

# The Road to Realizing In-space Manufacturing

**Characterize**→ **Certify**→ **Institutionalize**→ **Design for AM** 

Presented to National Research Council Committee on Space-Based Manufacturing of Space Hardware

February 6, 2014

R. G. Clinton, Jr.
Deputy Director
Science and Technology Office
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center



## Agenda



1.

#### **NASA Vision: Setting the Stage**

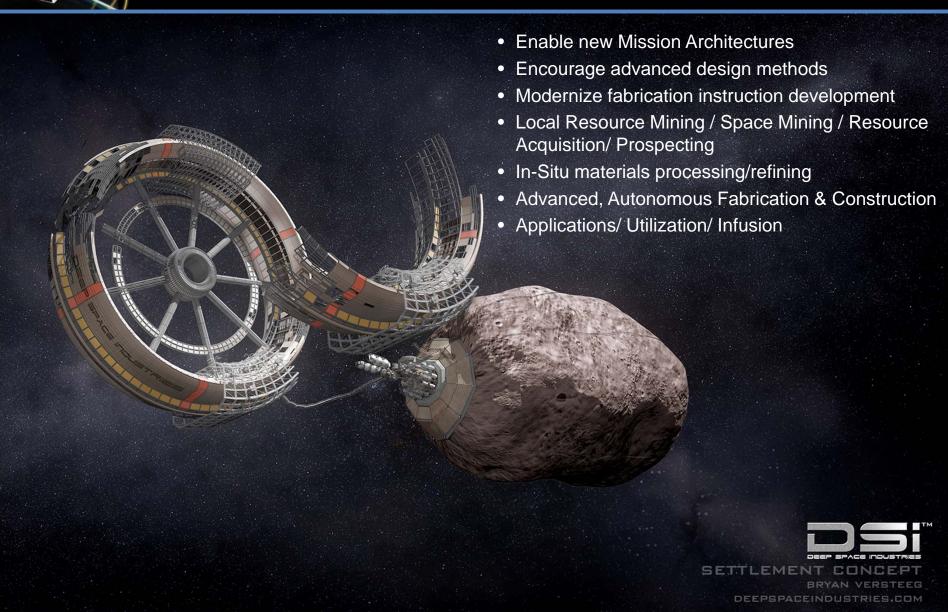
- Dr. Mason Peck The Vision
- Dr. Michael Gazarik Advanced Manufacturing Criticality to NASA
- Dr. LaNetra Tate Space Technology IN-Space Manufacturing

Roadmap We Are Here The Road Ahead What 3. Could Be Characterize Certify Institutionalize Design for AM Day ISS stronger types of extrusion materials Evolve to utilizing for multiple uses including metals & in situ materials Recycler (natural resources, synthetic biology) Product: Ability to **Electronics Tech** produce multiple 3D Print Tech Demo spares, parts, tools, Smallsat Build & etc. "living off the Autonomous fina esign for AN 2014 milling to s the right one for taking the very first step toward manufact



## **Massless Exploration**



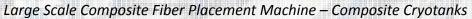




## NASA Advanced Manufacturing Technology









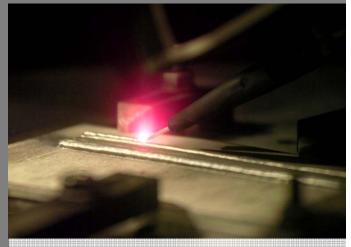
NASA and General Motors – Robot Development



Composite Crew Module Pressure Vessel



In-Space Additive Manufacturing



Electron Beam Freeform Fabrication

Advanced Manufacturing is Critical to All Mission Areas

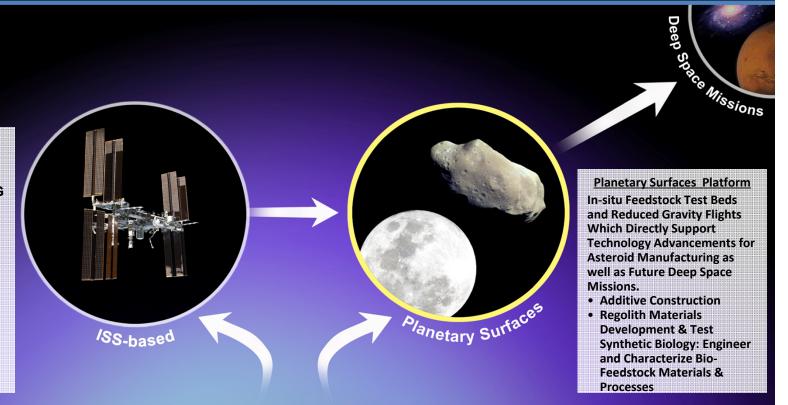


## NASA Advanced Manufacturing Technology



#### **ISS Platform**

- In-space Fab & Repair
   Plastics Demonstration
   via 3D Printing in Zero-G
- Qualification/Inspection of On-orbit Parts using Optical Scanner
- Printable SmallSat Technologies
- On-orbit Plastic
   Feedstock Recycling
   Demonstration
- In-space Metals
   Manufacturing Process
   Demonstration



#### **Earth-based Platform**

- Certification & Inspection of Parts Produced In-space
- In-space Metals Fabrication Independent Assessment & NASA Systems Trade Study



#### Earth-based Platform (cont.)

- Printable Electronics & Spacecraft
- Self-Replicating/Repairing Machines
- In-situ Feedstock Development
   & Test: See Asteroid Platform



## NASA In-space Manufacturing Technology Development Vision





WE ARE HERE!



3D Print Tech Demo 2014 Metal Printable Add Mfctr.

Metal Printing Optical

Scanner

Printable Electronics SmallSats

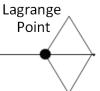
Recycler

2016

Facility
Self-repair/
replicate

2018

Asteroids



Lunar

2025

**Planetary** 

Surfaces

Points Fab

Transport

vehicle and

sites would

need Fab

capability

Construction

Additive



Ground & Parabolic centric:

- Multiple FDM Zero-G parabolic flights
- Trade/System Studies for Metals
- Ground-based
   Printable
   Electronics/Spacec
   raft
- Verification & Certification Processes under development
- Materials Database
- Cubesat Design & Development

 POC 3D Print: First Plastic Printer on ISS

- Tech Demo
   NIAC Contour
  Crafting
- NIAC Printable
   Spacecraft
- Small Sat in a
   Day
- NRC Study
- Center In-house work in additive, synbio, ISRU, robotics

 Next Generation 3DPrint

2015

- SmallSat in a Day ISS Demo
- Recycler Demo: recycle plastic

ISS:

Utilization/Facility
Focus

2017

- Integrated Facility Systems for stronger types of extrusion materials for multiple uses including metals & various plastics
- Printable Electronics Tech Demo
- SmallSat Build & Deploy

Lunar, Lagrange

2020-25

FabLabs

- Initial Robotic/Remote Missions
- Provision some feedstock
- Evolve to utilizing in situ materials (natural resources, synthetic biology)
- Product: Ability to produce multiple spares, parts, tools, etc. "living off the land"
- Autonomous final milling to

2030 - 40

Fab LabUtilize in situ resources for feedstock

Mars Multi-Material

- Build various items from multiple types of materials (metal, plastic, composite, ceramic, etc.)
- Product: Fab Lab providing selfsustainment at remote destination

ISS Technology Demonstrations are Key in 'Bridging' Technology Development to Full Implementation of this Critical Exploration Technology.

We believe this design is the right one for taking the very first step toward manufacturing in space!



#### We Are Here – ISS Tech Demo

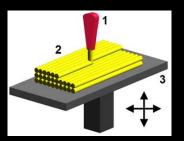








The 3D Print project will deliver the first 3D printer on the ISS and will investigate the effects of consistent microgravity on melt deposition additive manufacturing by printing parts in space.



Melt deposition modeling:

- 1) nozzle ejecting molten plastic.
- 2) deposited material (modeled part),
- 3) controlled movable table

#### **3D Print Specifications**

Dimensions33 cm x 30 cm x 36 cmPrint Volume6 cm x 12 cm x 6 cm

20 kg (w/out packing material or

spares)

**Est. Accuracy** 95 % **Resolution** .35 mm

Mass

**Maximum Power** 176W (draw from MSG)

Software MIS SliceR

Traverse Linear Guide Rail Feedstock ABS Plastic

THE FIRST 3D PRINTER IN SPACE

3D Print in Micro-G Science Glovebox (MSG)





## Potential Parts for ISS 3D Print Technology Demonstration



#### Crew Tools/Parts

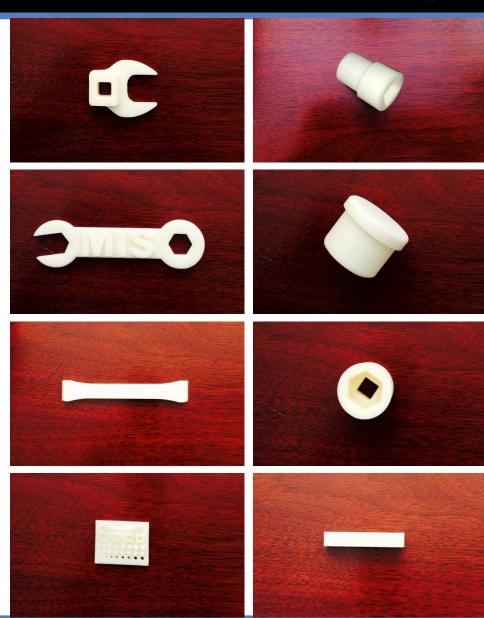
- Crowfoot, 3/8" drive, 19mm (IVA)
- Hex head socket, 3/4" (IVA)
- Wrench, combination, metric, 6pt, 14mm (Uplink)
- Sample container
- Wrench, combination, metric, 12pt, 10mm
- Socket drive, 3/8" drive
- Feeler gauge set (26 gauges)
- Hex driver, 3/8" drive, 5/32" hex
- Bolt, 9/16", hex (SDG52102486-001)

#### Mechanical Property Test Articles

- Flexure test article
- Compression test article
- Tensile test article
- Torque test article

#### Geometric/Performance Verification

- Range coupon
- Vertical column





#### Astronaut Office Printer Demo 1/29/14



#### Crew Members:

- Dan Burbank MS Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Crew EVA Robotics Branch Chief, STS-106, STS-115, Expedition 29/30
- Tracy Caldwell Dyson PhD in Chemistry, UC Davis, STS-118, Expedition 23/24 crew
- Cady Coleman PhD in Polymer Science and Engineering, U of MA, STS-73, STS-93, Expedition 26/27 crew.
- Jeanette Epps PhD Aerospace Eng. U of Maryland, Selected in 2009 and has completed AsCan Training
- Drew Feustal PhD Geological Sciences, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, SYS-125 (Hubble Repair Mission), STS-134
- Jeremy Hansen CSA Astronaut, Major, Canadian Royal Air Force, MS Physics, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, Crew support for Expedition 34/35
- Shane Kimbrough Col. US Army, MS Operations Research, Georgia Tech, STS-126, Verification/Integration at KSC
- Don Pettit PhD in Chemistry, U of AZ, Expedition 6 crew, STS-126, Expedition 30/31 crew.
- Peggy Whitson PhD Biochemistry, Rice, Expedition 5, Expedition 16
- Stephanie Wilson MS Aerospace Engineering, Texas, STS-121, STS-120, and STS-131
- Joe Acaba M.S. Geology, U of AZ, STS-119, Expedition 31/32 crew (Unable to attend) Interested in supporting Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) opportunities

#### Other Participants:

- Terrence Williams, Office of Space Operations (OSO) & Crew Systems
- Ethan Reid, NASA Systems Manager for Flight Crew Systems
- Bert Young, Flight Controller/Crew Trainer/OSO
- Kyle Brewer, OSO
- Mike Rapley, NASA Exercise Physiologist
- Mark Bowman, JSC Soyuz Integration Lead





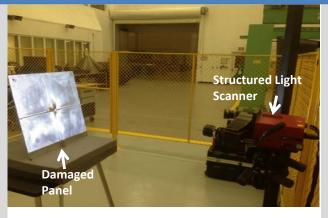


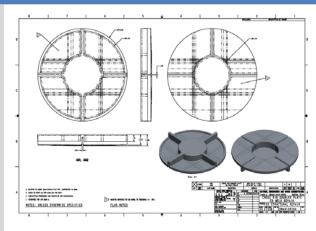


## Structured Light Scanning









Close-up of simulated MMOD Damage to External ISS Panel

Scanning the Damaged Panel

CAD for custom doubler 'patch' for damaged area

- A verification and certification process for parts additively manufactured on-orbit is needed.
- First step in establishing such a process:
  - Flight certify a CoTS Structured Light Scanner, an optical measuring technique frequently used for the characterization of the surface geometry of parts (MIS/MSFC)
  - Demonstrate scanning and geometric verification/validation on ISS for 3D Printer Technology Demonstration parts
  - Compare parts printed in space to CAD nominal and ground-based parts using quantifiable data on the accuracy of the build process and parameters
  - Verify that parts printed in space meet design specification
- Additional uses:
  - Create duplicate parts scan original parts, create build instructions, print
  - 'Reverse Engineering' and repair of broken parts on ISS
  - Physiological measurements for crew health/human research projects
  - Any payload or experiment requiring data on geometrical changes (coatings, micro-meteoroid impacts to external experiments or components).



## Recycle



#### Build



Sustainable Reuse



**Original Part Printed** 



Recycle printed part back into Feedstock Filament



Use Recycled Filament to Print new parts

- Recycling and reclaiming the feedstock is required to develop a self-sustaining, closed-loop in-space manufacturing capability
  - Less mass to launch
  - Increase "on demand" capability in space
- 2014 Phase I SBIR call entitled, "Recycling/Reclamation of 3-D Printer Plastic for Reuse" closed on 1/29/14.
- Potential transition from SBIR to ISS Technology Demonstration in conjunction with 3D Printer activities

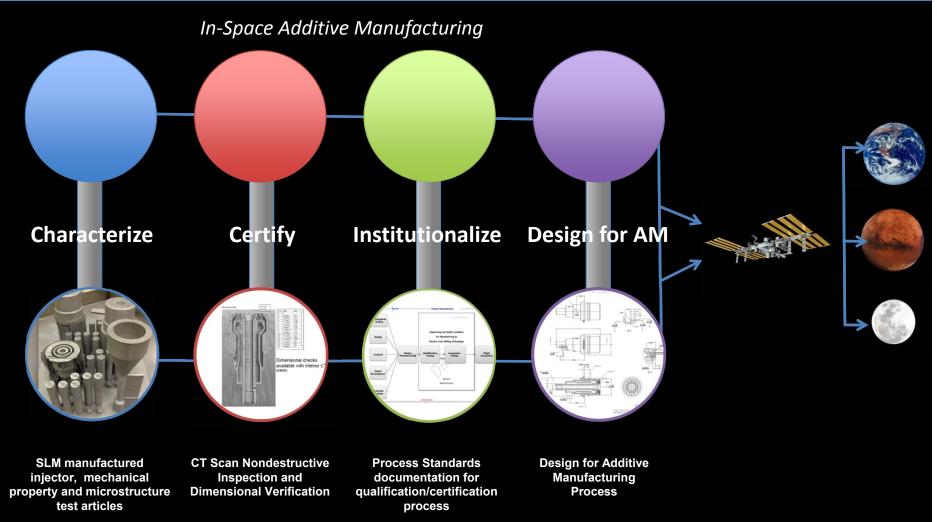
#### What Could Be:

- Expand recycle/reclamation capability to include other build materials, e.g. metals
- Convert packaging (packaging material selection compatibility with manufacturing technology) and potentially trash to build materials



### The Road Ahead





Ground-Based Additive Manufacturing of Propulsion Components

Parallel paths toward Certification of Space System Designs



### Characterize



- Materials constituents, feedstock, components (microstructure, surface finish, etc.)
- Properties full/tailored suite of physical, mechanical, thermal properties as would be required for any space qualified component
- Process
  - Ground-based
  - Microgravity-based
- Inspection processes as applied to additively manufactured parts
- Reuse/Recycling
  - Contamination
  - Properties vs. Original/Virgin Feedstock
  - Qualify Verification against Feedstock Specifications

Characterization element benefits significantly from ground-based Additive Manufacturing development



## Certify



- Technical capability to print parts on-orbit must go hand-in-hand with qualification/certification process to ultimately enable production of usable parts, structures, and systems in space.
- Typical certification process involves one or a combination of:
  - Test
  - Analysis
  - Similarity
- Certify the Process Generate process repeatability & reliability data at statistically significant levels
  - Geometric verification/validation of parts
  - Material properties
  - Process monitoring for real time "certification" of build
  - Database of every part needed for configuration management
- Certify the part
  - Inspect Components
  - Test on ground and/or on orbit?
- Certify by process similarity how to validate process/print was performed as designed (visual monitoring, other sensors)

Test what you fly. Fly what you test.



### Institutionalize



#### Mature from lab curiosity to in-line capability

- Culture awareness and acceptance of additive manufacturing technologies
- Building block approach for development of more complex systems
- Standardize
  - Feedstock, materials, processes, inspections, acceptance procedures
  - Configuration control
  - Life cycle management
- Demonstrate reliability trust the process and the part
- Innovation expand the application space
- Involve astronauts, crew systems, space systems developers
  - First line implementers

#### Create standard parts catalog for ISS

#### Go external

- Large and more complex systems and structures will require capabilities that operate autonomously in space
- Development efforts can build on foundation established by Earth-based and ISS-based (pressurized volume) capabilities and characterization efforts



## Design for AM



 To achieve maximum benefit and integration to the fullest extent.
 Additive Manufacturing (AM) must be incorporated at the Design Level - Design for AM, On-Orbit Repair and Replacement.





#### What Could Be



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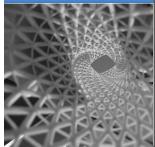
## PRINTED ELECTRONICS

#### **PRINT-A-SAT**

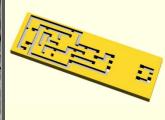
#### **METALS**

#### **REPAIRS**

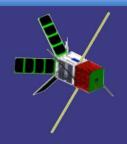
## CONTOUR CRAFTING



Additive manufacturing using nonmetallics is the simplest solution to many on-orbit needs. An expanding suite of feedstock materials coupled with manufacturing in vacuum creates new architecture and design possibilities.



Leverage groundbased developments to enable in-space manufacturing of functional electronic components, sensors, and circuits. Image: Courtesy of Dr. Jessica Koehne (NASA/ARC)



The combination of 3D Print coupled with Printable Electronics enables on-orbit capability to produce "on demand" satellites.



Additively manufacturing metallic parts in space is a desirable capability for large structures, high strength requirement components (greater than nonmetallics or composites can offer), and repairs. NASA is evaluating various technologies for such applications. Image: Manufacturing Establishment website



Astronauts will perform repairs on tools, components, and structures in space using structured light scanning to create digital model of damage and AM technologies such as 3D Print and metallic manufacturing technologies (e.g. E-beam welding, ultrasonic welding, EBF3) to perform the repair. Image: NASA



Contour Crafting
Simulation Plan
for Lunar Settlement
Infrastructure Build-Up
B. Khoshnevis, USC



Illustration of a lunar habitat, constructed using the Moon's soil and a 3D printer.
Credit: Foster+Partners

Characterize→ Certify→ Institutionalize→ Design for AM



#### Non-Metals



- ABS plastic will be used for initial Additive Manufactured demonstration articles on ISS
- Other nonmetallic materials, currently being utilized/developed for ground-based printers are candidates for ISS evaluation/applications
  - Ultem 9085 high strength thermoplastic
  - Carbon fiber reinforced WINDFORM XT
  - Other polymer matrix composites, e.g. UTEP developments

#### Conductive Polymers

- Build circuits into structure
- Build sensors, antennas, customized heat exchangers
- Cubesat structures
- Go external
  - ISS Technology Demonstration for automated external additive manufacturing
  - Free-flying platforms for autonomous manufacturing of on-demand cubesats



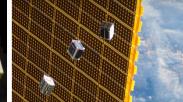












Left: Printed Cubesat structural elements Right: Cubesats deployed from ISS



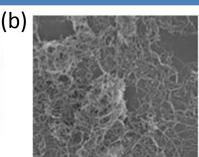
Cubesat swarm from Autonomous Manufacturing Platform



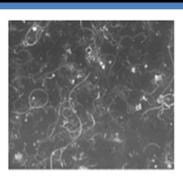
#### **Printable Electronics**











(d)

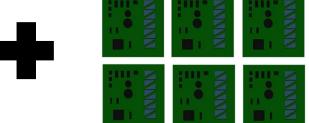
- (a) **Dimatix piezoelectric inkjet printer** (b) CNT ink spot by drop casting showing CNT aggregation (c) **Single jet plasma system** (d) spot of CNT ink by plasma jet showing even, conformal deposition and no aggregation
- Develop in-space manufacturing capabilities to produce functional electronic and photonic components on demand.
- Printable inexpensive functional electrical devices is a rapidly evolving field
  - substrates include plastic, glass, silicon wafer, transparent or stretchable polymer, and cellulose paper, textiles
  - Various inks with surfactants for stability are emerging (carbon nanotubes, silver, gold, titanium dioxide, silicon dioxide)
- Take the first step towards printing electronics on-demand in space building block approach
  - Select, develop and characterize inks for electronics printing
  - Development and fabrication of electronic printer
  - Demonstrate circuit blocks
- Fly a Technology Demonstration on ISS to build some functional electronic/ photonic circuits, sensors, electrodes, displays, etc.
- Mature on-orbit capability to print-on-demand. Parts are printed from computer aided design (CAD)
  models which can be pre-loaded or uplinked from Earth

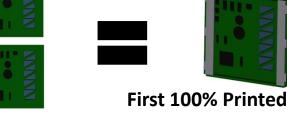


## Print A Sat Project









Launch Six Unique ChipSats Printed on the Ground by ARC & JPL

First 100% Printed Cubesat to be Printed in space using printable electronics

- Develop the capability to additively manufacture a Cubesat in space which incorporates proof-of-concept for printable electronics
- Interest across NASA, DoD, DARPA, Commercial, and Academia
- First step:
  - Print Cubesat's structural supports using 3D Print ISS Tech Demo On-orbit
  - Print ChipSats on ground and launch to ISS
  - Deploy from ISS to demonstrate Printable Spacecraft proof-of-concept

#### Next steps

- Develop capability to print electronics on ISS
- Enable "science on demand" or "observations on demand"
- Establish pathfinder for commercial model of in-space Cubesat production on ISS

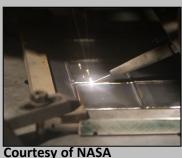


#### Metals

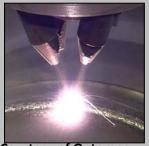


- NASA/MSFC contracted with Wohlers Associates to perform independent assessment of mainstream and novel metals AM technologies for in space applications
  - Ten (10) Selection Criteria identified including: microgravity; working in a vacuum; post-processing requirements; material form, use, recyclability, and disposal.
  - Nine (9) AM technologies for evaluation identified
    - · Crowd sourcing with social media
    - Interviews with AM experts
    - Discussions with Aerospace leaders such as Made In Space, Langley Research Center; and ESA
  - Approach to evaluation identified
- Final Report due June 30, 2014
- NASA Space Technology Mission Directorate tasked LaRC to conduct systems analyses of Metals AM technologies to support 2015 selection for ISS tech demonstration





Laser-engineered net shaping



Courtesy of Optomec

Electron beam melting

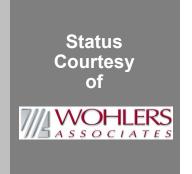


Courtesy of Sirris

**Microgravity Casting Process** 



Courtesy of Made In Space





## Repairs



Orbital Debris
Damages
Panel



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AM
Technology
Prints
Repair/Patch
Component

7 Performs
Repairs,
Installs
Patch

 Structured light scanning will be an essential element for most, if not all, repairs.

 AM technologies can be used directly to repair parts (e.g., LENS, EBF3, Ultrasonic Welding, 3D Print, etc.), print a patch, or create a new replacement component.

One example of many

envisioned repair

possibilities

CAD File of
Repair Print
Instructions
to ISS

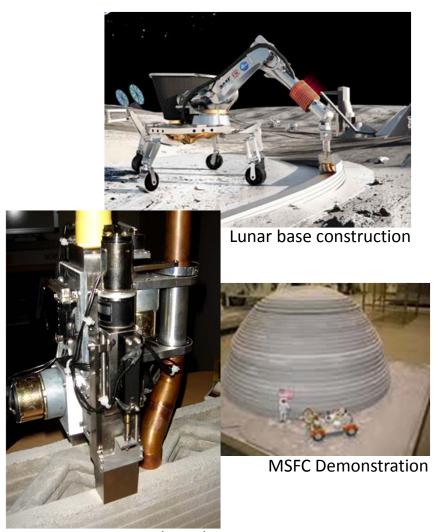




## **Contour Crafting**



- An expanded technology (developed at the University of Southern California) for robotic and autonomous construction; allows for versatile design options & construction materials
- Current capabilities (at USC and MSFC) are for small structures only
- Current R&T efforts to improve TRL and space and terrestrial applicability (NIAC)
- Large-scale demonstration of the new technology will be proposed in conjunction with US Army's Corps of Engineers in FY15
- Terrestrial applications for forward operating bases construction capability for military; for rapid, disaster relief efforts (FEMA); and low cost housing for developing countries
- Space applications focusing on remote lunar base construction, MMOD and radiation protection solutions



CC nozzle with corrugated wall



## Summary



- Additive Manufacturing in space offers tremendous potential for dramatic paradigm shift in the development and manufacturing of space architectures
- Additive Manufacturing in space offers the potential for mission safety risk reduction for low Earth orbit and deep space exploration; new paradigms for maintenance, repair, and logistics.
- Leverage ground-based technology developments, process characterization, and material properties databases
- Investments are required primarily in the microgravity environment.
- We must do the foundational work. It's not sexy, but it is required.
  - Characterize
  - Certify
  - Institutionalize
  - Design for AM
- What Could Be is limited only by the imagination (and funding)
- "What will we build? We will build EVERYTHING" Astronaut Don Pettit

