



# Human-Robot Collaboration as an Enabler of Scalable Human Presence in Space

Vittorio Netti

**SICS**

Sasakawa International  
Center for Space Architecture

3rd AIAA LA-LV International Space Architecture Gathering

# HIGHLIGHTS

Vittorio Netti,  
Ph.d. candidate

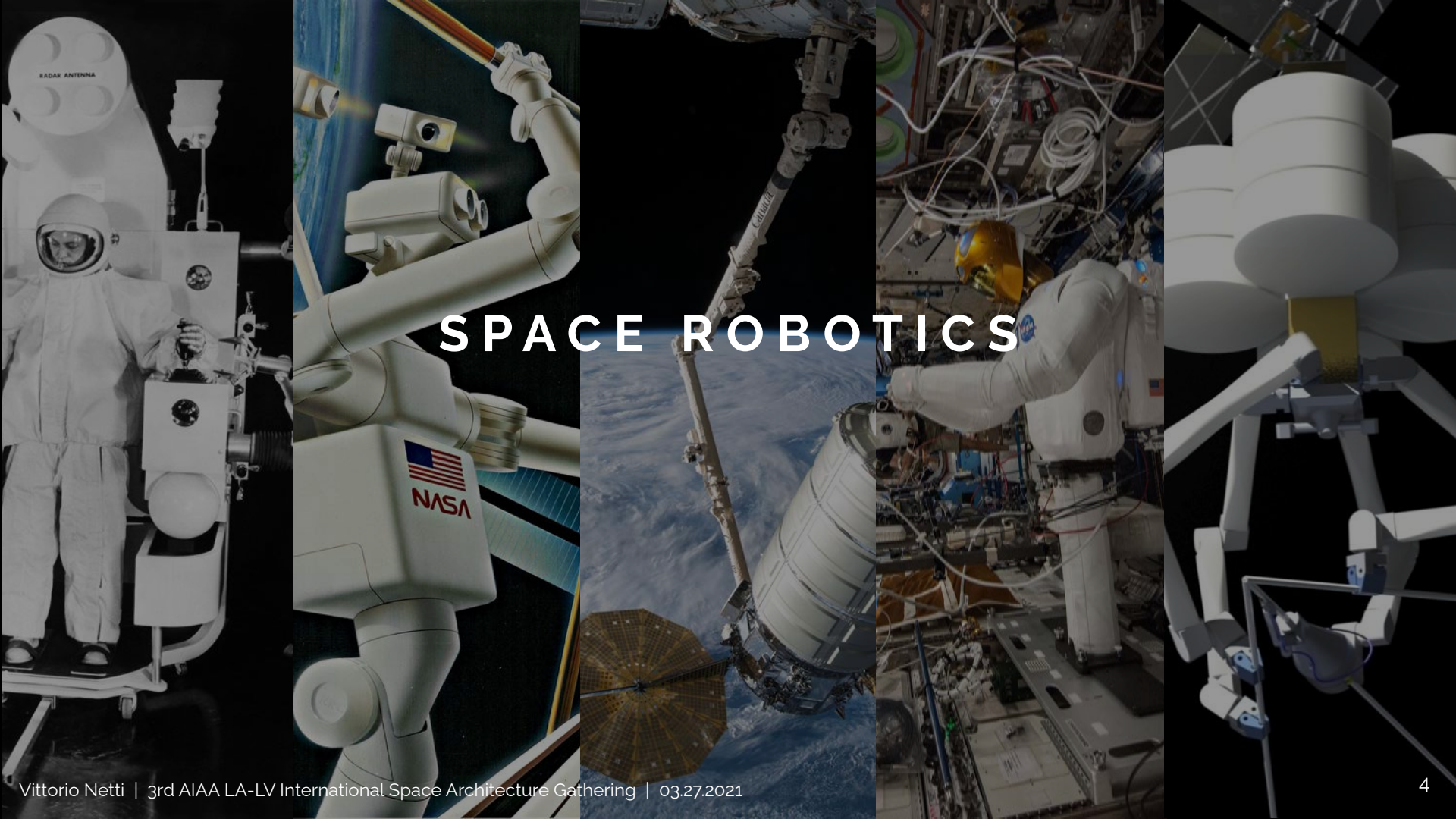
- > Registered System Engineer (*INCOSE*)
- > Project Manager at Vector Robotics S.r.l.
- > Consultant for Olympus Project (*SEArch+*)
- > Ph.D. Candidate in Aerospace Engineering (*PoliBa*)
- > M.Sc Space Architecture (*SICSA, UH*)
  - Team Lead Lunar Surface Element (*Boeing*)
  - Team Lead Modular Utility Vehicle (*RASC-AL*)
- > M.Arch Architecture (*IUAV*)
- > B.Sc Architectural Sciences (*IUAV*)



## A SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE SPACE ENVIRONMENT

Rising automation levels in space missions will enable the future-proof maintenance and integration capability that is needed to boost the larger scale applications.



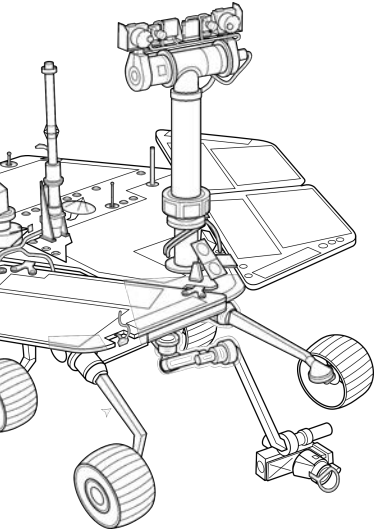


# SPACE ROBOTICS



# HUMAN VS ROBOTICS CAPABILITIES IN EVA OPERATIONS

Source: J.B Garvin 2005



## ROBOT

28%

15%

90%

2%

6%

84%

21%

17%

34%

14%

9%

78%

## SKILL

STRENGTH

ENDURANCE

PRECISION

COGNITION

PERCEPTION

DETECTION

SPEED

RESPONSE TIME

REALIBILITY

AGILITY

VERSATILITY

EXPENDABILITY

## HUMANS

72%

85%

10%

98%

94%

16%

79%

83%

66%

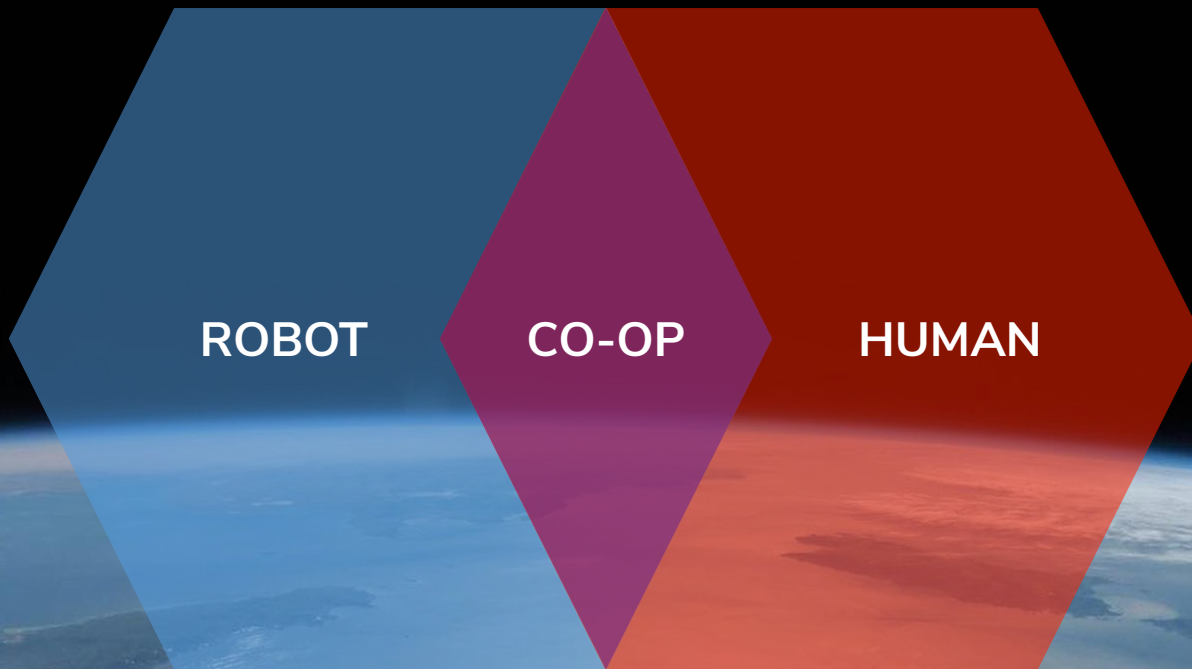
86%

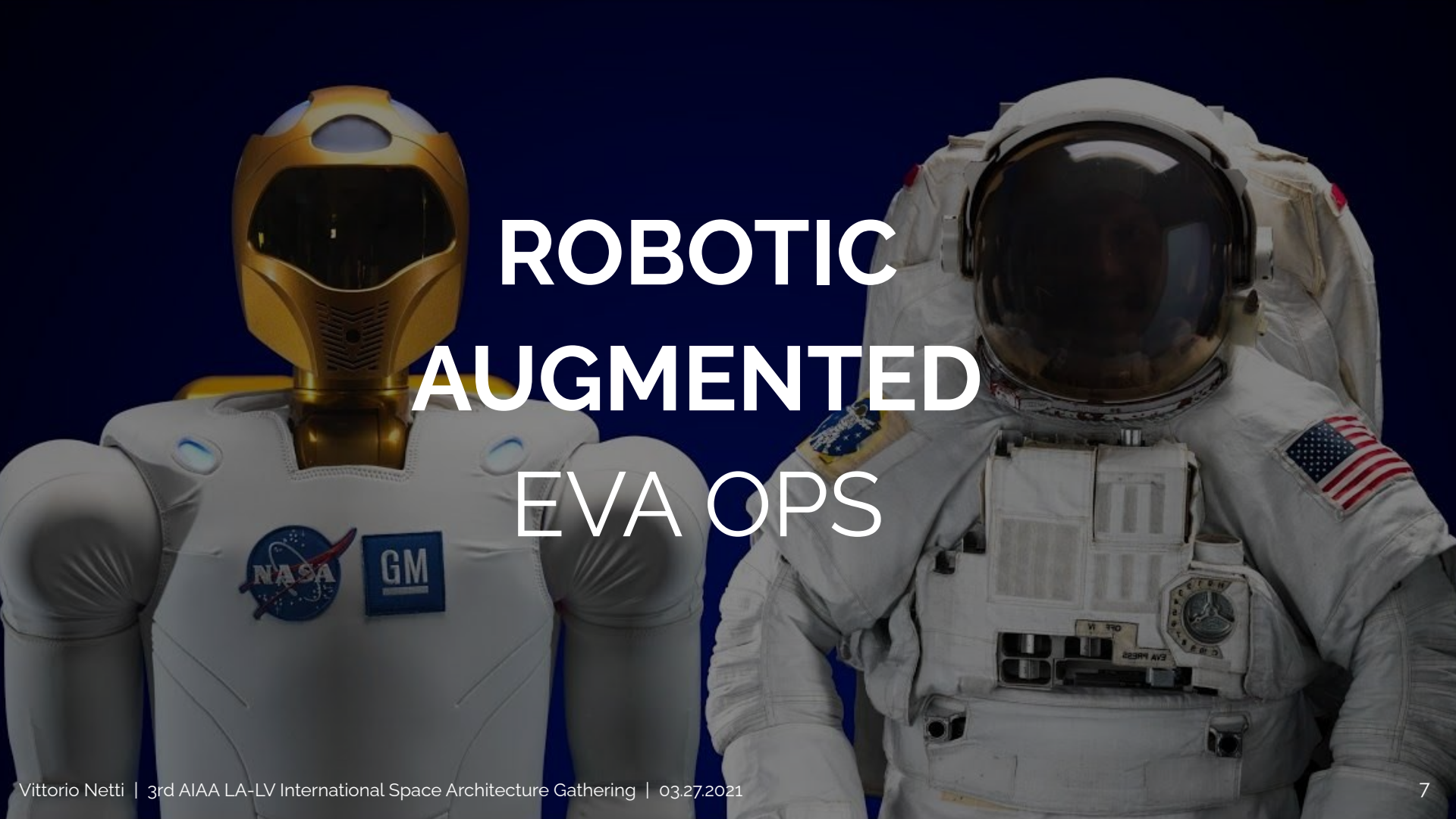
91%

22%



# VISION



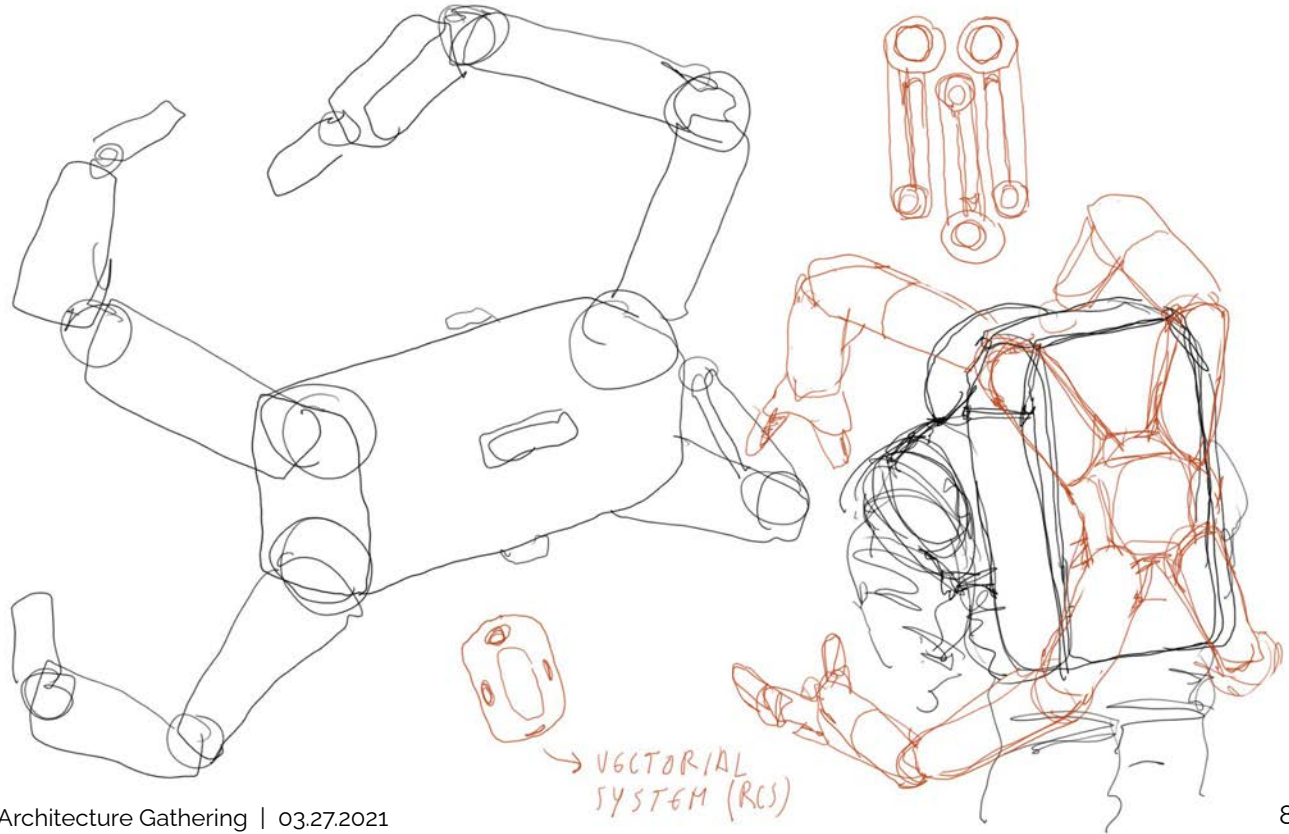
The image features a side-by-side comparison of two figures in white Extravehicular Activity (EVA) suits against a dark blue background. On the left is a humanoid robot with a gold-colored head and neck assembly. Its suit has a NASA logo and a GM logo on the chest. On the right is a human astronaut in a full EVA suit, including a large clear helmet and a life-support backpack. The astronaut's suit features an American flag patch on the right arm and a circular mission patch on the chest. The text 'ROBOTIC AUGMENTED EVA OPS' is centered over the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# ROBOTIC AUGMENTED EVA OPS



# MMEVR

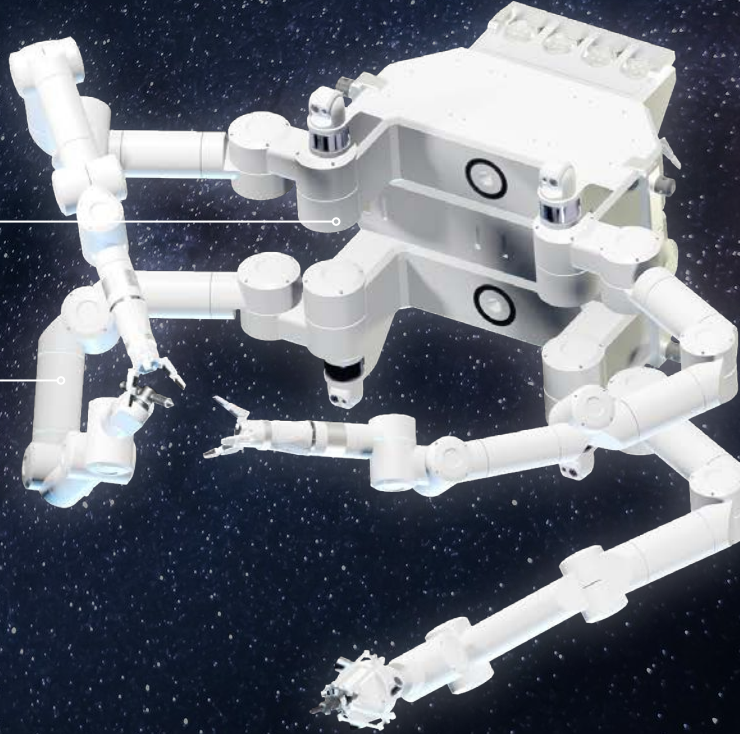
MULTI-MISSION  
EXTRA-VEHICULAR  
ROBOT



# MMEVR | AUTONOMOUS

NAV

ROBOT



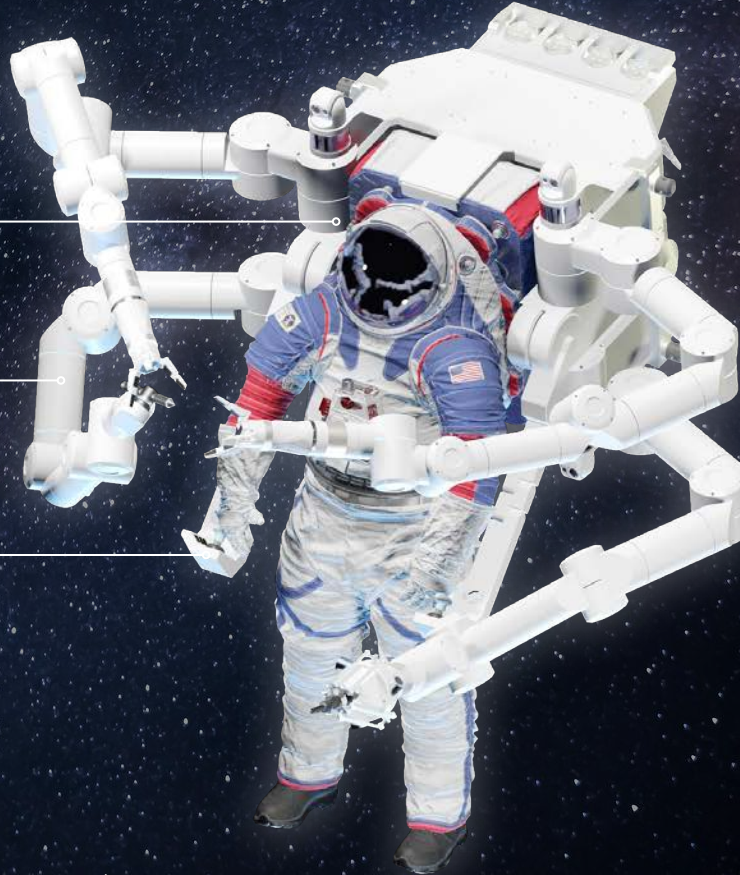


# MMEVR | COOPERATIVE

NAV

ROBOT

HARNESS





# MMU

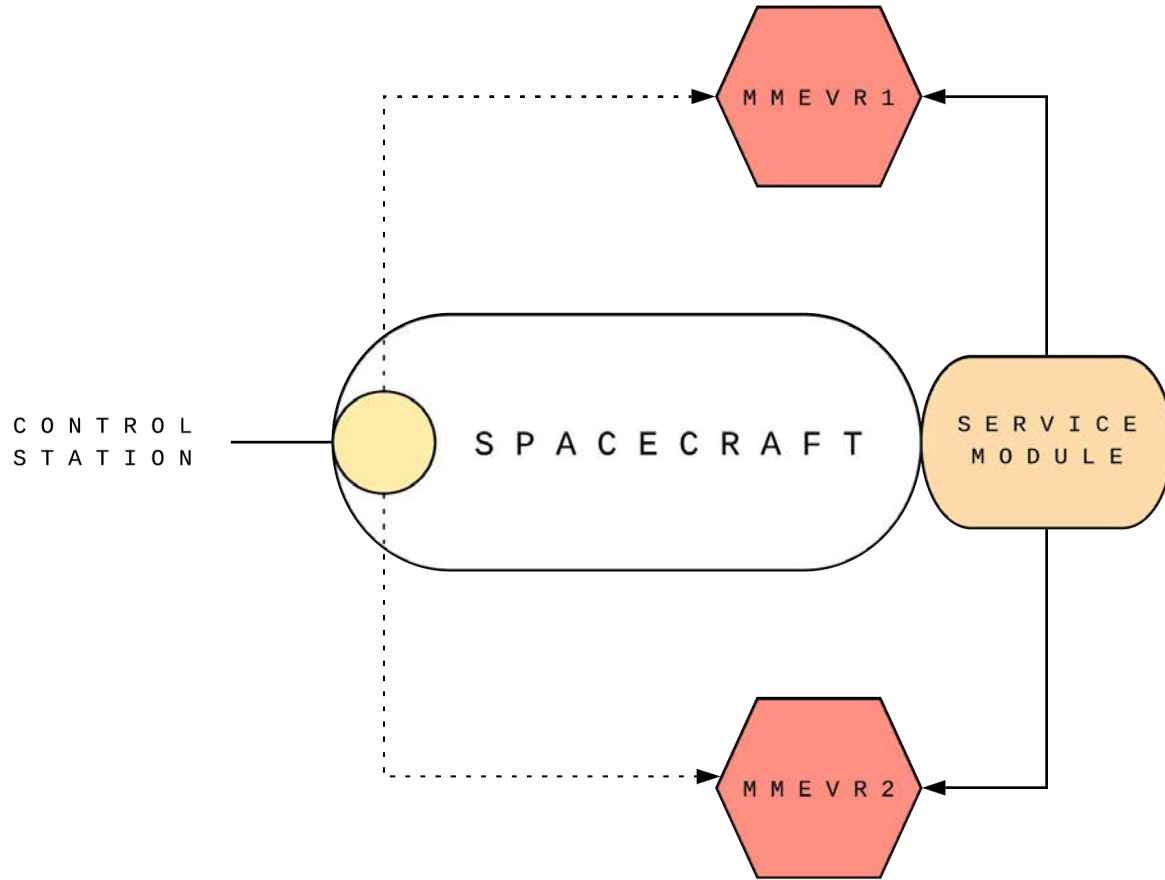
MANNED  
MANEUVERING  
UNIT



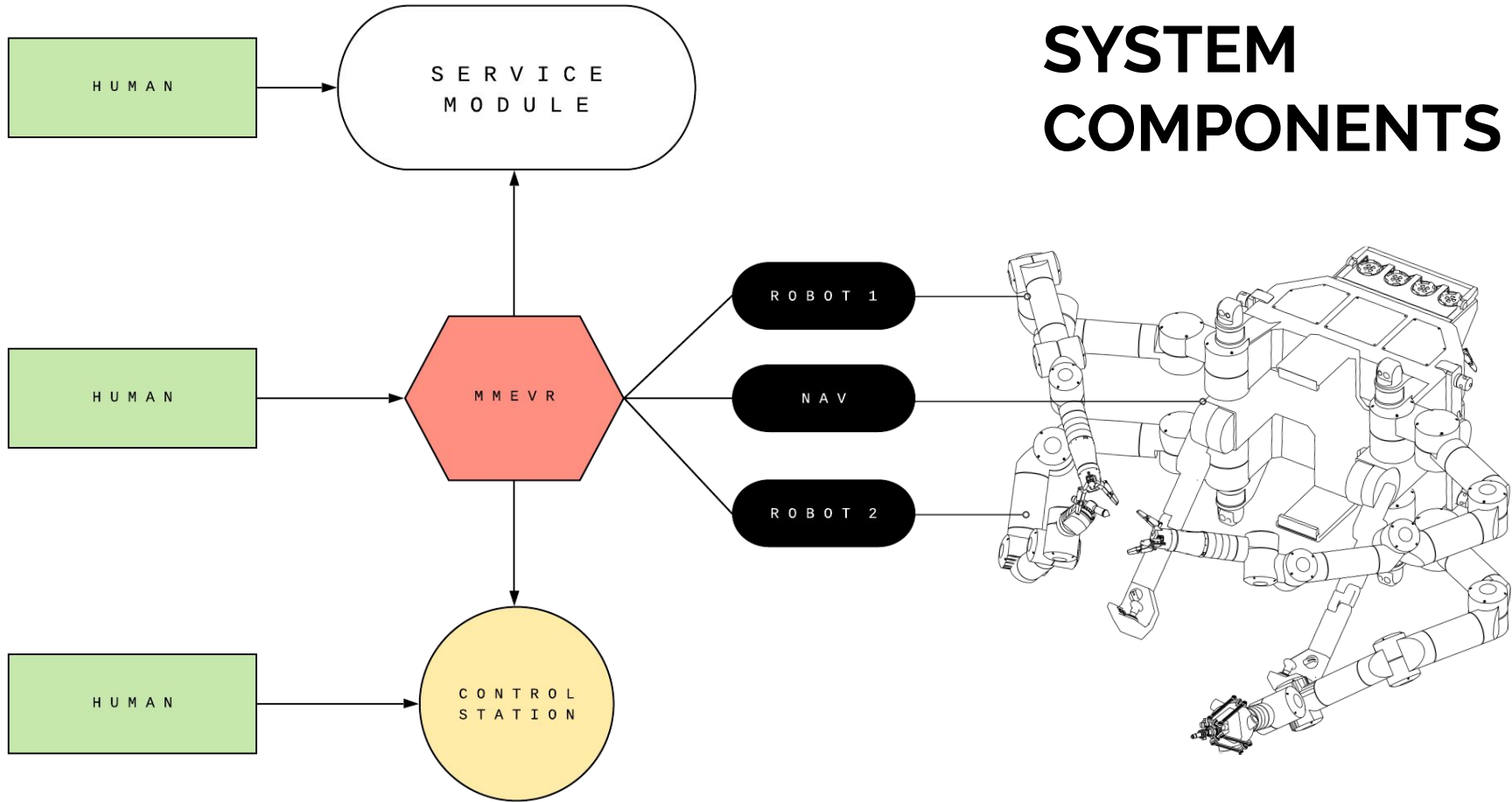
SMM Retrieval, 1984



# SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

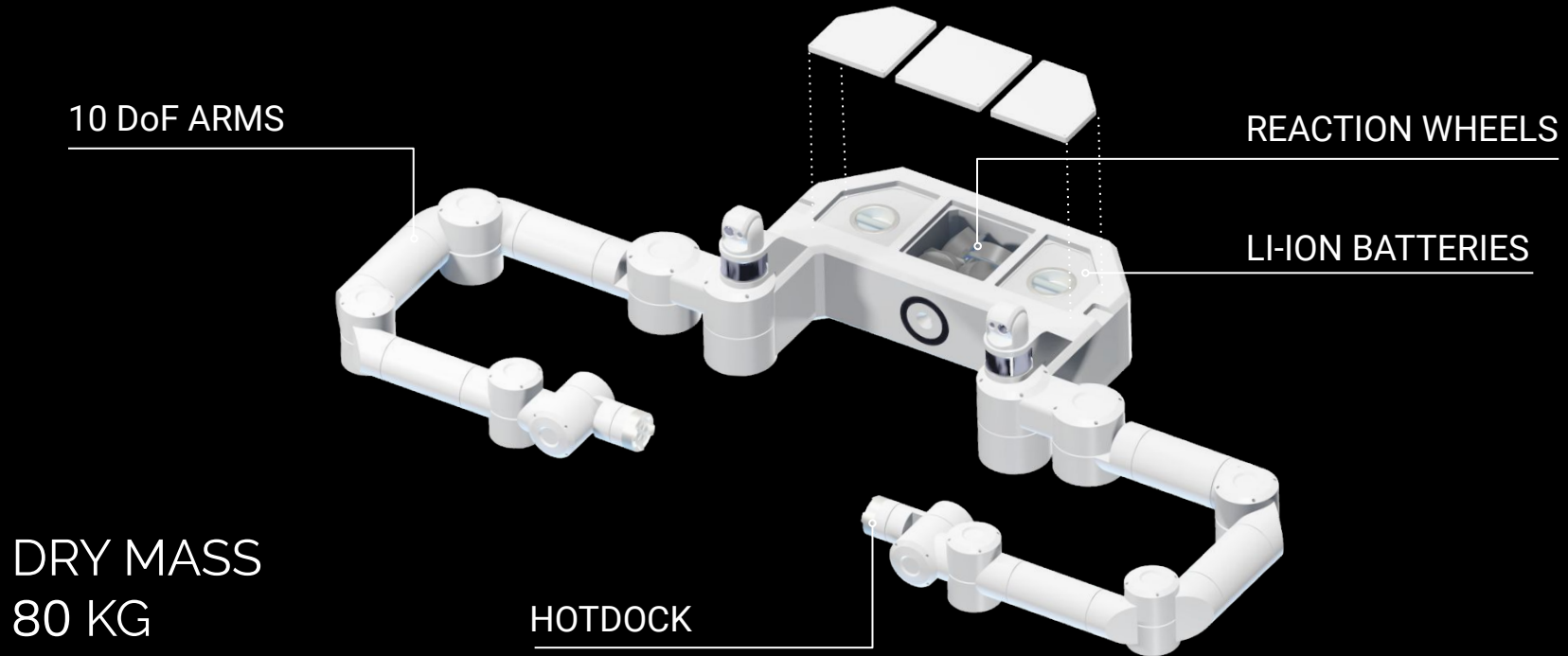


# SYSTEM COMPONENTS



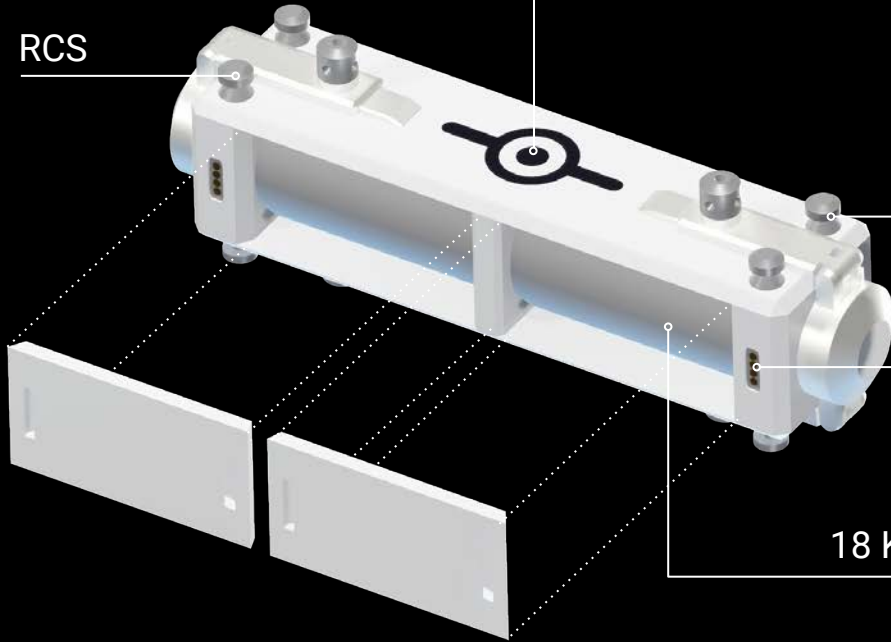


# MMEVR | ROBOT



# MMEVR | NAV

STOWED



DOCKING SENSOR

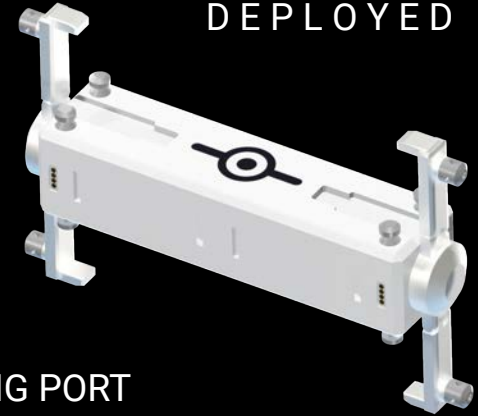
RCS

DOCKING PORT

HARNESS CONNECTOR

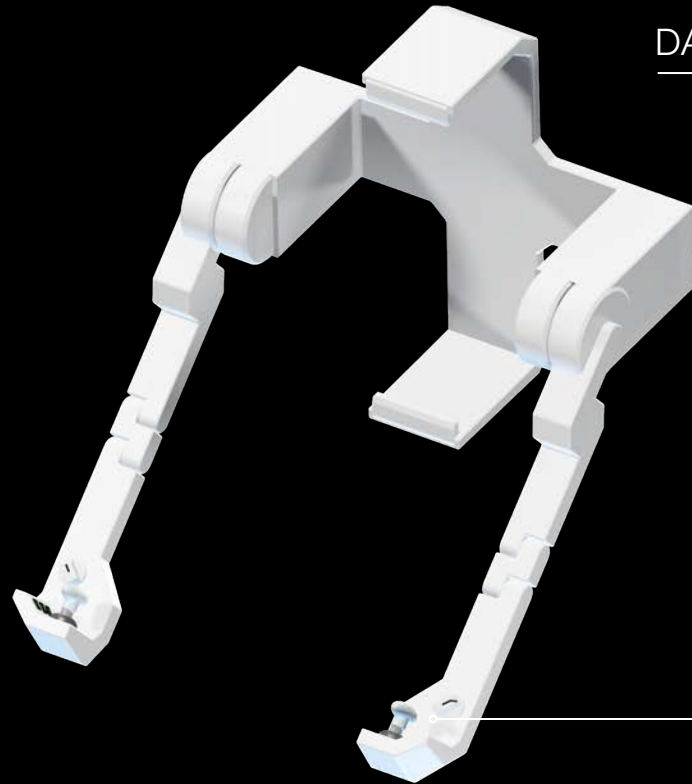
18 Kg N2 TANK

DEPLOYED



DRY MASS  
25 KG

# MMEVR | HARNESS



DATA PORT

DOCKING PORT

RCS CONTROLLER





# MMEVR | TOOLS

TOOLBOX

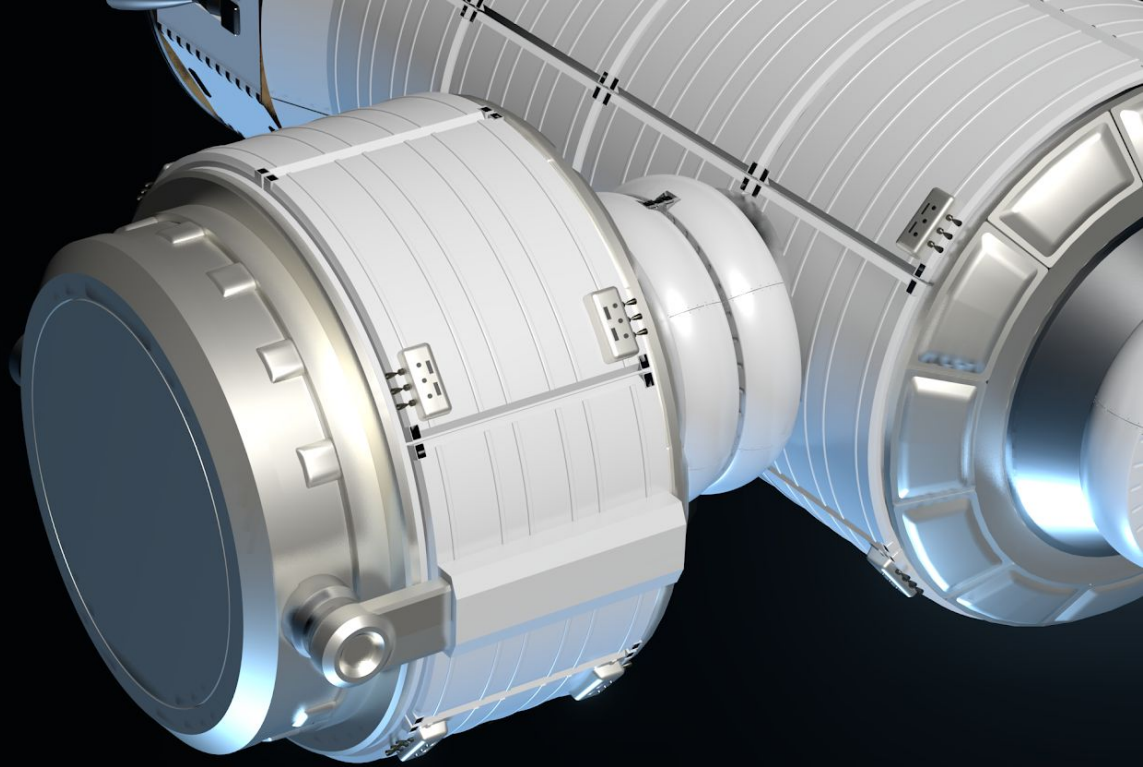
ADAPTIVE GRIPPER

ADHESIVE CLAMP

HIGH DENSITY LASER

LMS PRINTER

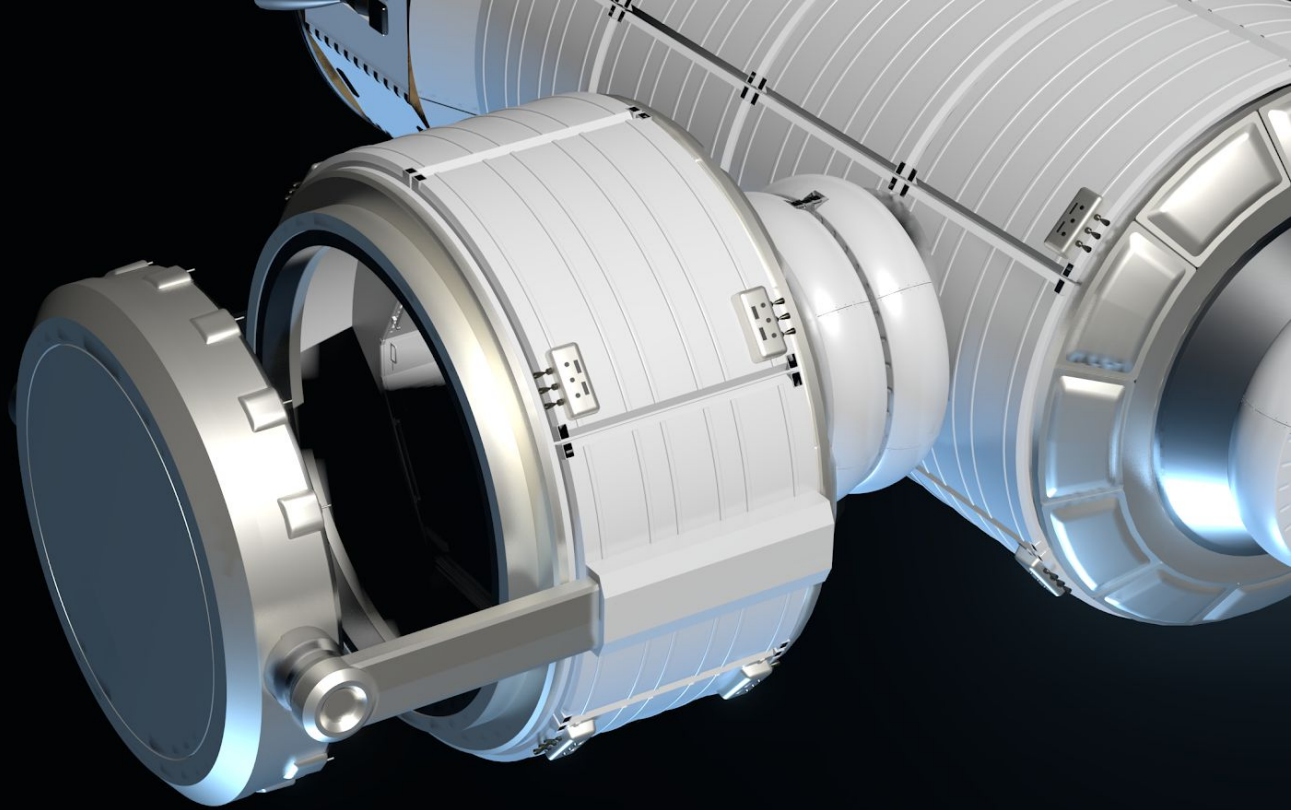
# SERVICE MODULE



SPACEX DRAGON XL

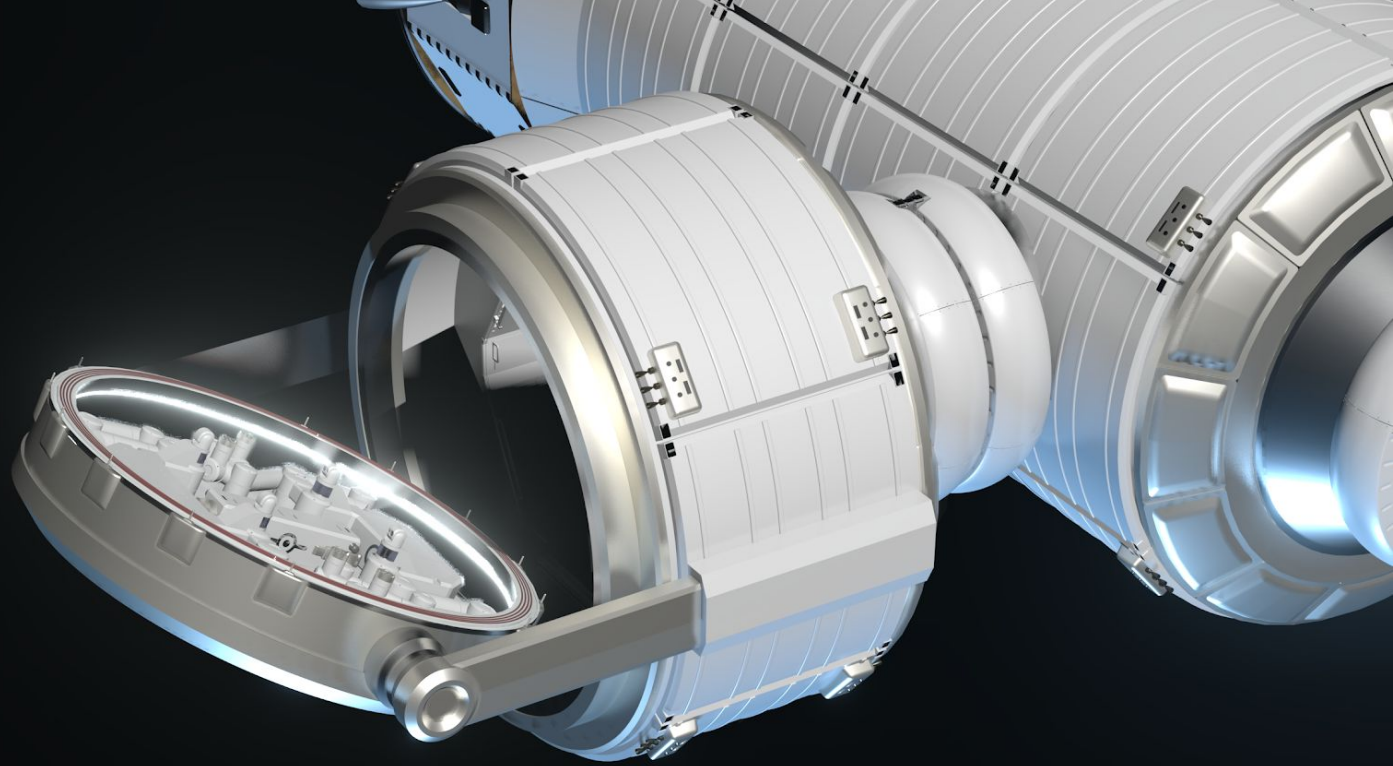
# SERVICE MODULE

DRY MASS:  
4700 Kg



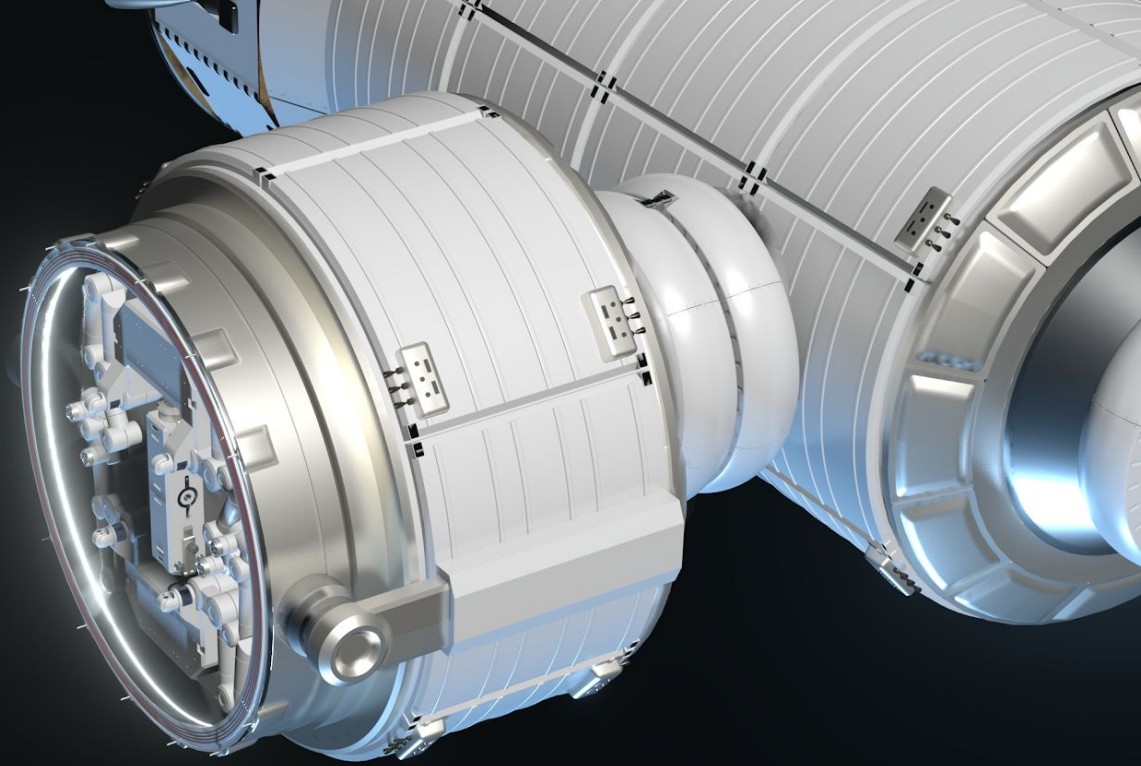


# SERVICE MODULE

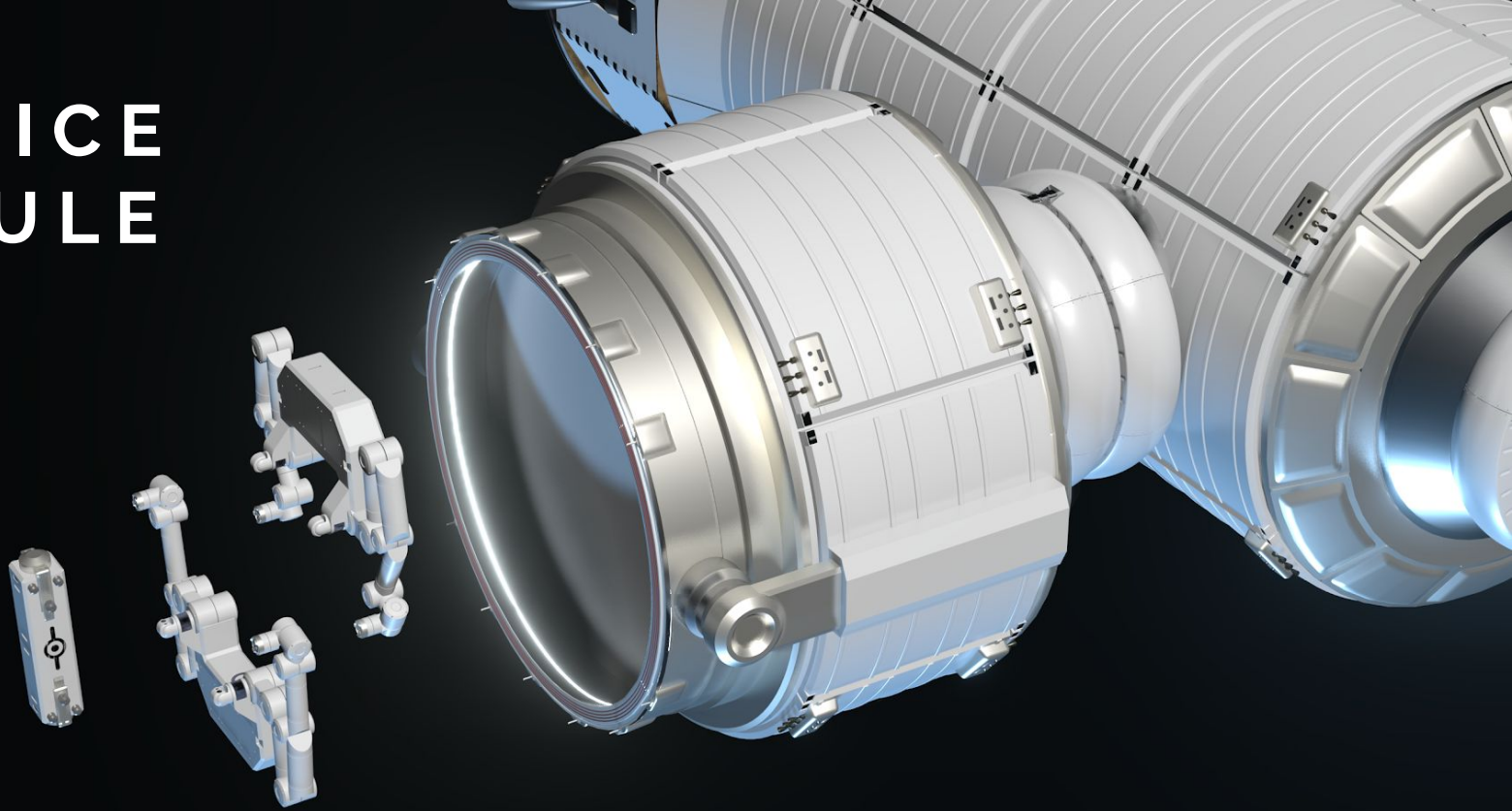


# SERVICE MODULE

Multipurpose  
Payload Airlock

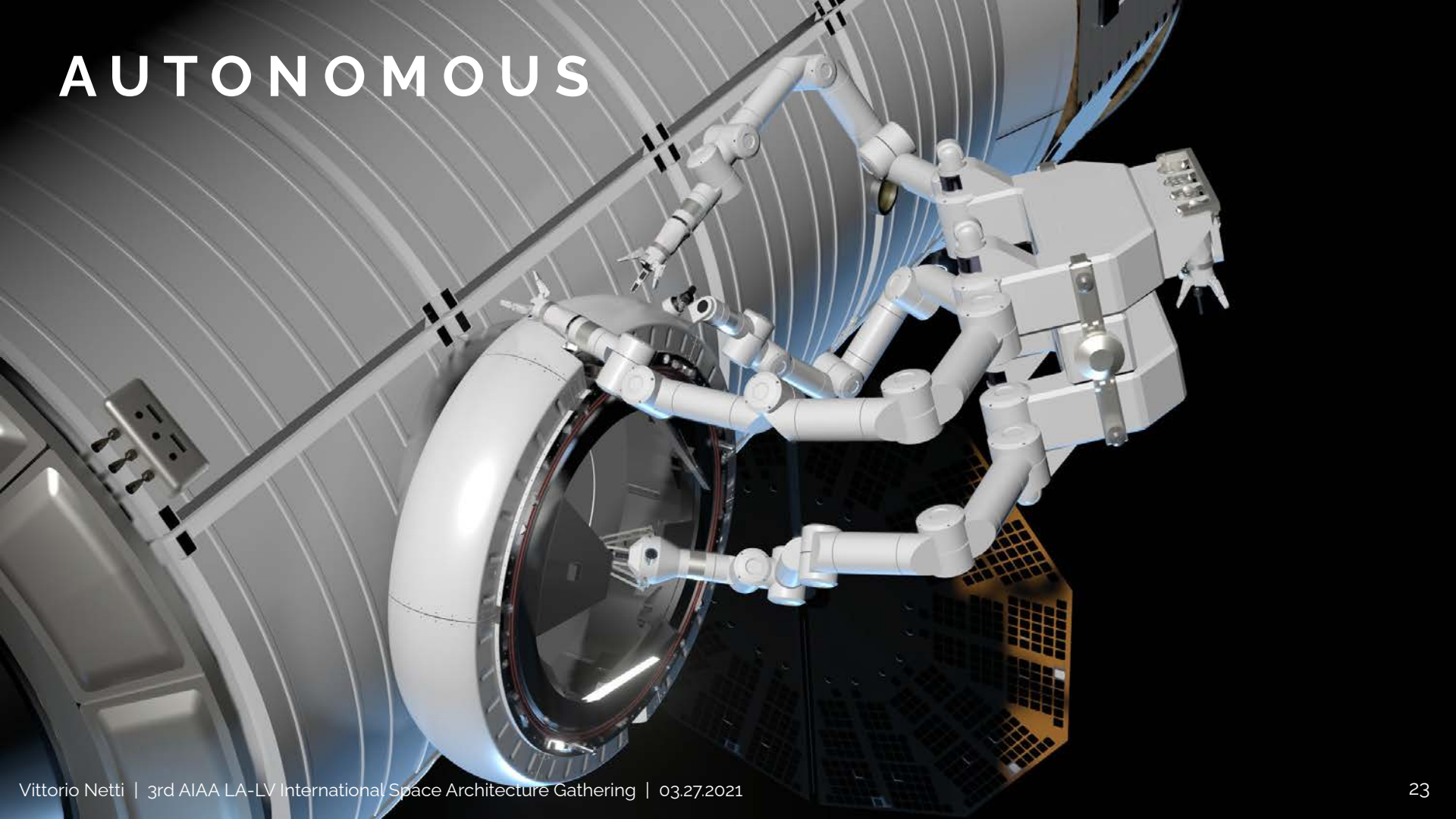


# SERVICE MODULE

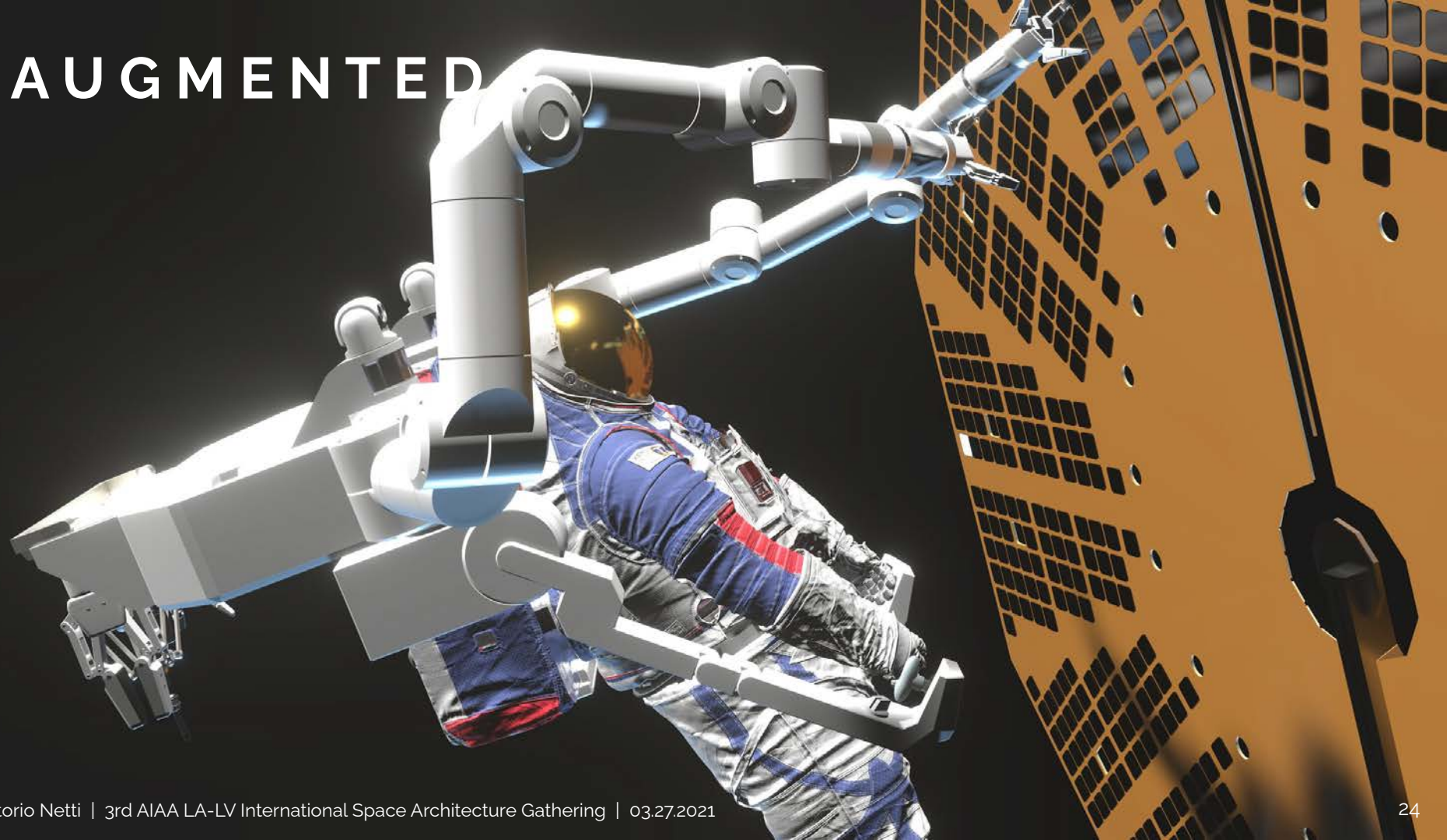




# AUTONOMOUS



# AUGMENTED



# CONTROL STATION

## HAPTIC EXOSKELETON

5 DoF ARMS

HAPTIC FEEDBACK FOR INTERACTION <

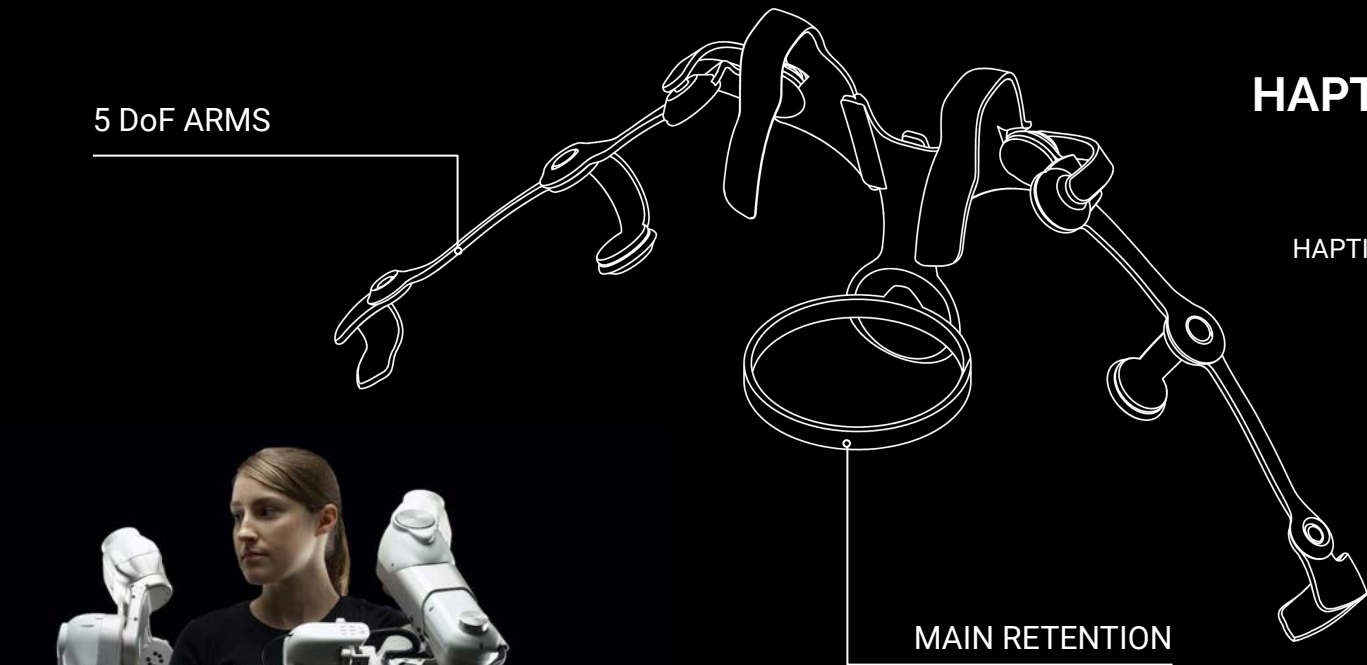
MIXED REALITY HEADSET <

UPPER BODY CONTROL <

SAFETY TRIGGER <

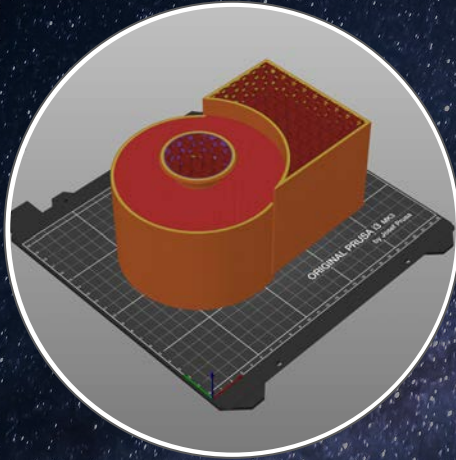
5 DoF LIMBS <

MAIN RETENTION



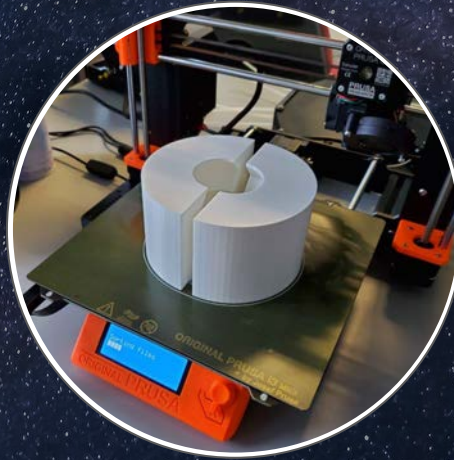


# PROTOTYPE | PROCESS



## 1 | MODELLING

INVENTOR | PRUSA SLICER



## 2 | PRODUCTION

3D PRINTING | LASER CUT

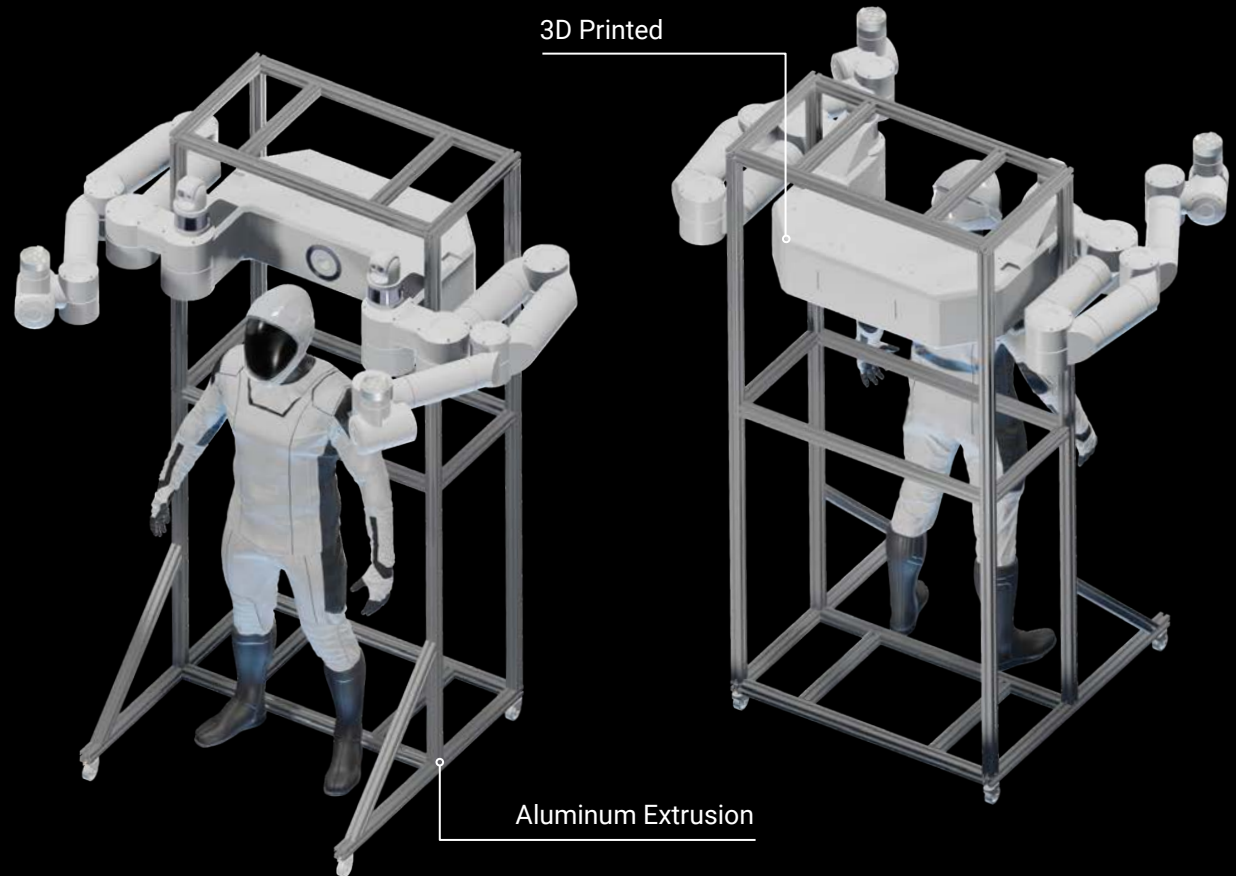


## 3 | TESTING

ASSEMBLY | INTERACTION

# PROTOTYPE | DESIGN

- > 1:1 SCALE
- > ACQUISITION SYSTEM
- > 10 DoF
- > FIT 99th PERCENTILE
- > BUDGET 5000\$



# PROTOTYPE | PRODUCTION

VISION



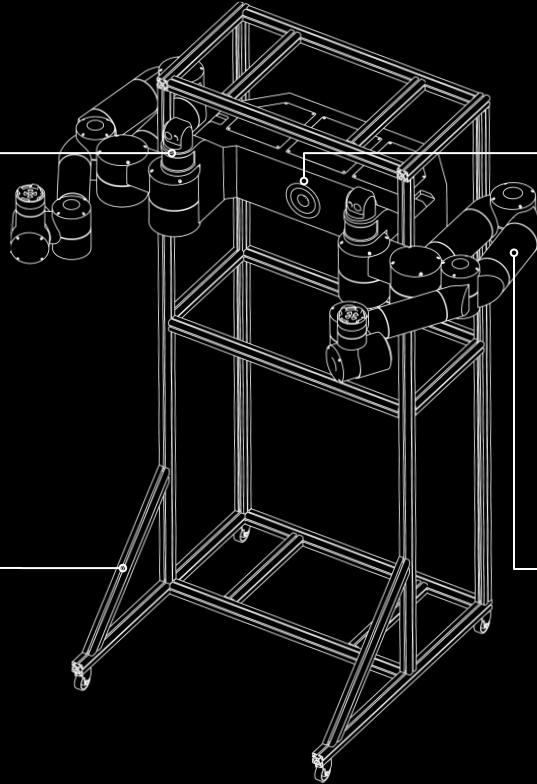
BODY



STAND

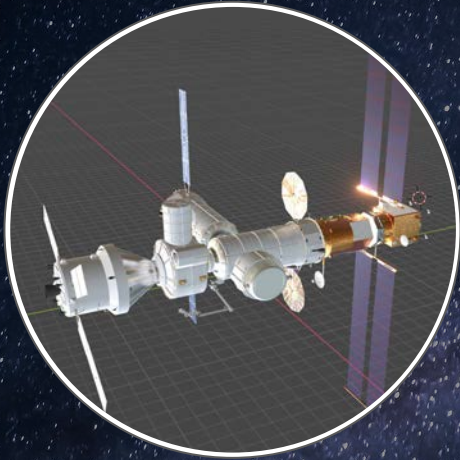


LIMBS



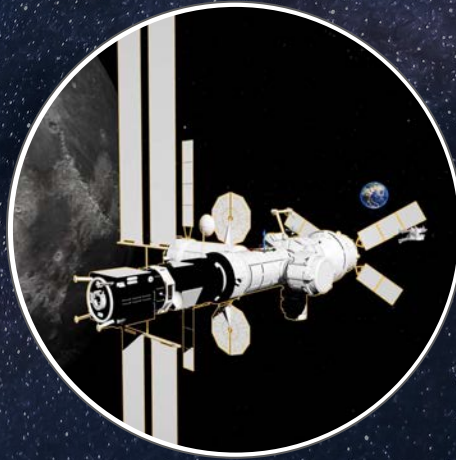


# SIMULATION | PROCESS



1 | MODELLING

BLENDER



2 | PRODUCTION

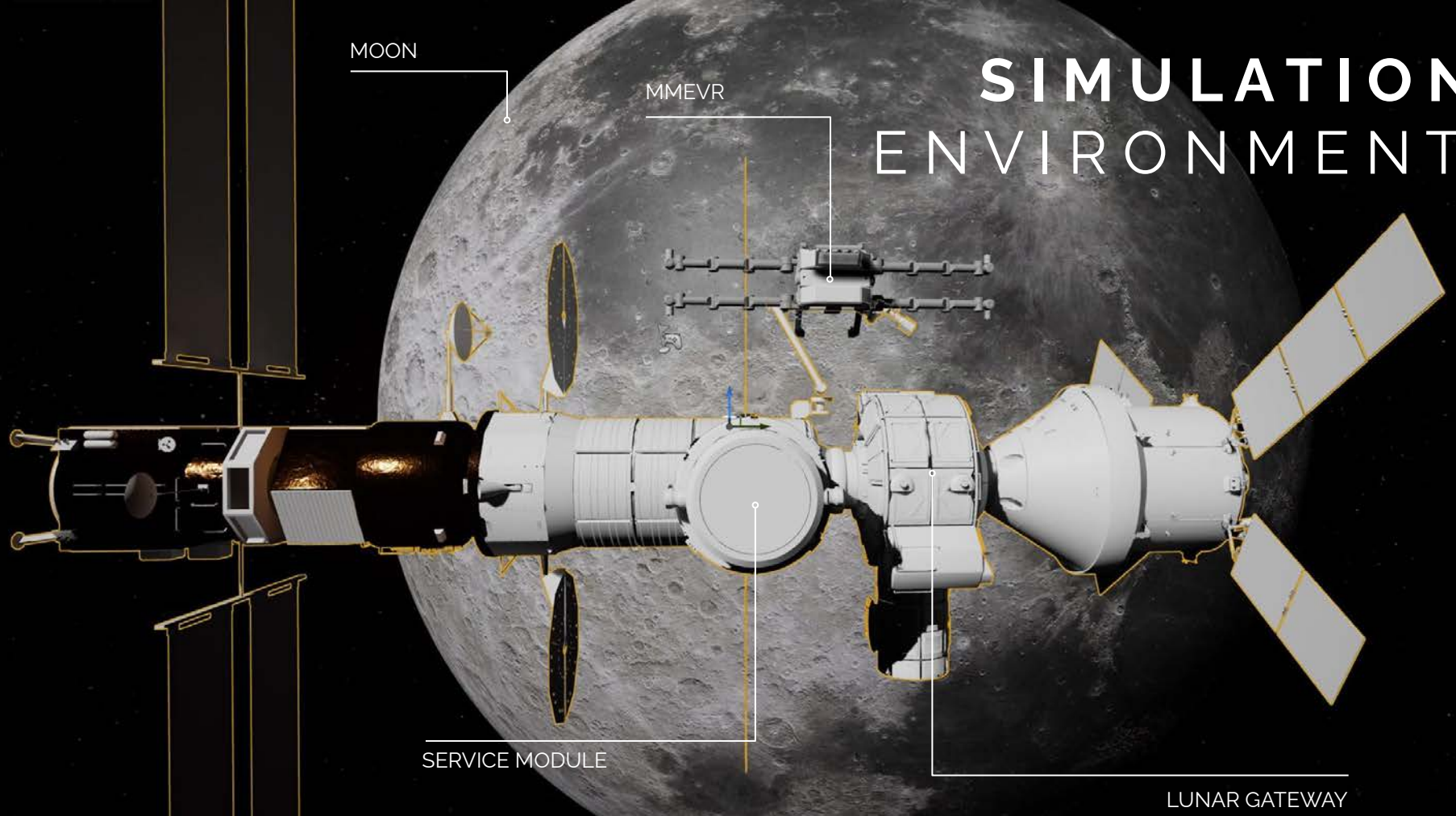
UNREAL ENGINE



3 | TESTING

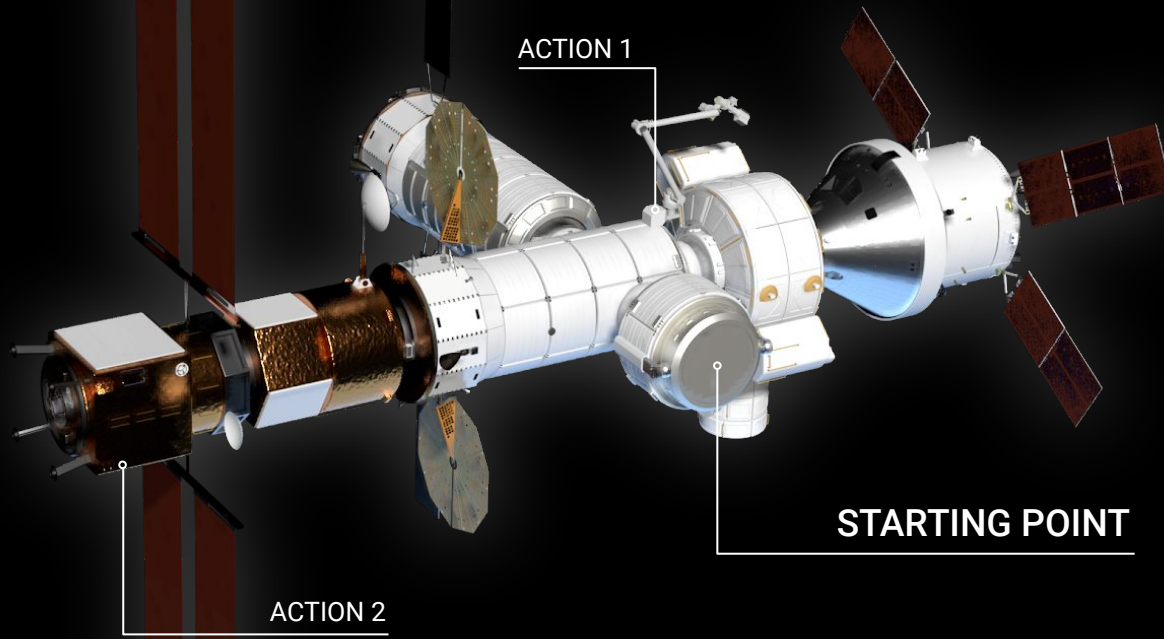
HTC COSMOS

# SIMULATION ENVIRONMENT





# SIMULATION | DESIGN



## SIMULATION OVERVIEW

- 2 AVAILABLE MISSIONS <
- TELEOPERATED | AUGMENTED MODE <
- 6 DIFFERENT TASKS FOR MISSION <
- COMPATIBLE WITH DIFFERENT HEADSET <
- VECTORIAL MOVEMENT (RCS) <



# MODULAR UTILITY VEHICLE

## SOUTH POLAR ROVER

Vittorio Netti

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

**SICS**  
Sasakawa International  
Center for Space Architecture



**RASC-AL**



# MUV Requirements | Design Criteria

## Materials

Temperature range  
of  $-233^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $123^{\circ}\text{C}$

## Navigation

Rover will experience  
obstacles such as rocks,  
craters, water-ice, and  
lunar regolith

## Modularity

The rover needs to be  
designed to support  
future missions

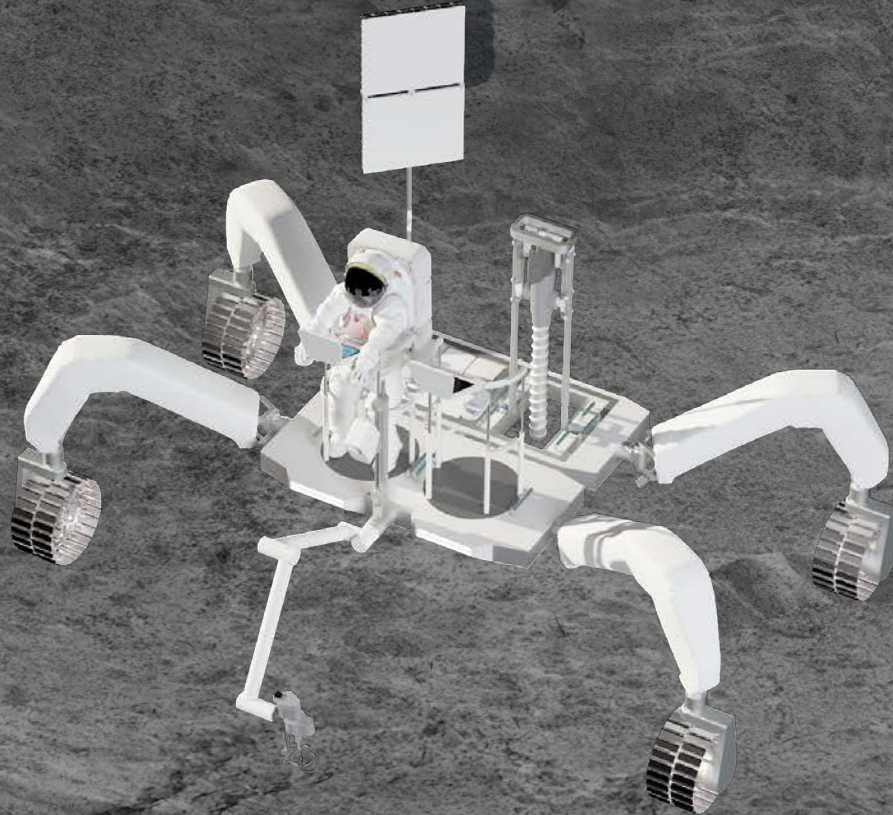
## Dust Protection

Lunar dust will cause  
abrasion of exterior  
surfaces

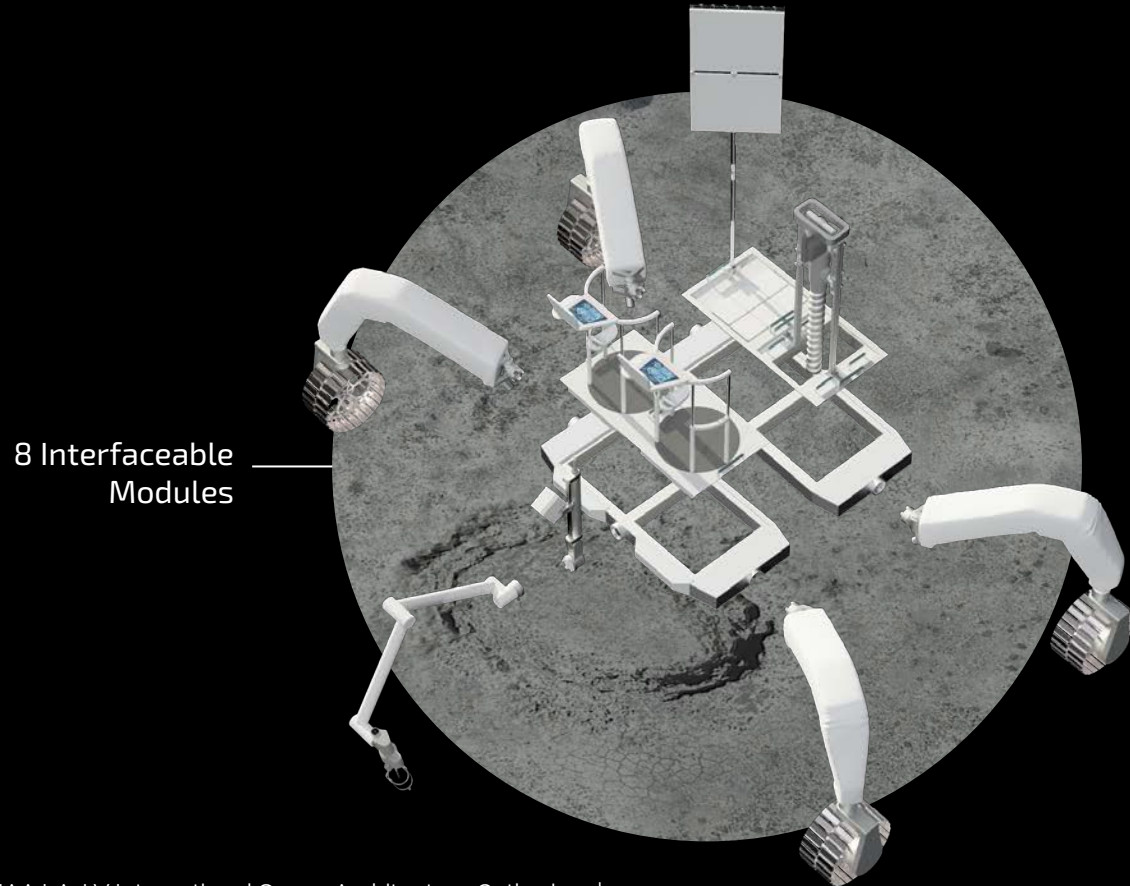




# Design Concept | Modular Utility Vehicle

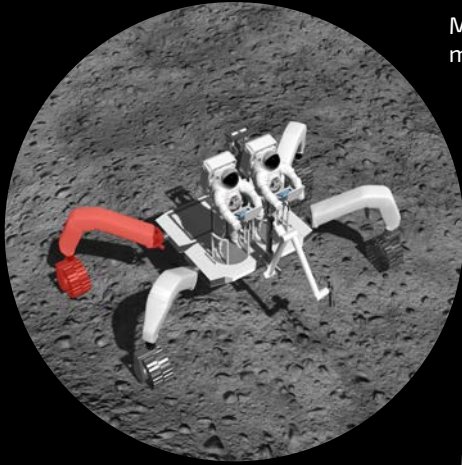


# Design Concept | Modularity

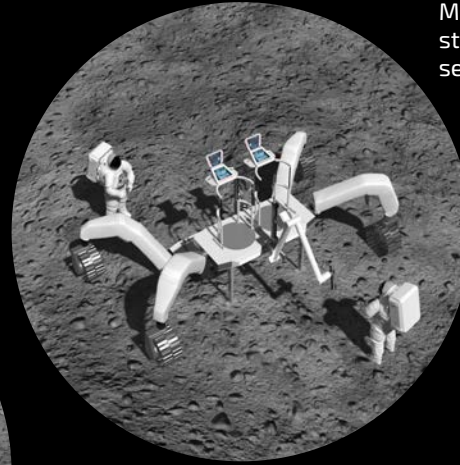




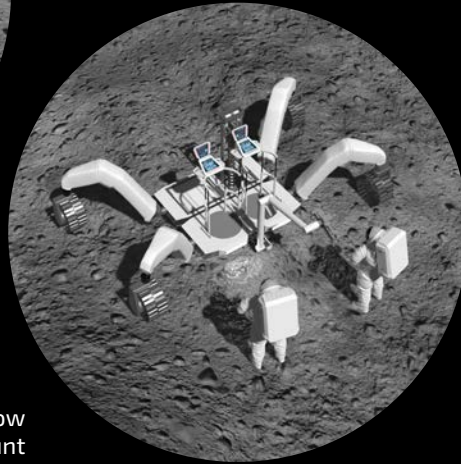
# Design Concept | Field Stripping



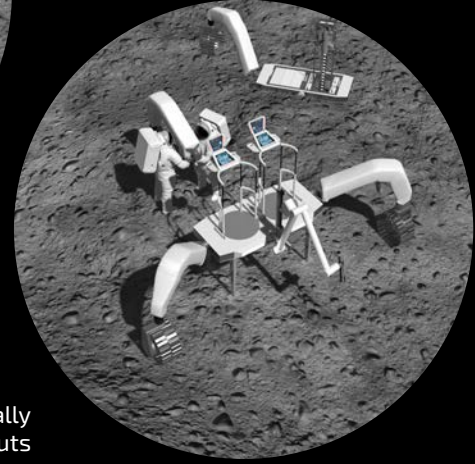
MUV Software recognize a malfunctioning module



MUV is lifted on its deployable stands and the malfunctioning section is abandoned.



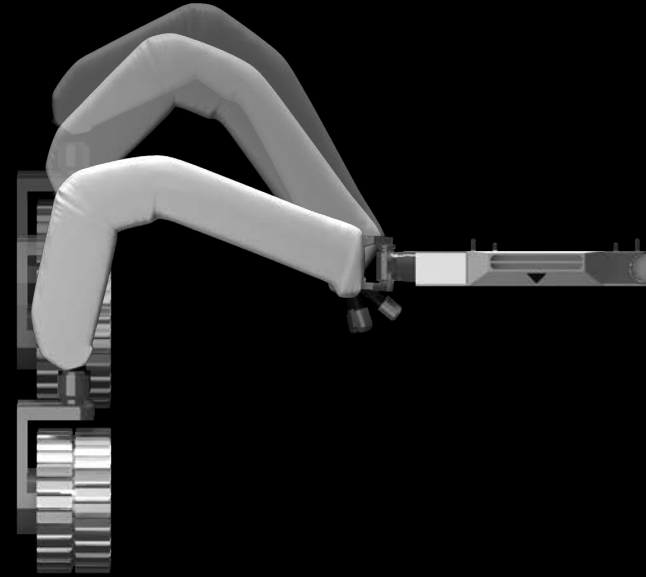
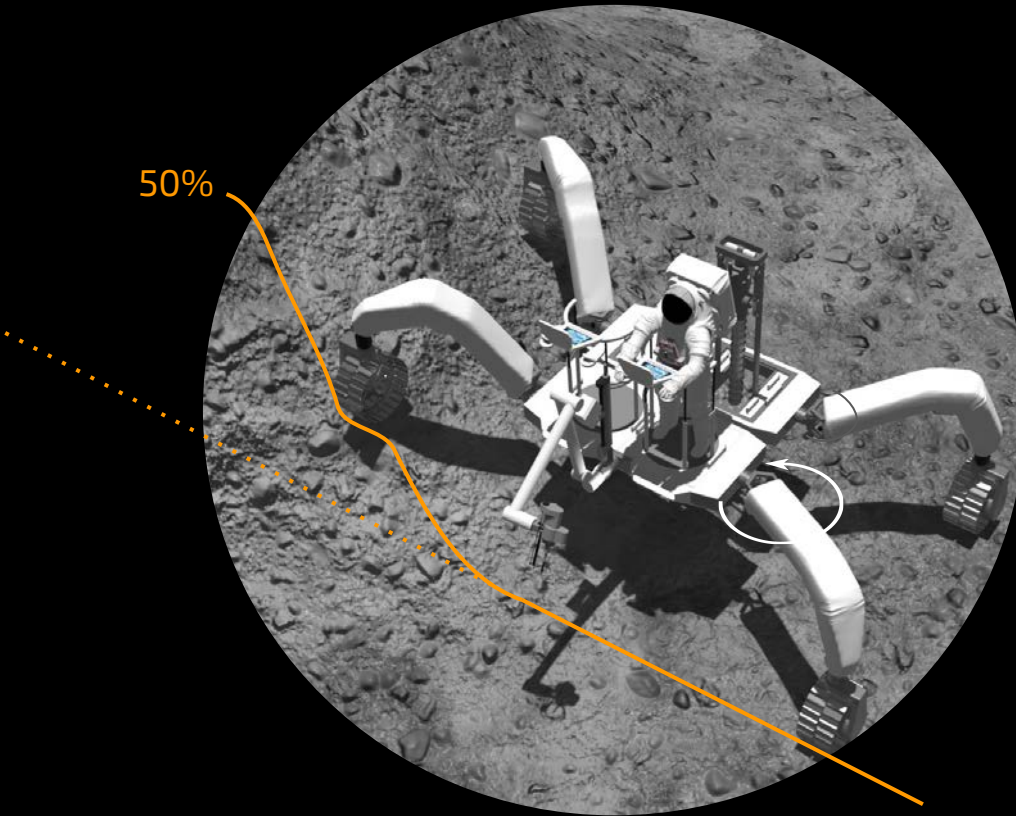
MUV is lowered to allow astronauts to dismount



MUV is reconfigured manually by the astronauts

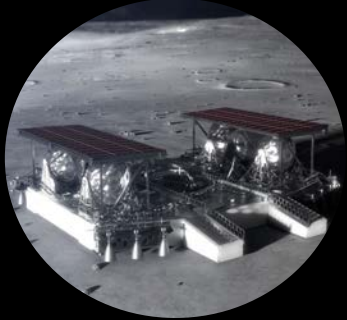


# Design Concept | Attitude Control



45° Max Gradient

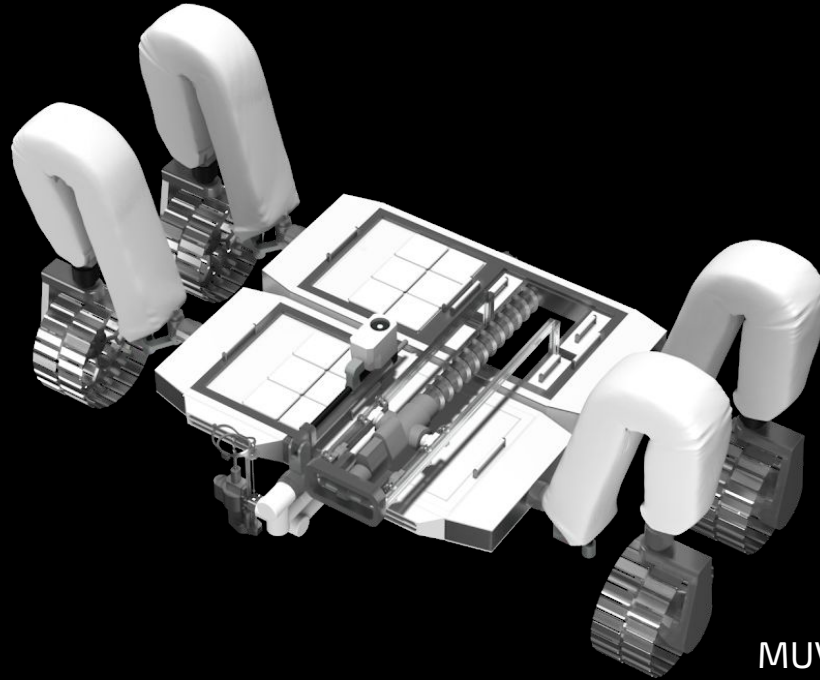
# Operations Concept | Initial Deployment



VIPER Lander



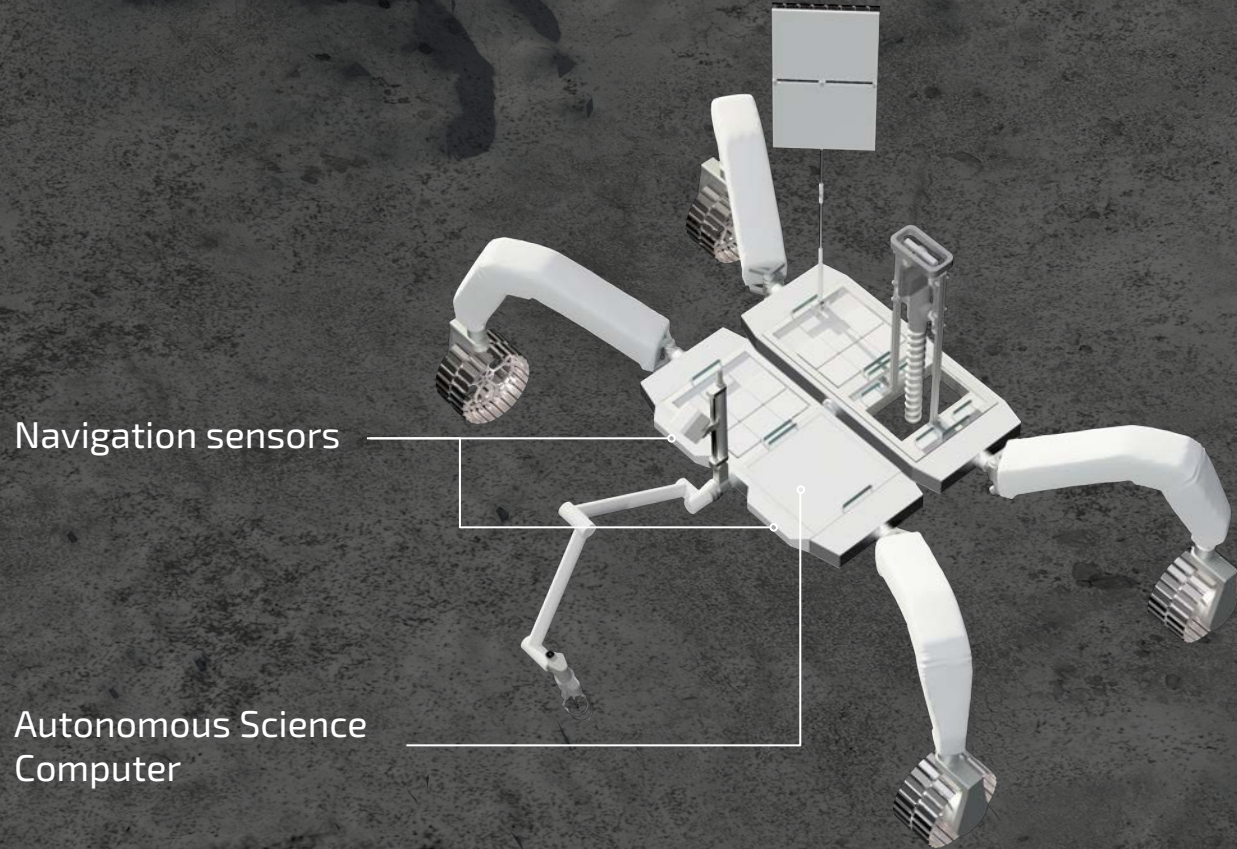
Blue Moon Lander



MUV Rover in  
stowed configuration

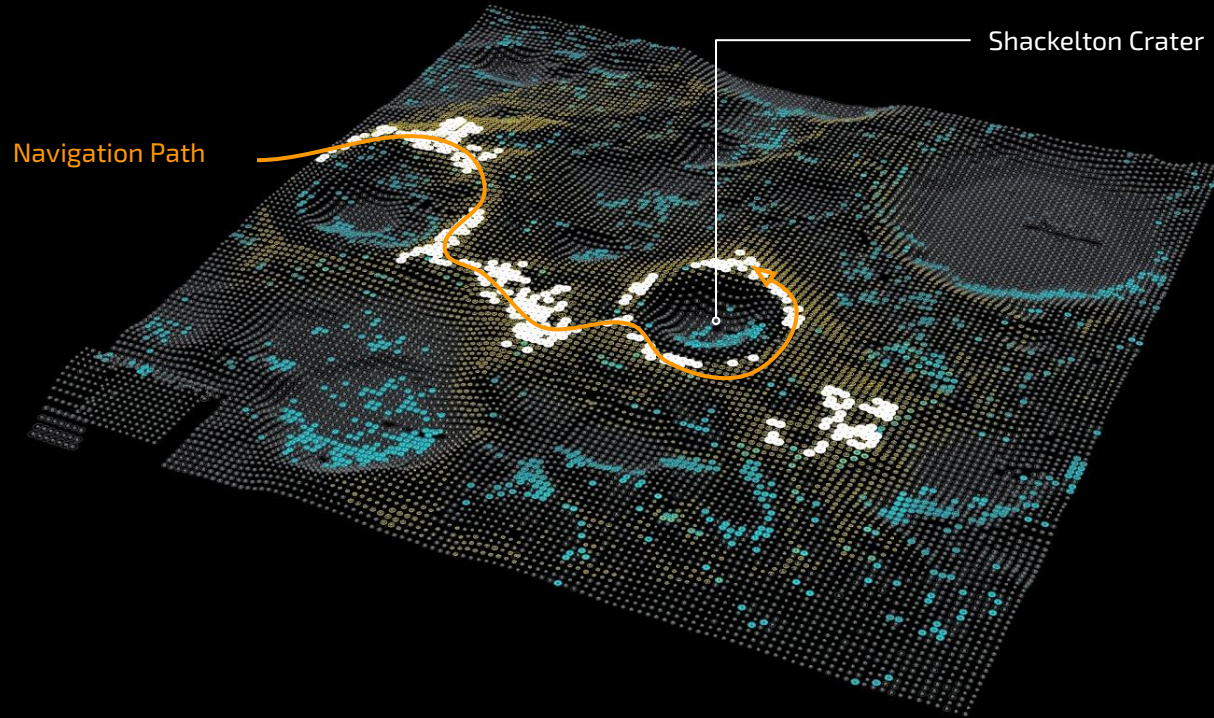


# Operations Concept | Autonomous Operations





# Operations Concept | Autonomous Navigation



LRO Illuminance map of  
the Lunar South Pole

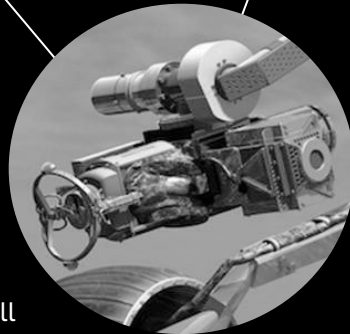




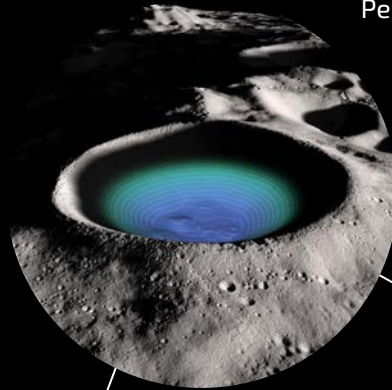
# Operations Concept | Autonomous Science



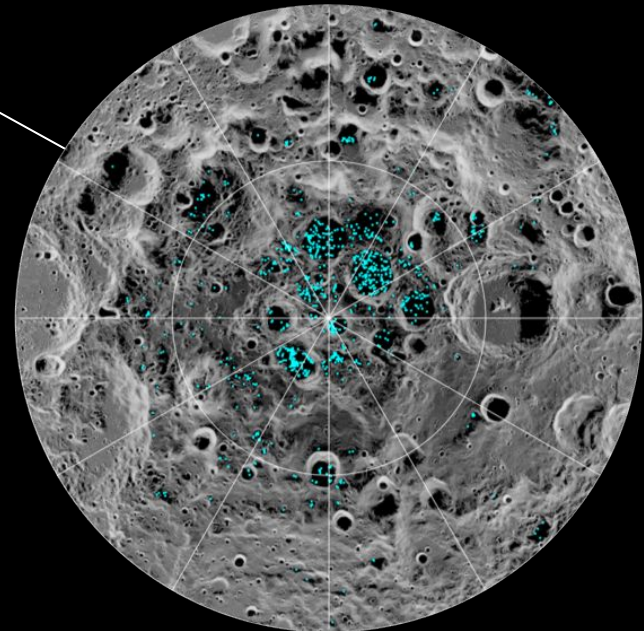
Soil Core Samples  
Collected with  
the ROPEC drill



ROPEC drill



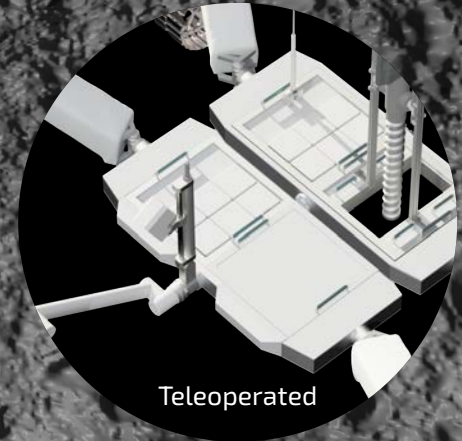
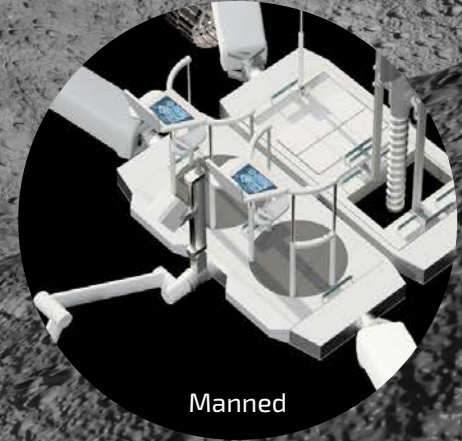
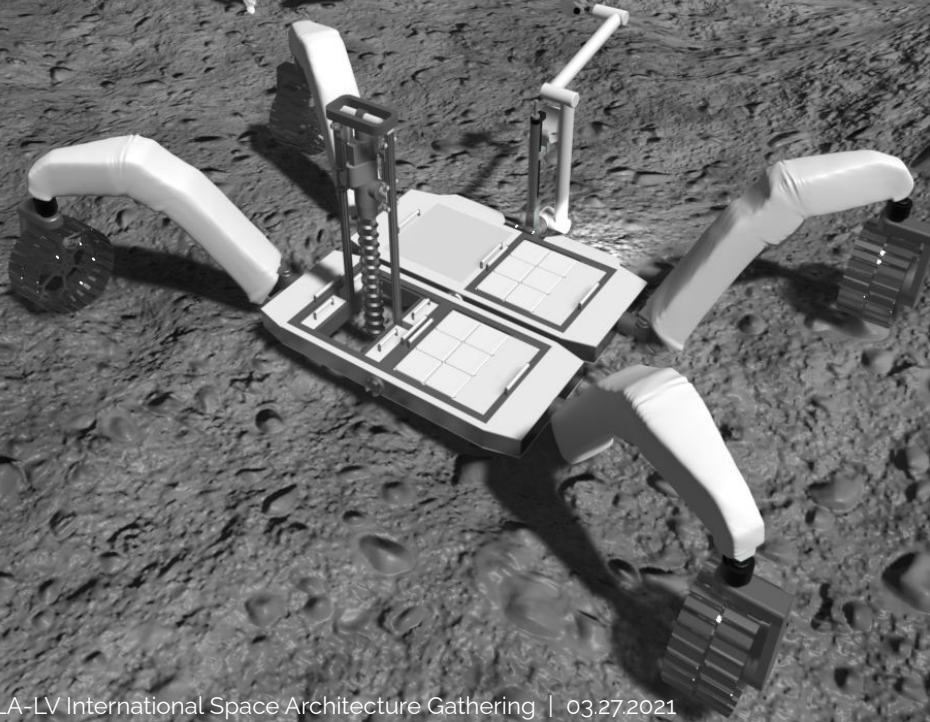
Permanent Shadowed  
Area of the Shackleton  
crater



Water-Ice mapping of the  
Lunar South Pole

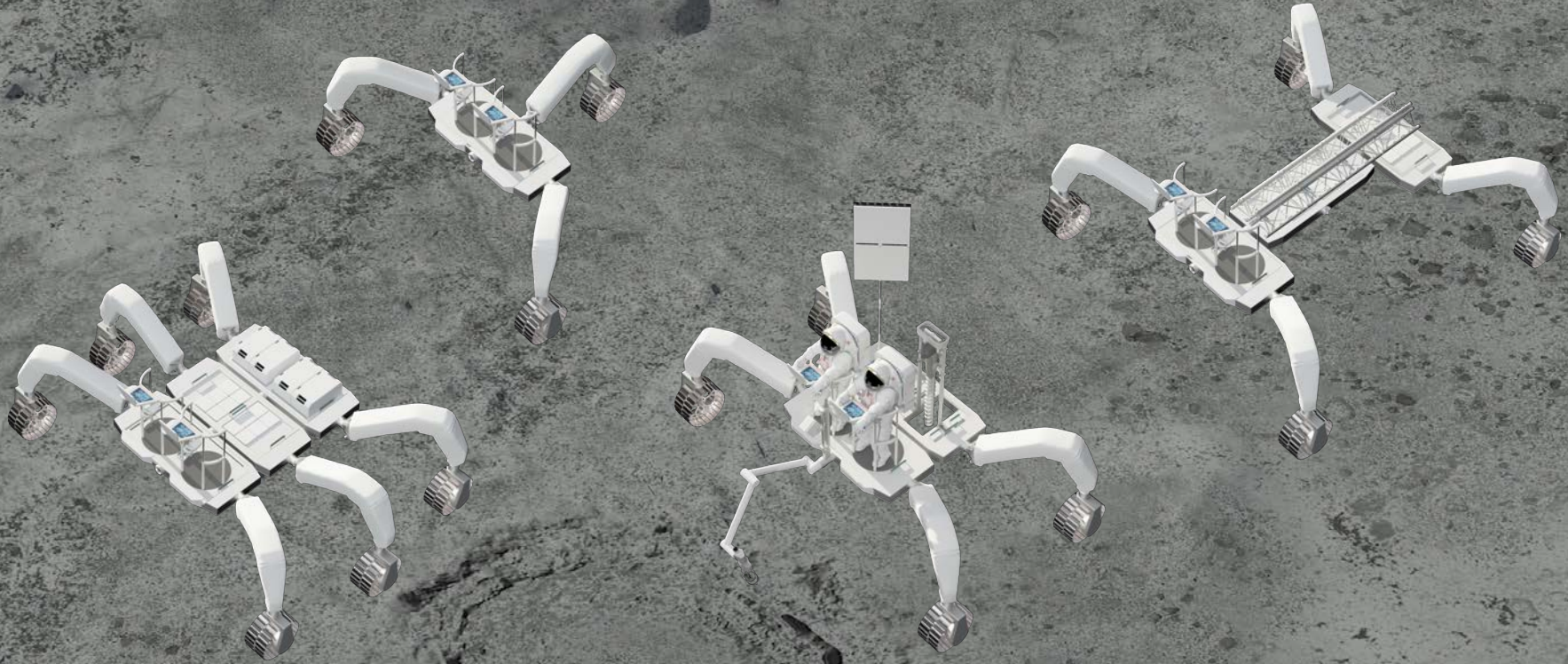
# Operations Concept | Mode Switch

As soon as they land, astronauts will reconfigure MUV as manned transport

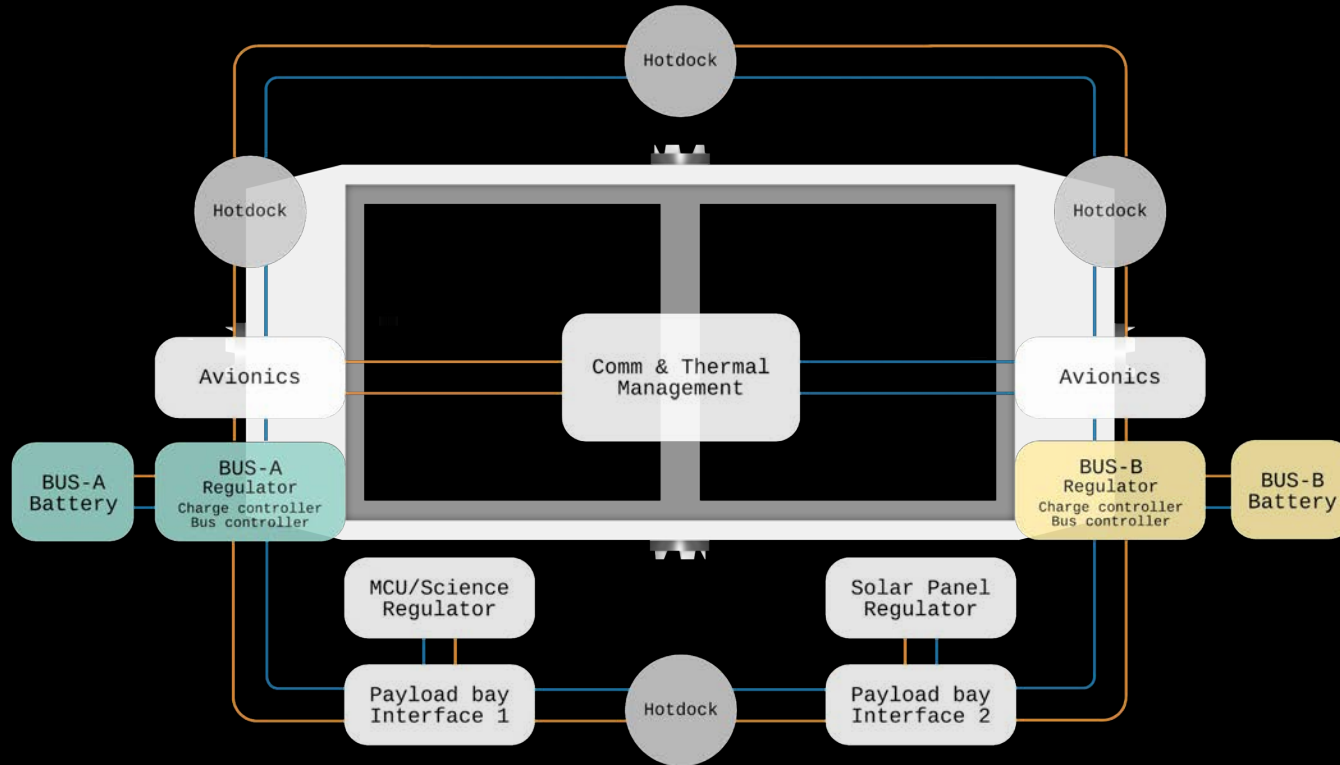




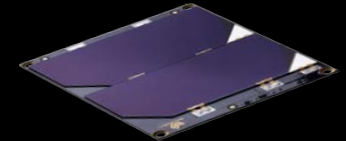
# Extended Operations | Designed for Flexibility



# Vehicle Specifications | Power Management



Li-ion Battery Pack  
(TRL 9)



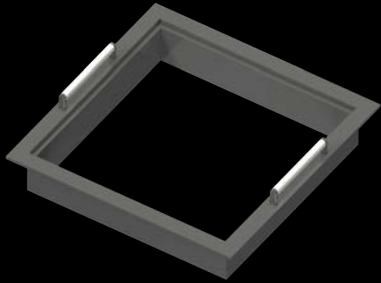
Triple-Junction Solar Cell  
(TRL 9)



# Vehicle Subsystems | Mobility Unit



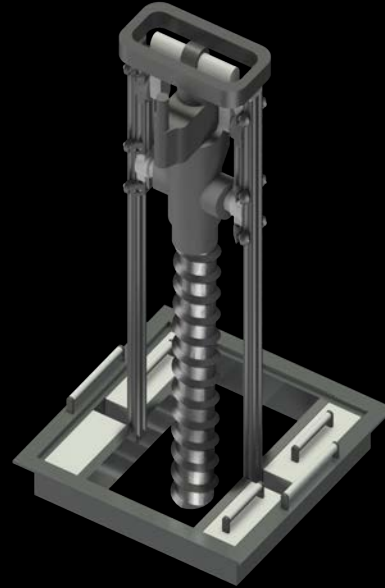
# Vehicle Subsystems | Payload Box



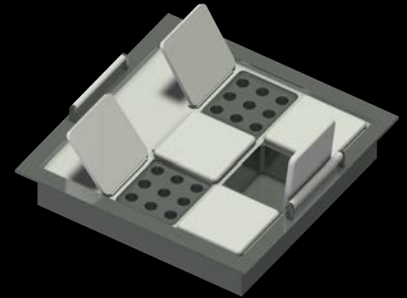
Payload Box (Frame)



Manned Control Unit (MCU)

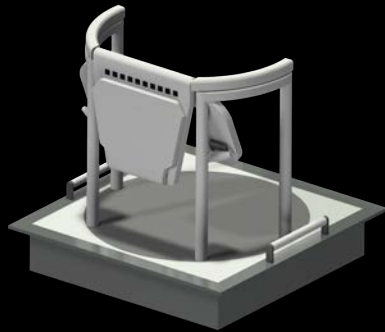


Volatile Extractor + Analyzer



Sample collector + Analyzer

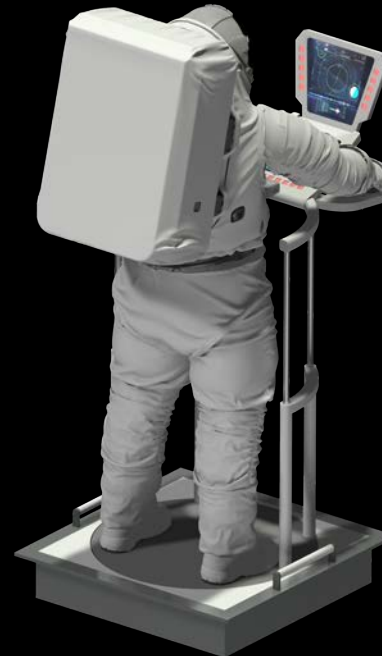
# Vehicle Subsystems | Manned Control Unit



1. MCU is connected to MUV in stowed configuration



2. MCU is deployed and powered on



3. Platform rotate to allow astronaut to step on the MCU from the front of MUV



4. Astronaut connects to the handle and take control of MUV, platform rotate again



# Planetary construction with ISRU on Moon and Mars: form factor and automation of the construction processes.



# ROBOTIC CONSTRUCTION

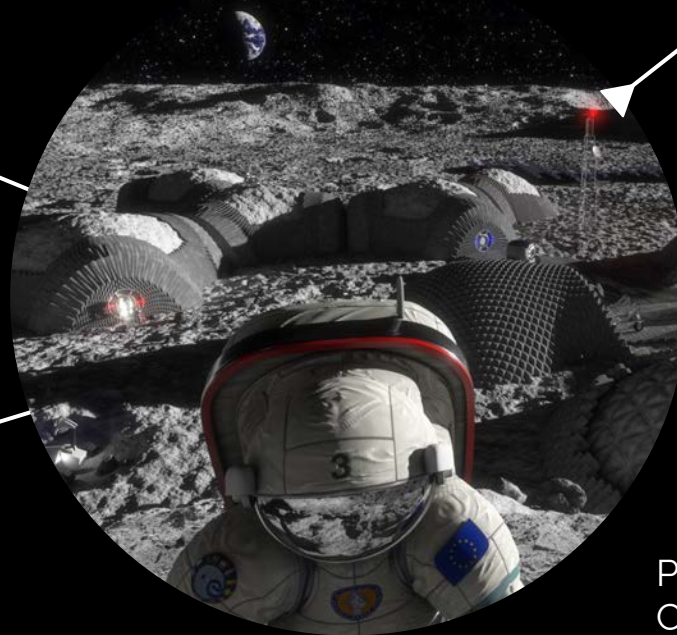
Additive  
Manufacturing



Discrete elements  
(forming)

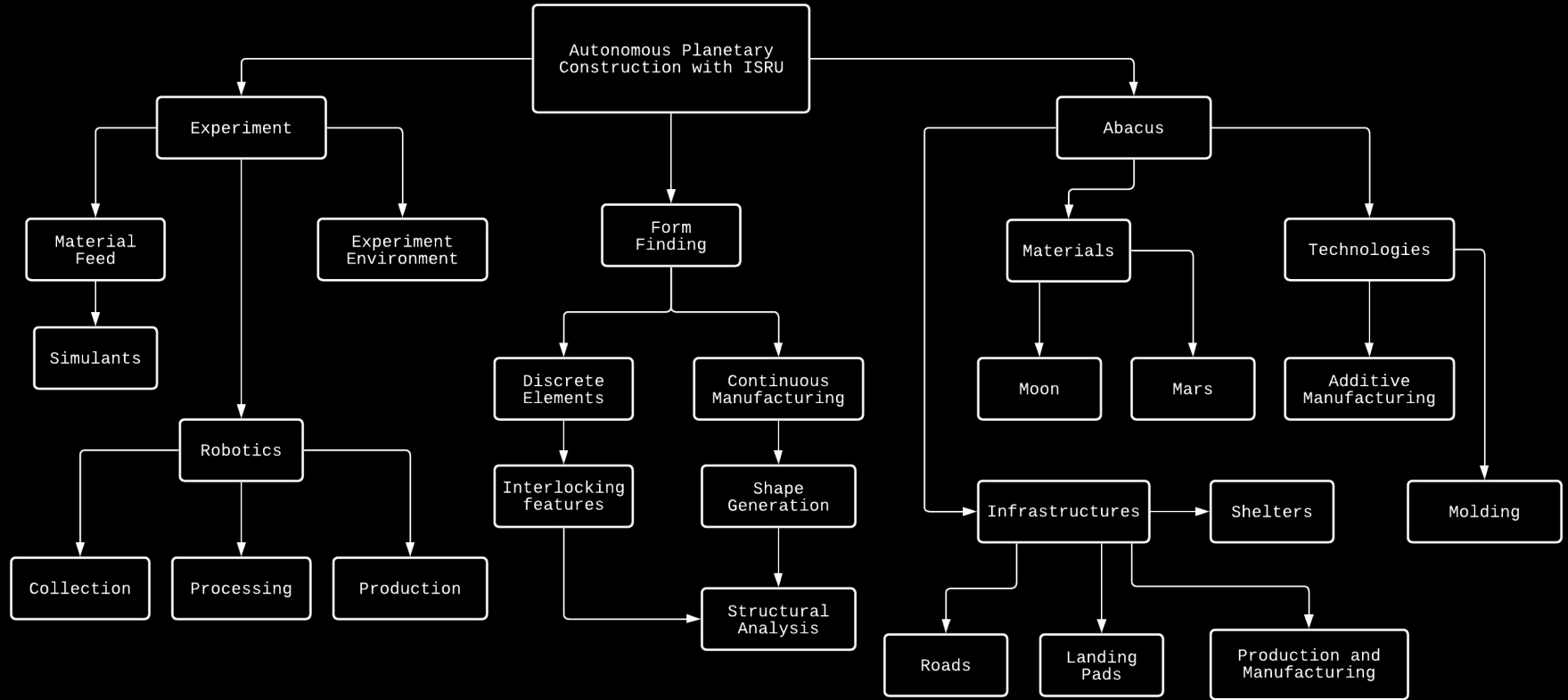


Earth Construction  
Trade-off



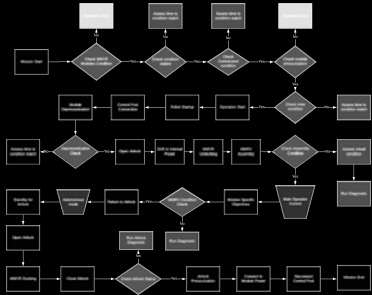
Planetary  
Construction

# METHODOLOGY

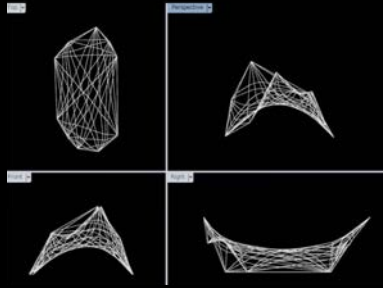




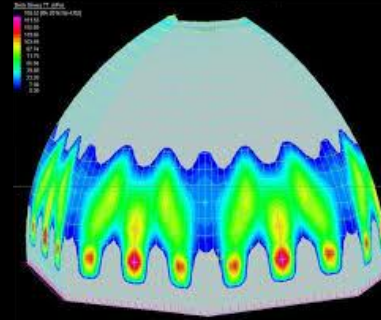
# DEVELOPMENT



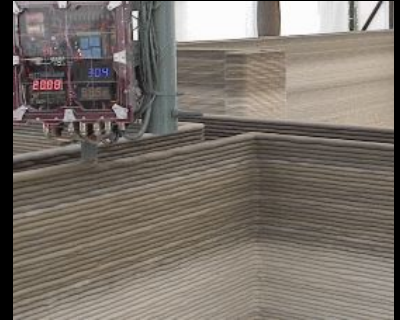
1. Experiment ConOps



2. Form Finding



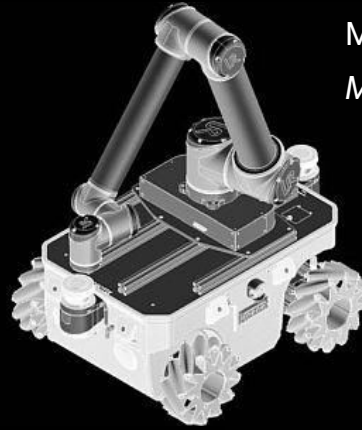
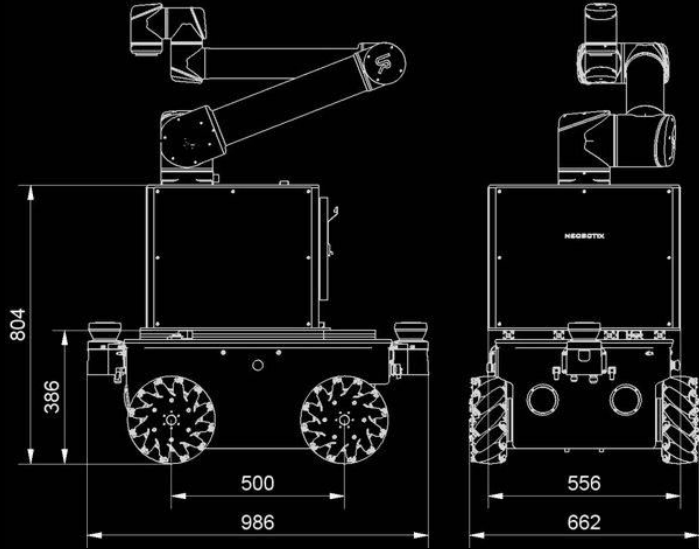
3. Structural Analysis



4. Experiment execution

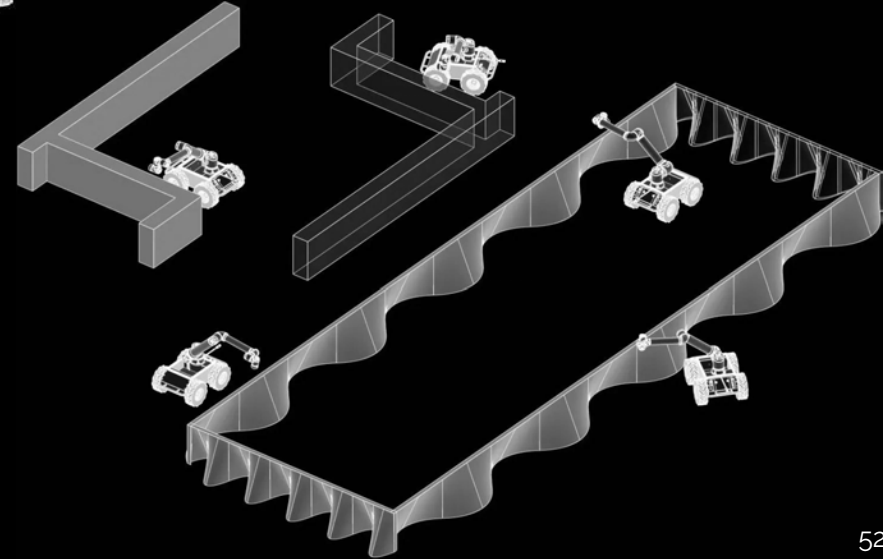
# EXPERIMENT

Testing collaborative mobile regolith printer in a closed-loop environment



MMO-500

*Mobile Manipulator*





THANK YOU

[archv.netti@gmail.com](mailto:archv.netti@gmail.com)

V.NETTI  
Ph.D. Candidate

3rd AIAA LA-LV International Space Architecture Gathering