



# International Space Station Lithium-Ion Battery

Penni J. Dalton, NASA Glenn Research Center  
Sonia Balcer, Aerojet Rocketdyne



# ISS Li-Ion Battery - Outline

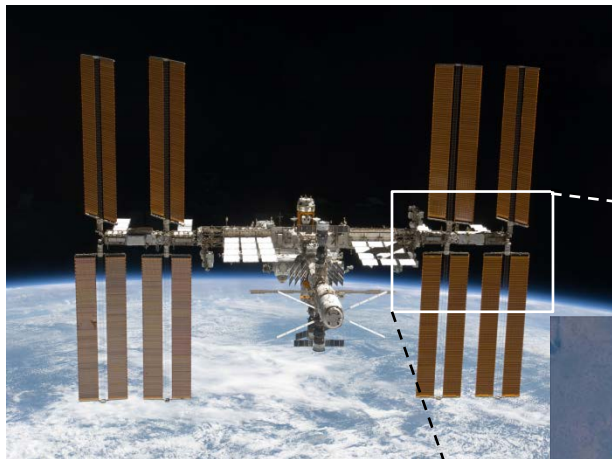
---

- Configuration of Existing ISS Electric Power System
- Timeline of Li-Ion Battery Development
- Battery Design Drivers
- Technical Definition Studies
- Cell Selection
- Safety Features
- Final Flight Adapter Plate and Battery Design
- Battery Charge Control and Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Cycle Test Data
- Current Status



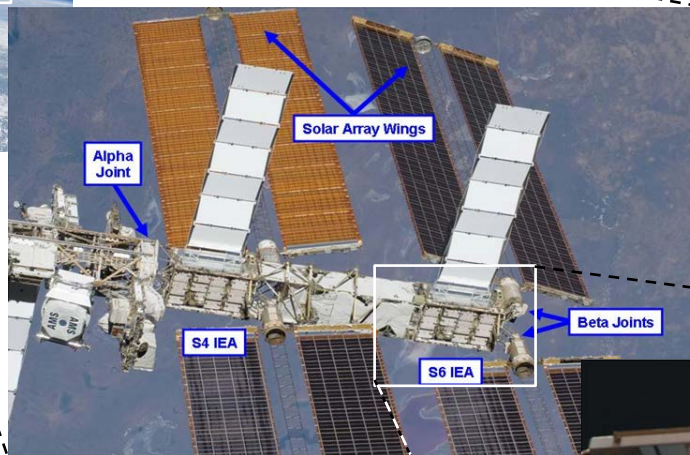


# ISS Configuration - Battery Locations



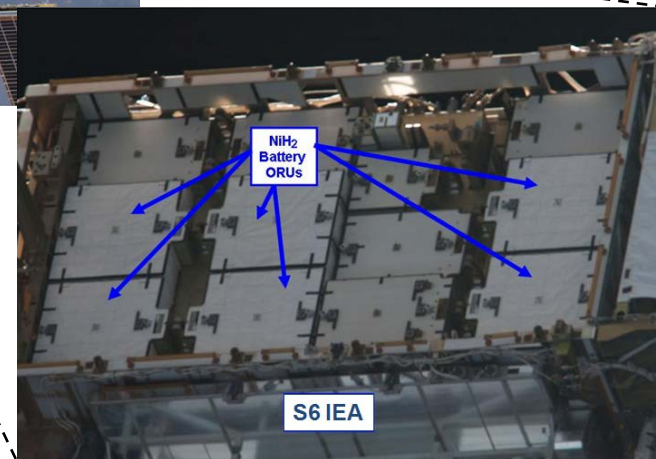
Batteries are located in the four Integrated Equipment Assemblies (IEAs)

Two Power Channels per IEA



Six Ni-H<sub>2</sub> Orbital Replacement Units (ORUs) per channel – 48 total

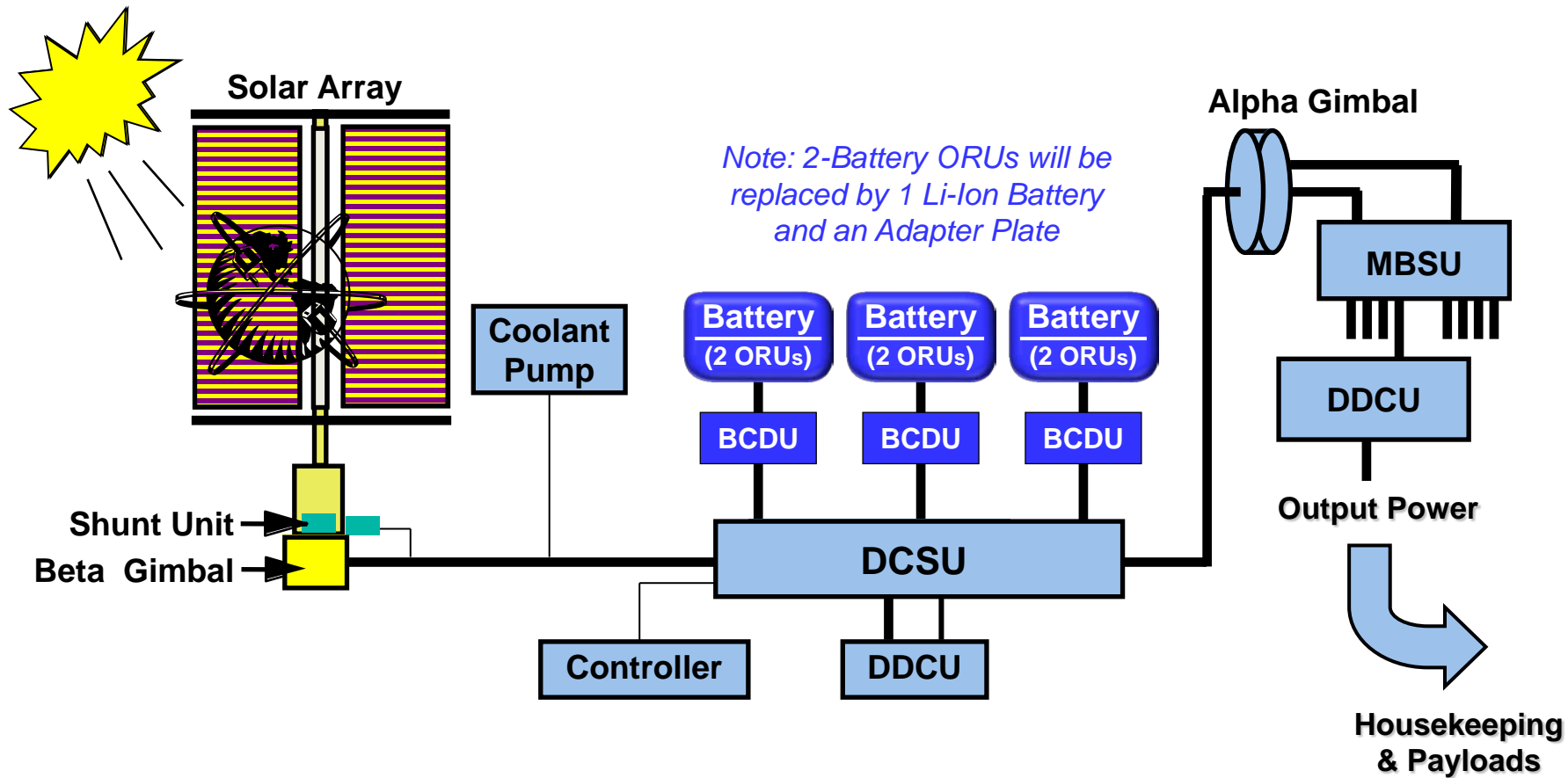
One Li-Ion and one Adapter Plate to replace two Ni-H<sub>2</sub> – 24 total Li-Ion batteries





# ISS Configuration - EPS Schematic

Electrical Power Channel – 1 of 8



EPS:: Electric Power System  
BCDU: Battery Charge / Discharge Unit  
DCSU: DC Switching Unit  
DDCU: DC-to-DC Converter Unit  
MBSU: Main Bus Switching Units





# Timeline of ISS Li-Ion Development

---

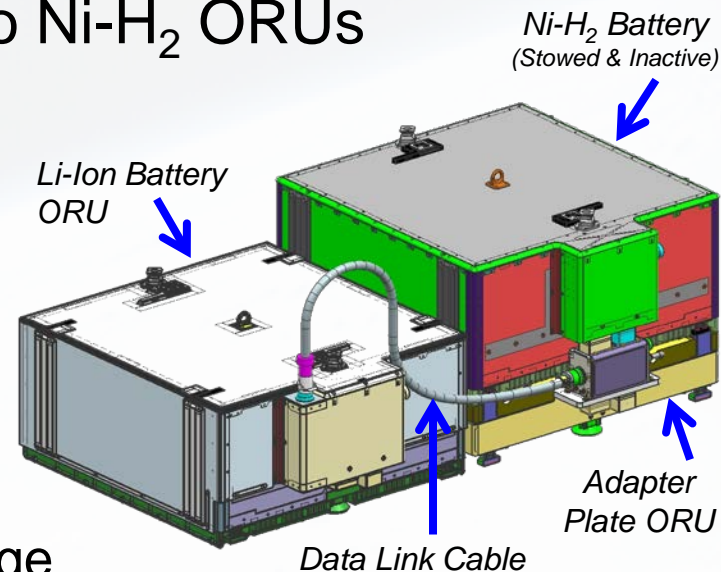
- **2009-2010** – Preliminary risk and feasibility studies
- **December 2011** - ISS Program Authority To Proceed with design, development and the fabrication of 27 Li- Ion ORUs and 25 on-orbit Adapter Plate ORUs
- **Jan-Jun 2012** - Cell Safety Testing and Cell Qualification
- **July 2012** - Final cell down-select
- **December 2012** - System Preliminary Design Review
- **November 2013** - System Critical Design Review
- **March 2016** - First flight Li-Ion battery delivered to Kennedy Space Center for shipment to Tanegashima, Japan





# ISS Li-Ion Battery Key Design Drivers

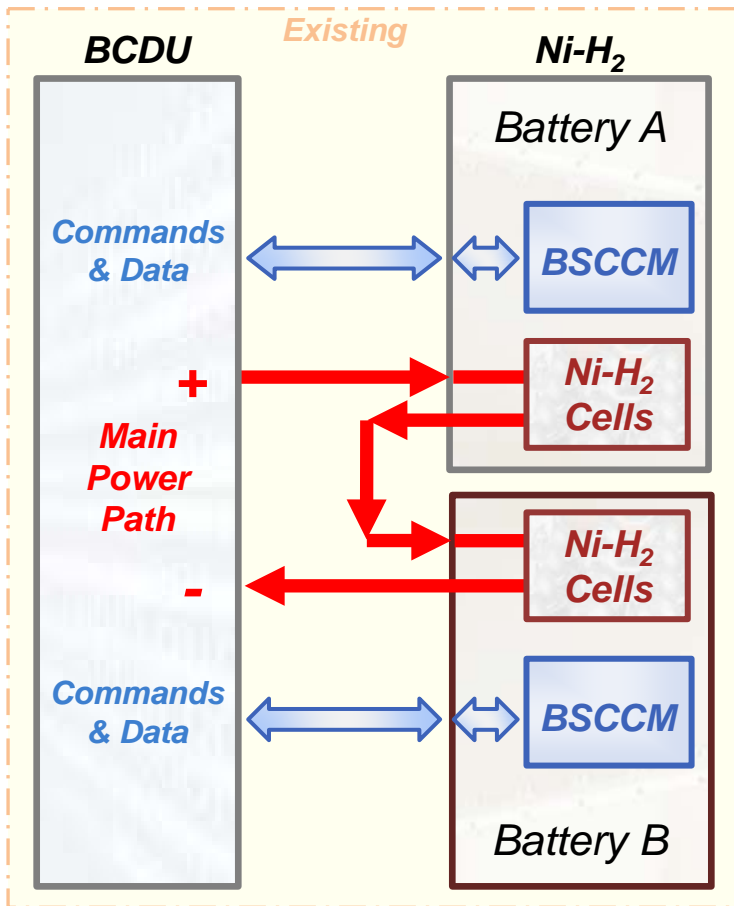
- One Li-Ion battery ORU replaces two Ni-H<sub>2</sub> ORUs
- Launch on Japanese HTV
- Six year battery storage life requirement
- Ten year/60,000 cycle life target (minimum 48 A-hr capacity at end of life)
  - ORU will have cell balancing circuitry
  - ORU will have adjustable End of Charge Voltage (EOCV)
- Maximum battery ORU weight ~430 lbs
- Non-operating temperature range (Launch to Activation): -40 to +60 °C
- No changes to existing IEA interfaces and hardware
  - Use existing mounting, attachment, electrical and data connectors
  - Use existing Charge/Discharge Units and Thermal control systems



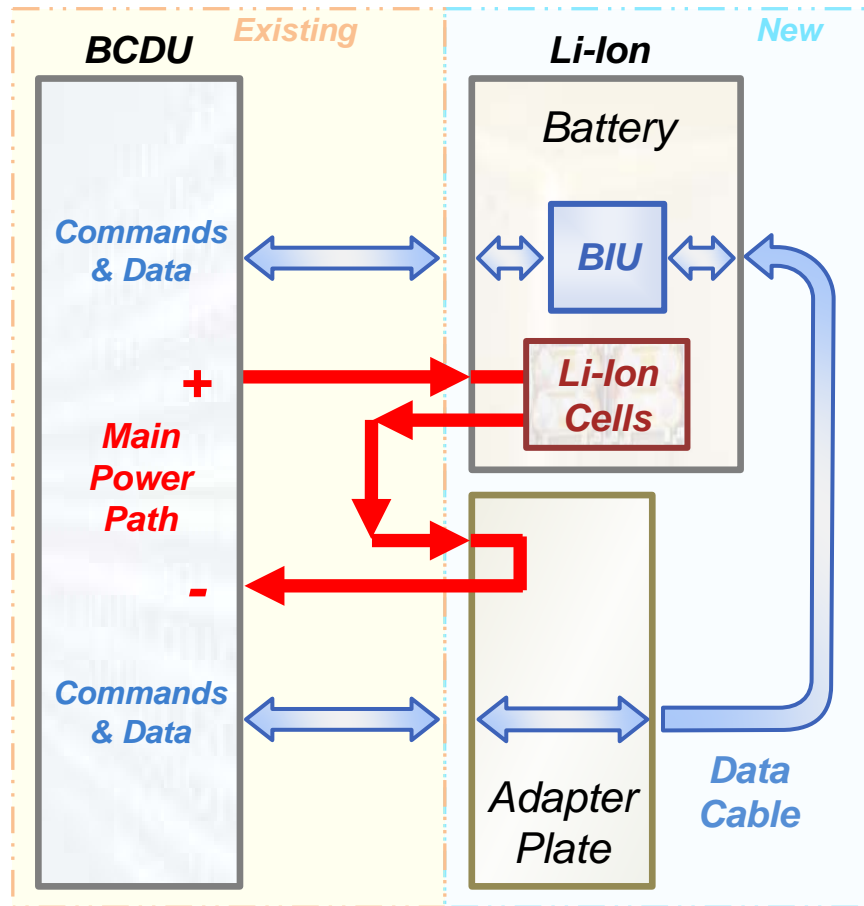


# ISS Upgrade to Li-Ion

## Ni-H<sub>2</sub> (76 cells in series)



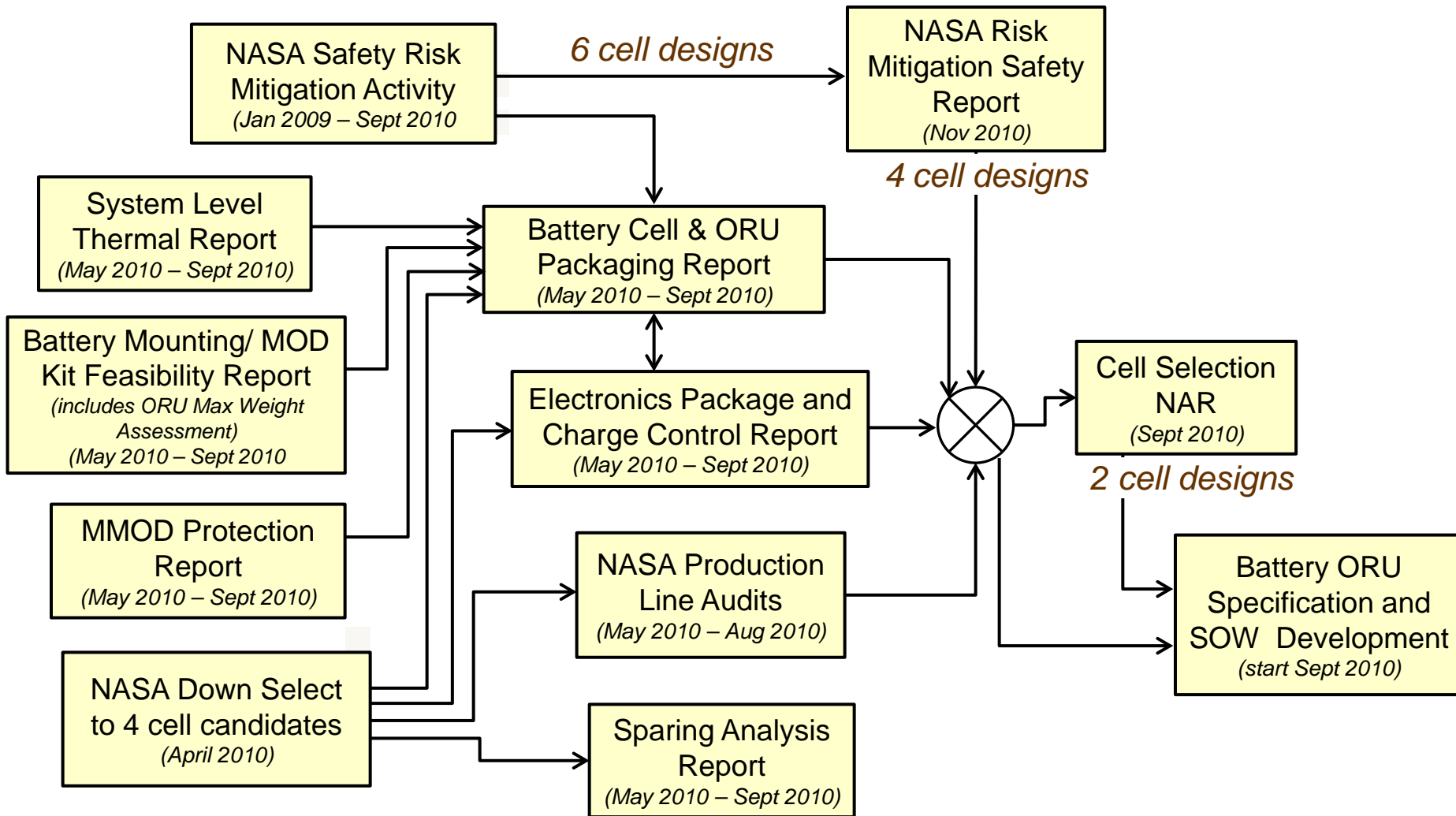
## Li-Ion (30 cells in series)



BCDU: Battery Charge / Discharge Unit  
BIU: Battery Interface Unit  
BSCCM: Battery Signal Conditioning and Control Module



# ISS Li-Ion Technical Definition Studies

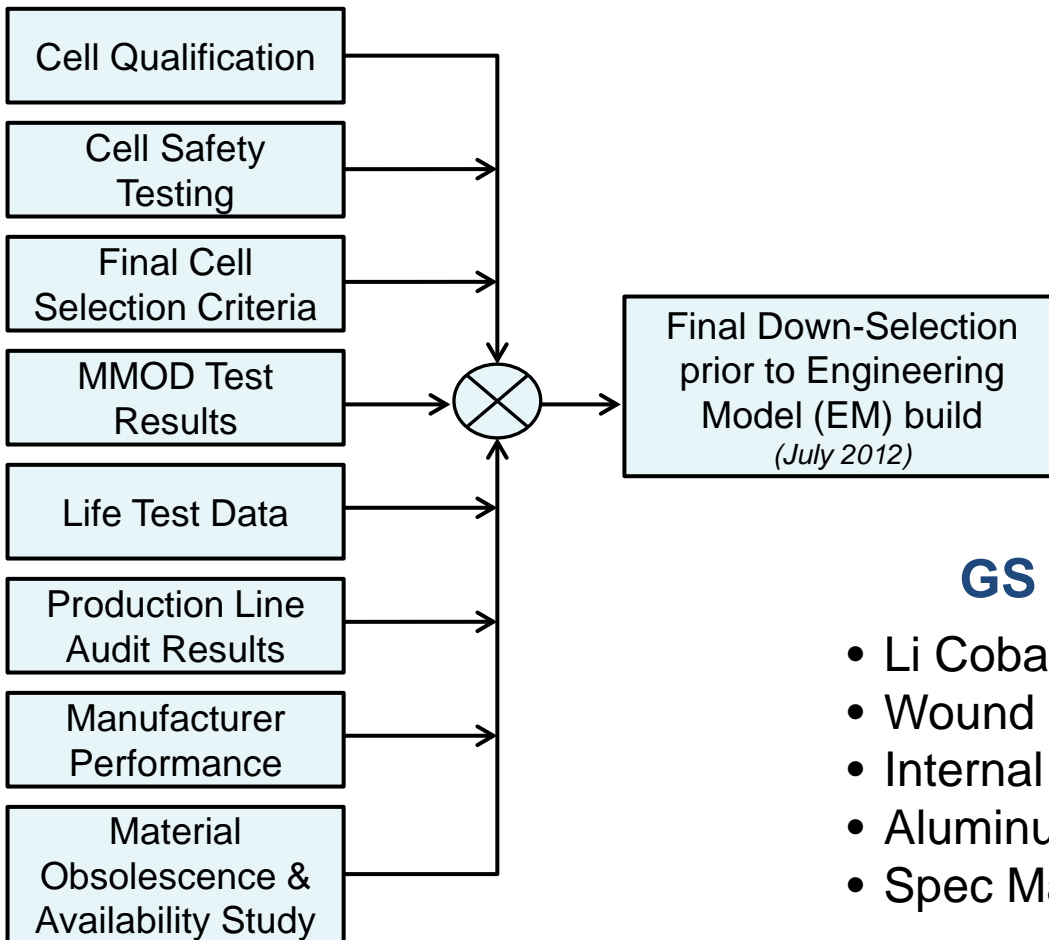






# ISS Li-Ion Cell Final Down-Select

- Two designs taken through qualification, with down-selection made prior to EM build



## GS Yuasa 134 A-hr cells

- Li Cobalt Oxide / Carbon Graphite
- Wound elliptical prismatic electrode
- Internal Fusible link
- Aluminum Case, 50 x 130 x 263 mm
- Spec Mass: 3530 grams (~7.8 lb)



# ISS Li-Ion Battery Safety Features

---

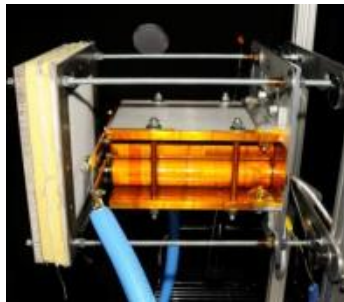
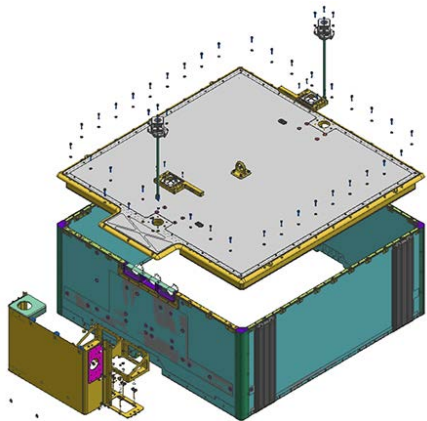


## Battery-Level Safety Features

- Two independent controls vs. thermal runaway (two fault tolerant)
- Voltage and temperature monitoring of all 30 cells
- Circuit protection/fault isolation at the individual cell level for both high/low voltage and high temperature
- Physical separation between cell pairs and 10 packs
  - Thermal radiant barriers between cell pairs
- Controlled direction of cell vents - prevent damage to cold plate, adjacent cells and IEA hardware
  - ORU pressure relief/flame trap to prevent ORU over-pressurization but contain flame in the event of a cell vent
- MMOD shielding in ORU and empty ORU slot
- Dead face device to remove power from output connector during ground or EVA handling
- Non propagation of failures beyond Battery ORU



# Safety Features - MMOD Shielding



MMOD test setup



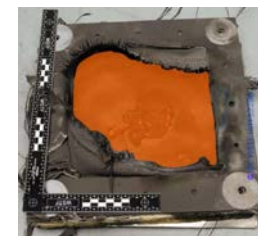
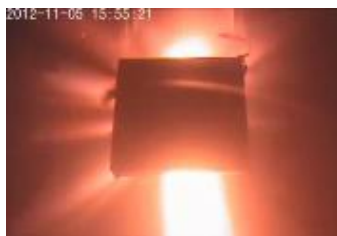
Ballistic Limit Testing



Over Match - Penetration testing  
10 mm 2017-T4 Aluminum Sphere @ 6.86 km/s



MMOD Shield

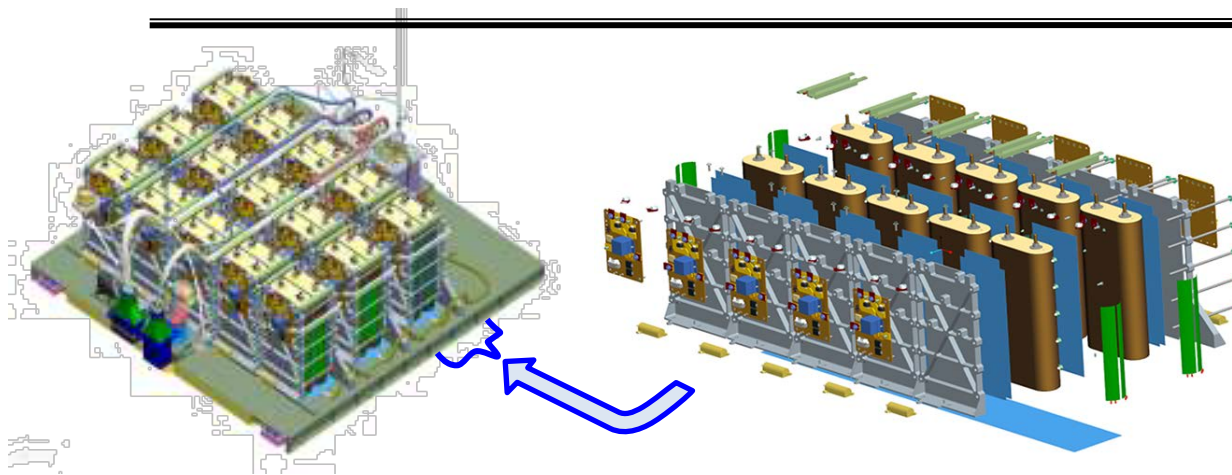


Overcharge Containment Testing

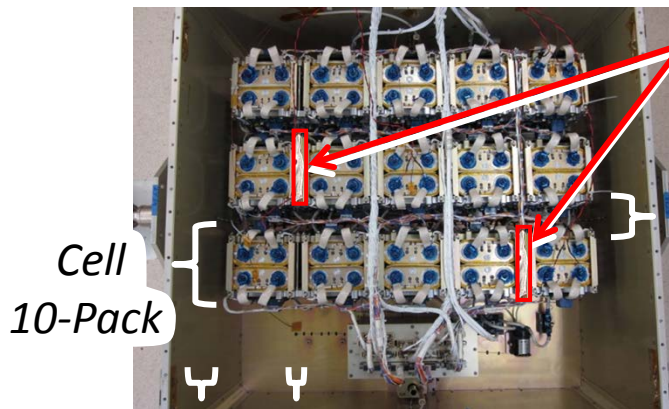
*Note: Existing Ni-H<sub>2</sub> does not have MMOD (Micro-Meteoroid Orbital Debris) protection*



# Safety Features - Radiant Heat Barriers



- ORU Layout – three Cell “10-Packs” and 12 Radiant Barriers



Cell  
10-Pack



~2" Spacing  
~1" Spacing  
between Cells

~3.5"  
Spacing  
between  
10-Packs

## Radiant Heat Barrier (12 per ORU)

- Higher margin against thermal runaway propagation
- One barrier between each cell pair
- Reflects 787 reach-back safety additions





# ISS Li-Ion Cell Safety Features

---



## Cell-Level Safety Features and Controls

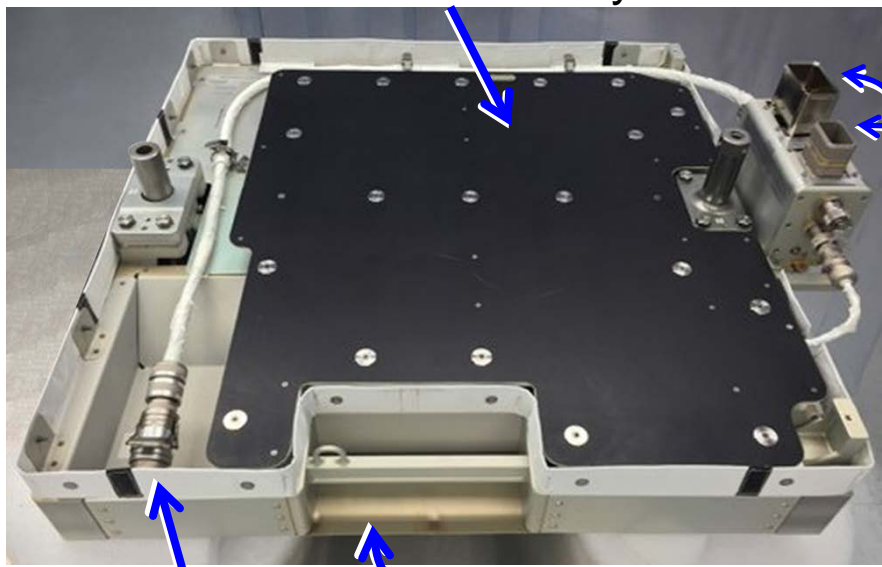
- Manufacturing Process controls include 100% materials screening and chemical analysis plus annual configuration/production line audits
- Acceptance testing of 100% of cells
- Simulated LEO life cycle testing in 2% of cells in each lot
- For 1% of cells in each lot, 100 cycles at 100% DOD are performed, followed by DPA
- Cell vent before burst and directional vent away from base plate and adjacent cells
- Individual cell fusing (internal fusible link)
- Shutdown separators between electrode windings
- Case neutral and electrically insulated from ORU structure





# ISS Li-Ion ORUs

Heater Matt  
Heater Plate Assembly



P4 Connector  
(stowed for launch)

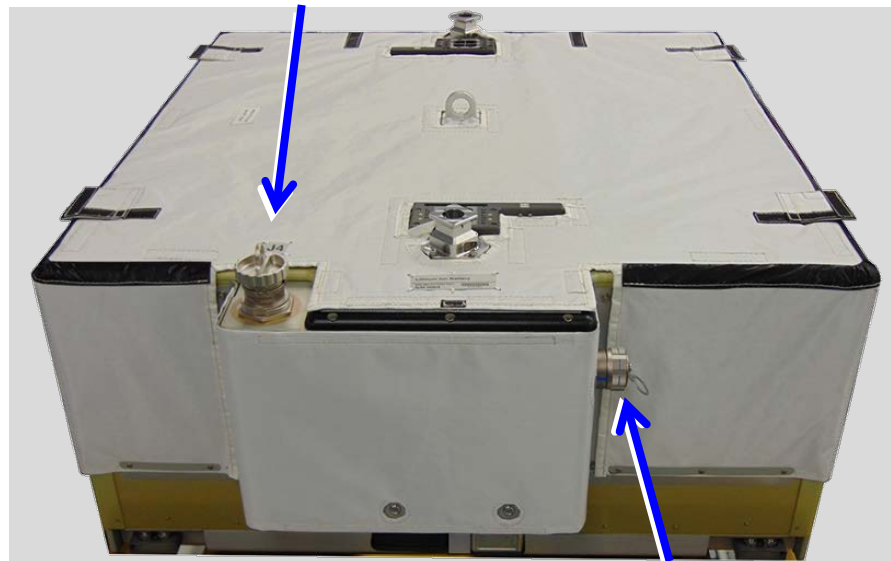
EVA  
Hand Hold

P1 & P2  
Connectors

## Adapter Plate ORU

Dimensions (LxWxH): ~ 41" x 36" x 15"  
Spec Weight: 85 Lbs

J4  
Connector



J3 Test  
Connector

## Li-ion Battery ORU

Dimensions (LxWxH): ~ 41" x 37" x 21"  
Spec Weight: 435 Lbs

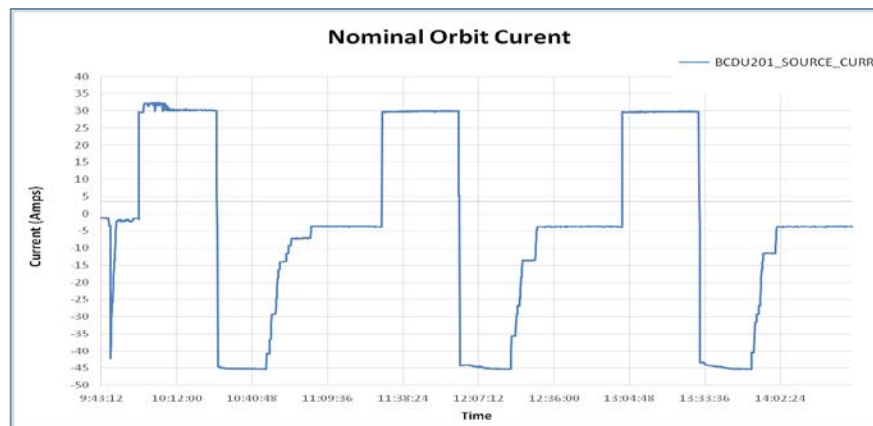
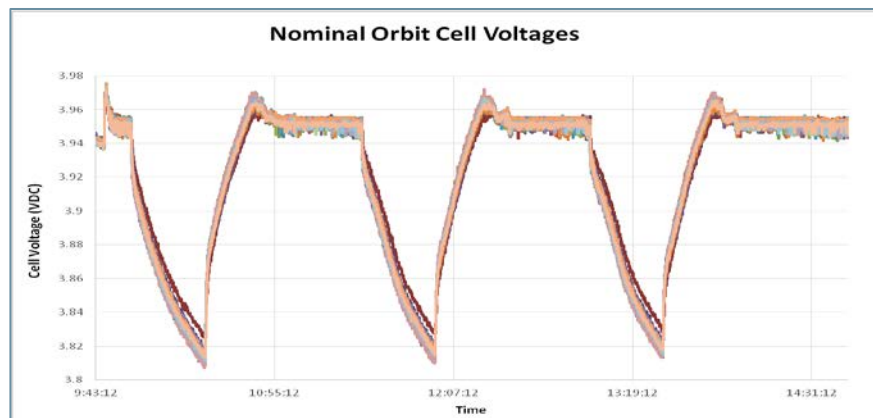


# ISS Li-Ion Charge Control and Cycling



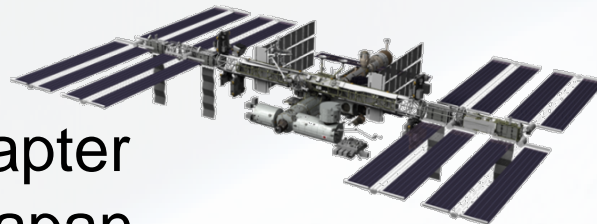
- Li-Ion charge current profile based on cell voltages
- Cell bypass/balancing at EOCV every orbit
- EOCV is ground command-able

| Charge Current Profile |                                       |                |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
|                        | Highest of the Cell Terminal Voltages | Charge Current |
| Point 1                | EOCV + 19mV                           | 55             |
| Point 2                | EOCV + 19mV                           | 49             |
| Point 3                | EOCV + 18mV                           | 44             |
| Point 4                | EOCV + 17mV                           | 39             |
| Point 5                | EOCV + 16mV                           | 36             |
| Point 6                | EOCV + 15mV                           | 33             |
| Point 7                | EOCV + 14mV                           | 30             |
| Point 8                | EOCV + 13mV                           | 26             |
| Point 9                | EOCV + 12mV                           | 22             |
| Point 10               | EOCV + 11mV                           | 19             |
| Point 11               | EOCV + 10mV                           | 16             |
| Point 12               | EOCV + 9mV                            | 13             |
| Point 13               | EOCV + 8mV                            | 10             |
| Point 14               | EOCV + 7mV                            | 7              |
| Point 15               | EOCV + 6mV                            | 4              |
| Point 16               | not applicable                        | 1              |





# ISS Li-Ion Flight Battery Status



- Six Flight Li-Ion Adapter Plates on-dock in Japan, Tomioka: April 2016
- Six Flight Li-Ion Batteries on-dock in Japan, Tanegashima: May 2016
- Final charge to 4.1 V: May-June 2016
- Launch on HTV: NET October 2016
  - Each IEA will have three Li-Ion ORUs and three Ni-H<sub>2</sub> ORUs (not electrically connected) stored on top of three On-Orbit Adapter Plate ORUs
- Installation and start-up on ISS: October 2016



*Exposed Pallet Berthing*

*HTV2  
March 10, 2011*





# ISS Li-Ion Battery Future Plans

---

- Thermal runaway propagation testing is scheduled for May 2016 at White Sands Test Facility
- Six Li-Ion Batteries and six Adapter Plates launch in 2017, 2018, 2019 to provide a full complement on ISS



- *Design challenges have been addressed*
- *Ready for successful and safe operation*



# Acknowledgments

---

- Thank you to Tim North of Boeing Corporation for key contributions to this work