human element in implementing a SE approach across a project

Lamborghini



- 0 to 60 mph in 3.8 sec
- 0 to 100 mph in 8.6 sec
- 631 horsepower

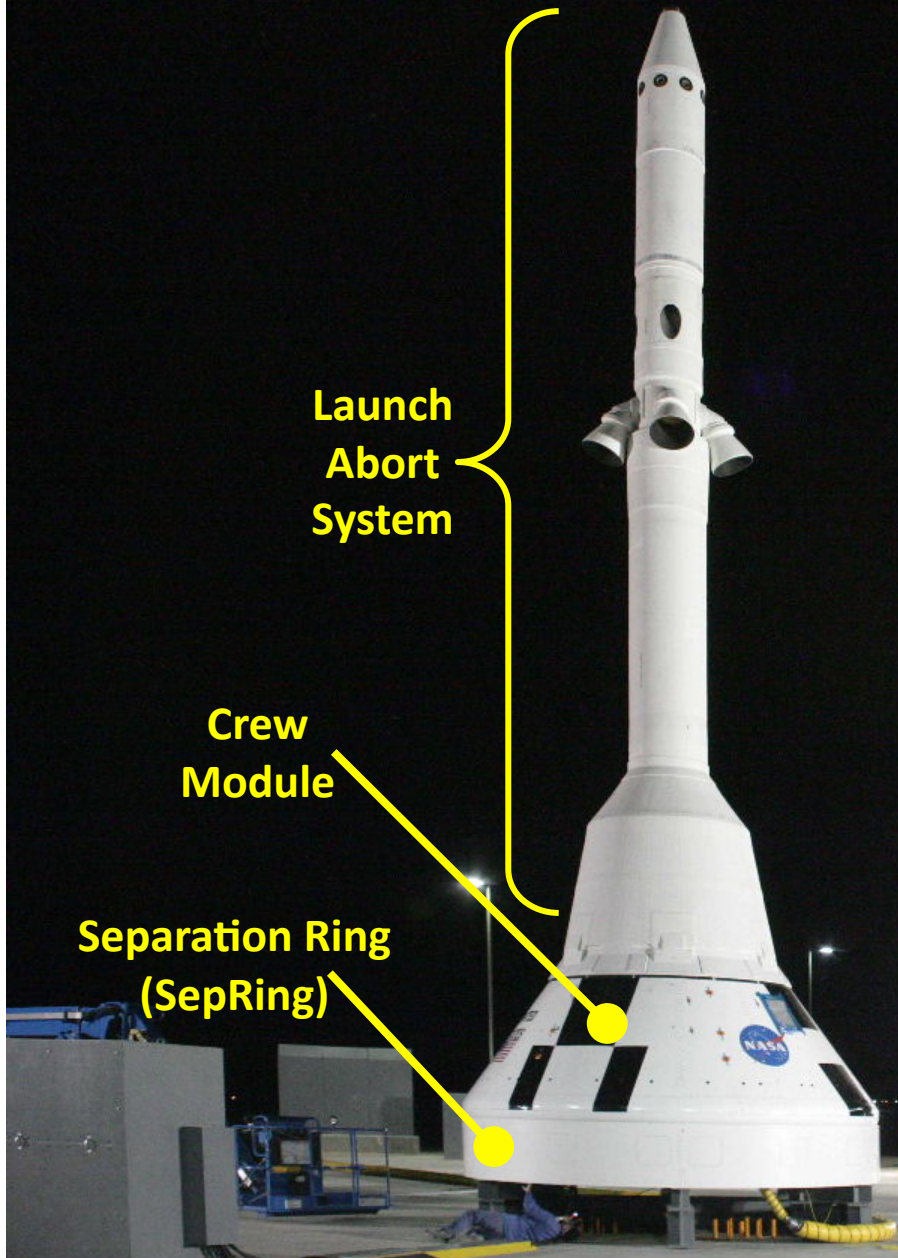
Orion Launch Abort System

- 0 to 60 mph in 0.28 sec
- 0 to 100 mph in 0.42 sec
- 500,000 lb thrust
- > 16g for 3 seconds

Launch Abort System

Crew Module

Separation Ring (SepRing)



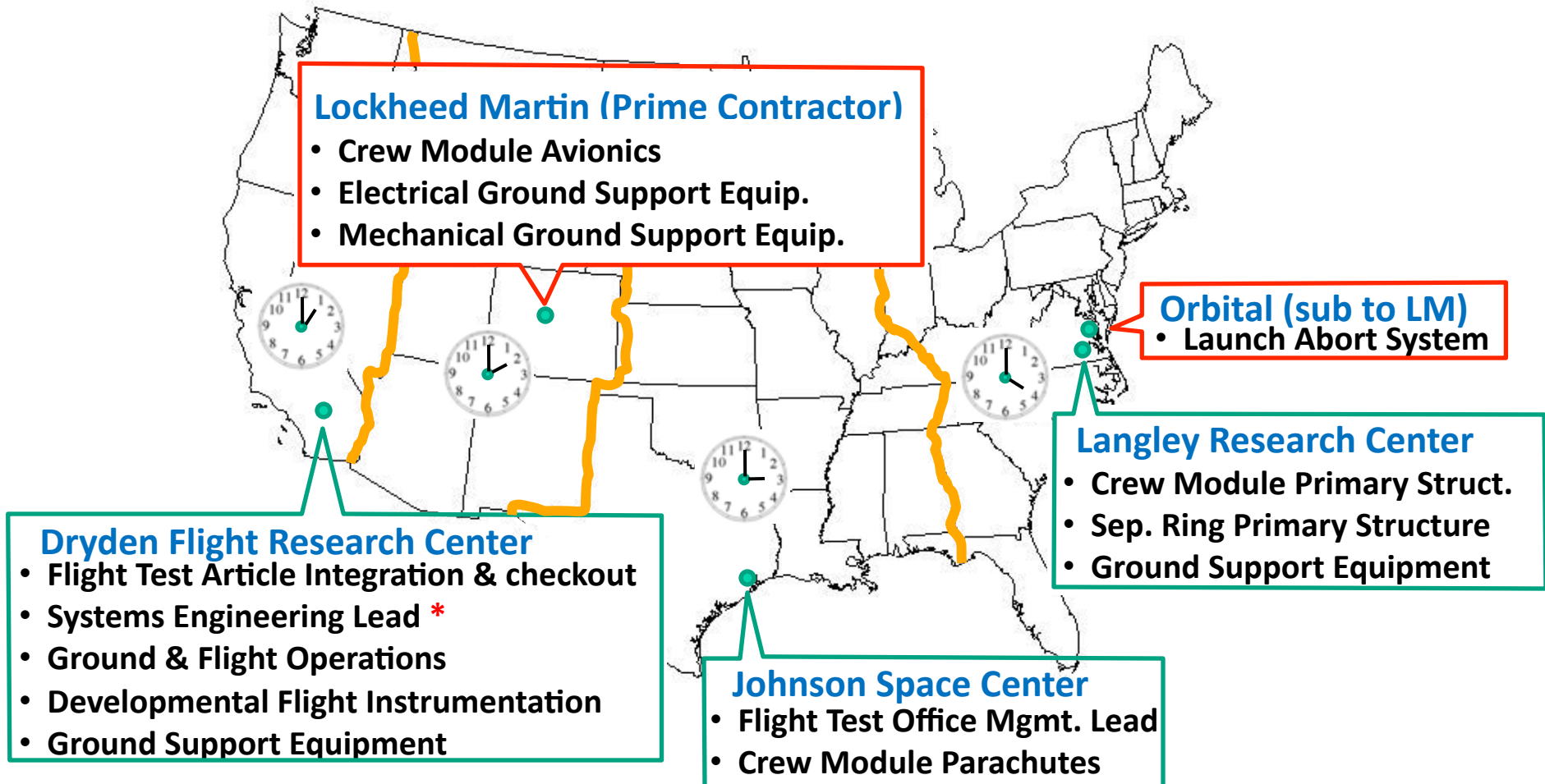
Insert Pad Abort – 1 launch video here!!!

- *From: www.vimeo.com/11631855*



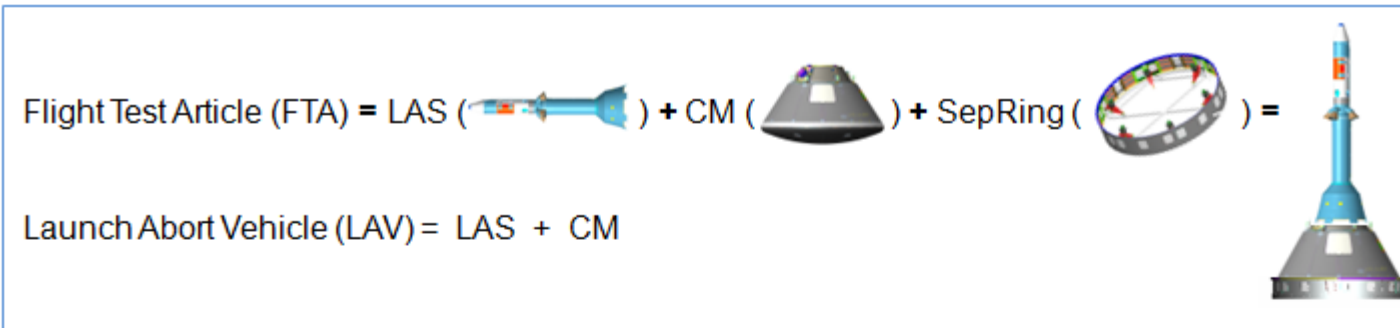
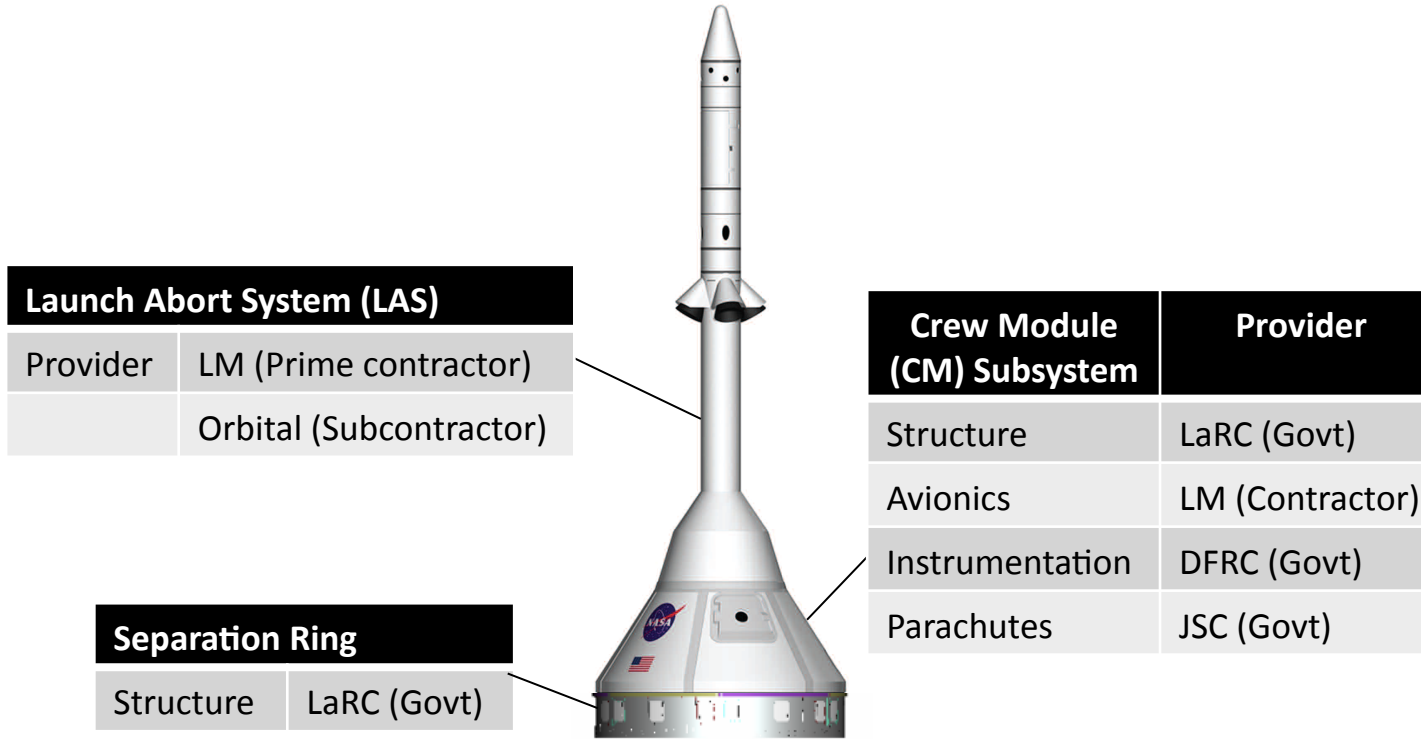
PA-1 Project-Wide Roles & Responsibilities

(spanned across 4 time zones)



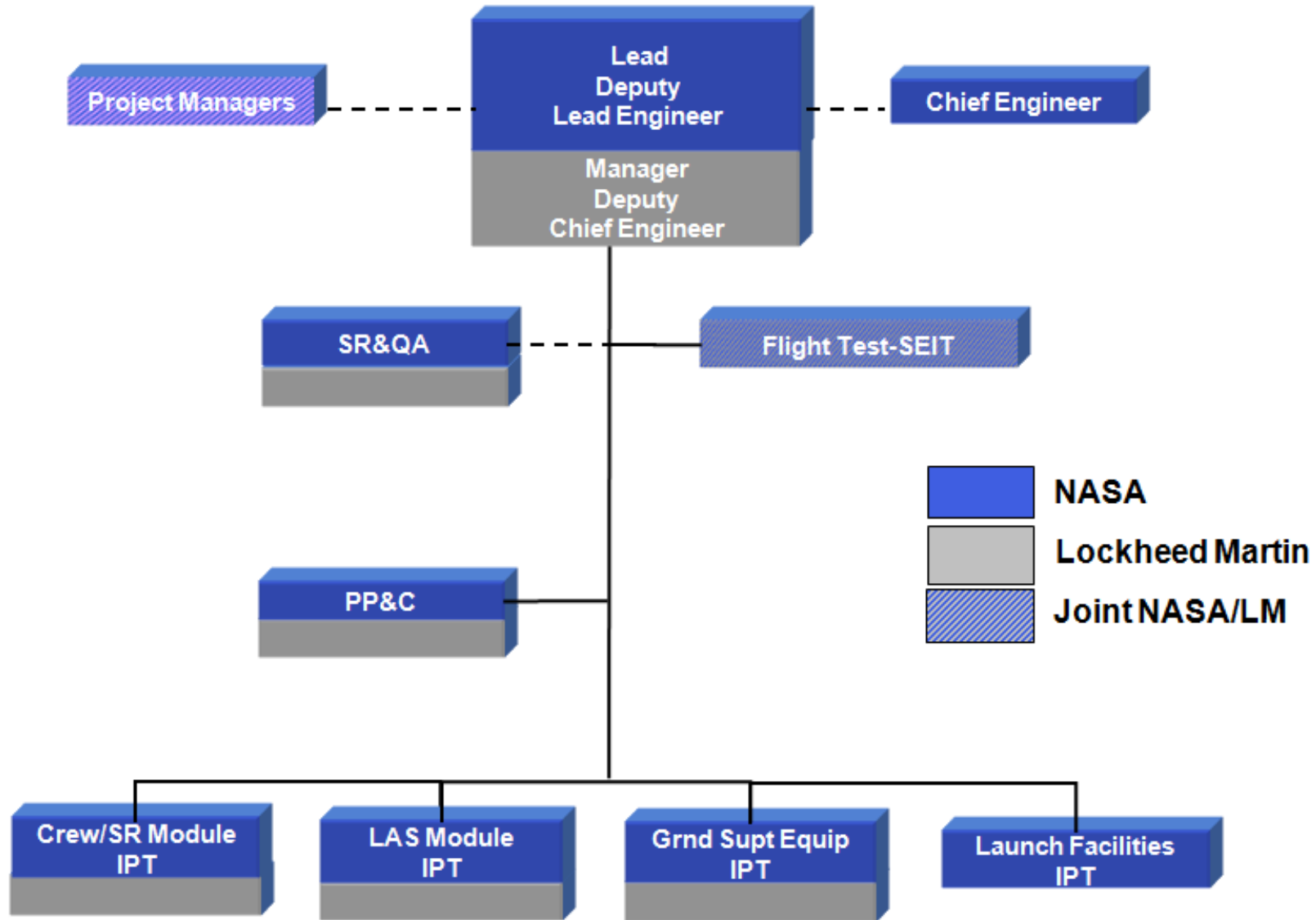


PA-1 Flight Test Article & Providers



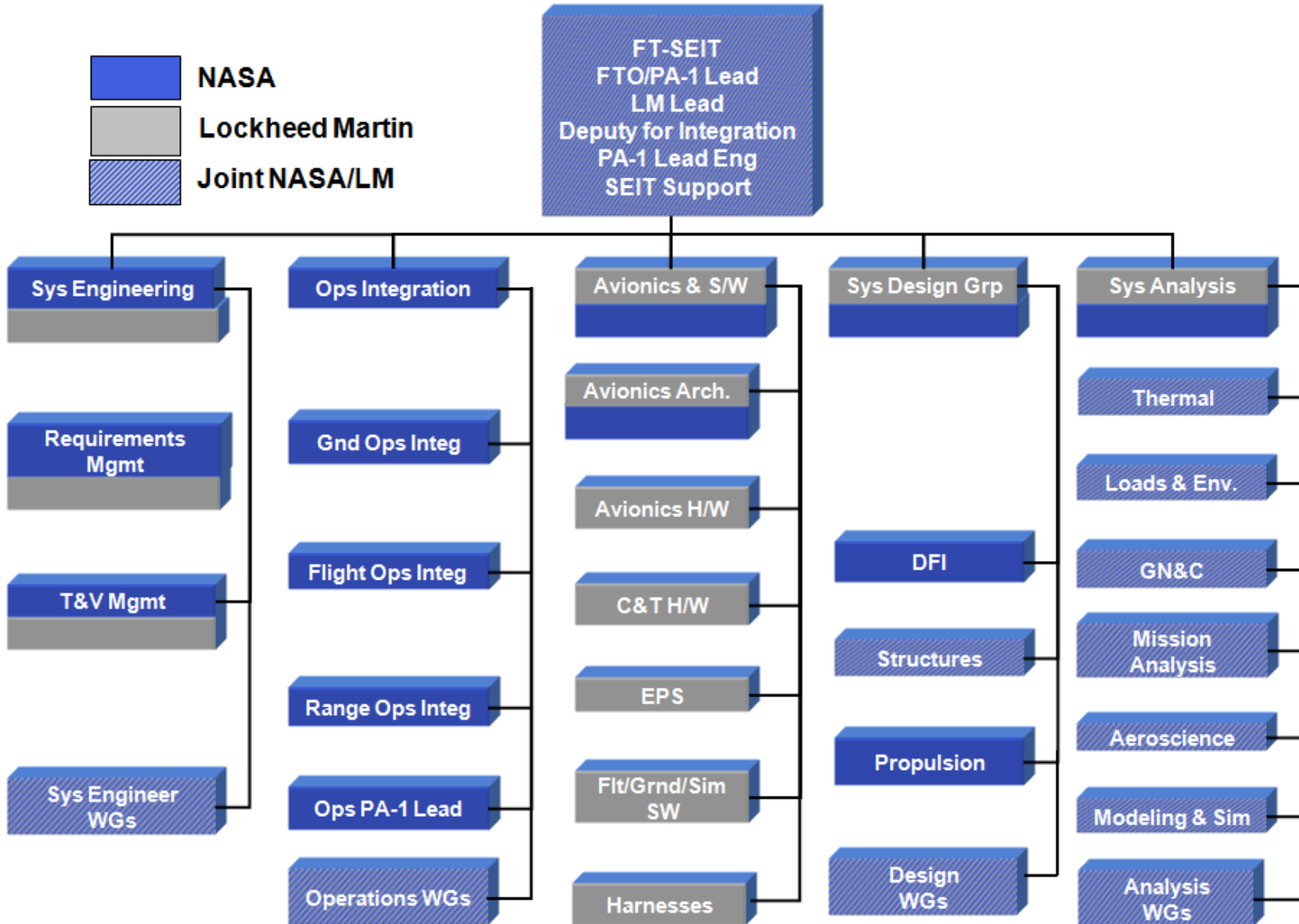


Flight Test Office (FTO) Org. Chart for PA-1 (for reference)





Systems Engineering Integration Team (SEIT) Org. Chart for PA-1 (for reference)





Gathering inputs from ALL the Customer Stakeholders

(What we learned on PA-1)



Need good representation from your primary customer & system stakeholders early in your lifecycle.

- Besides the primary customer, get inputs from other system stakeholders
 - Anyone than can drive your system requirements
 - i.e. Orion project, Launch site safety, missile treaties, standards, etc...



Gathering all stakeholders can be more difficult than expected

- NASA stakeholders commonly spread out across multiple centers, agencies & industry partners
- Cross-talk amongst system stakeholders may be hampered
- Need 'community organizer' approach to gather stakeholder inputs early



If Johnny-Come-Lately's join the system stakeholder forum late:

- Risk of adding late driving reqts (additional work & schedule delays)
 - Applies to both baselining project reqts & technical review entrance / exit criteria.
- May induce huge delays (& costs) if late inputs result in modifying a major contract or redesigning.





Finding out what the Customer Needs

(What we learned on PA-1)



Initial draft of Mission / Flight Objectives received from customer were not mutually understandable.

- Could have been interpreted differently between the parties (project & customer).

Assumed mutually understandable Mission / Flight Obj. would be delivered the first time on a silver platter (*not the case*)

- Needed to broker some of their Orion production goals into a flight test realm
- Solution: We drafted what 'we' thought their needs were
 - Then asked them to tell us where we were wrong.

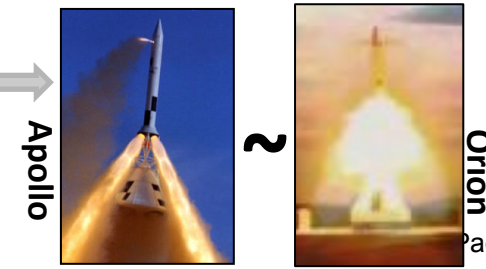


Project & customer need to establish a technical rapport

- Was necessarily tedious & difficult to accomplish
- Lowered the risk of unknowingly talking past each other
- Avoided discovering disconnects later in the lifecycle
 - Usually at integration... (too late)



Commonly understood reference point (Little Joe II) was used to directly engage the customer in mutually understandable discussions for Mission / Flight Objectives.





From: Multiple Organizational Cultures To: Single Project-centric culture



What we learned from PA-1....

Newly defined project roles & responsibilities, processes established across a large (multiple org.) project are not instantaneously carried out in a perfect manner.

It takes some mutual pain (& more time than most like) to transition:

- From: Non-integrated Center & contractor set of cultures, to an...
- To: Integrated project-centric culture.

Need influential advocates (community organizers) from each org working together.

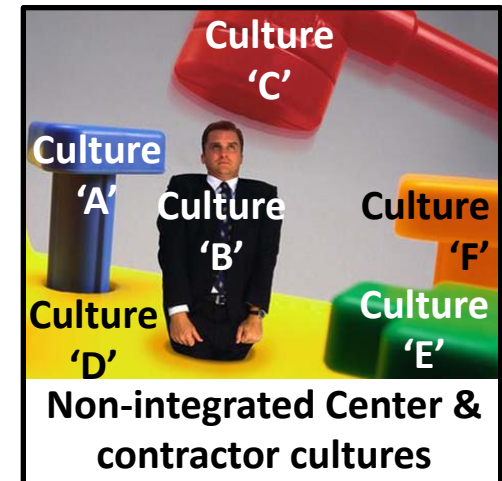
- Key agents from each org advocate project-centric culture, approach, processes back to their group.

Need a comprehensive approach / plan to define / develop / test system as well as structure project.

- Each org buys into.

On PA-1: Became predominantly known as a project-centric culture between PDR & CDR

- Biased opinion of presenter, not scientific assessment





From: Multiple Organizational Cultures To: Single Project-centric culture



What we learned from PA-1.... (Cont.)

Set up communication forums / hubs for technical cross talk

- Roll call & status from all discipline leads



Need team-wide collaborative web environment

- One place to find the latest document version & related info.
- Very helpful with coordinating & tracking verification
- Sometimes difficult to achieve
 - Organizational web security standards
 - Contractual / proprietary issues among project partners



Project & Team-wide meeting calendars were essential

- One reference point for team meetings.



Team social events away from PowerPoint venues were beneficial

Flight Test Office had direct control over most project teams....

- But only had 'influence' over some project teams
 - Could not rely on direct (contractual) authority
 - Rely even more on community organizing skills to engage these groups and... *the mgmt structure above them.*
 - Dedicate person within project to work directly with 'influence-only' partners.





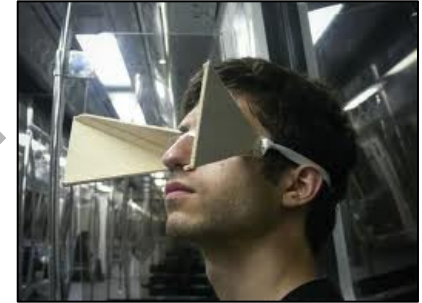
From: Multiple Organizational Cultures To: Single Project-centric culture



What we learned from PA-1.... (Cont.)

Watch out for the typical engineering drill-down mentality

- “I’ll focus on my part, you focus on yours...”
- Most engineers delight in avoiding the human interaction aspect of engineering and desire to focus solely on the product itself.
- Reiterate: Engrs. need to think & talk across org. & system boundaries



Project communication gaps swarm around Lone Rangers

- Project Community Organizers need to spot & close these gaps



Assume cross-functional project communication will fail at some point unless:

- Key disciplines across project are proactively & directly engaged regularly... throughout lifecycle
- “Unless everyone who needs to know does know, ... somebody somewhere will foul up”
 - Eberhardt Rechtin, 1997, The Art of System Architecting





From: Multiple Organizational Cultures To: Single Project-centric culture



What we learned from PA-1.... (Cont.)

Some PA-1 evidence of a project-centric culture:

Unsolicited comment from a Lockheed avionics engineer to a NASA systems engineer (PA-1 post-flight 'social' event):

- "It would be a shame to break up this team... For example, whenever I wanted, I could just pick up the phone and talk directly to the (LaRC) structures lead to see how possible changes affect us both."





Systems Engineering / Community Organizer traits:

- Don't necessarily have to be overly social →
- However SE'ers need to:
 - Engage a wide variety of personality types across the project
 - Be very approachable
 - Recognize communication gaps, for example:
 - Only hear repeated concerns on only one side of the story / issue.
 - No clear way for groups to engage each other
 - Carry forward concerns / issues over communication barriers
 - Be organized... beyond just yourself
 - Also be an organizer
 - Participate in regular forums that promote cross-talk
- **Value added if above qualities apply to project leads as well.**
 - Others on the project can help organize, but....
 - It's the SE's job to assure the organizational structure supports the architecture





Valuable Systems Engineering traits when Organizing a Project (continued)



When project leads are not a fan of NPR 7123.1a

- Don't confront them as if you're the NPR police...
- Win them over by asking, "How can we best make '_____' clear to others within the project?"
- This is how they can meet the intent of NPR 7123.1a ... w/o them knowing it (*sneaky...*)
- In the background you can check off the NPR 7123.1a check-list



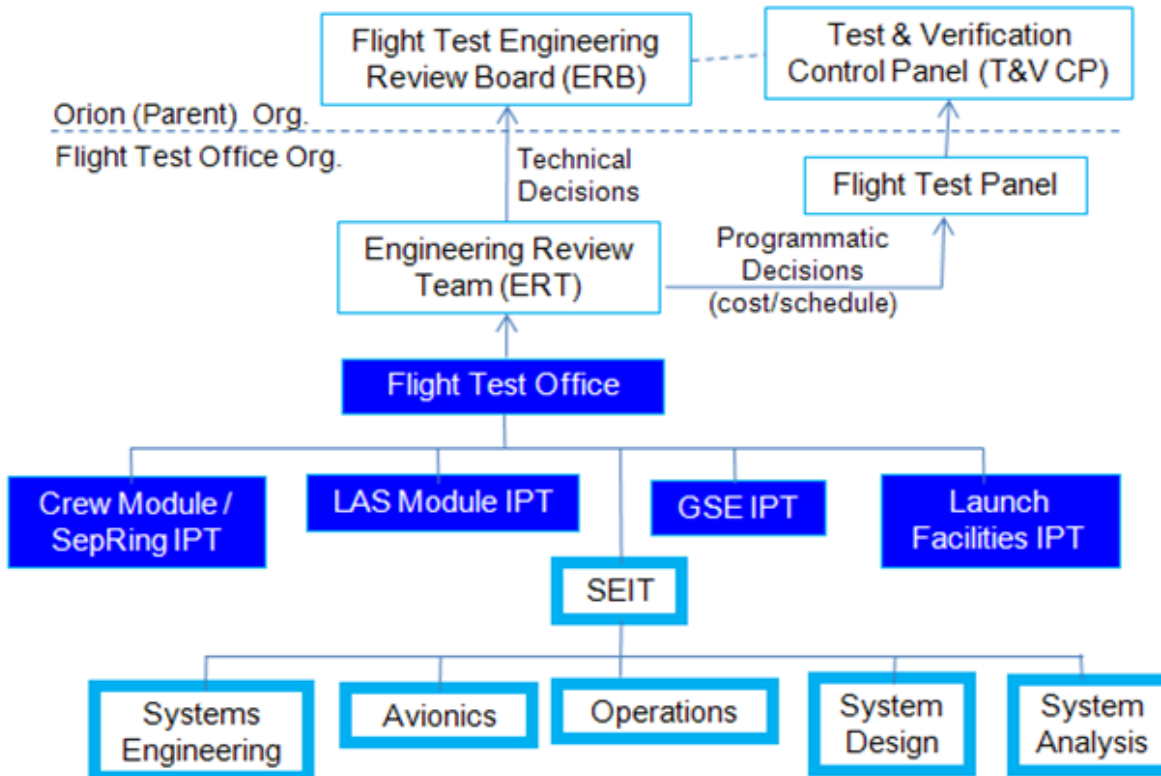
Some project leads may not fully understand Systems Engineering

- Help ghost-write their requirements if necessary
 - This was done for 1 module and 1 subsystem on PA-1





Project structure used to establish project-centric culture (for PA-1)



Parent Org (Orion) Structure:

- **ERB:** Technical decisions impacting parent org
- **T&V Control Panel:** Cost / schedule decisions impacting parent org.

FTO Org. Structure:

- **ERT:** Tech. decisions w/in FTO
- **Flt. Test Panel:** Cost / schedule decisions w/in FTO
- **4 Module level IPT's**
- **SEIT (5 branches)**
 1. Systems Eng.
 2. Avionics (largest & most complex subsystem)
 3. Operations
 4. System Design
 5. System Analysis
- **Met every week**

Positions were discipline & deliverable specific, not center specific.

Can't guarantee this is the best way to organize, but:

- It was clear and understandable to the team... which compensates for a lot.



Defining the Architecture



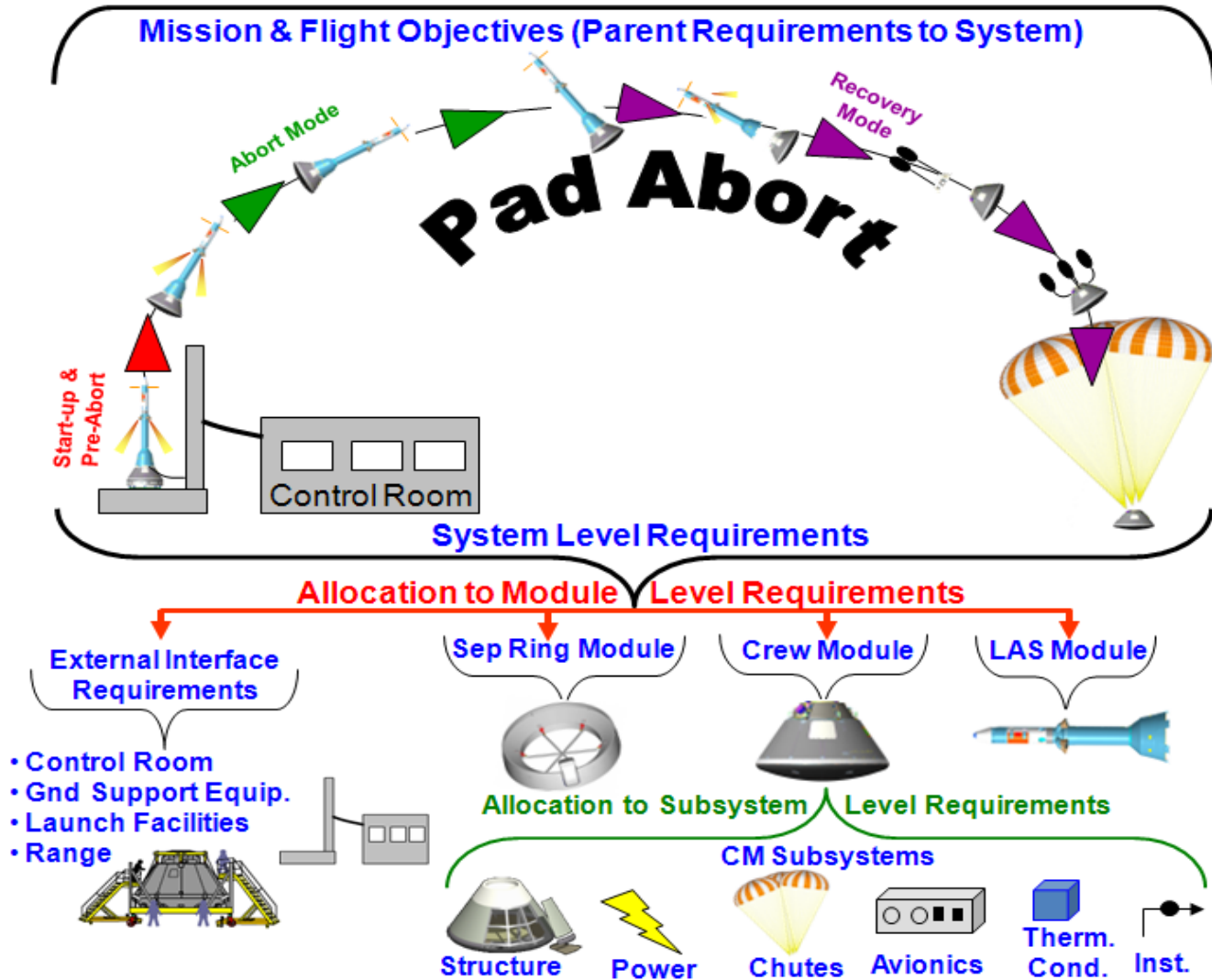
- **“If social cooperation is required, the way in which a system is implemented and introduced must be an integral part of its architecture.”**
 - Rechtin, E. “Systems Architecting, Creating & Building Complex Systems”



Defining the Architecture (Cont.)



- Before we generated system requirements, we defined the architecture



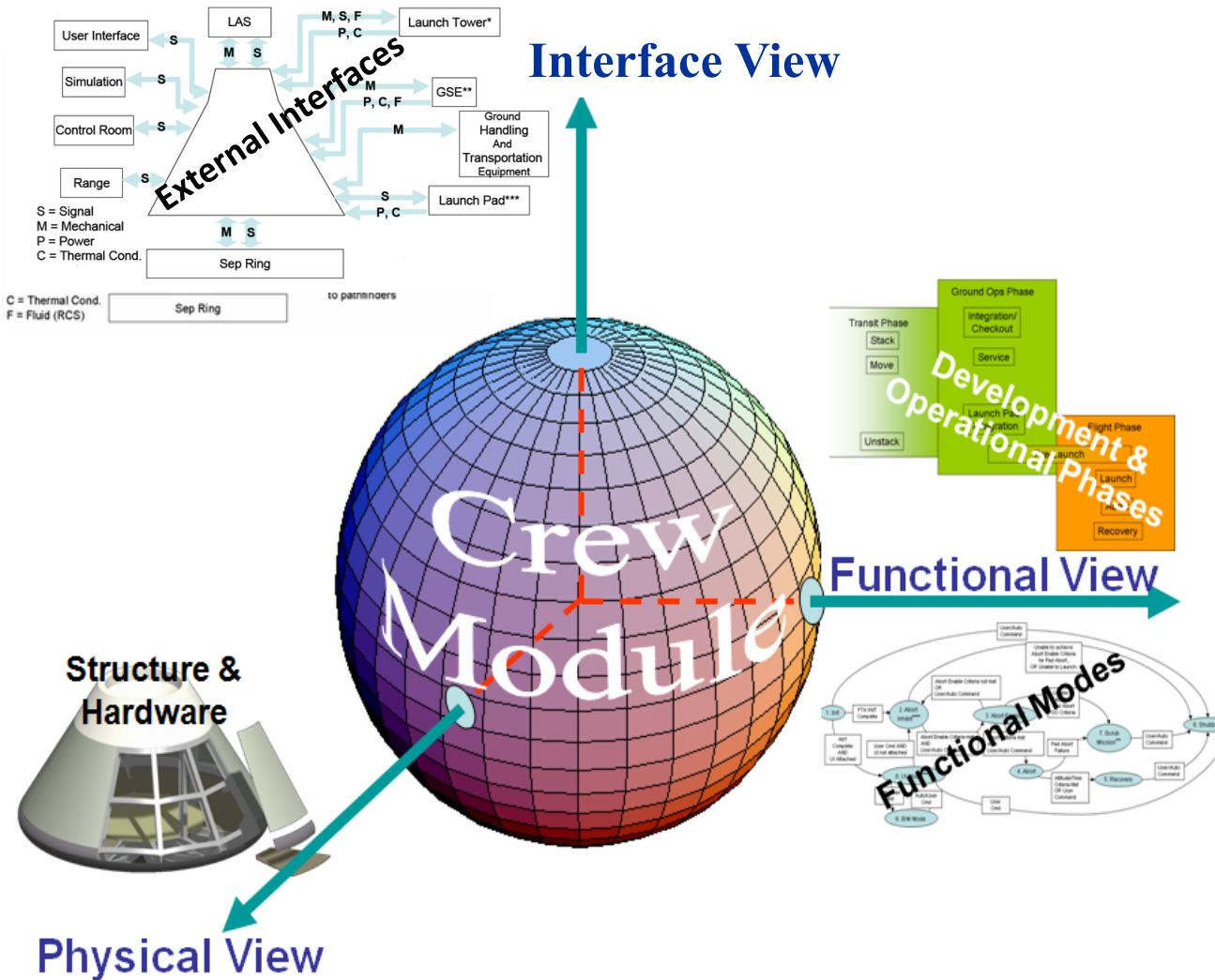
Definition of architecture helped:

- Define spec. tree hierarchy
- Define requirement allocation categories
- Define boundaries of elements within system
- Next slide... looked at system elements from 3-views



Example of 3-View Architecture Definition for Crew Module

(This approach was used across the system)

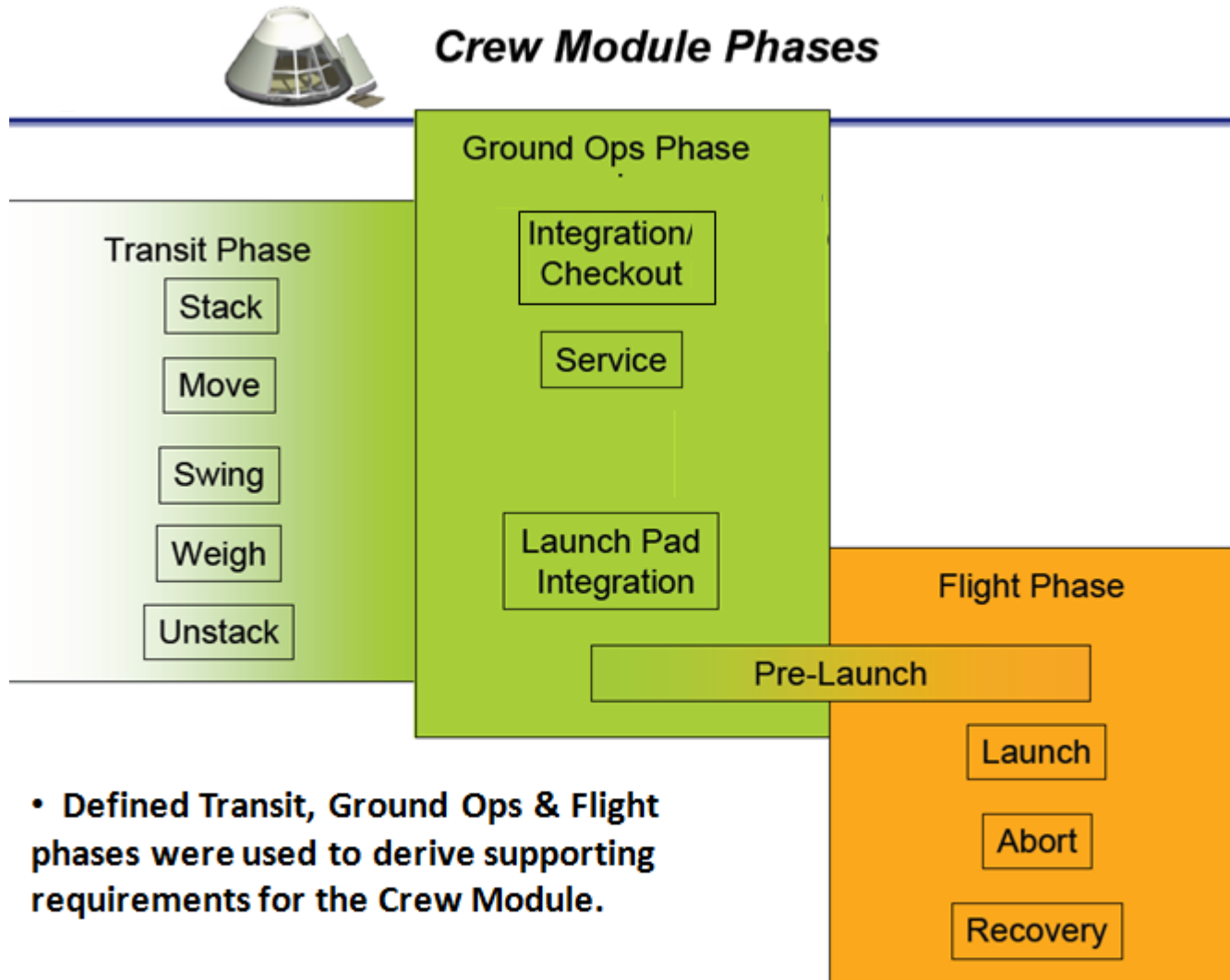


Took global perspective of system elements:

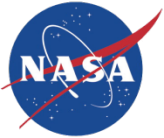
- **Functional View**
 - Dev. & Op. Phases
 - Functional Modes
 - Sample slides shown
- **Interface View**
 - External Interfaces
 - Sample slides shown
- **Physical View**
 - High Level Physical Attributes
 - More detailed attributes (weight, C.G., Moments of Inertia, OML) in a separate Geometry & Mass Properties doc.
 - No sample slide



Actual 'Phase' Chart shown @ PA-1 SRR (From Functional View)

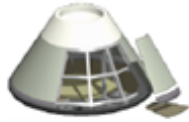


- Defined Transit, Ground Ops & Flight phases were used to derive supporting requirements for the Crew Module.

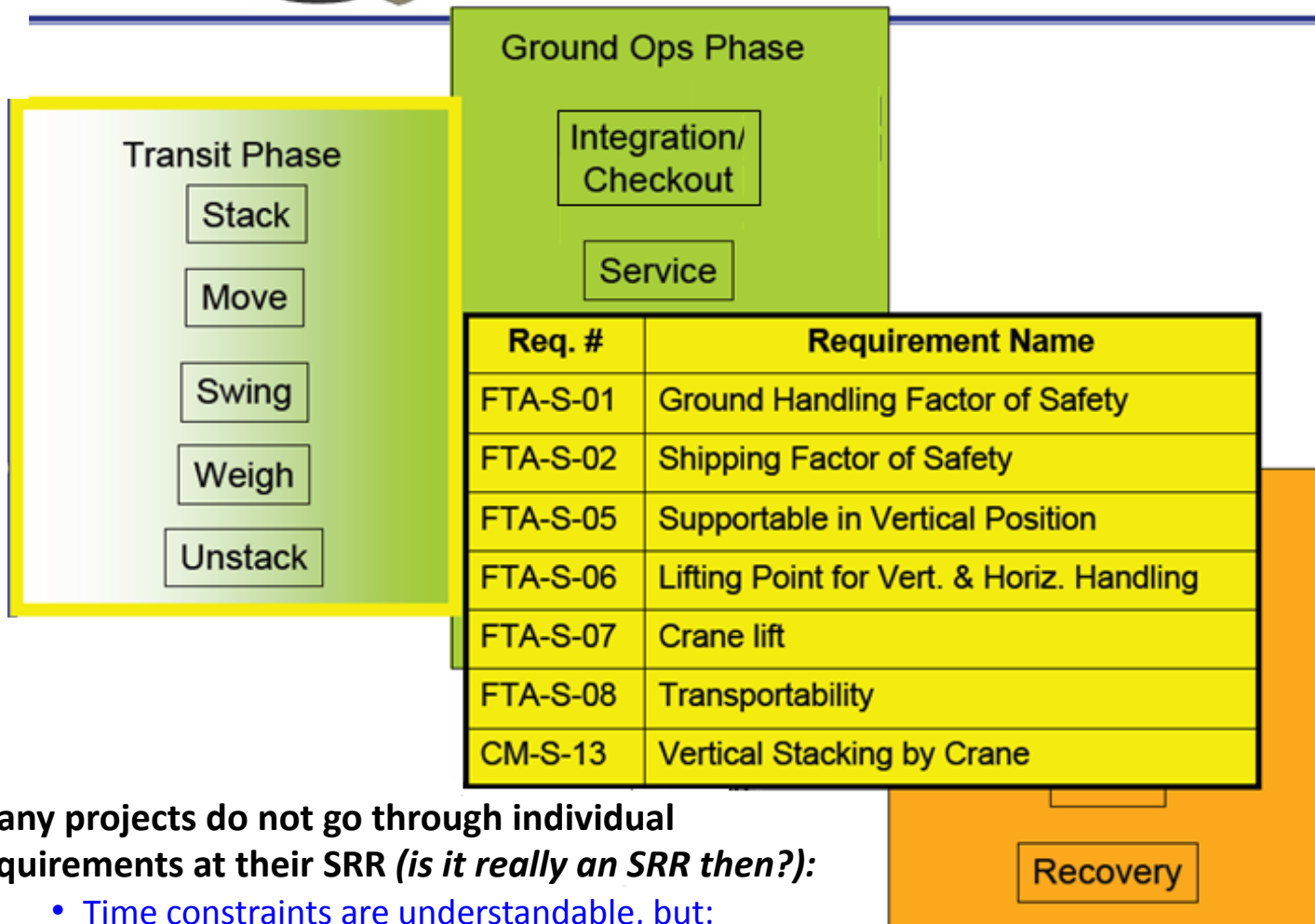


Actual 'Phase' Chart shown @ PA-1 SRR (Cont.)

(From Functional View)



Crew Module Phases



Many projects do not go through individual requirements at their SRR (*is it really an SRR then?*):

- Time constraints are understandable, but:
- Example above is proof it's possible to review requirements at a 'paraphrased' level at SRR.

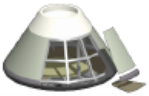


Actual 'Functional Mode' Chart shown @ PA-1 SRR

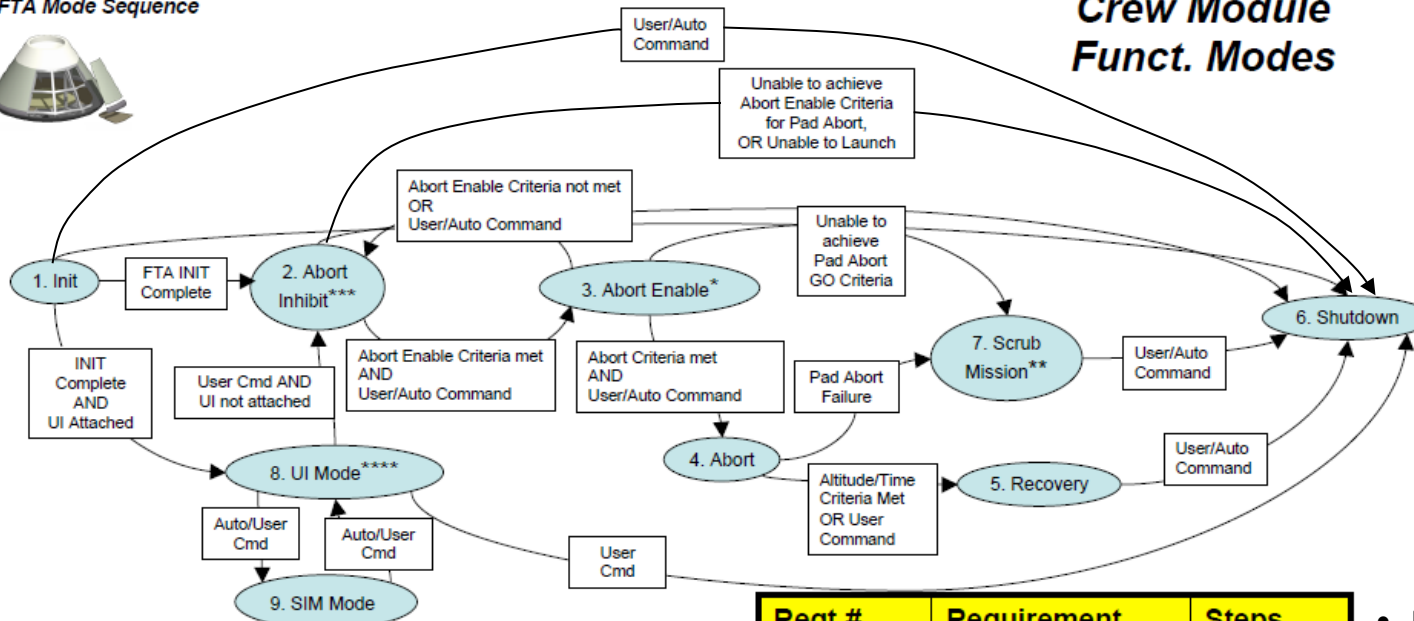
(From Functional View)



FTA Mode Sequence



Crew Module Funct. Modes



Req#	Requirement	Steps
FTA-F-07	Startup	1
FTA-F-24	Init to IU	1 to 8
FTA-F-08	Abort Inhibit	2
FTA-F-09	Init to Abort Inhibit	1 to 2
FTA-F-10	AI to AE	2 to 3
FTA-F-11	AE to AI	3 to 2
FTA-F-12	AI to Shutdown	2 to 6
FTA-F-13	Failed Launch SD	2 to 6

Req#	Requirement	Steps
FTA-F-02	Abort	3 to 4
FTA-F-14	Failed Abort SD	3 to 7 to 6 4 to 7 to 6
FTA-F-03	Recovery	4 to 5
FTA-F-15	Shutdown	5 to 6
FTA-F-23	Init to SD	1 to 6
FTA-F-25	UI to SD	8 to 6
FTA-F-28	UI to Sim	8 to 9
FTA-F-26	Sim to UI	9 to 8
FTA-F-29	UI to AI	8 to 2

- Paraphrased versions of the requirements were used to walk reviewers through the requirements at SRR in an expedient manner.

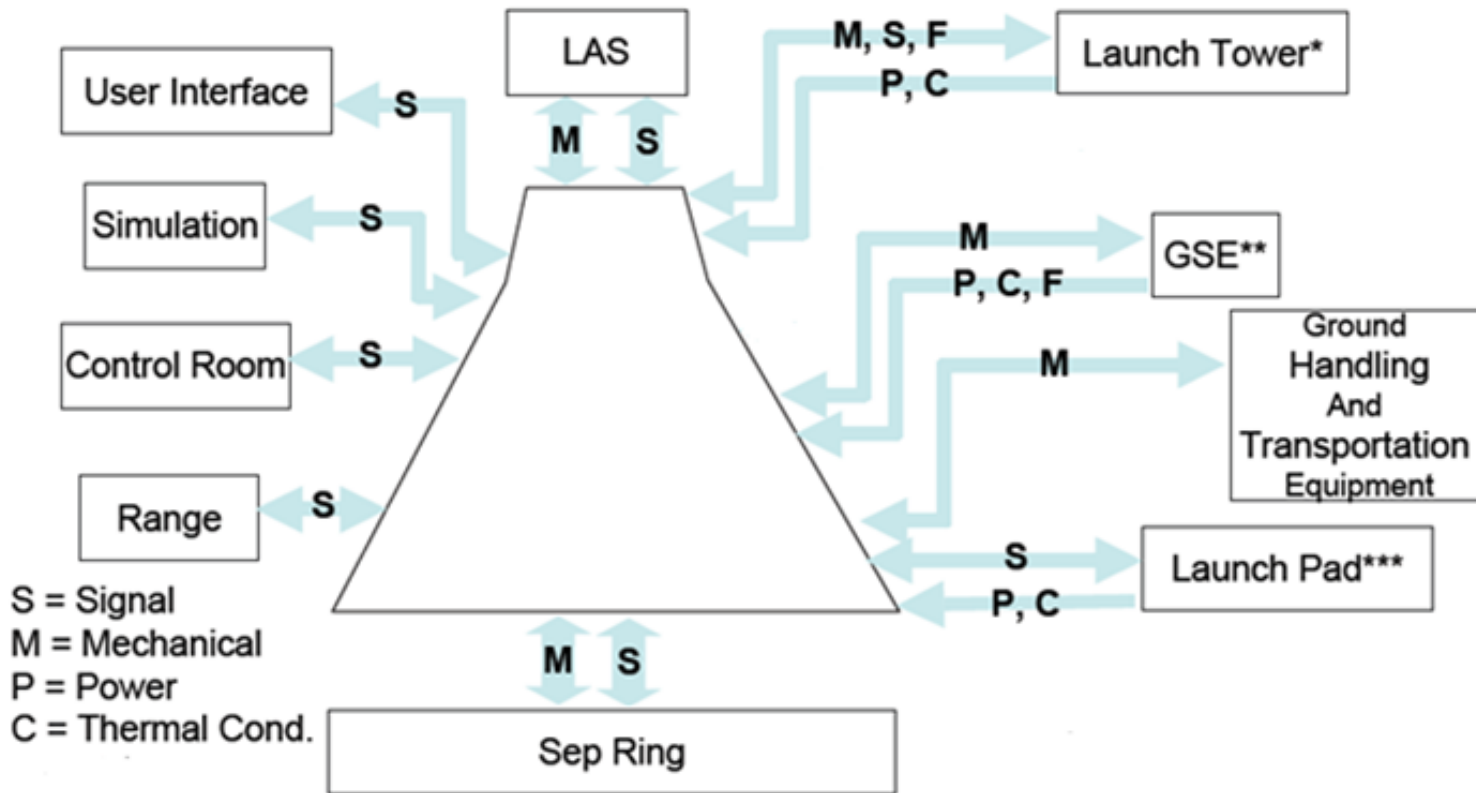


Actual 'External Interface' Chart shown @ PA-1 SRR

(From Interface View)



Crew Module External Interfaces

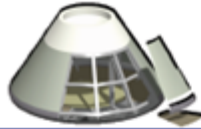


- Used to get stakeholder agreement on external interface types

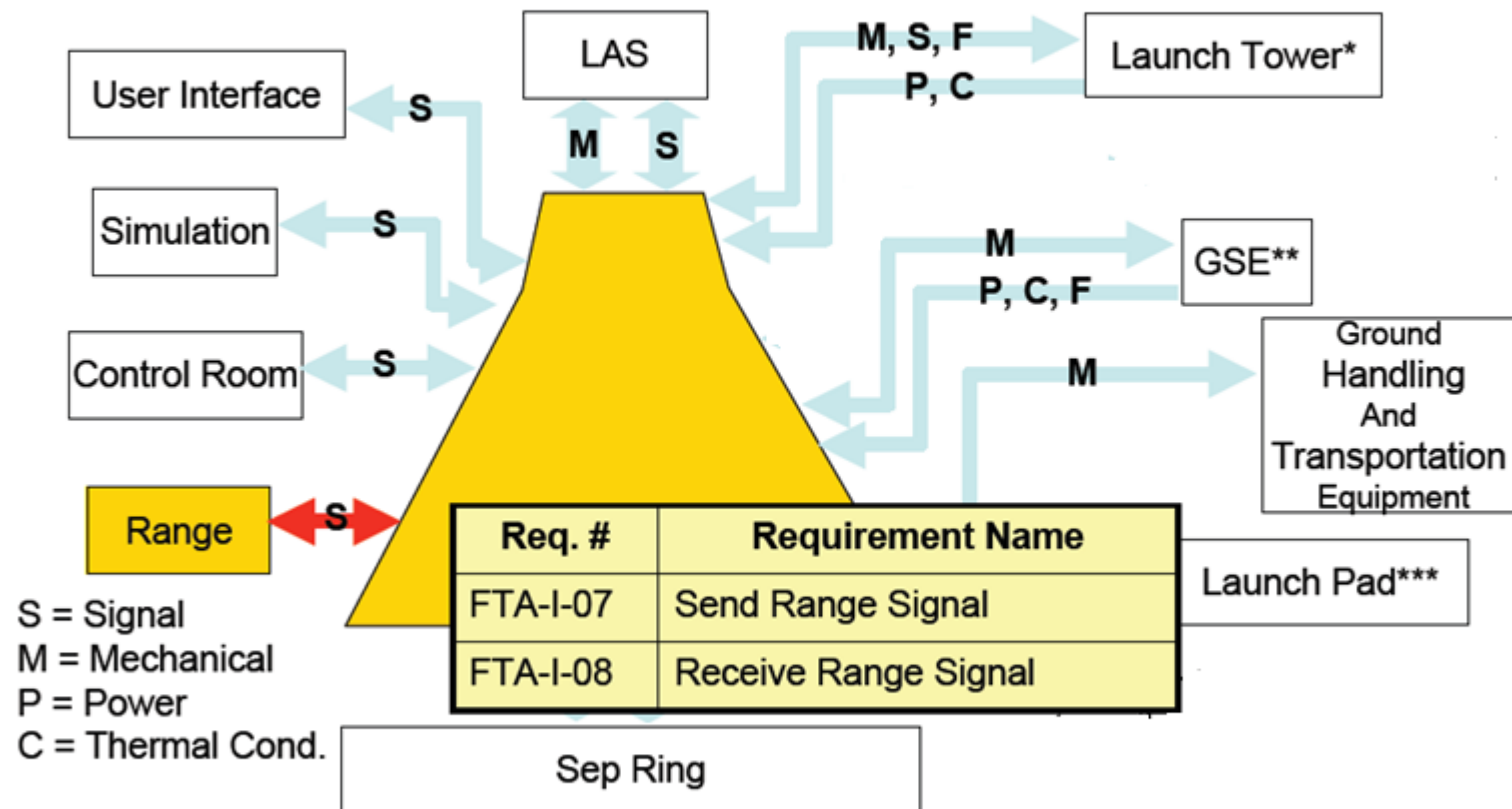


Actual 'External Interface' Chart shown @ PA-1 SRR (Cont.)

(From Interface View)



Crew Module - Range Interface

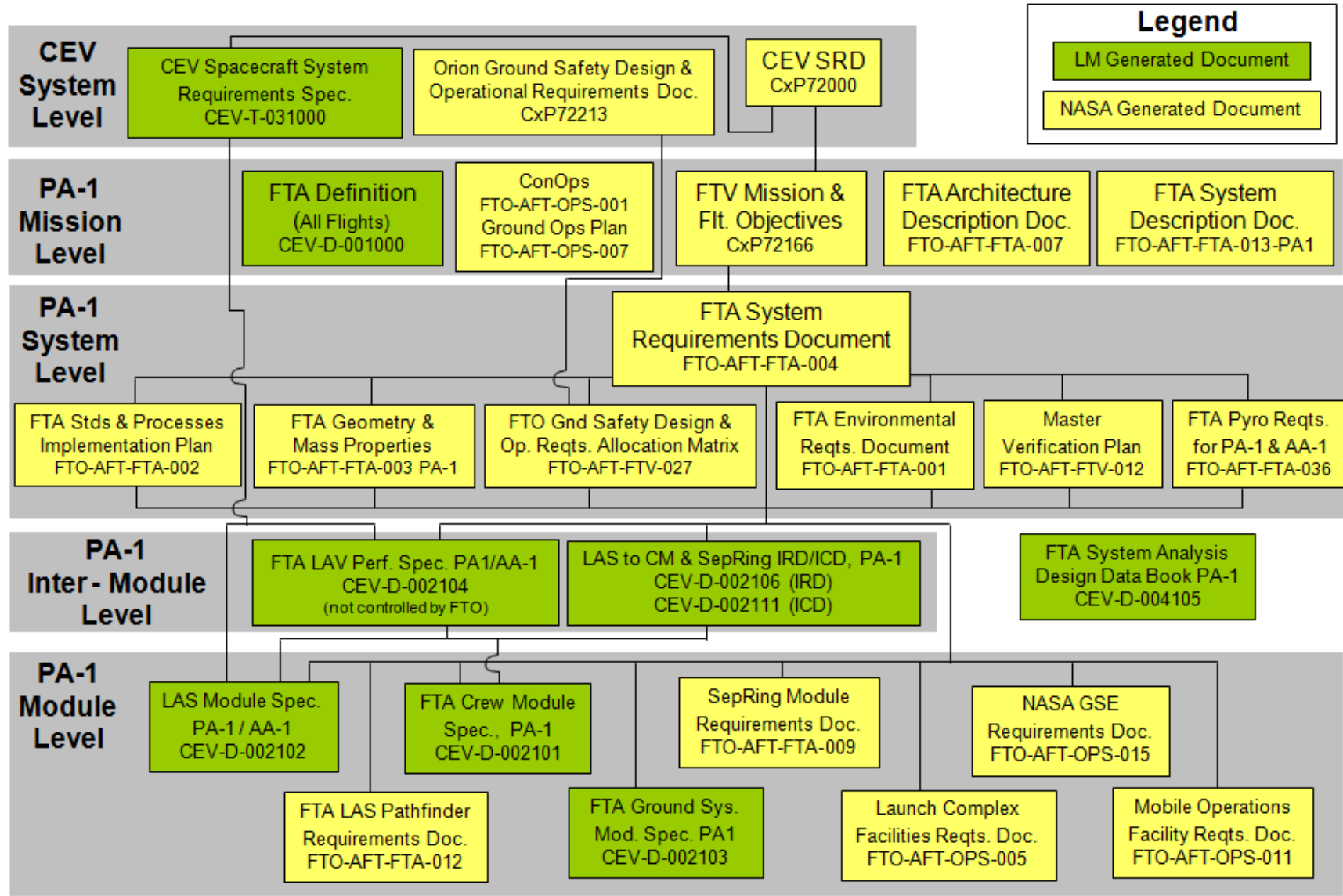


- Paraphrased versions of the requirements were used to walk reviewers thru the requirements at SRR in an expedient manner.



Top Tier of PA-1 Spec Tree

(For Reference)





Defined System & Instrumentation

Sensors in a parallel manner



Mission Objectives drove the system-wide design

Mission Objective: ... demonstrate satisfactory perf. & operation of the LAS.

Mission & Flight Objectives

Flight Objectives Drove Master Measurement List for the sensors

Flight Objective: Determine stability char. of LAS+CM configuration during a pad abort

Standard allocation to lower level requirements

System Requirements Document

Module A

Module B

Module C

Subsystem A

Subsystem B

Subsystem C

Data Analysis Plan

• Measure Of Performance (MOP):

- Evaluate LAV attitude (including flight path angle, ψ , θ , ϕ)

• Evaluation Criteria:

- LAV dynamics compared to 6-DOF simulation, adjusting for day-of-flight conditions

• Required Parameters:

- LAV position, velocity, acceleration, attitude, angular rates, angle of attack, sideslip, estimated thrust from abort motor, day-of-flight winds, and atmospheric conditions derived from on-board measurements.

Master Measurement List (MML)

- LS041V: Z-axis acceleration

- LS0....



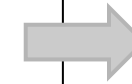
Pad Abort 1 Review Lifecycle



- **“Before proceeding too far, pause & reflect! Cool off periodically and seek an independent review”**
 - Douglas R. King, 1991

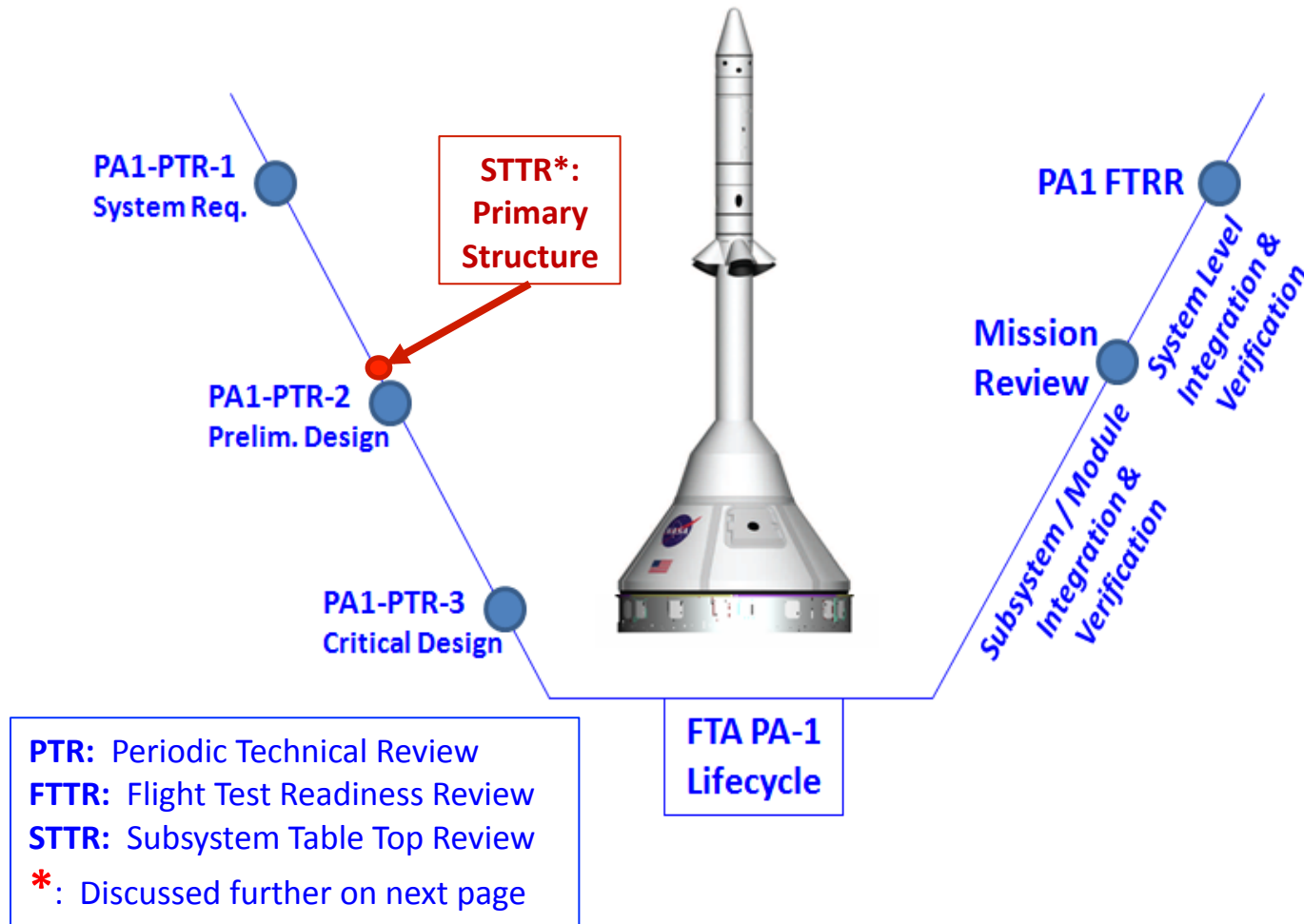


- **“If you think your design is perfect, it’s only because you haven’t shown it to someone else.”**
 - Harry Hillaker, 1993





Pad Abort 1 Review Lifecycle (Cont.)





Pad Abort 1 Review Lifecycle (Cont.)

(What we learned on PA-1)



Technical Review Entrance / Exit criteria tailored from NPR 7123.1a Appendix G

- Approved by customer well before each review
- Resulted in mutually clear expectations for each review early-on



Early coordination with customer helped achieved timely buy-off of review approach

- Increased likelihood of reviews meeting customer expectations
- Without early coordination: Increase risk of surprising customers at the review (“... can’t proceed to the next phase until.... you do A, B, C, etc...”)



- **WARNING:** Customer may still change their mind on review criteria
 - But, baseline criteria will help justify impacts



STTR approach used to approve procurement & basic design of CM Primary Structure before PDR (yes, I said PDR).

- Used only if:
 - Risk of expediting project is lower than the schedule risk of waiting for the review
 - Have a well established risk mgmt system to track / update risk mitigations (i.e. workable retro-fits for increased loads from downstream analysis).



Risk scale Page 33



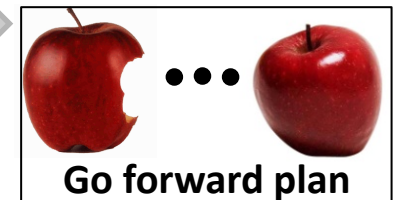
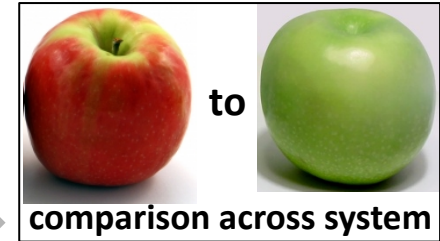
Pad Abort 1 Review Lifecycle (Cont.)

(What we learned on PA-1)



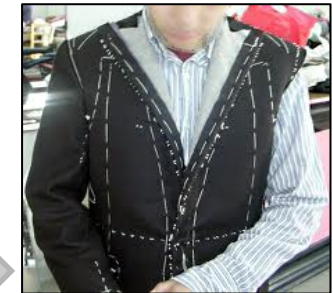
Entrance / Exit criteria used to define presentation template for each subsystem at each technical review.

- Provided consistency for each subsystem presentation
- Made it easier to define subsystem readiness gaps (issues) & go fwd plans
- Reduces chance of overlooking something important across system



Tailoring of entrance / exit criteria was / is key:

- I was taught... Strictly following a text book approach for systems engineering on a project would practically guarantee failure.
- Dinesh Verma, Dean School of Systems & Enterprises @ Stevens Inst. Of Tech
- Do NOT deny engineering judgment from past pain



Examples of 'tailored' subsystem presentation templates shown on next 2 slides for PDR.



Example of Subsystem presentation outline / template for PDR (PTR-2)



- **Entrance Criteria** – tailored from NPR 7123.1a for your subsystem
 - **Schedule** – Subset of the master schedule for your particular subsystem / deliverables
 - **Document/s Status** – Self explanatory
 - **Driving Requirements** – Shows requirements that are causing your design to be ‘what it is.’
 - **Safety** – Hazards pertaining to your particular subsystem
 - **External Interfaces** – Summary of interfaces external to your subsystem
 - **Design Concept** – Block diagrams, Sketches, Drawing trees, Analysis
 - **T&V Approach** – Basic description of Test approach and how requirements will be verified.
 - **Issues & Resolutions** – Identify open issues and a plan on how they will be resolved.
 - **Go Forward Plan** – Path to CDR
 - **Exit Criteria** – tailored from NPR 7123.1a for your subsystem
- Resulted in reviewers knowing expected topics for each subsystem.
 - Enabled reviewers to consistently compare subsystem readiness across the system.
 - Made it easier for project to pro-actively define go-forward plans for subsystem ‘issues’



Example of Subsystem Entrance / Exit Criteria template for PDR (PTR-2)

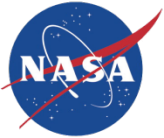


PTR-2 Subsystem Level Entry Criteria	Slide
Preliminary subsystem specs for each H/W & S/W CI	
Draft Subsystem Interface Requirements Docs	
Draft Interface Control Documents	
Design / Analysis Documentation	
Engineering Drawing Trees	
T&V Planning	

- Consistently showed reviewers 'how' each subsystem met its share of the system-wide entrance / exit criteria.
- If template not used... could result in inconsistent coverage from subsystem to subsystem.
 - Reviewers may conclude project coordination is inconsistent
 - Warning flags go up



PTR-2 Subsystem Exit Criteria	Evidence	Slide
Subsystem requirements defined & trace to parents & are allocated to components & external subsystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving Requirements show traceability • Requirement allocations are in specs 	
Subsystem Level designs exist and are consistent with their corresponding requirements set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design spec complete with ___ TBD/Rs • Design drawings ___% complete 	
Subsystem interfaces identified and are consistent with their corresponding subsystem design maturity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRD / ICD's with ___ TBDs / TBRs 	
Project risks identified & mitigation strategies defined	Project risk #'s in IRMA risk database	
T&V approach is adequate to proceed	Verification methods identified & test	
S&MA adequately addressed in the preliminary design & the preliminary design-based S&MA requirements & approach have been approved	Hazard report #'s & referenced S&MA analysis	



Verification

(What we learned from PA-1)



Early-on:

- Believed defining & implementing workable requirements would be the greater challenge
- Foregone conclusion that the easier task would be to record the verification of those same requirements later in the lifecycle. **(WRONG)**

Looking-back:

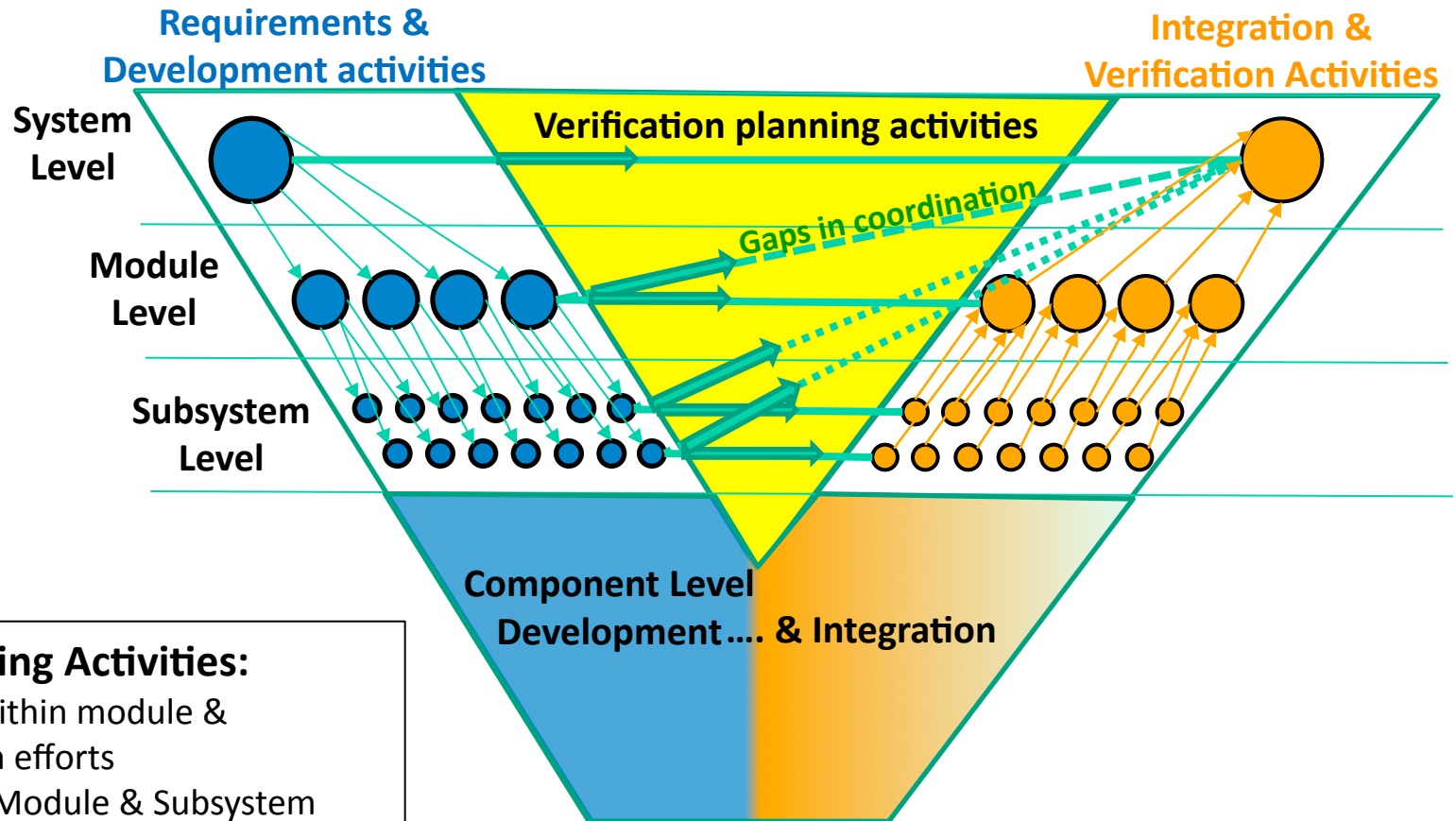
• Experience taught us:

- No tasks can realistically be categorized as significantly easier through lifecycle
- Complexity of coordinating the human element of requirements verification comparable to human element challenge of implementing those same requirements earlier in the lifecycle.
 - i.e. Coordinating latest versions of test results & analysis at each associated level while briefing burn-down status
 - Next slide touches on contributors to this challenge



Verification Planning

(What we learned from PA-1)



Verification Planning Activities:

- Strong correlation within module & subsystem verification efforts
- Gaps in correlating Module & Subsystem verifications with System level verif. activities
 - Leads busy implementing requirements & design early in lifecycle
 - Less time to tie all levels in system verification planning
 - Made for more work later in the lifecycle to correlate latest (under the gun).

Lesson Learned:

- Where ever possible: Complete system verification planning efforts with module & subsystem leads earlier in the lifecycle
 - Set up more direct 'check-list' of tasks to reduce avoidable system-wide review & analysis later in the lifecycle




Actual PA-1 Subsystem Verification Chart briefed to Mgmt.

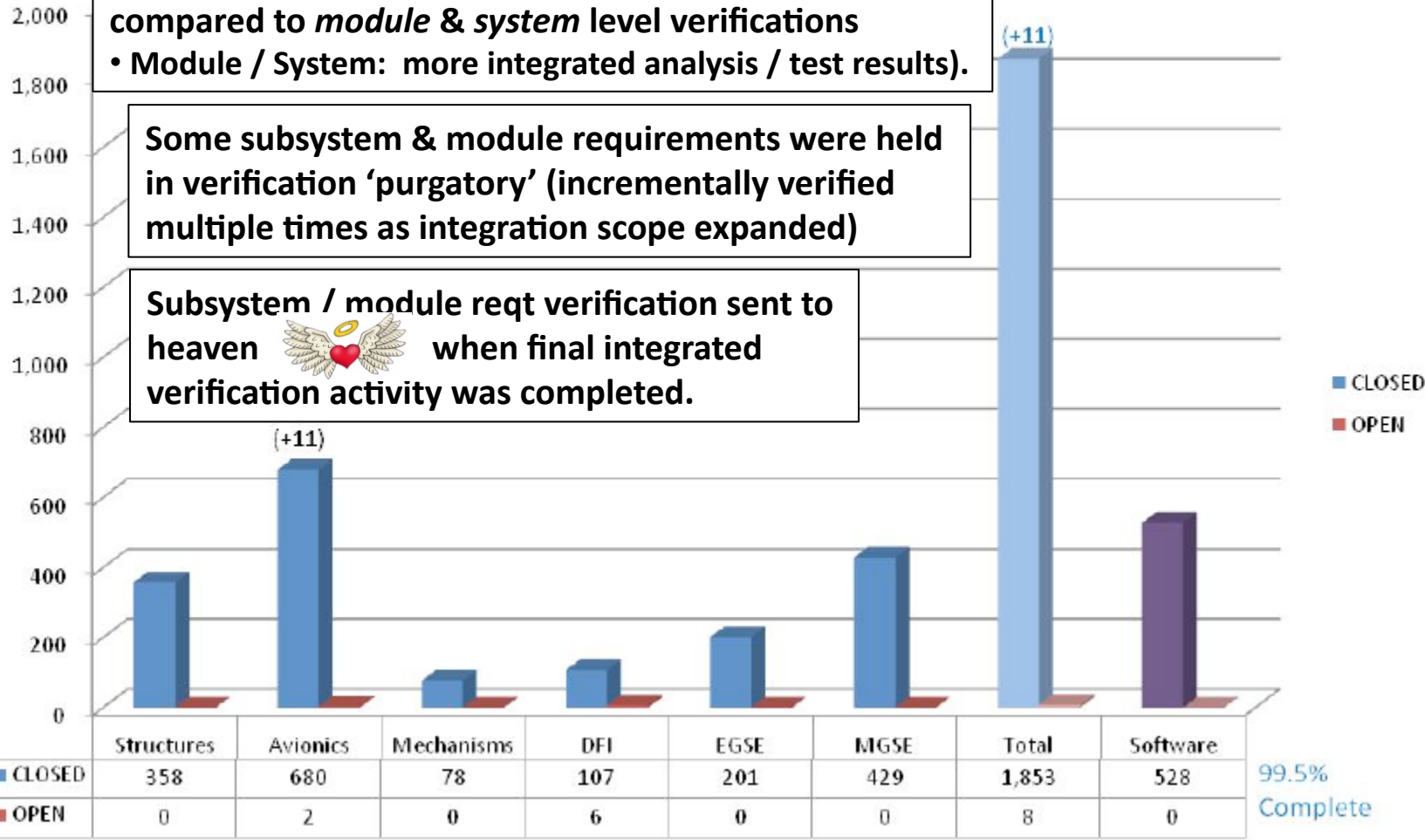


What we learned from PA-1...

Most subsystem verifications were more straight fwd compared to *module & system* level verifications
 • Module / System: more integrated analysis / test results).

Some subsystem & module requirements were held in verification 'purgatory' (incrementally verified multiple times as integration scope expanded)

Subsystem / module reqt verification sent to heaven  when final integrated verification activity was completed.



129 subsystem requirements have been closed since January



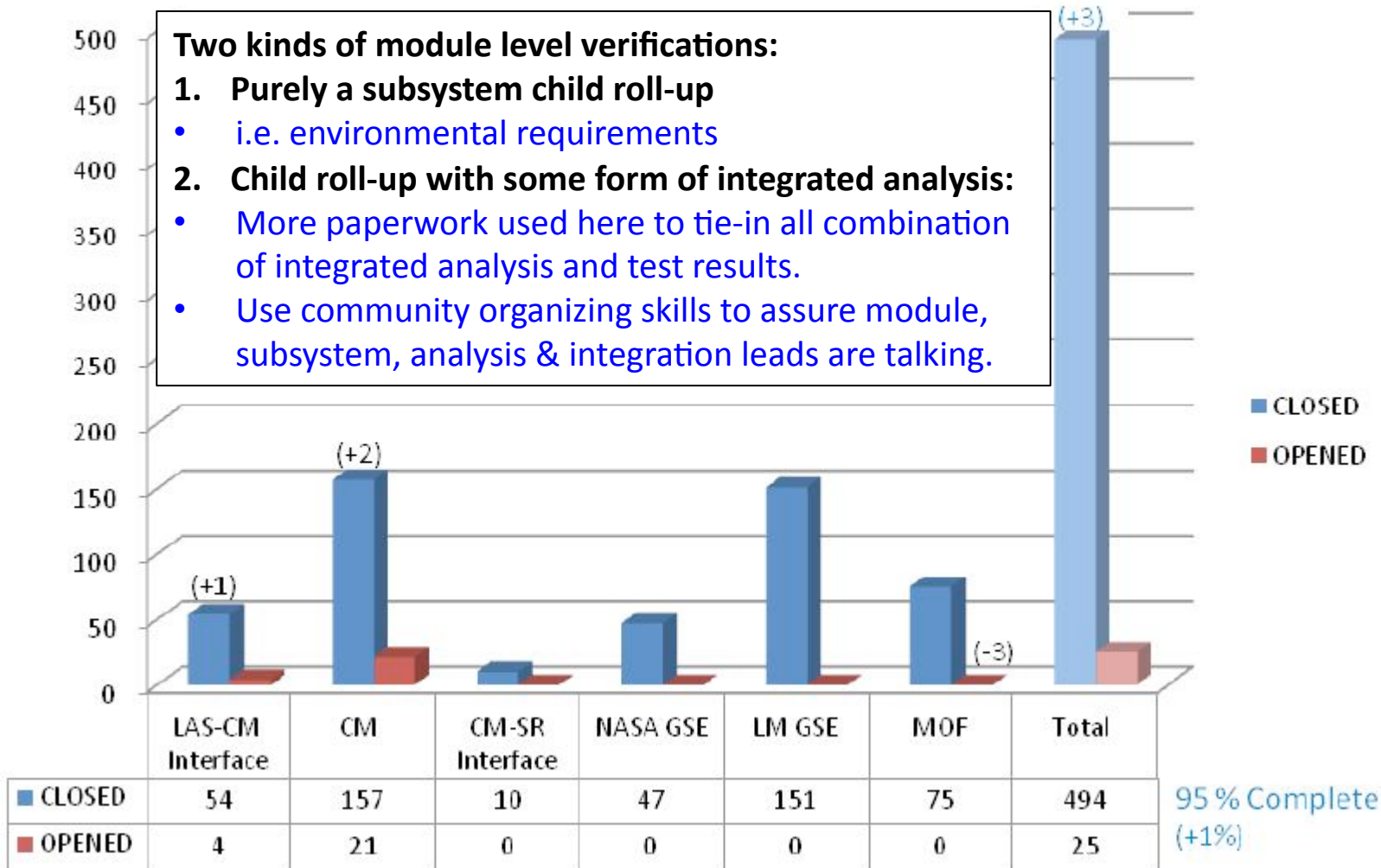
Actual PA-1 Module Level Verification Status Chart briefed to Mgmt.

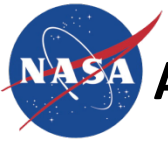


What we learned from PA-1...

Two kinds of module level verifications:

1. Purely a subsystem child roll-up
 - i.e. environmental requirements
2. Child roll-up with some form of integrated analysis:
 - More paperwork used here to tie-in all combination of integrated analysis and test results.
 - Use community organizing skills to assure module, subsystem, analysis & integration leads are talking.





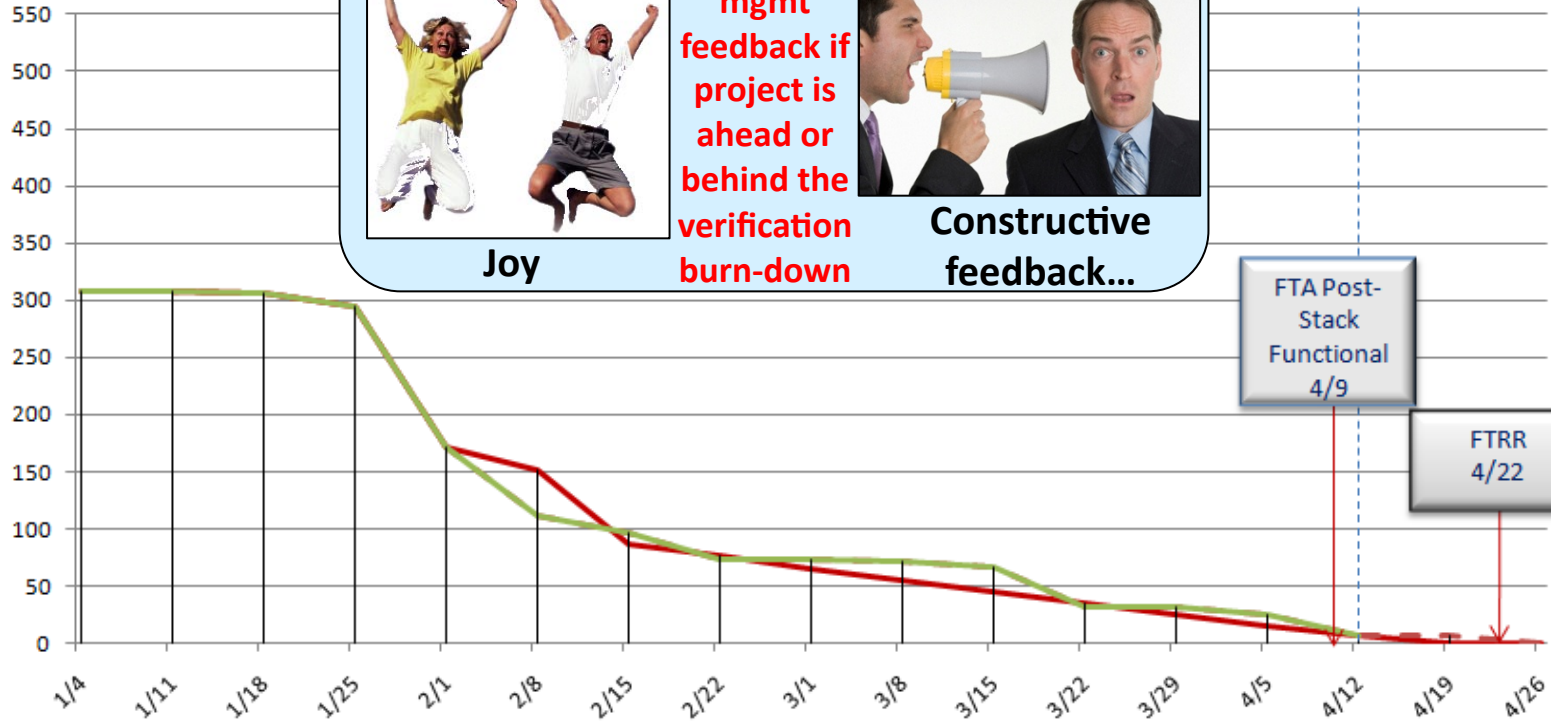
Actual Module Reqts. Burn-down Chart Briefed to Mgmt.



What we learned from PA-1...

Total Module-level Verifications

522



	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
Verifications Plan	308	308	306	294	172	152	87	76	65	55	45	35	25	15	7	0	0
Verifications Projected	308	308	306	294	172	111	97	74	73	71	66	31	31	25	7	6	0
Verifications Actual	308	308	306	294	172	111	97	74	73	71	66	31	31	25	7		

7 unverified requirements
- 6 to close after FTRR (waiting on future activities)

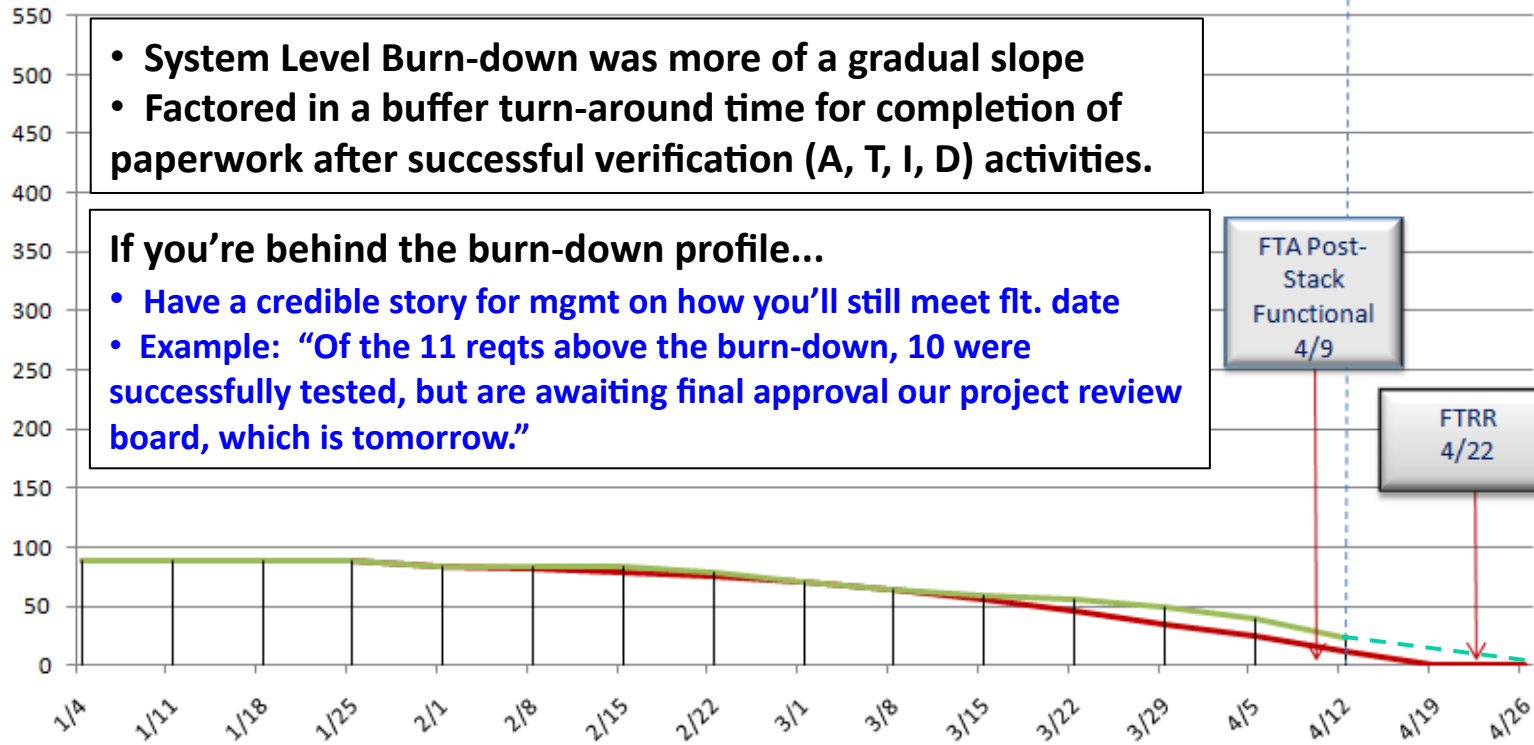


Actual System Reqts Verification Burndown briefed to Mgmt.



Total System-Level Verifications

94



	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25	2/1	2/8	2/15	2/22	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29	4/5	4/12	4/19	4/26
— System Reqts Plan	88	88	88	88	84	82	79	75	70	64	56	46	35	24	12	0	0
— System Reqts Actual	88	88	88	88	84	83	83	79	70	64	59	56	49	39	23		



Conclusions & Perspectives Gained



- Get engaged early with ALL of your parent stakeholders – Establish technical rapport
- Importance of looking at organic parts of the project supporting the system.
 - i.e. Project organization, processes, various disciplines, human nature
 - Needs to be worked in parallel with defining the system
 - Reflects the architecture

• The more clear things can be made within the team, the more achievable a project-centric culture will be.

- Single reference points for (defined preferably in a collaborative web environment):
 - Project & Team meetings (with charters)
 - Technical & Project decision process - For decisions affecting project or technical baselines
 - Schedule
 - Organizational structure & roles / responsibilities
 - Risk Mgmt
 - Configuration Mgmt
 - Problem reporting & resolution
 - Technical Review approach & entrance / exit criteria
 - Key project & engineering documents
 - Verification Planning

• To get a large group of individuals in different orgs across the country to develop a cohesive system...

- Takes more than a sound SE approach
- It also requires a human interaction mindset that is not intuitive to most engineers.



Conclusions & Perspectives Gained (cont.)



- Get stakeholder buy-in of architecture definition before deriving system requirements
 - Derive system requirements from architecture definition.
- Have a template for subsystem presenters at technical reviews tailored from NPR 7123.1a entrance / exit criteria
- Verification coordination will sneak up on you if not thoroughly completed early-on
 - Correlate Module & Subsystem verifications with System level verification activities early-on
 - Reduces frantic scrambling around later in the lifecycle

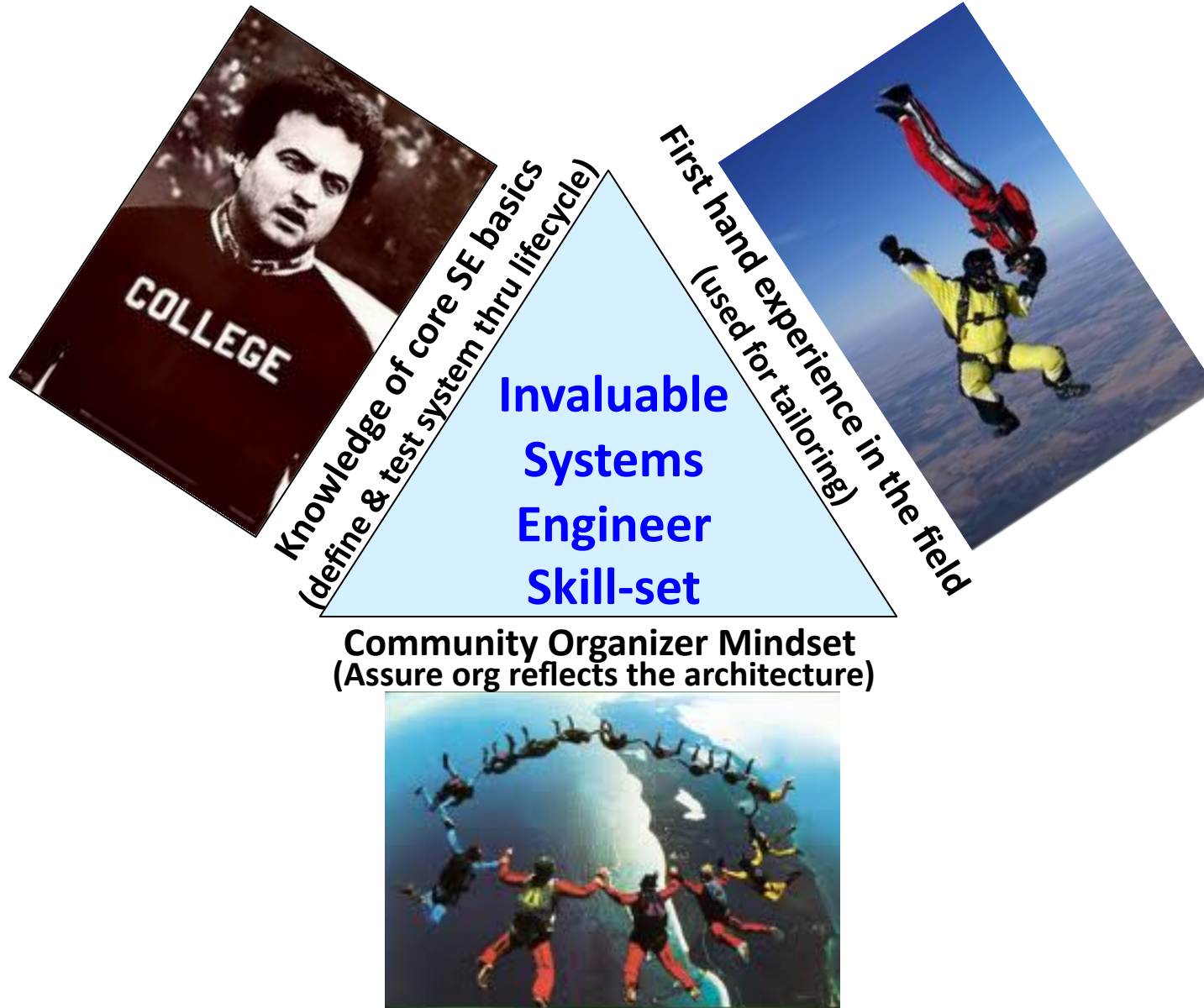
Side Notes:

- PA-1 project passed 2010 NASA OCE Systems Engineering audit
- 2011 NASA Systems Engineering (SE) Excellence awarded to the Orion Pad Abort-1 SE Team



Conclusions & Perspectives Gained (Cont.)

Systems Engineer Triangle



Questions ???

