

# ALM: Our Future on Space and on Earth

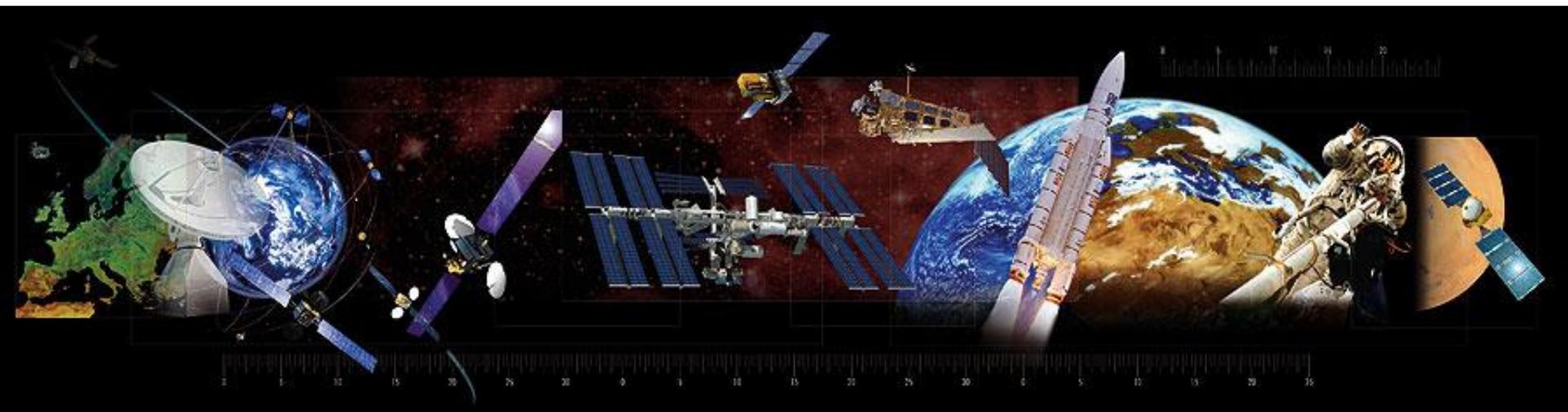
Dr. Tommaso Ghidini  
Head of the Structures, Mechanisms and Materials Division

Nano Innovation 2017, 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 – Rome,  
Italy

# ESA's Activities

ESA is one of the few space agencies in the world to combine responsibility in nearly all areas of space activity

- 1. Space science**
- 2. Human spaceflight**
- 3. Exploration**
- 4. Earth observation**
- 5. Launchers**
- 6. Navigation**
- 7. Telecommunications**
- 8. Technology**
- 9. Operations**



# AM: Enabling Technology for Future Space Missions

A futuristic lunar base is depicted on the surface of the moon. The base consists of several large, grey, dome-shaped structures built into the lunar regolith. One of the domes has a circular hatchway. In the foreground, a small, tracked lunar rover is parked. An astronaut in a white spacesuit is walking across the lunar surface towards the base. The background shows the dark, cratered landscape of the moon and a large, detailed view of the Earth in the upper right corner, showing continents and oceans against the blackness of space.

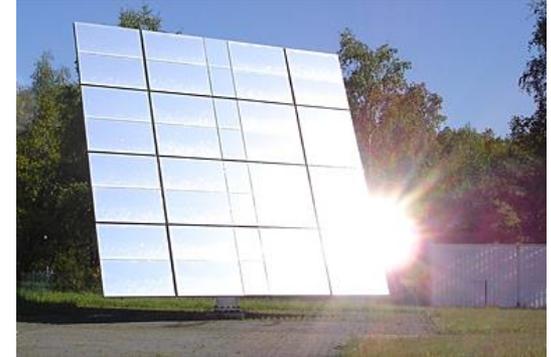
Enabling Industry to maximise benefits of the technology requires:

1. Reach confidence and quality required for space use
2. Change the way we think/work today

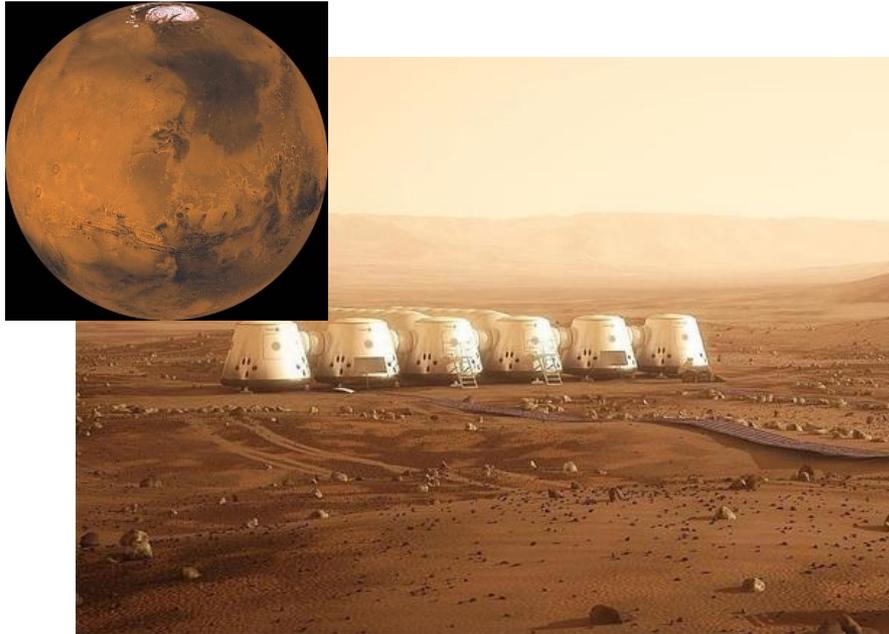
# AM: Enabling Technology for Future Space Missions – ESA/DLR

## Main Objectives/Benefits:

- To develop a 3D-printing process for fusing/melting/sintering model lunar soil material with concentrated solar energy
- To optimize the overall process (setup, parameters) in view of application on the Moon
- To produce one (possibly several) brick-sized model building blocks of lunar base outer shell
- Polymers + Metals Recycling Routes on the Moon

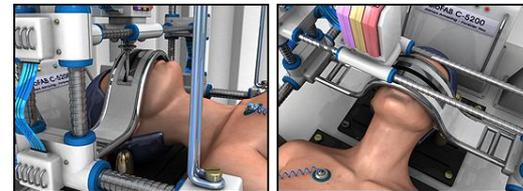


# New Exploration Mission Approach



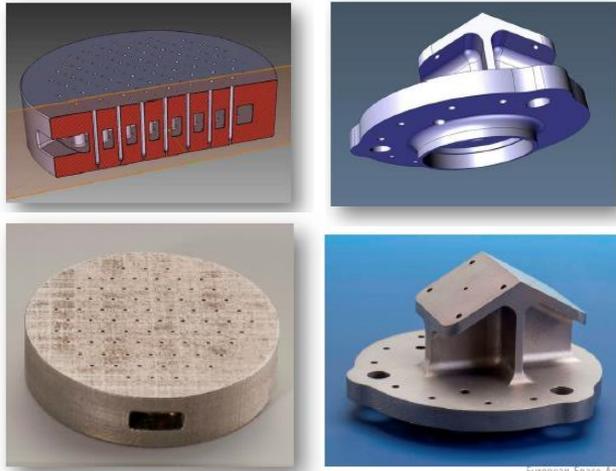
**Printing of Living Cells,  
Organs and blood**

**Printing using in-situ resources  
and power optimization for  
Moon, Mars and beyond**

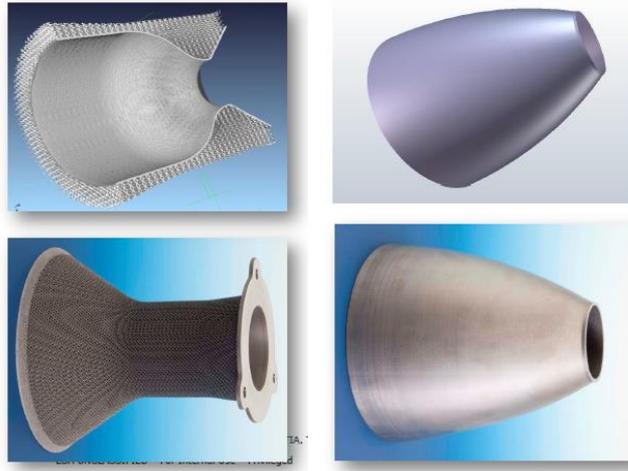




## Injectors



## Chamber/Nozzles

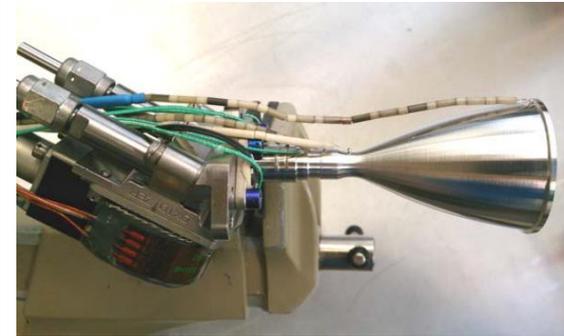


## Monolithic Thrusters



- Functionally graded materials with gradual transition in composition and structure for thruster performances improvement
- Reducing incompatibilities in material properties (e. g. CTE)
- Enhanced monopropellant catalyst design
- Lattice structure for thermal/weight management
- Platinum now economically viable

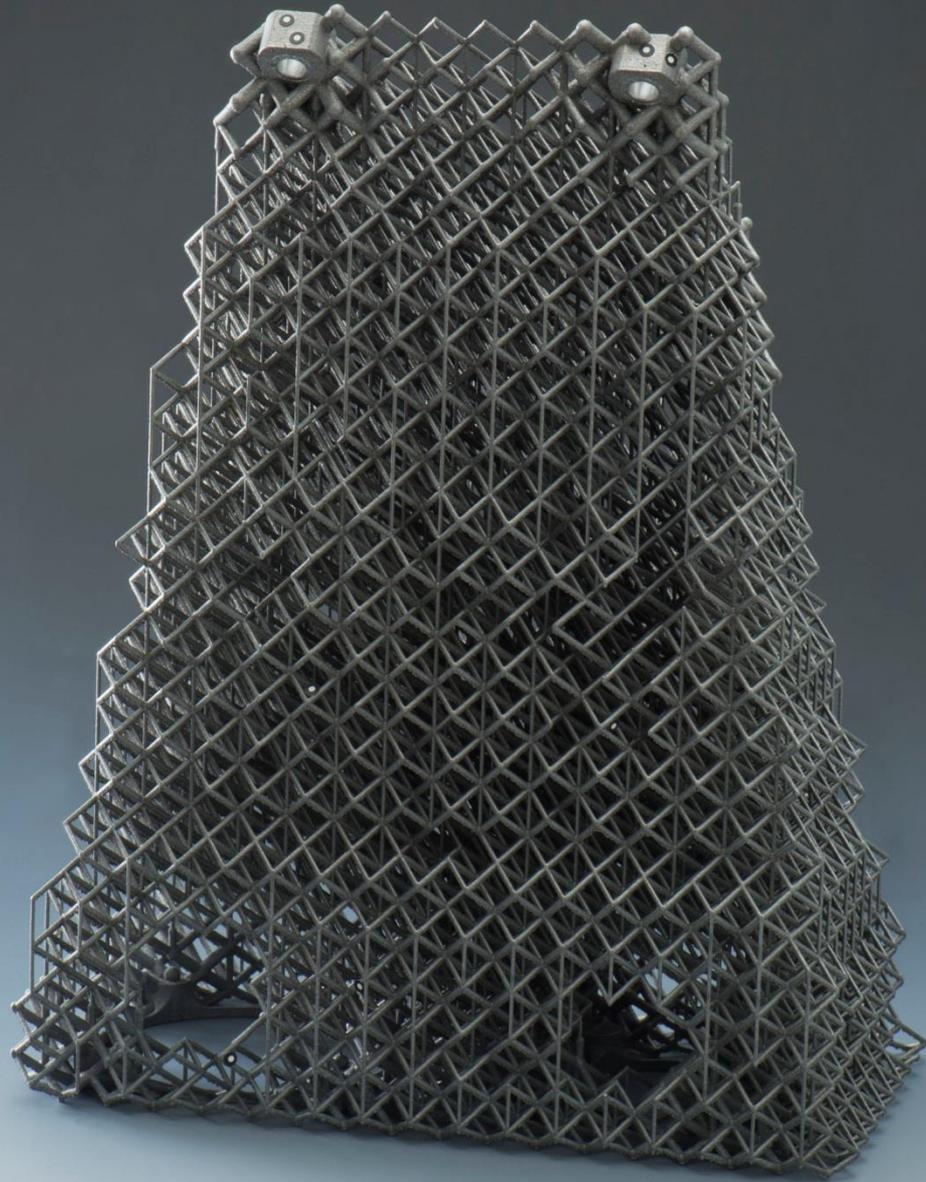
## First in the World



10N AM thruster maiden firing at nominal operation point

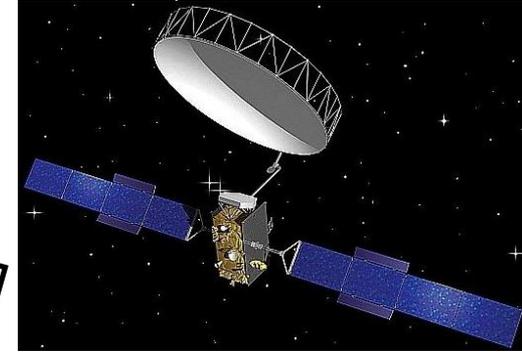






# European Harmonisation Roadmap on Additive Manufacturing for Space

- Roadmap proposes about 30 types of parts (AIM A)
- Roadmap proposes technology developments (Aims B to F)
- **Roadmap endorsed by the IPC**



Aim A

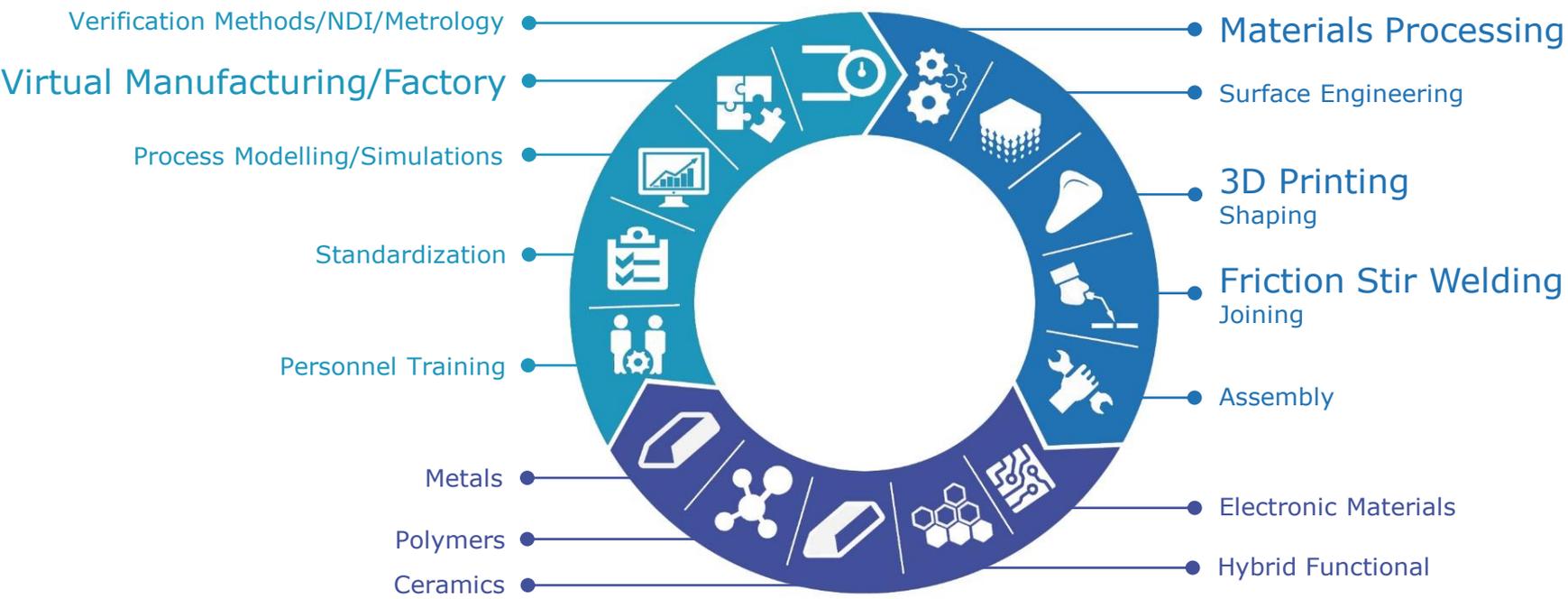
- Aim B: Design
- Aim C: Material supply
- Aim D: Processing
- Aim E: Post processing
- Aim F: Qualification
- Aim G: Standardisation

**End-to-end AM process**

Terrestrial AM

- More than **700 experts** /stake holders involved
- **26 countries** represented
- **390 companies** represented
- **62 new members** joined the roadmap space community
- Available for everyone in Europe

Slide 10



# TEC-MSP 2016/7 R&D Programme

## GSTP Advanced Manufacturing Compendium

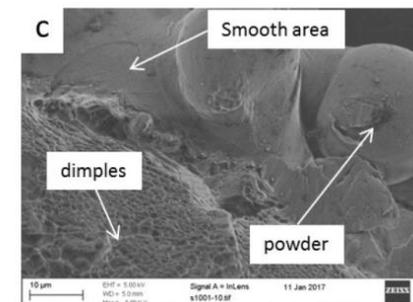
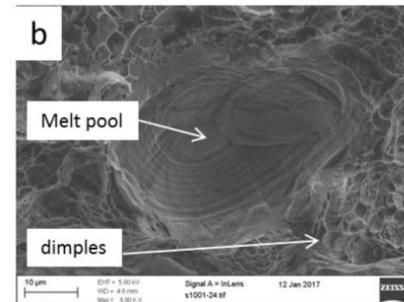
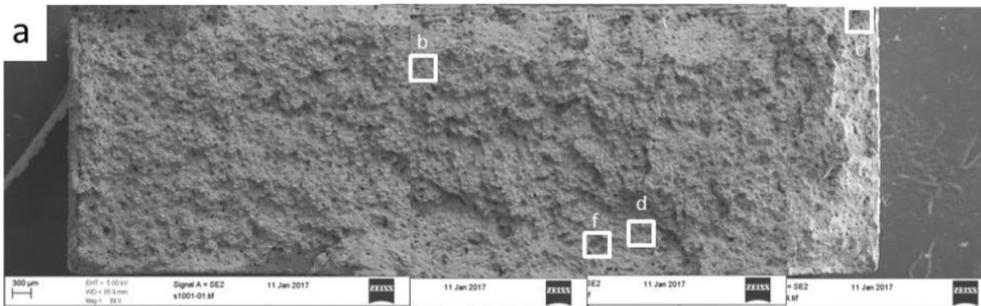


ID#	Activity	Budget (k€)	Committed Support
G61A-005MS	Integrated Optical Fibres in Launcher and Spacecraft Composite Structures	500	500 (PL)
G61A-006MS	Powder Metallurgy Based Materials for High Wear Resistance, High Hardness and High Temperature	600	600 (BE), 600 (DE), 600(UK)
G61A-009MS	3D Honeycomb for curved structure manufacturing	600	600 (LU)
G61A-011MS	Advanced Forming Technologies for Complex Shapes	3000	1500 (BE), 1150 (DE), 750 (UK), 180 (PT)
G61A-018MS	Additive Manufacturing Powder Material Supply Chain: Verification and Validation	1000	400 (IE), 750 (UK), 700 (SE), 1000 (BE), 1000 (DE)
G61A-021MS	Primary Structures made by Additive Manufacturing	1200	1000 (LU), 1200 (BE), 600 (UK)
G61A-025MS	Development of Design Methods for AM including CAD Design / FEM analysis / Manufacturing features	900	900 (BE), 900 (DE)
G61A-033MS	Development of a Compliant Mechanism Based on Additive Manufacturing	500	500 (UK), 500 (BE), 500 (DE), 450 (LU), 500 (CH)
G61A-019MS	Advanced aluminum alloys tailored for Additive Manufacturing space applications, targeting high end structural spacecraft parts	900	800 (LU)
G61A-026MP	Additive Manufacture of In-space Engine chambers	2000	1450 (LU)
G61A-036MS	Assessing the use of Advanced Manufacturing to improve and expand space hardware capabilities	5000	2000 (DE), 1000 (BE), 500 (AT)
G61A-032MM	Development of low aerial density Aluminum alloys mirrors using Additive Manufacturing	400	400 (BE)
G61A-017QT	High Density PCB Assemblies	1800	1800 (BE)
G61A-019QT	Advanced Aluminum alloys tailored for Additive Manufacturing space applications, targeting high end structural parts	900	900 (BE), 800 (LU)
G61A-027MS	Development of embedded thermal functions in structural parts using 3D printing	900	900 (BE), 900 (D)
			<b>28230 k€</b>



# ESA-RAL Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory - TRP

- ESA Harwell Advanced Manufacturing **Test Services**
- Complementing the existing TEC-MS network of external facility
- **Pre-screening** of advanced materials and manufacturing processes towards space flight qualification
- **ALM capabilities** available



# ESA Additive Manufacturing (AM) Benchmarking Center - UK



- **Additive Manufacturing** of hardware for space applications
- **Small, medium and large parts**
- Services to be **offered to ESA Projects/ESA Directorates** allowing access to state-of-the-art 3D Printing capabilities (metallic/non-metallic)
- Services to **offered to industry to mature their AM products** and process understanding
- Characterization of AM powders and produced materials
- Post processing of AM parts
- Failure investigation/re-manufacture of parts
- Comparison of AM machines
- Publication of a **European Newsletter** with all results generated by the Centre
- **Consolidate European leadership on AM**

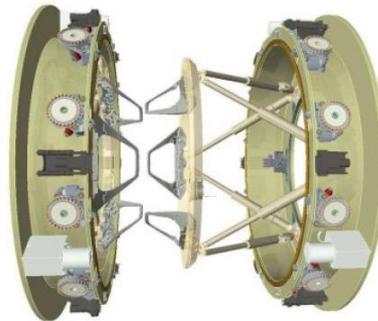
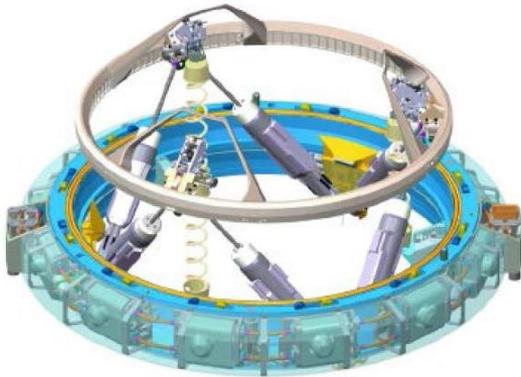


# ESA Additive Manufacturing (AM) Benchmarking Center – Coventry UK - TRP

## IBDM Ring

Objectives: Improve the IBDM ring in terms of:

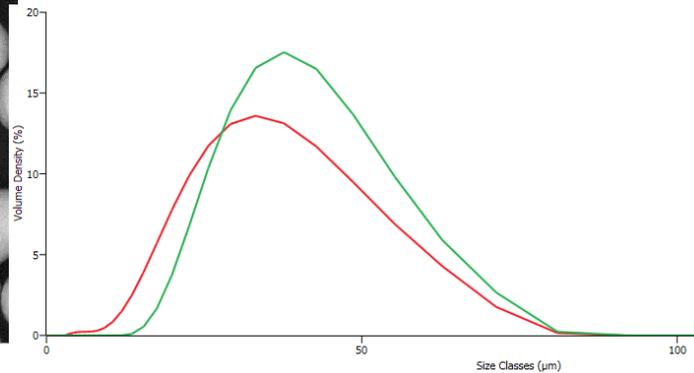
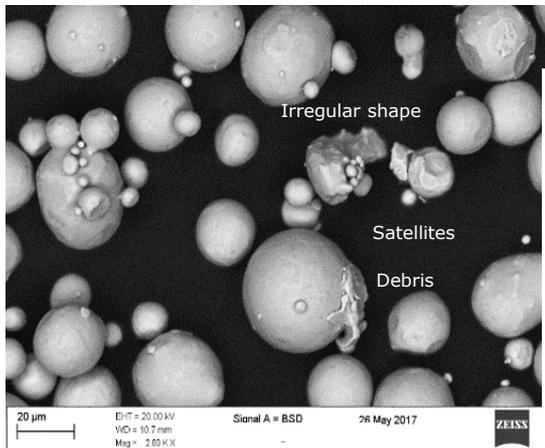
- **mass,**
- **cost** and
- **environmental** impact (LCA).



# Compilation of powder supplier capability database

- Ongoing work program to characterize ALM powder properties
- Benchmarking of methodology ongoing between different European laboratories
- Draft a first attempt standard for powder procurement defining properties for a “space grade powder”

	Appearance	Flow properties	PSD Laser	Morphology	Chemistry Contamination	Porosity
<b>Supplier A</b>	Grey, no agglomerates	Good flowability	D10 = 23.9 D50 = 37.0 D90 = 56.2	59 % spheroidal 38 % spherical 2.8 % angular  Smooth surface	Within spec.	Some pores
<b>Supplier B</b>	Grey, strong agglomeration	Bad flowability*	D10 = 16.9 D50 = 31.4 D90 = 52.7	66 % spheroidal 31 % spherical 2.4 % angular  Some surface dents	Within spec.	Some pores and internal defects



Malvern MS 3000 particle analyser

# Additively Manufactured copper materials for launcher engines

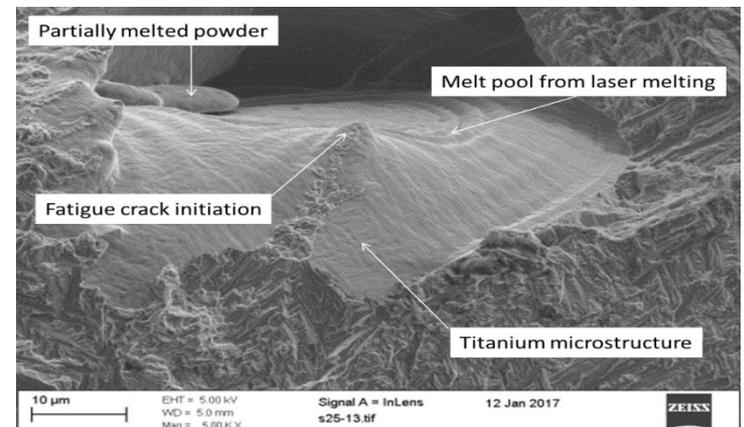
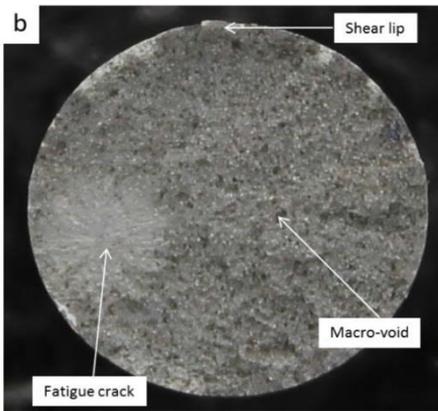
## Objectives:

- Costs + Lead Time Reduction + Performances
- Investigate material properties of copper alloys suitable for launcher liquid propulsion and Additive Manufacturing
- Produce and assess crucial features of a VEGA TCA liner: cooling channels, overhangs etc.
- Investigate manufacturability of the TCA: distortion, dimensional accuracy etc.



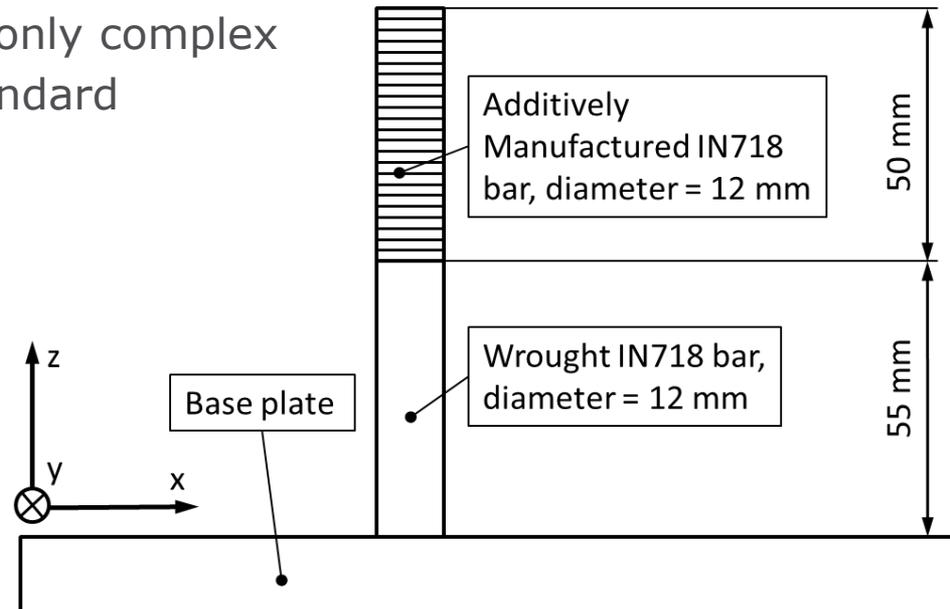
# Compilation of fractography Atlas for ALM manufactured materials

- Testing of different materials for fracture strength and “fractography signatures” is ongoing for a range of additively manufactured materials and build conditions
- Materials investigated to-date include Ti-6Al-4V, 316L stainless steel and AlSiMg
- The information and image data is being collated into a fractography reference document (“Atlas”) to be used as an ESA materials database



## Objectives:

- Investigate intersection from wrought IN718 to Additively Manufactured IN718
- Will be assessed through mechanical and microsectional investigation
- Targeted applications of AM hybrid components:  
Liquid propulsion elements
- Expected benefits: cost reduction, as only complex parts would be produced with AM, standard geometries through machining



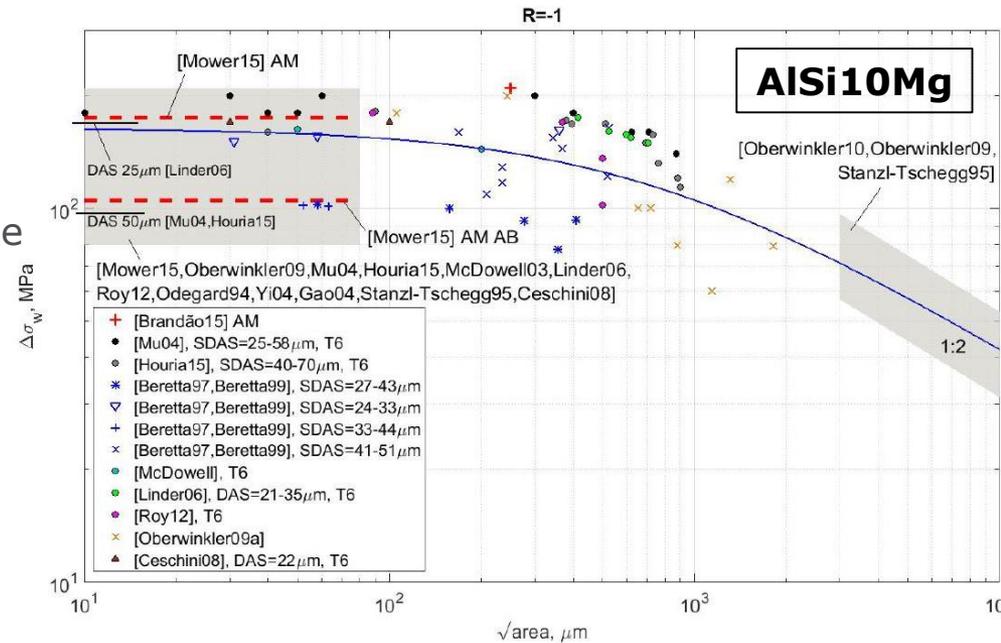
## Probabilistic fatigue life assessment

Collaboration with **Politecnico Milano** (Prof. Beretta) and **RUAG** Switzerland (Mr. Gschweidl), PhD Student: **Simone Romano**



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

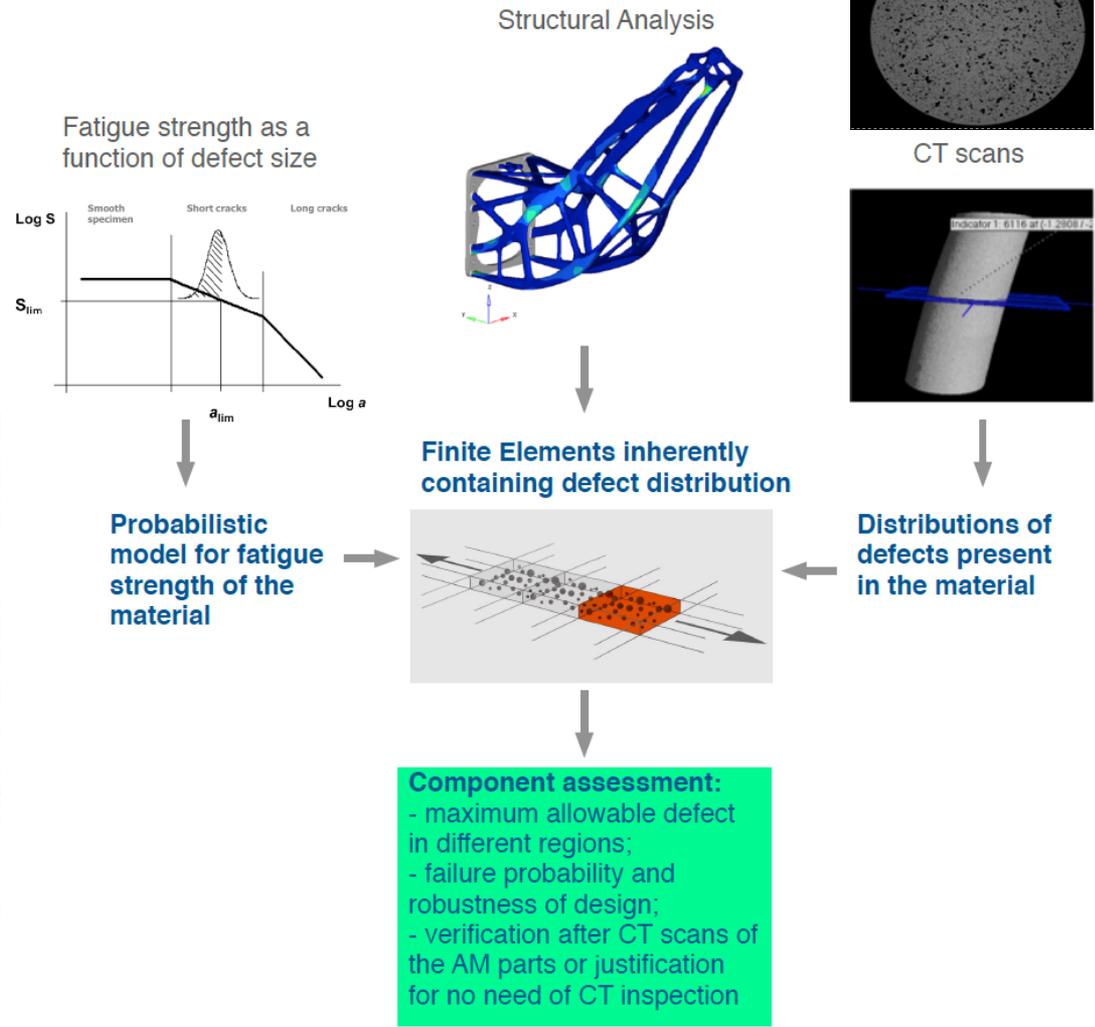
- **Defects inherently** present in AM components
- Which defects will lead to **failure**? => max. defects
- **Estimation** of maximum **defect** in a volume => CT scanning of sub volumes and peaks over threshold maxima sampling
- => allows to **estimate** the **fatigue resistance**
- **Reduction** of CT scan **resolution** on full scale bracket, just enough to detect (largest) “killer defects”



# End-to-end Additive Manufacturing

## Computational framework:

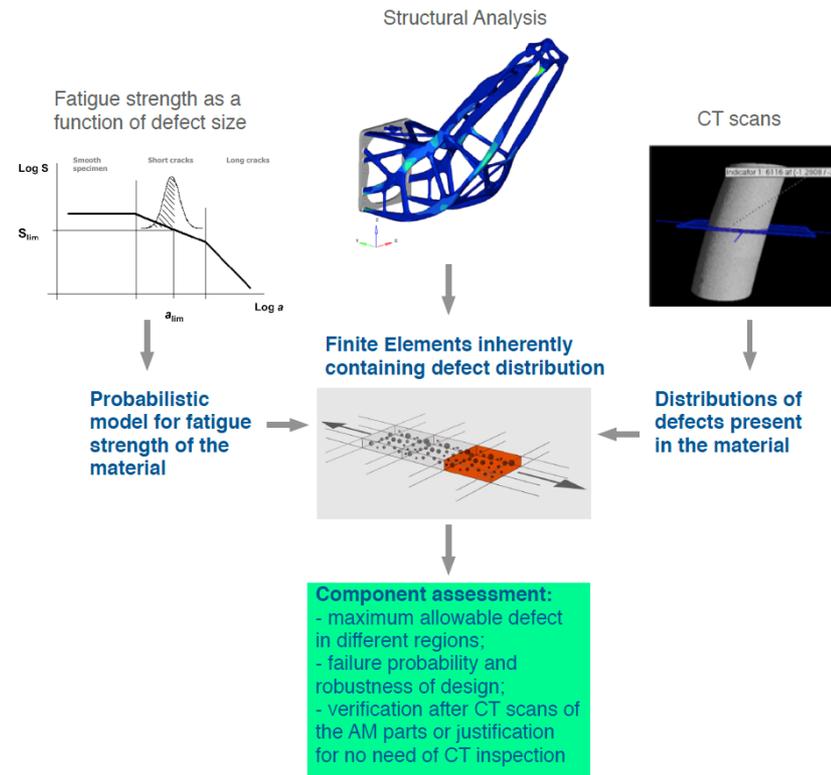
- Failure probability of every element and of the whole component
- Implementation in a commercial FE software (Abaqus subroutine)
- Implementation in the ESACRACK software Tool for all ESA Space Missions



# Probabilistic fatigue life assessment of AM parts as part of ESACRACK

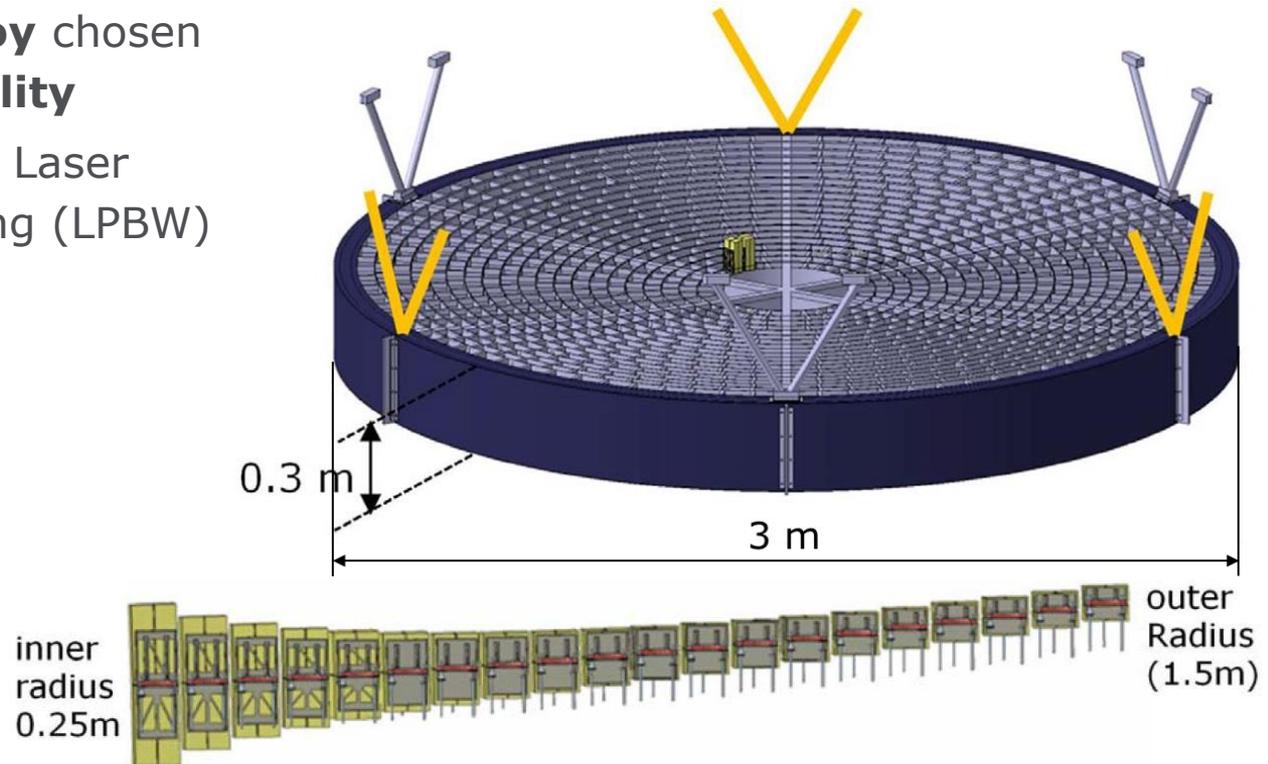
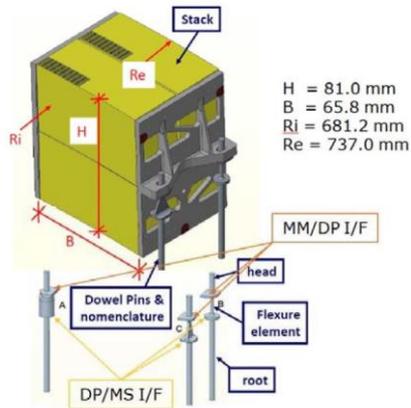
## Objectives:

- Definition of sub-tasks required for probabilistic fatigue life assessment of AM components
- Implementation of probabilistic fatigue life assessment sub-routine into ESA-crack
- Study case: Assessment of the failure probability of the RUAG sentinel bracket



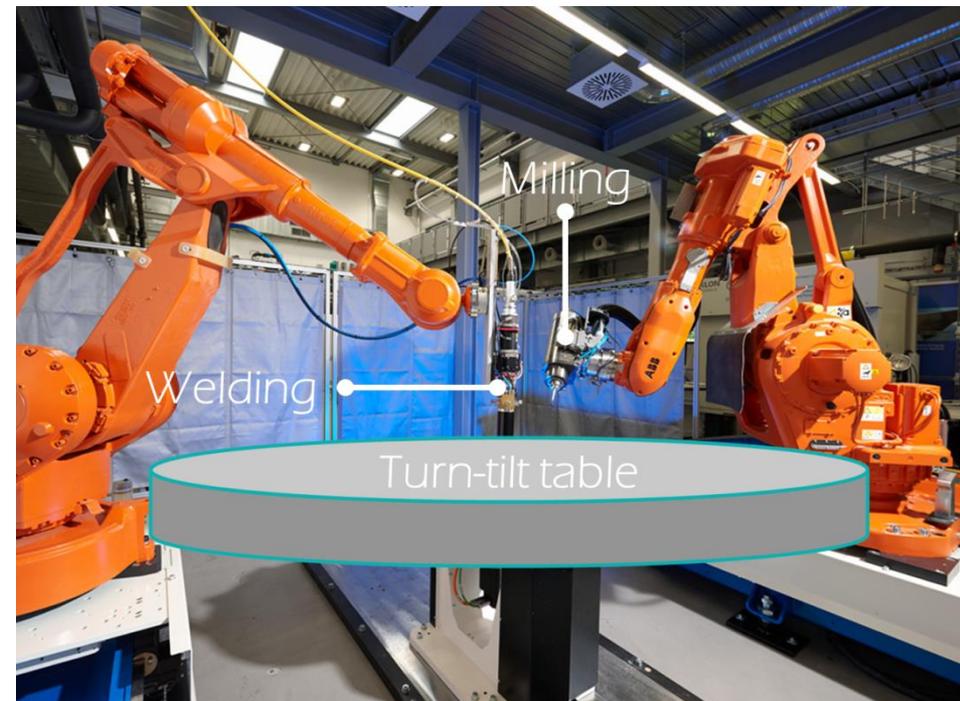
# ATHENA optical bench with Additive Manufacturing

- For TRP project: **Ti alloy** chosen due to **manufacturability**
- Produced through laser Laser Powder Build-up Welding (LPBW) at Fraunhofer IWS



# ATHENA optical bench with Additive Manufacturing

- **16 axis twin robot** system
- Turn-tilt table
- 1 robot performs **Additive Manufacturing** task
- 1 robot performs **milling** task



Individual Excel Importer Files for each Test:

- **Tensile Test (under construction)**
- Fatigue Test
- Fatigue Crack Growth
- Fracture Toughness

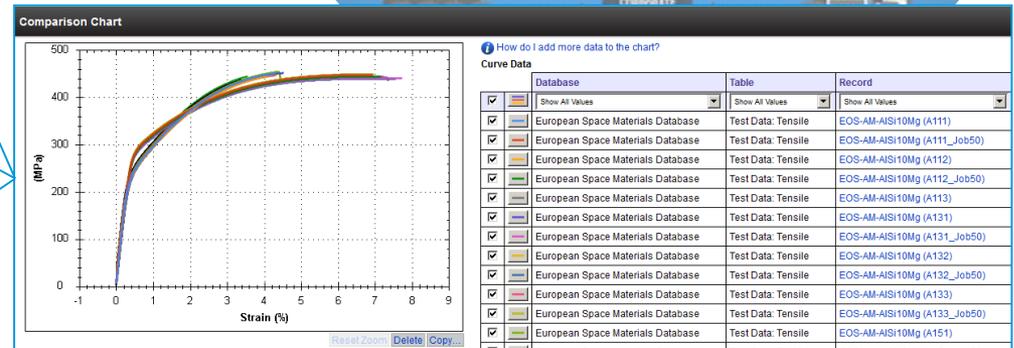
Include Media:

- Pictures
- PDF files
- Hyperlinks

Automated Linking between The Database Tables



## Report Example:



# Status of the AM ECSS Proposal

1. **AIM G of the Roadmap:** Develop the required normative framework for AM made hardware (ECSS)
2. **Motivation:**
  - An ECSS standard is required which shall establish the processing and quality assurance requirements for space parts produced by Additive Manufacturing
  - Profiting of existing international standards (e.g. ISO, ASTM) for AM
3. **Status:**
  - In agreement with the ECSS TA a WG has been established
  - WG activity completed
  - **ECSS WG recommended to be started in Q4 2017**



ASTM F42



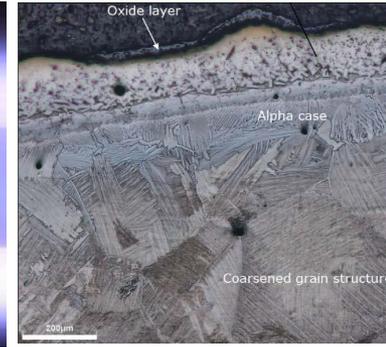
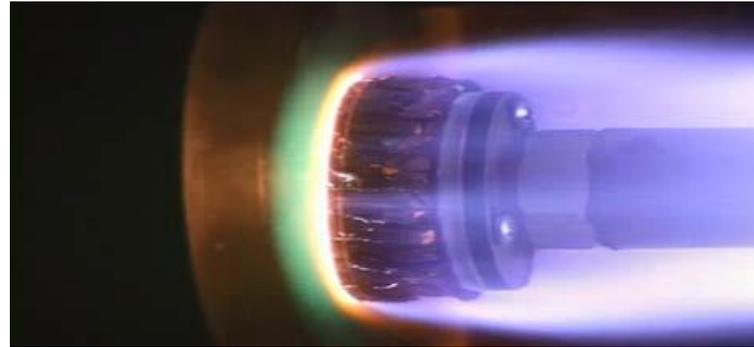
ISO/TC 261

# The Problem – Space Debris

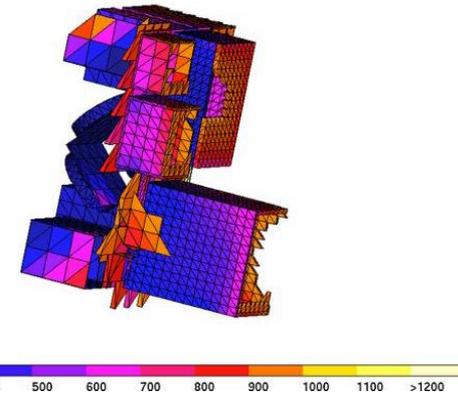
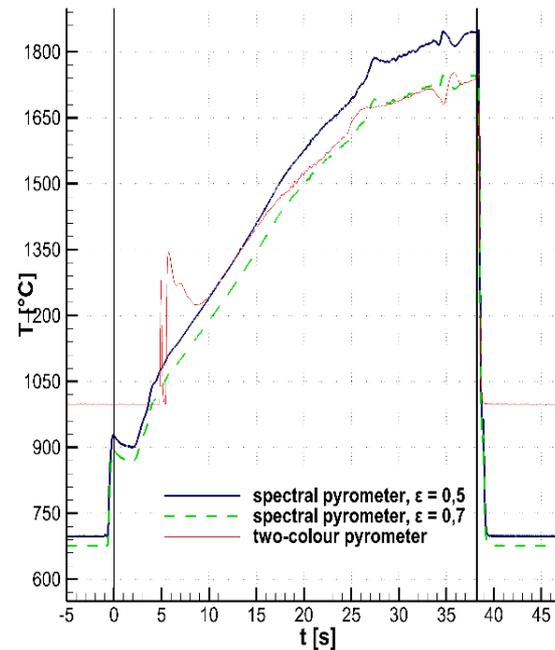
- LEO spacecraft and Launcher upper stages
- Orbital Decay at end of operating Life
- Uncontrolled re-entry in Earth Atmosphere
- Space Debris impacting ground
- Casualty Risk to be controlled



# "Conscious" Fracture Mechanics of the System



- Multidisciplinary Approach
- Demisability: a new materials property
- Direct inputs for the re-entry simulation software
- Specific Heat Capacity, specific enthalpy, thermal expansion, density, thermal conductivity
- Leading to Design-for Demise



A detailed illustration of a lunar base on the moon's surface. The base consists of several large, white, curved panels supported by a central structure. A rover with a robotic arm and a small figure of an astronaut are visible on the rocky terrain. The background shows the dark, cratered surface of the moon and the bright, curved horizon of the Earth in the distance.

**Thank you for your attention!**

Would you like to know more?

**Contact: [Tommaso.Ghidini@esa.int](mailto:Tommaso.Ghidini@esa.int)**