



Deep Space Microsatellite Power System Development ASFAE/2022/021 LIA7: Space exploration with small satellites

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Space Power and Electronics System Group

Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche



**1ª Reunión Nacional Planes Complementarios
de Astrofísica y Altas Energías
Junio 2024, Zaragoza**

Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Project Goals
- PCDU Proposed Architecture
- Facilities / Equipment Acquired
- Actual Project Status
- Questions



Introduction – Project Team



More than 20 years working together in Power Electronics for Space Applications

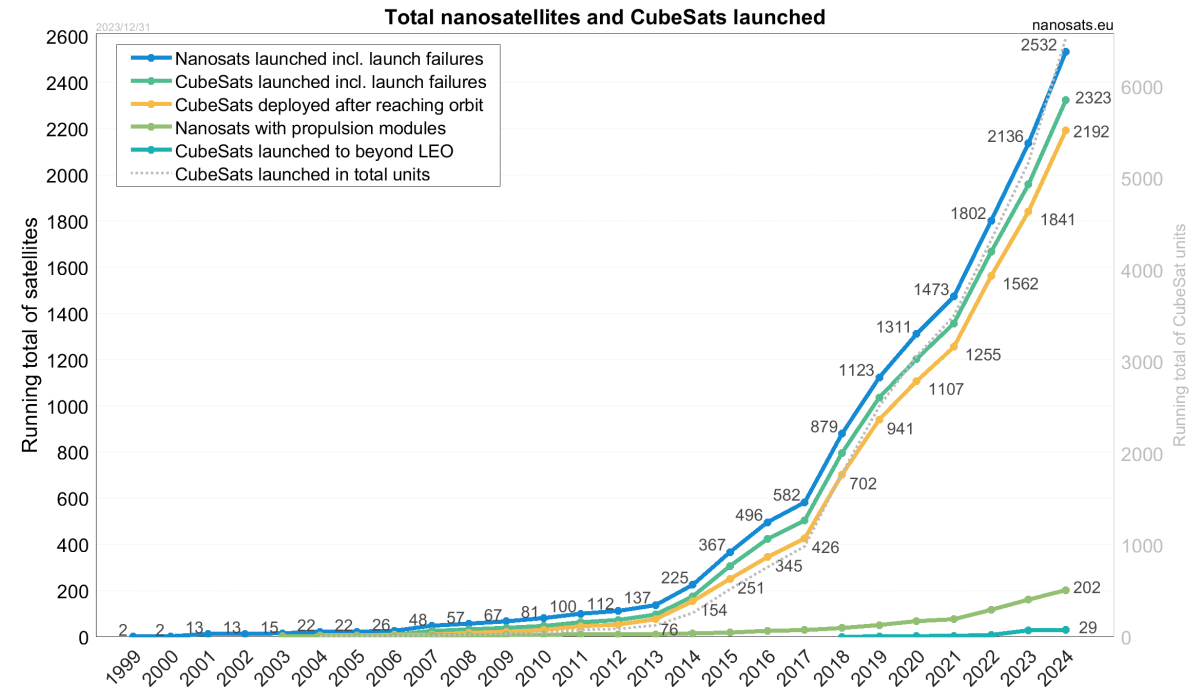
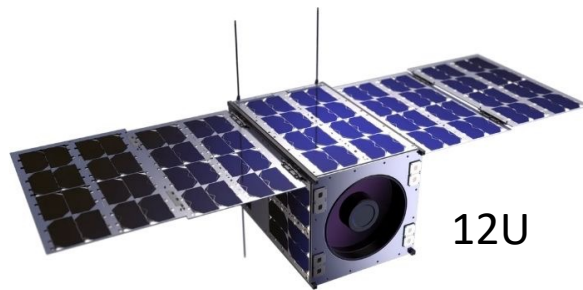


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Introduction – Rise of Cubesats

- Traditionally used in the past by universities for educational purposes.
 - Exponential growth during the last years of Cubesats (“New Space”).
 - Cost effective solution (Reduced Complexity - COTS components)
 - Rapid development timelines.
-
- **Reduced complexity at the expense of Higher Risks**



Introduction – Cubesats in Deep Space Missions

The infographic displays various ESA technology cubesat missions. A red dashed box highlights a subset of these missions, including M-ARGO, HERA CUBESATS, GOMX-5, and LUMIO & VMMO. The ESA logo is prominently displayed in the upper right corner of the infographic.

Qerman (3U)
studying atmosphere re-entry

PRETTY (3U)
demonstrating GNSS reflectometry

RACE (2x6U)
demonstrating rendezvous and docking

M-ARGO (12U)
demonstrating asteroid rendezvous and identifying in-situ resources

SIMBA (3U)
monitoring climate variables

RACE (2x6U)
demonstrating rendezvous and docking

HERA CUBESATS (2x6U)
observing asteroid deflection assessment (GSTP/S2P)

GOMX-4b (6U)
demonstrating constellation technologies

CUBESPEC (6U)
stellar spectroscopy from space

GOMX-5 (12U)
demonstrating next generation constellation technologies

GOMX-3 (3U)
demonstrating new platform technologies

RadCube (3U)
measuring space radiation and magnetic field

LUMIO & VMMO (2x12U)
measuring lunar surface impact hazards & in-situ resources

PICASSO (3U)
studying the atmosphere

Sunstorm (2U)
measuring X-Ray fluxes

www.esa.int

→ ESA'S TECHNOLOGY CUBESAT FLEET

European Space Agency

Funded in GSTP Fly



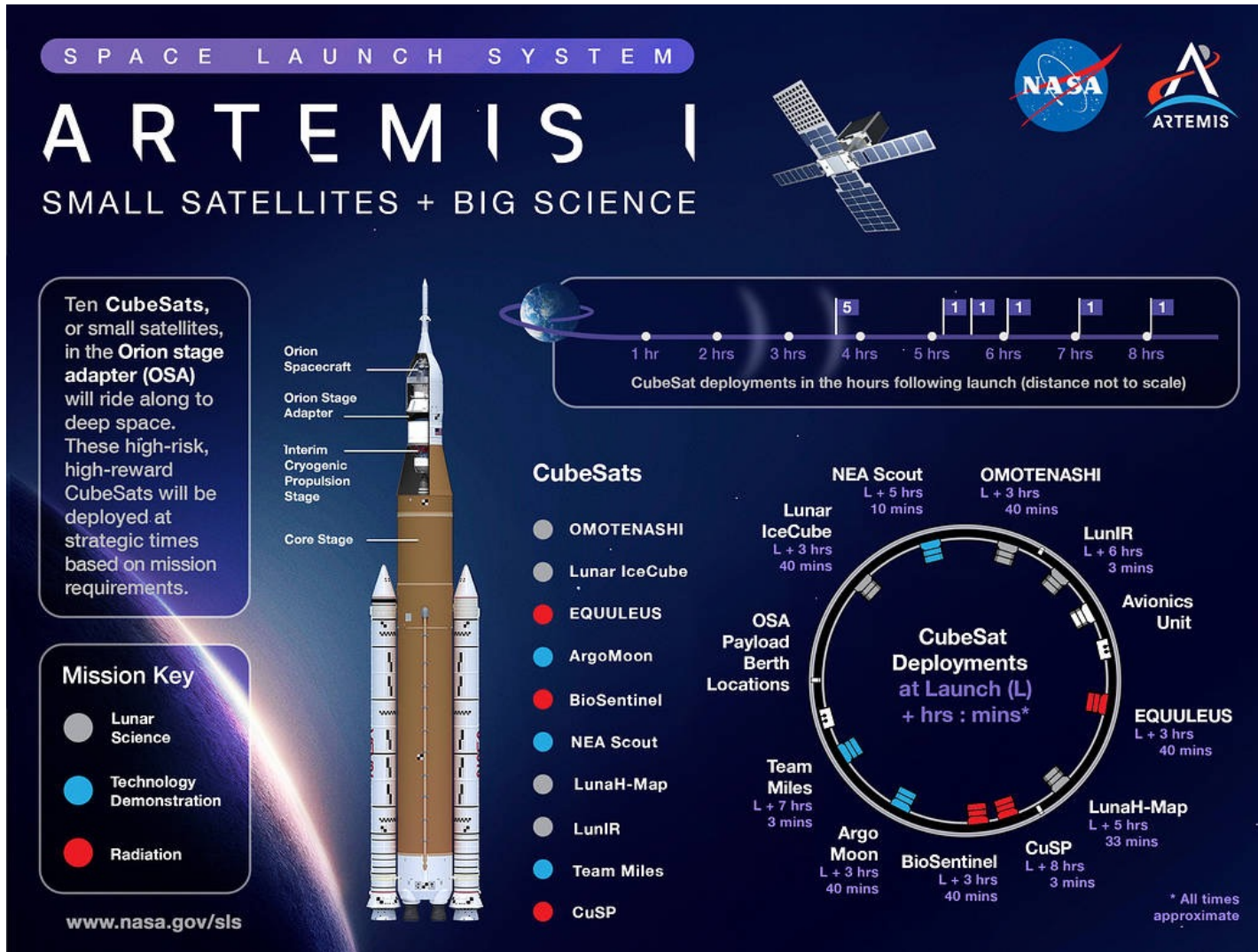
The ASFAE's research projects acknowledge the financial support from the MCIU with funding from the European Union NextGenerationEU and Generalitat Valenciana.



Financiado por la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU



Introduction – Cubesats in Artemis I (Deep Space)



6U Cubesats

BioSentinel
EQUULEUS

Argomoon

LunaHMap
Lunar IceCube
CuSP
LunIR
Omotenashi
Team Miles
NEA Scout



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GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES



Introduction – Cubesats Failures

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EPS + Unknown Failures > 50 %

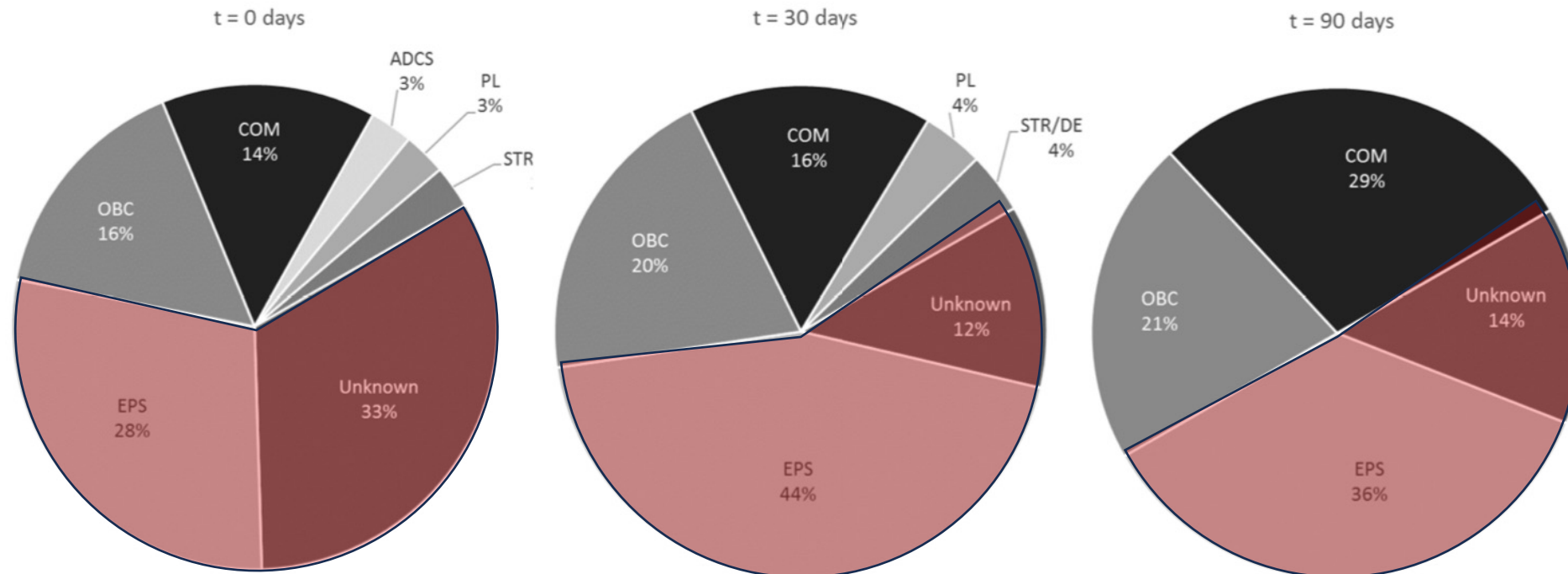
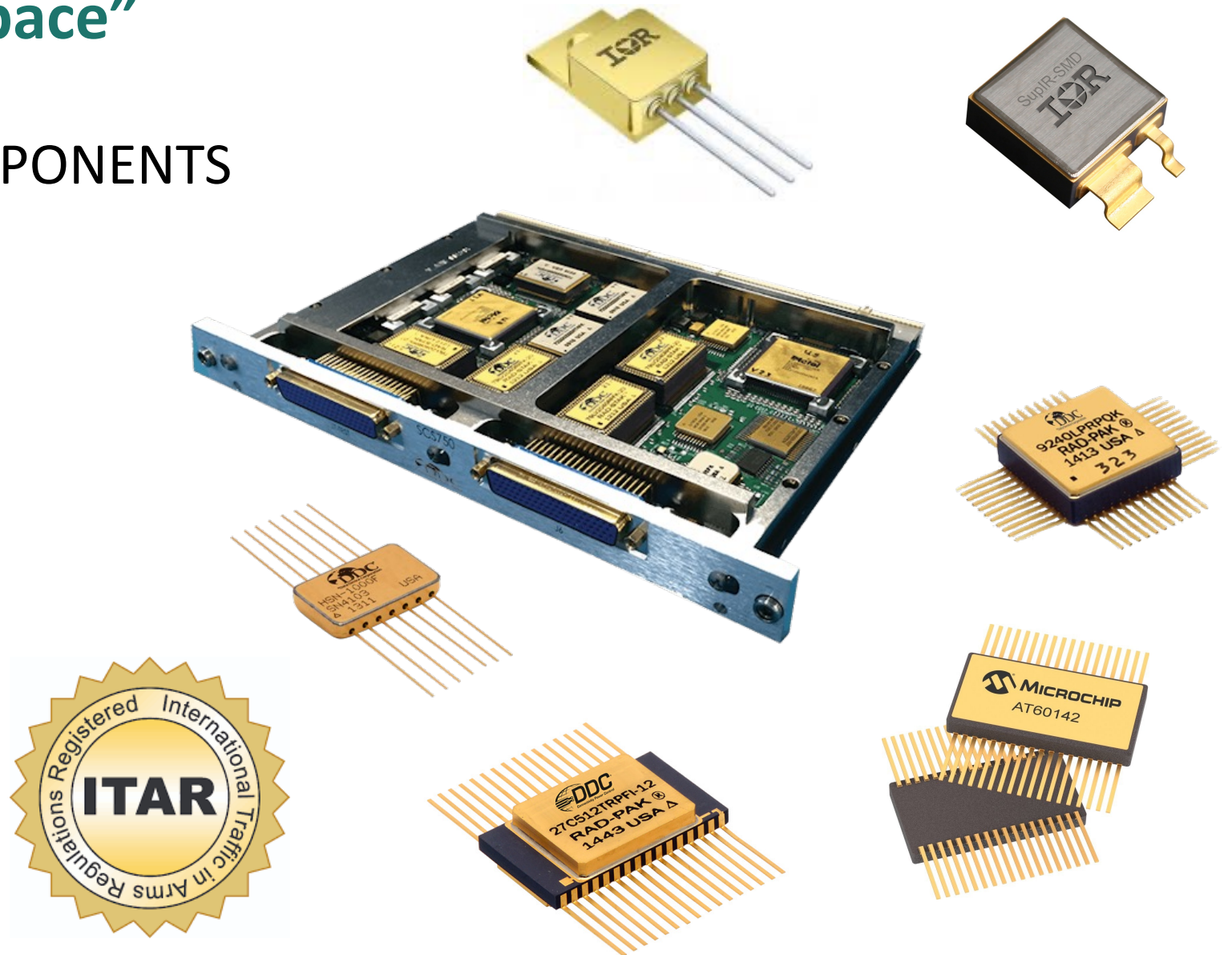


Figure 5: Subsystem contributions to CubeSat failure after ejection (incl. DOA), 30 days and 90 days

Introduction – “Old Space”

USE OF RAD HARD COMPONENTS

- ❖ Large Size
- ❖ Expensive
- ❖ Long Delivery Times
- ❖ ITAR Restrictions



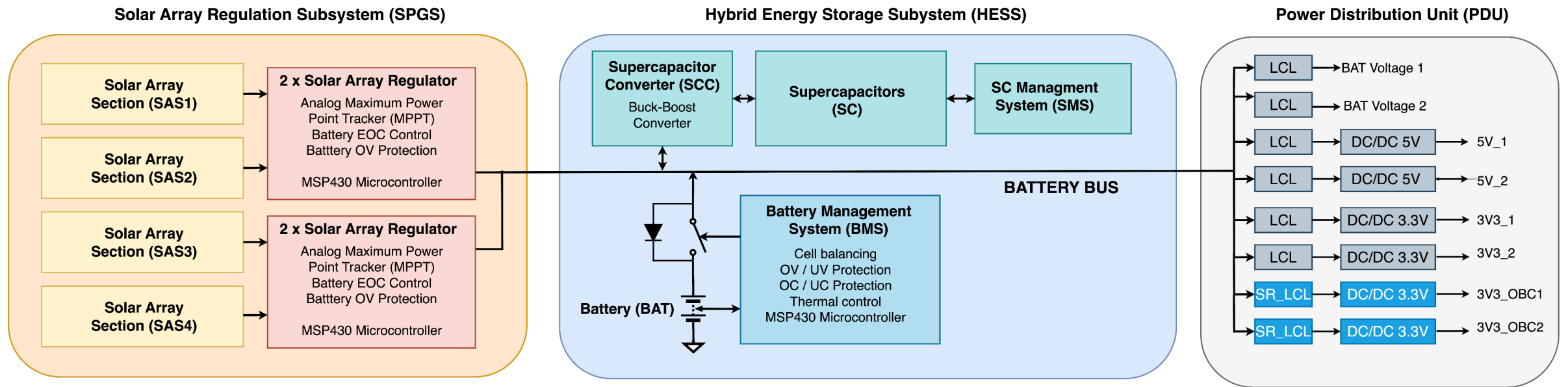
Project Goals

- Deep Space Exploration Microsatellite PCDU system development
 - Very low temperature
 - Harsh Radiation Environment
- Use of commercial components (COTS)
 - Identify electronic components, battery cells and solar cells
 - "Careful COTS approach"
- High reliability
 - Protections and Redundancy for critical functions
 - Optional Rad-Hard version of critical components in the same PCB
- Validation System development

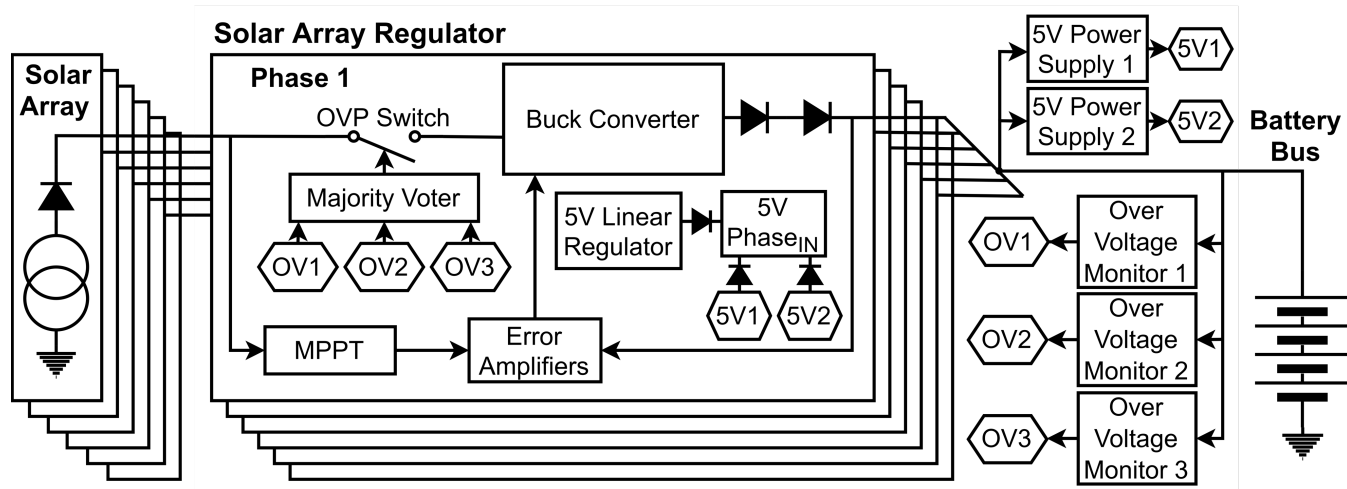


PCDU Proposed Architecture - 6U

- Block diagram

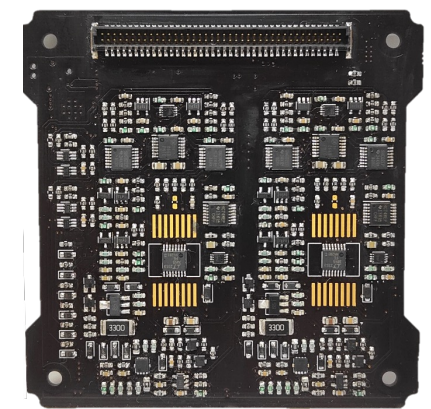
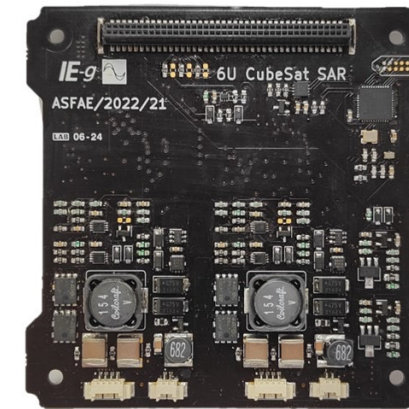


PCDU Architecture – Solar Array Regulator (SAR)



C. Torres, J. M. Blanes, A. Garrigós, D. Marroquí and J. A. Carrasco, *"High-Reliability Solar Array Regulator for Deep Space Exploration Micro-Satellites"* in IEEE Access, vol. 11, pp. 94138-94147, 2023

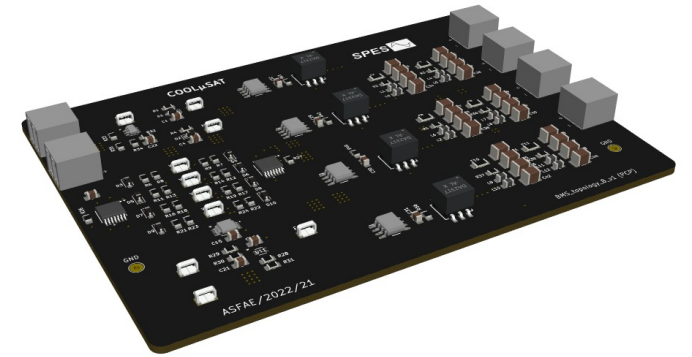
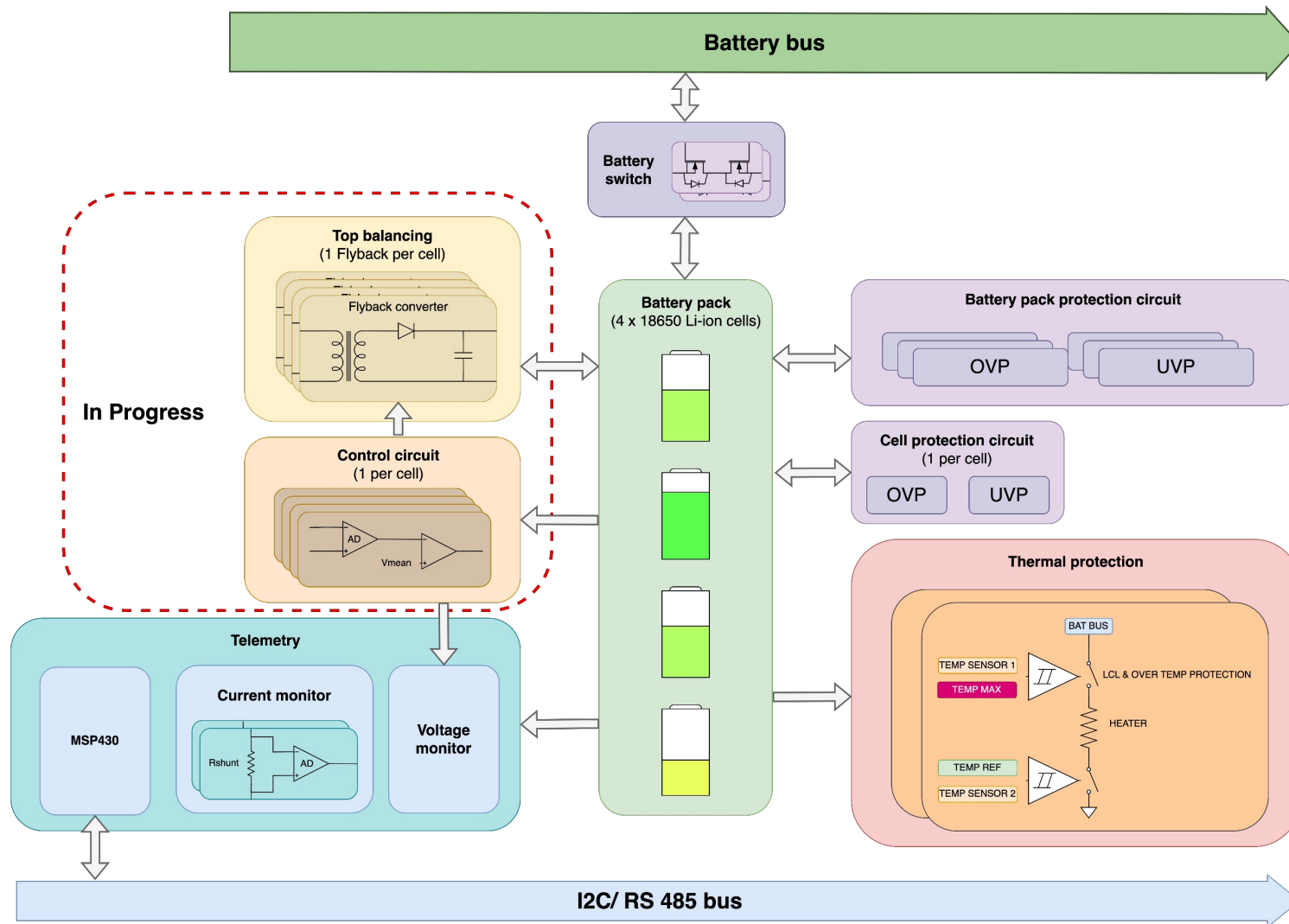
- COTS: Extended temperature range automotive qualified components
- Analog MPPT
- LT3845 (RH3845)
- Double control loop
- μ Controller only for Telemetry
- Redundancy and Protections



One SAR failure without propagation can be assumed (25% power lost)



PCDU Architecture – Battery Management System (BMS)

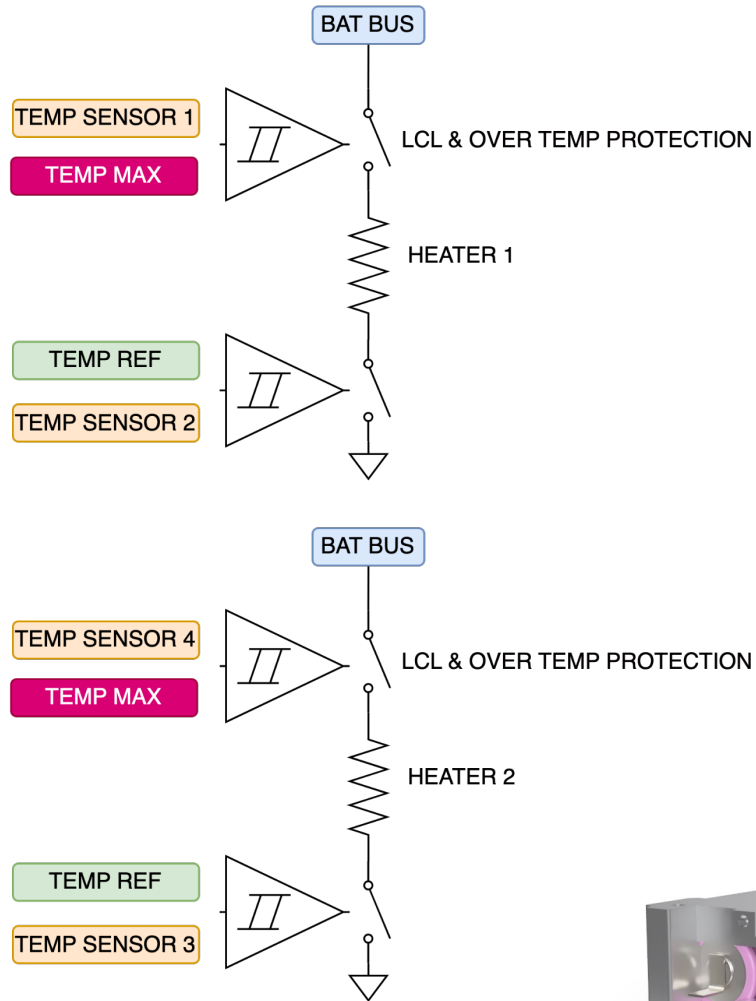
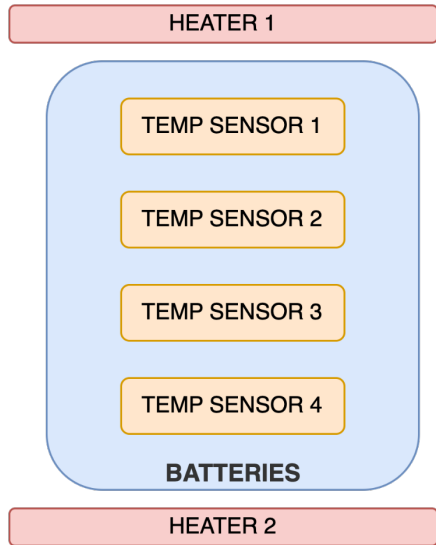


- Battery and Cells OVP / UVP
- Cell voltage equalizer
- Thermal control (Heaters)
- μ Controller only for Telemetry

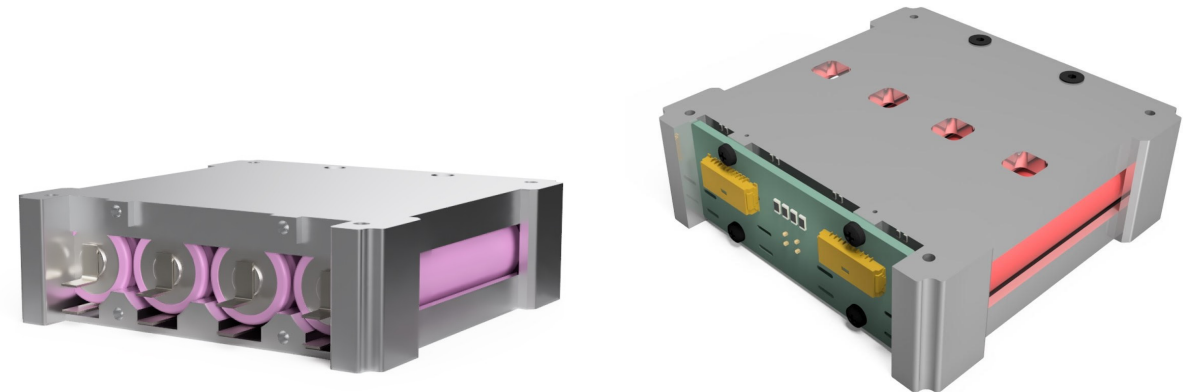
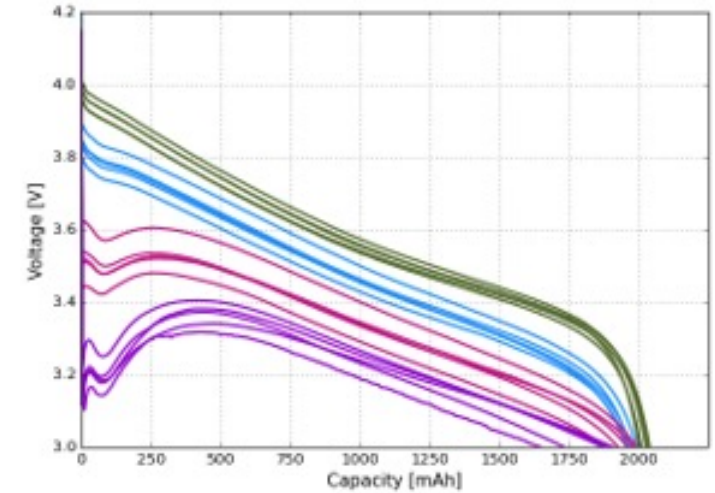


PCDU Architecture - Heaters

ONE HEATER FAILURE CAN BE ASSUMED

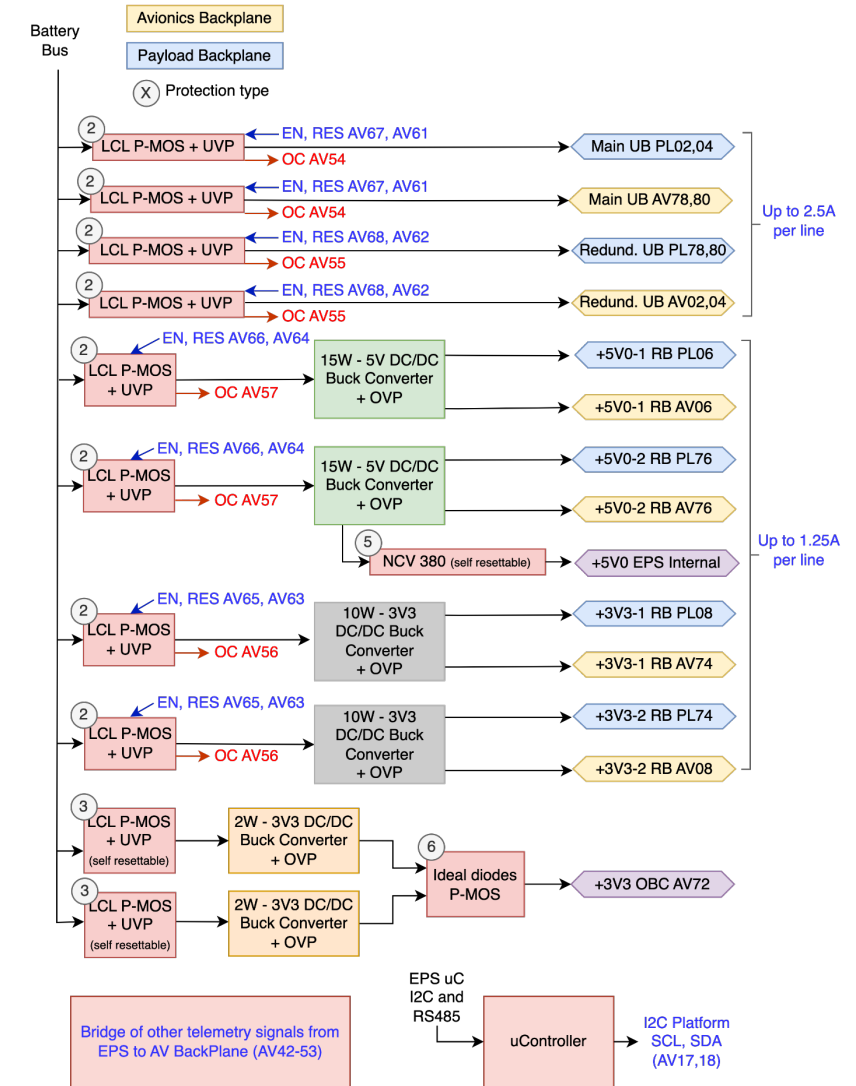
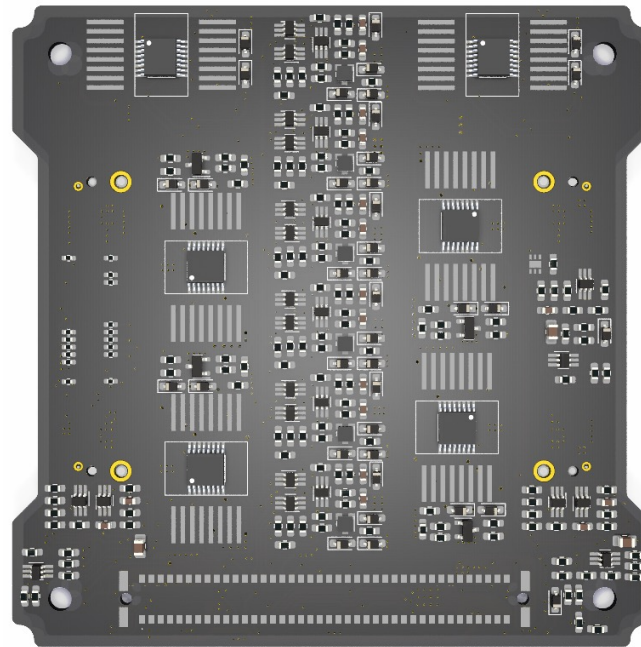
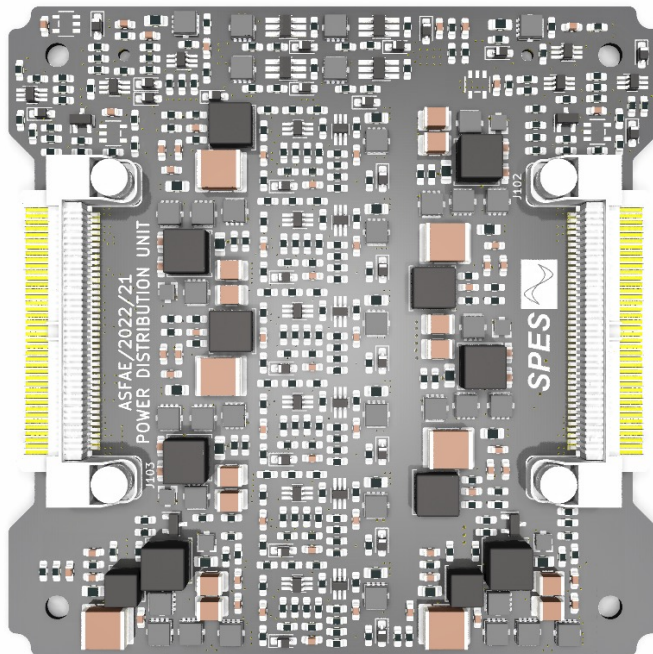


- Critical element
- Redundancy
- 4 Temperature Sensors
- Over Temperature Protection



PCDU Architecture – Power Distribution Unit (PDU)

- Vbat, 5V, 3.3V
- **Redundancy in all the distributed voltages**
- OC and UV protections (LCL)
- OBC dedicated redundant supply lines
- DC/DC LT3845 Controller
- μ Controller only for Telemetry



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PCDU Architecture – Hybrid Energy Storage Subsystem (HESS)

K. B. Chin *et al.*, "Flight Demonstration of a Hybrid Battery/Supercapacitor Energy Storage System in an Earth Orbiting CubeSat" in *IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine*, vol. 36, no. 5, pp. 24-36, 1 May 2021



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology

Hybrid ESS can offer additional benefits, particularly with respect to high current capability at lower temperatures, along with greater cycle life.

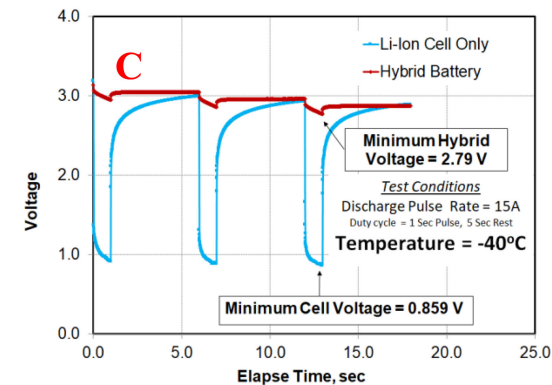
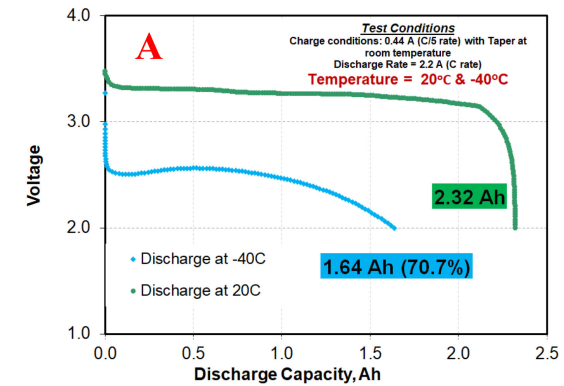
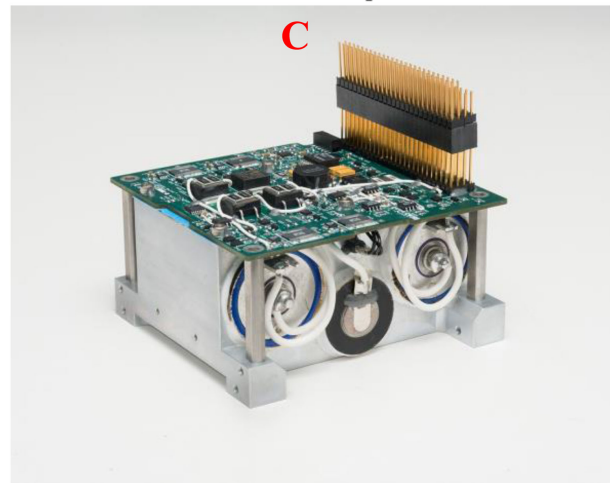
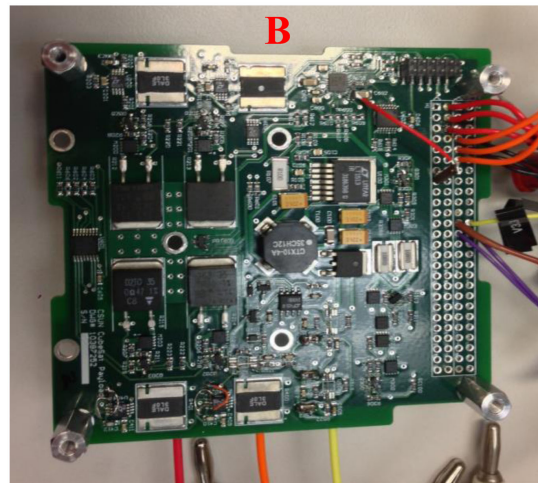


Figure 4.

A) Functional block diagram of payload electronics board. B) Prototype engineering model of JPL's payload electronics board. C) Integrated hybrid ESS, following thermal vacuum testing.

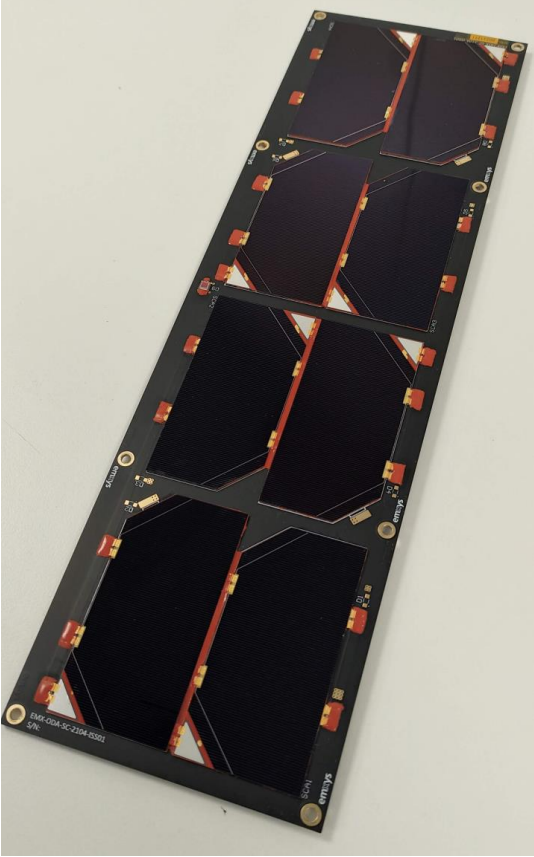


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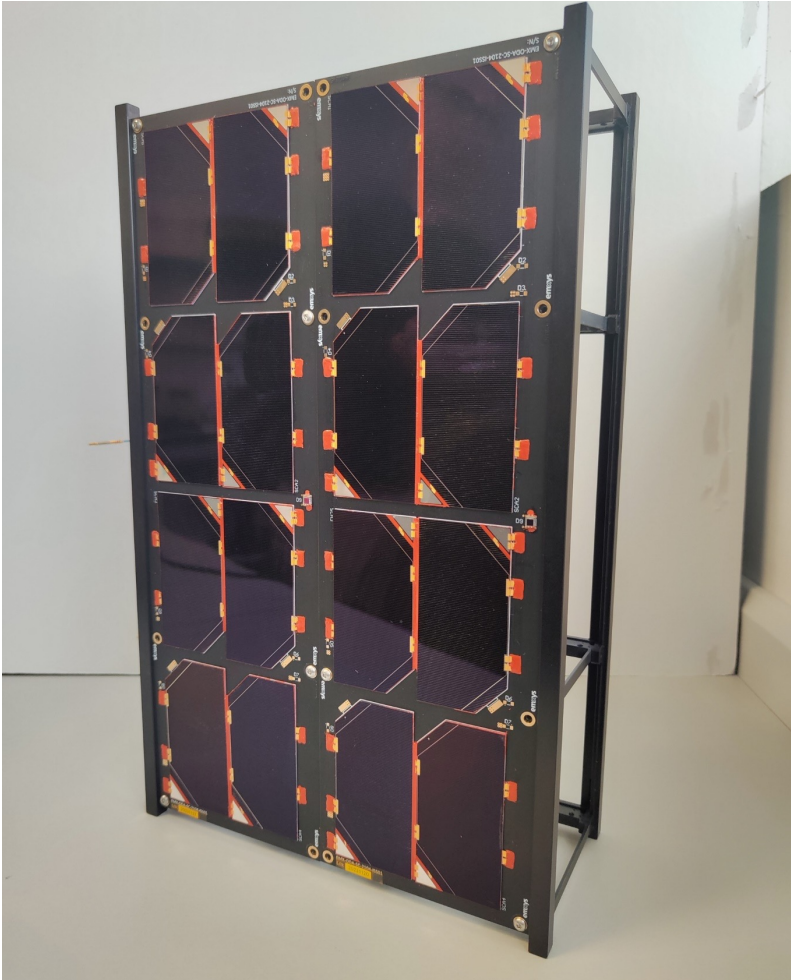
Solar Panels + Structure (6u + 4x8S1P)



6U Cubesat Structure - EMXYS
CubeSat Design Specification Rev. 14.1



8S1P – EMXYS
Cesi CTJ30-SCA



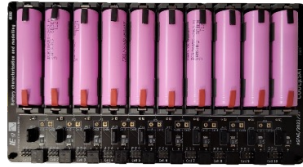
Structure + 2x8S1P

Facilities – Battery Characterization System

Climatic Chamber
CCI (Serial number: P12803)



BCM PCB
COOLuSAT_BCM-v1-PCB



5 x 4-wire connection



Bidirectional Power Supply
1 x ITECH M-3412
4 x ITECH M-3612



Digital Multimeter
Agilent 34401A



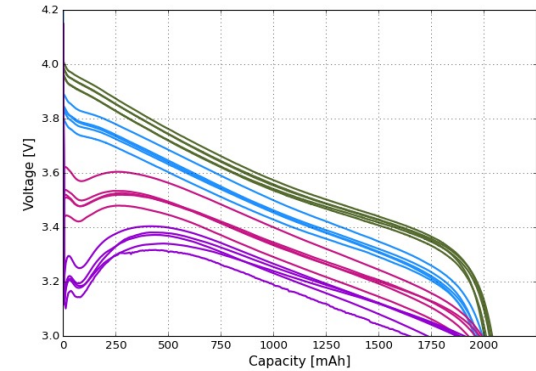
DAQ
Agilent 34970A



GPIB to USB
Agilent 82357B



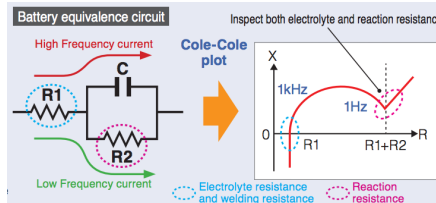
PC
BCM program (Python)



12 different battery cells characterized



Hioki BT4560
Battery Impedance Meter
June 2024



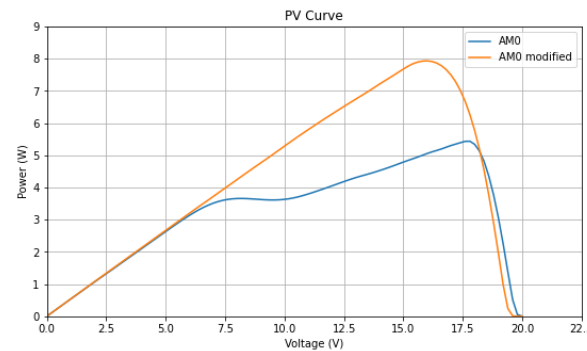
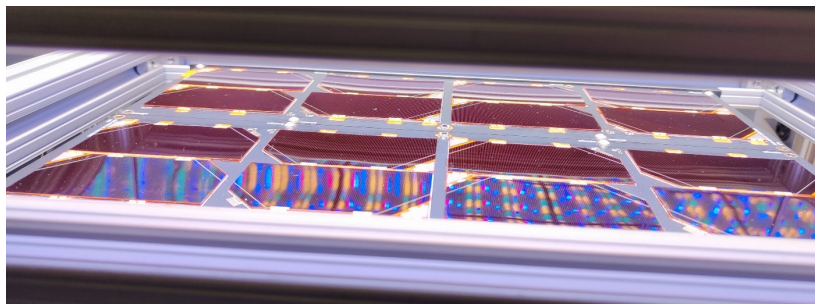
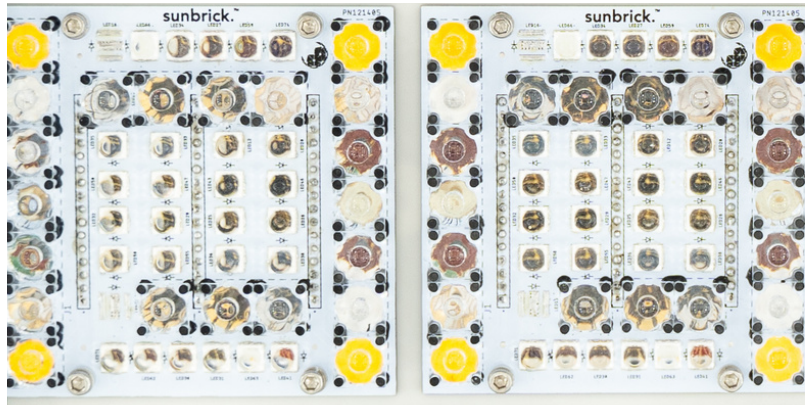
Facilities – Sun Simulator

G2V SUNBRICK

LED LARGE AREA SOLAR SIMULATOR 25x50 cm²

32 Channels

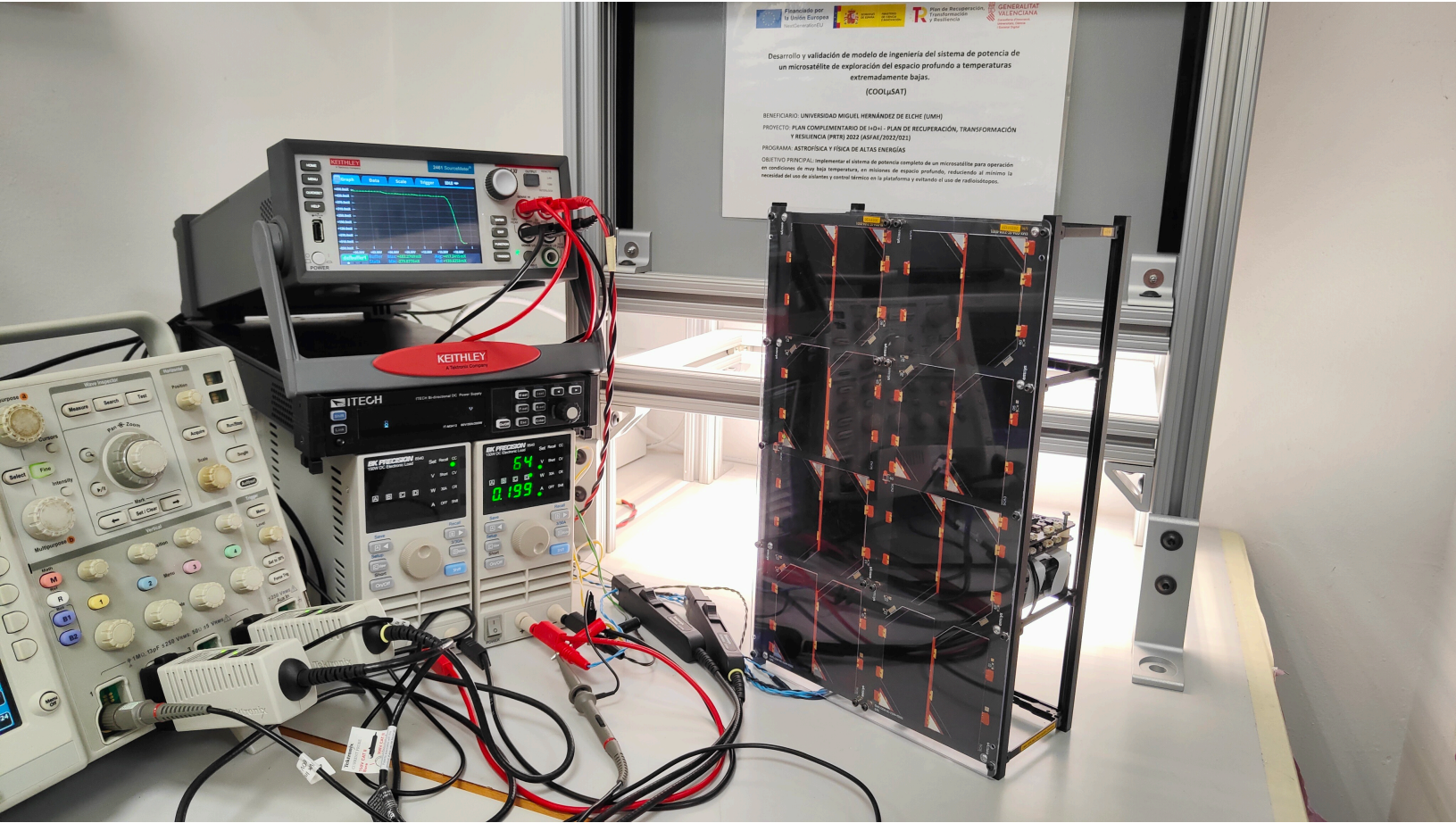
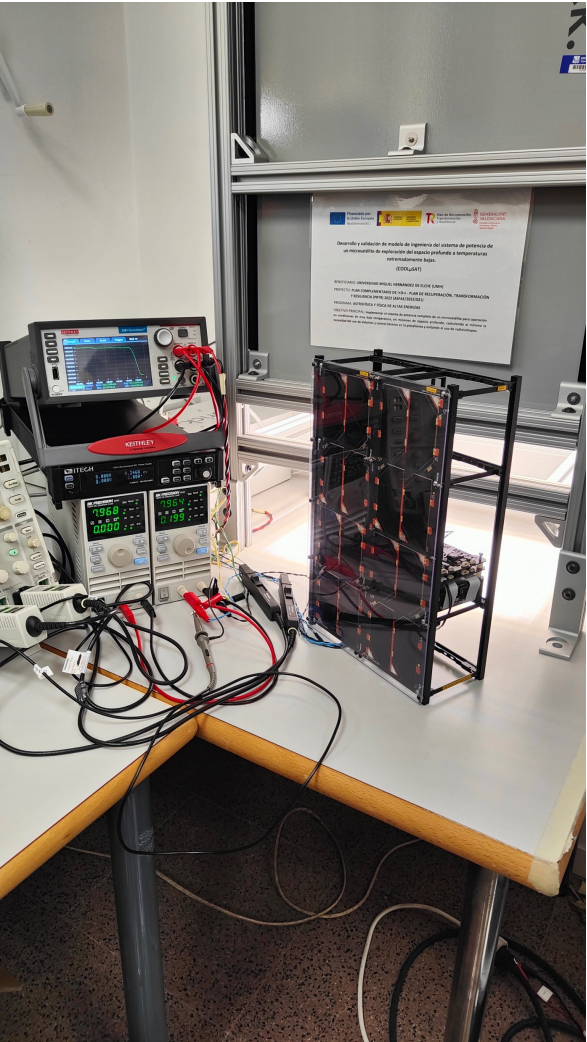
SMU KEITHLEY 2461



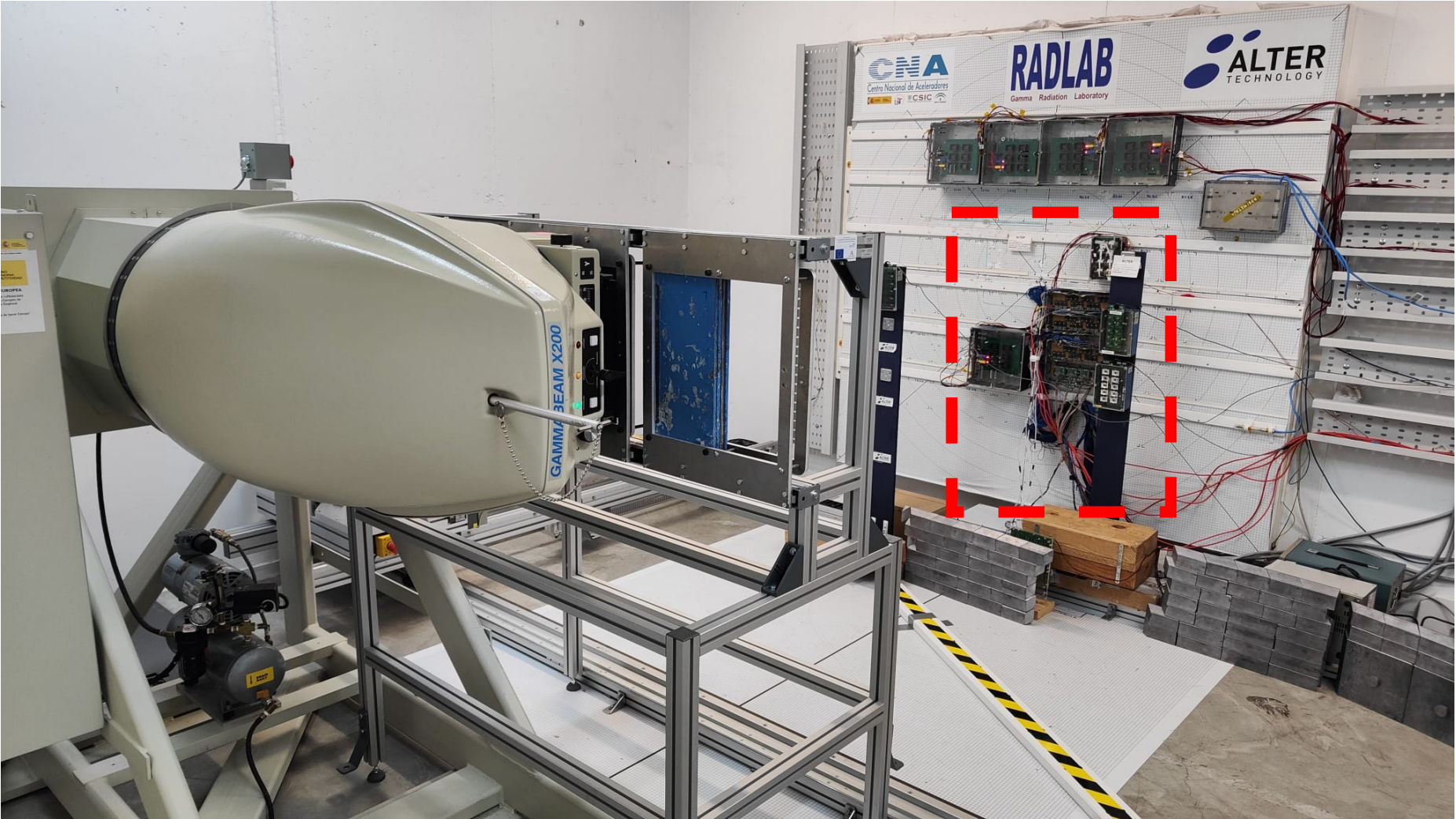
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Tasks Ongoing – Functionality Tests



Tasks Ongoing - Component TID Radiation Tests



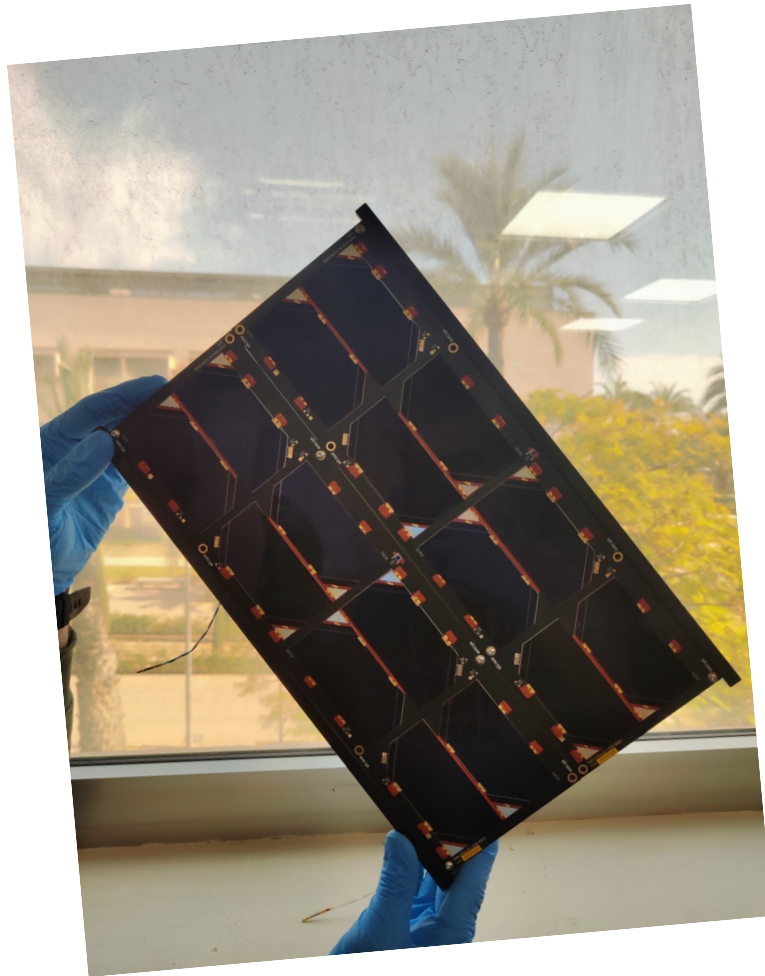
Summary

- ✓ SAR Implementation – Completed
- ✓ Battery Charge/Discharge Tests – Completed

- BMS Implementation – Heaters – Ongoing
- PDU Implementation – Ongoing
- SuperCapacitors Tests – Ongoing
- Radiation Tests – Ongoing
- PCPU Full Integration and Tests- Ongoing

- ❖ HESS Implementation - Remaining
- ❖ Battery Spectroscopy Impedance Tests – Remaining
- ❖ Technology Transfer to Companies & Collaborations – Remaining





Deep Space Microsatellite Power System Development

ASFÆ/2022/021

LIA7: Space exploration with small satellites

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