

Spaceship Update – September 2023

Aidan Cowley, Alexis Paillet, Romain Charles & Spaceship Team

ESA UNCLASSIFIED – For ESA Official Use Only



→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

What are the Spaceship Initiatives?

- Highly motivated **innovation teams**, dedicated to enabling Exploration activities, for their locations, partners and Agencies
- **Dynamic network** of collaborators across Europe, supporting and initiating low-TRL Exploration R&D with an emphasis on **practical demonstration and skunkworks** approach (i.e., 'innovate and apply under one roof')
- Spaceship Teams are made up of research institutes and Universities, visiting researchers, students, commercial entities, ESA and National Agency staff members



E3P Programmatic Position:

'A fundamental element of ExPeRT are the Spaceships, initiatives that develop operational concepts and low TRL technologies...

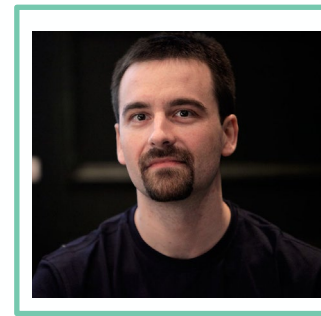
...Spaceship projects are emphasized to be **pragmatic, demonstration driven and innovative** in their scope. Importantly, the initiative links with related activities within ESA and with varied stakeholders across Europe'



**Spaceship EAC – EAC,
Cologne, Germany
Coordinator: Aidan Cowley**



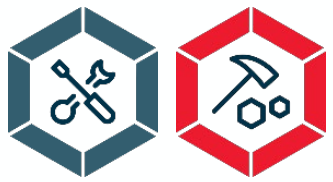
**Spaceship ECSAT – ECSAT,
Harwell, UK
Coordinator: Romain Charles**



**Spaceship France – CNES,
Toulouse, France
Coordinator: Alexis Paillet**







3D Printing with Regolith Composites

Examining different approaches and mixtures

Main objective: Defining an optimal manufacturing process to produce high-performance composites based on lunar regolith

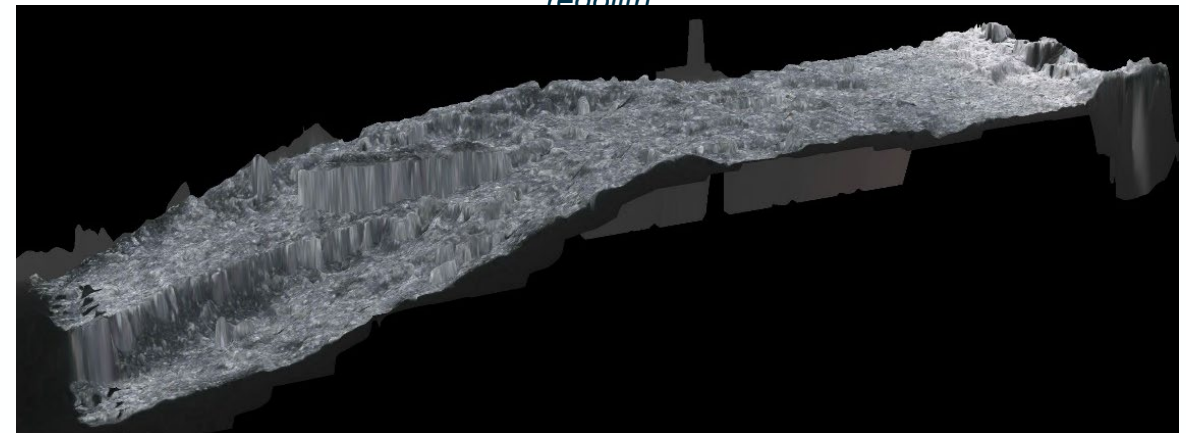
Work performed:

- Manufactured and characterized PLA/regolith composites (20 wt.% of regolith)
- Assed the recyclability of PLA/regolith composites
- Replaced the PLA with a high-performance thermoplastic – PEKK (25 wt.% of regolith)

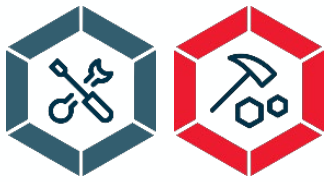
Current work: New thermoplastic-regolith composite based on regolith (5, 15 and 25 wt.%) and three different additives: carbon, graphite, graphene.



Left: PLA pellets and EAC-1 simulant, Right: Test coupons made of PLA and regolith



3D picture of the fracture face of sample : regolith 5%, carbon 5%, microscope x200

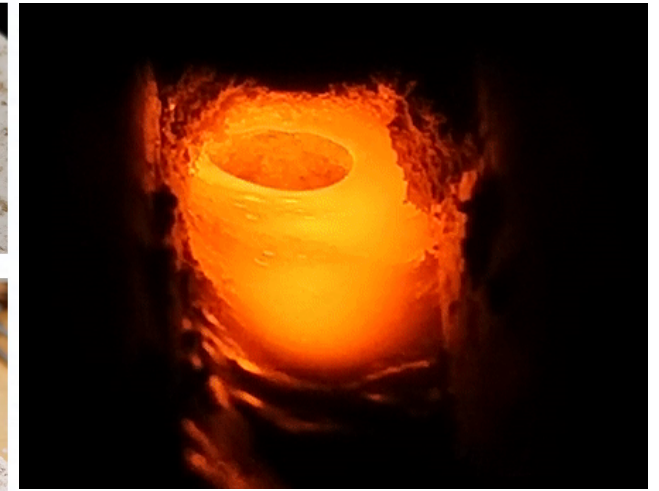
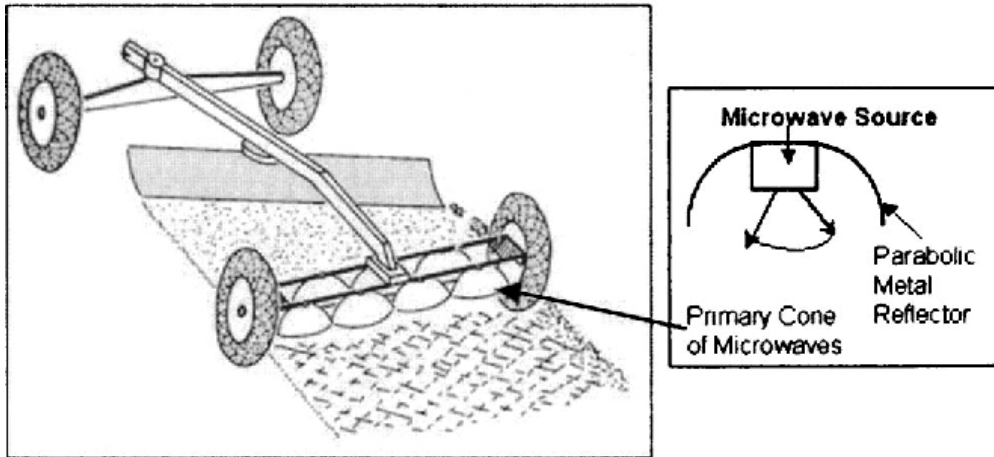


State of the Art Microwave Processing of Regolith

“MOONSTONE” project

- Custom-manufactured cavity for crucibles
- It is possible to melt a small volume of regolith inside the cavity
- Mechanically pushing the crucible allows melting a continuous line

Creating Smooth-Sintered to Glassy Surfaces on the Moon





- ## Why are standardized composite construction bricks the prime material?

- ## How low can we go with the organic phase?

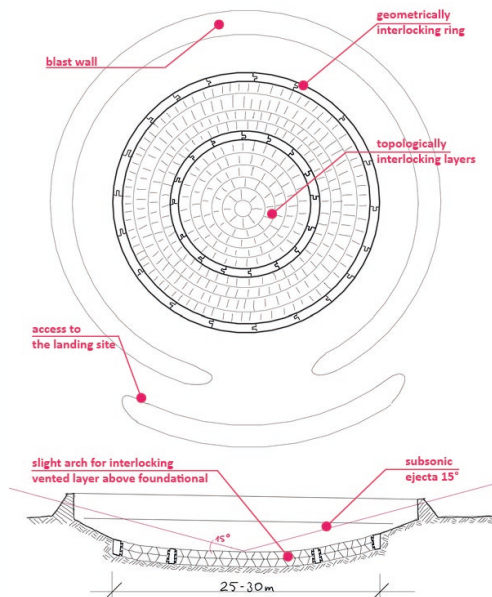




Main objective: Investigating the feasibility of using sintered and/or cast regolith bricks for lunar landing pads. The goal is to investigate the structural capabilities of regolith bricks in terms of geometry, reliability, plume absorption and their compatibilities with future landers.

Research & Design: Exploration of vernacular designs, specifically geometrically and topologically interlocking components.
General landing pad design criteria (such as venting of exhaust plumes, blast walls and beacons for supporting lunar landing navigation)

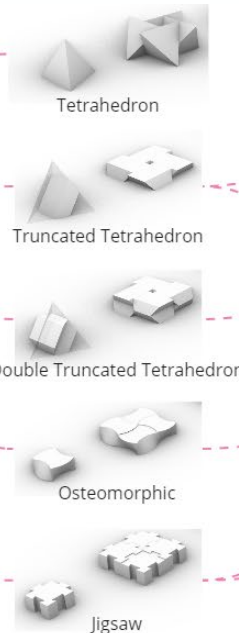
Landing Pad Sketch



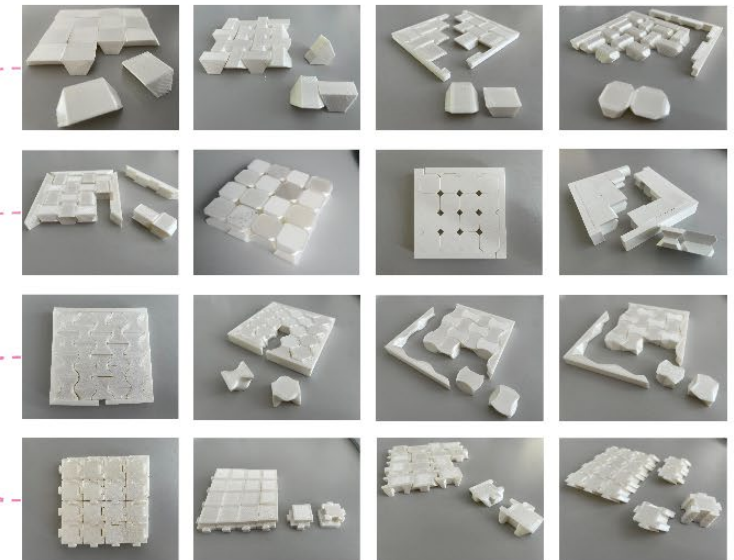
Interlocking Type



Brick Type



3D Printed Brick Designs



SOURCE: landing pad sketch, plan & section

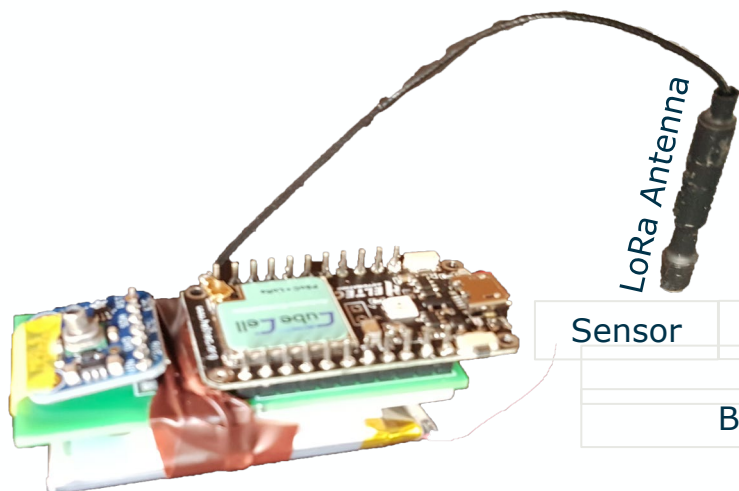
SOURCE: geometrically and topologically interlocking brick designs







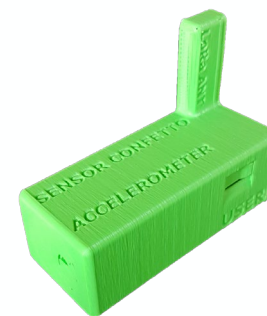
IoT Sensor Confetti for Surface Exploration



Sensor	Wireless Stick
	PCB
	Battery



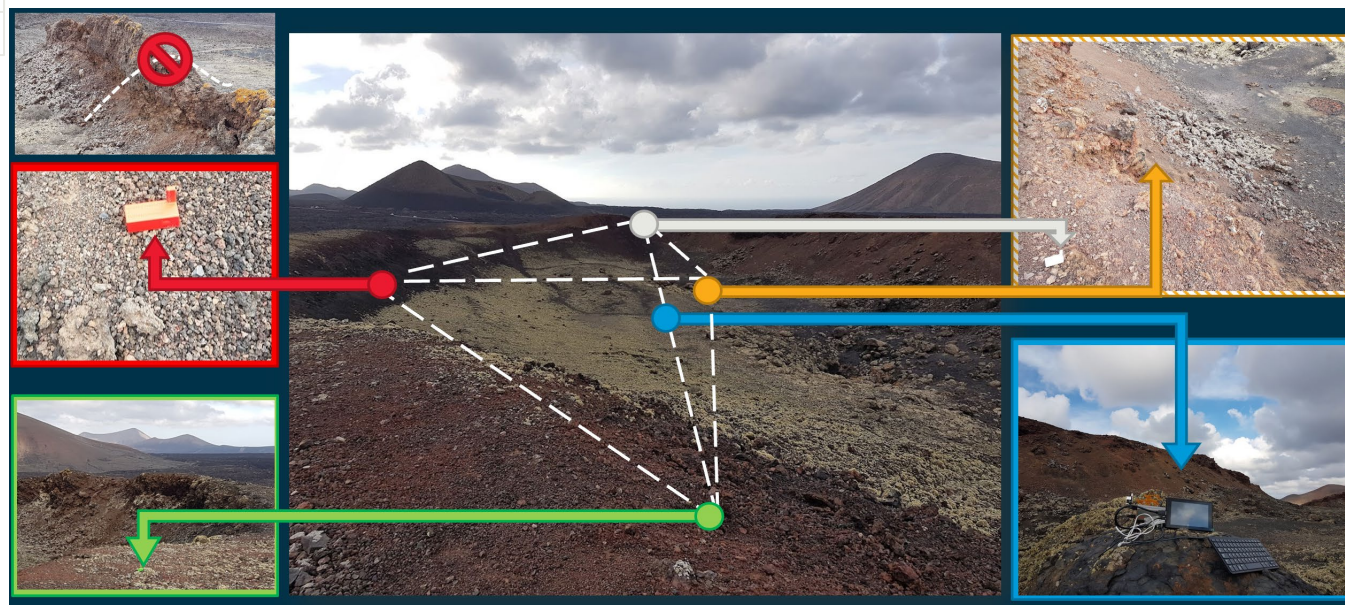
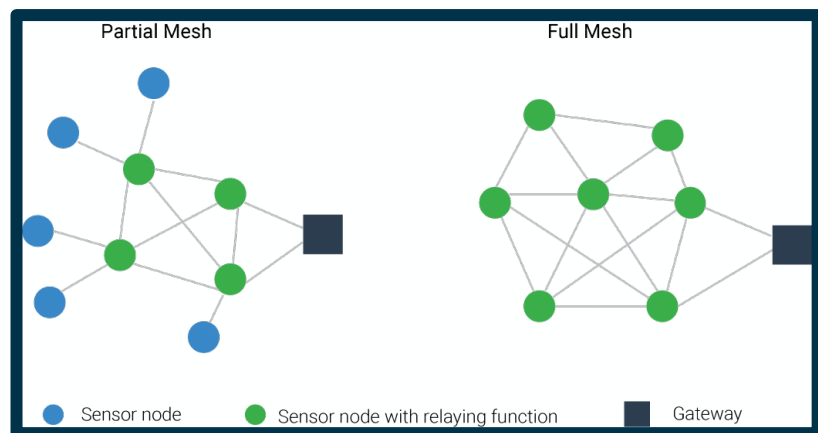
9DOF IMU

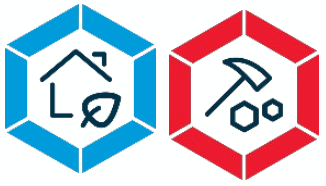


Accelerometer



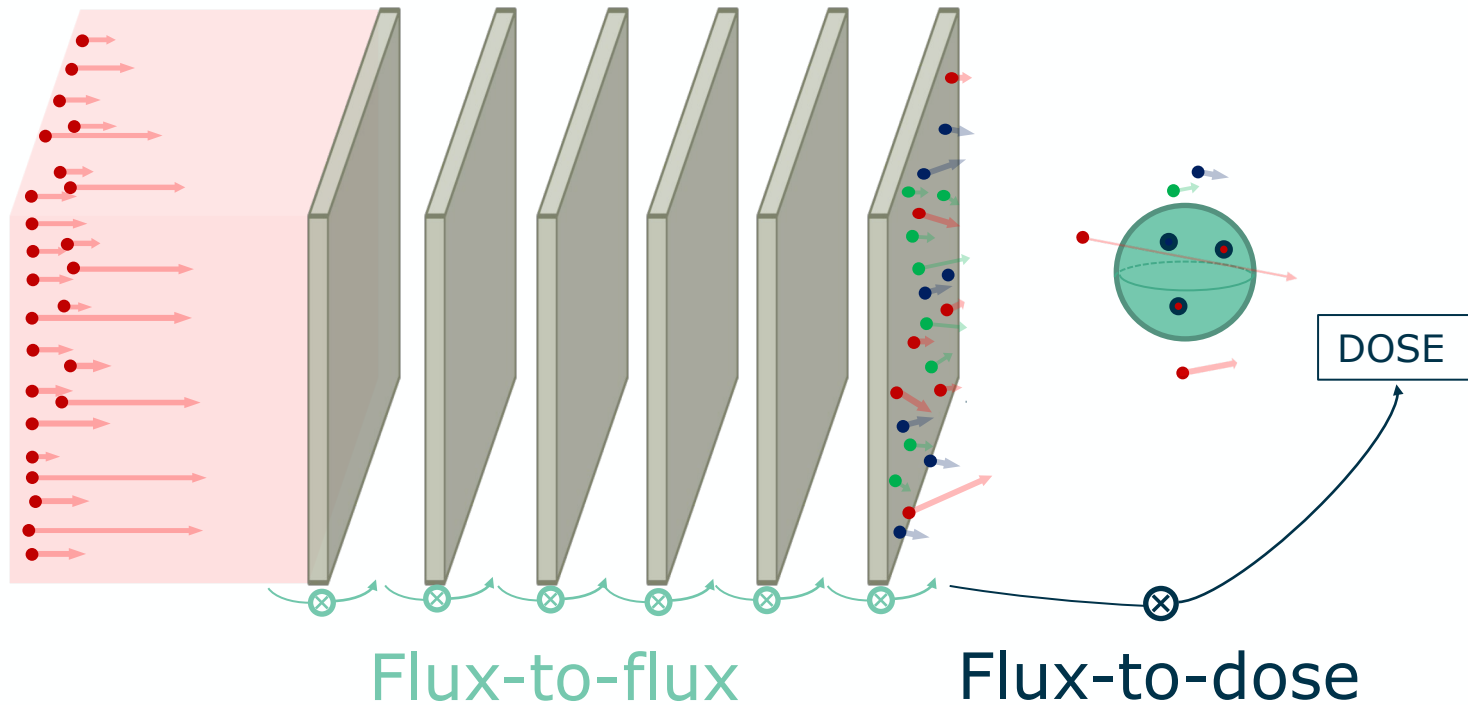
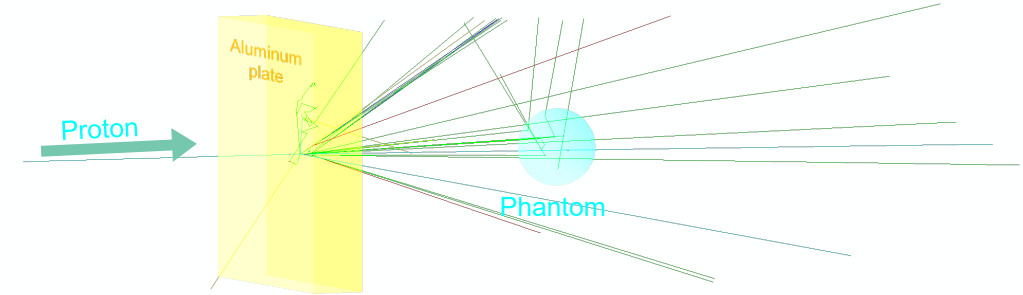
Magnetometer





Radiation shielding on the Moon

- Propose concepts to mitigate radiations for astronauts combining innovative materials and ISRU.
- Monte Carlo simulations under Geant4



- Method computing flux by iterated convoluted layers to boost simulation time
- Future shielding material arranged in layer structure to increase shielding power
- Lunar regolith as main player



Aim

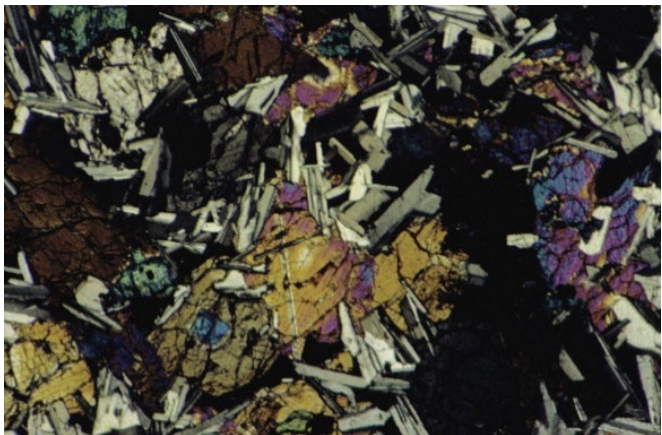
Automatically identify minerals and rock types in lunar thin section samples using Machine Learning techniques

Use Case:

- Immediate feedback on collected material
- Enable further in-situ analysis
- Create more independence of expert knowledge on earth
- Prevent sample Redundancy

Thin section?

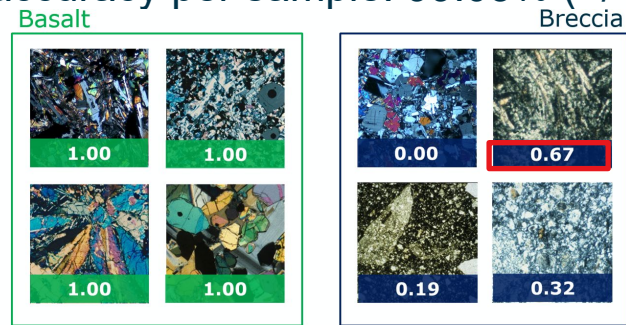
30µm thin semi-translucent slice of rock



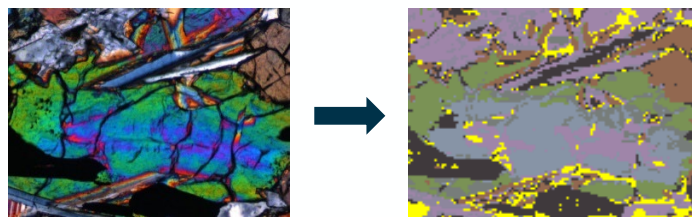
Underlying Work

- Supervised algorithm classifying lunar rock into most common groups (Basalt or Breccia)

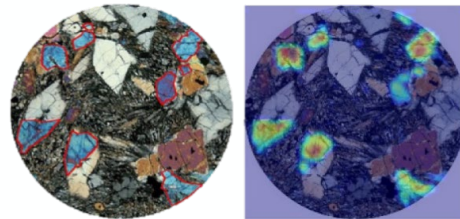
Classification accuracy per sample: 99.03% (+/- 0.97)



- Unsupervised clustering algorithm to segment a thin-section image into clusters of minerals



- Weakly supervised learning to segment olivine



← Best results IoU^[1] of 0.73, but mean IoU of 0.36

Ground truth

Prediction

[1] IoU defines Intersection over Union i.e. the overlap of the predicted segmentation with the ground truth



NLP for Spaceship – Introducing Natalia

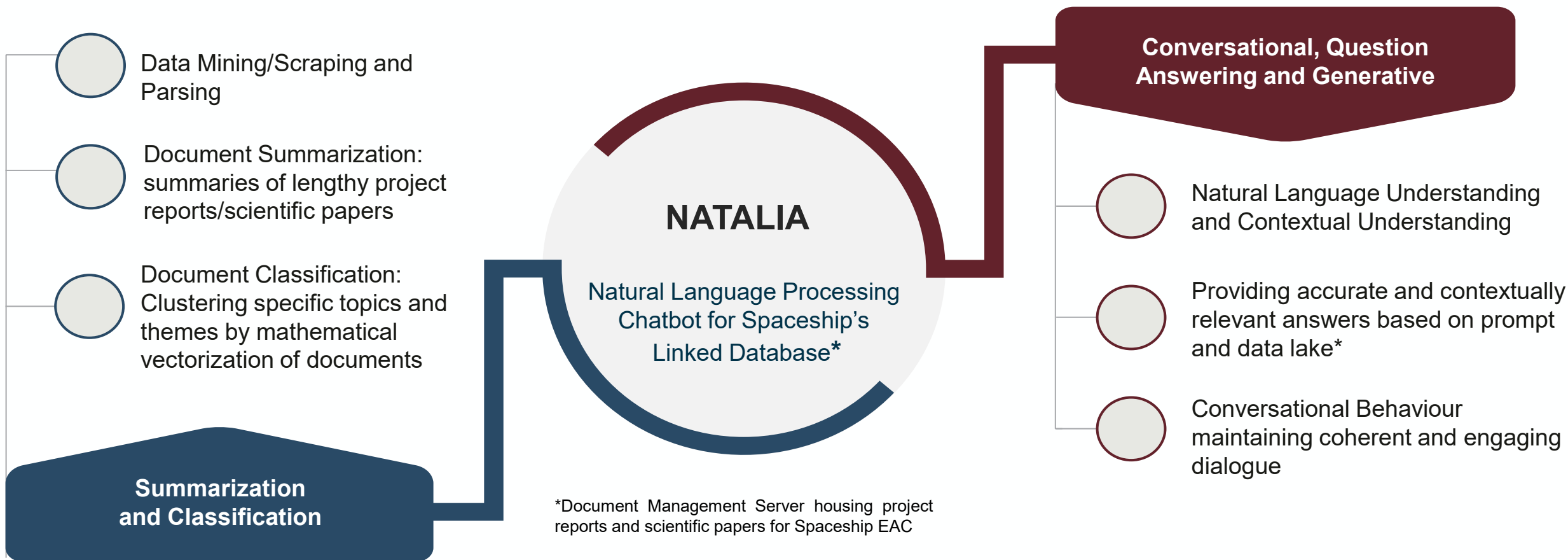




Image credit: ESA/DLR

Spaceflight Associated Neuro-ocular Syndrome (SANS):

- Risk for long-duration flight (affects 2/3 of crew)
- Monitored by MedOps

Previous ISS Inc 66 Tech Demo:

1. Uploaded 3D-printed adapter + lens
2. Attached to crew tablets (iPad Pro 2017)
3. Crew used EveryWear to video their retinas
4. Videos downlinked to train artificial intelligence models

Proposed Tech Demo Operational Overview:

1. Upload lens for new crew tablets (iPad Pro 2021)
2. Integrate our SANS-detection AI into EveryWear
3. Crew uses EveryWear to video their retinas w/ AI
4. AI models provide real-time SANS diagnosis
5. Videos and diagnosis downlinked to verify accuracy

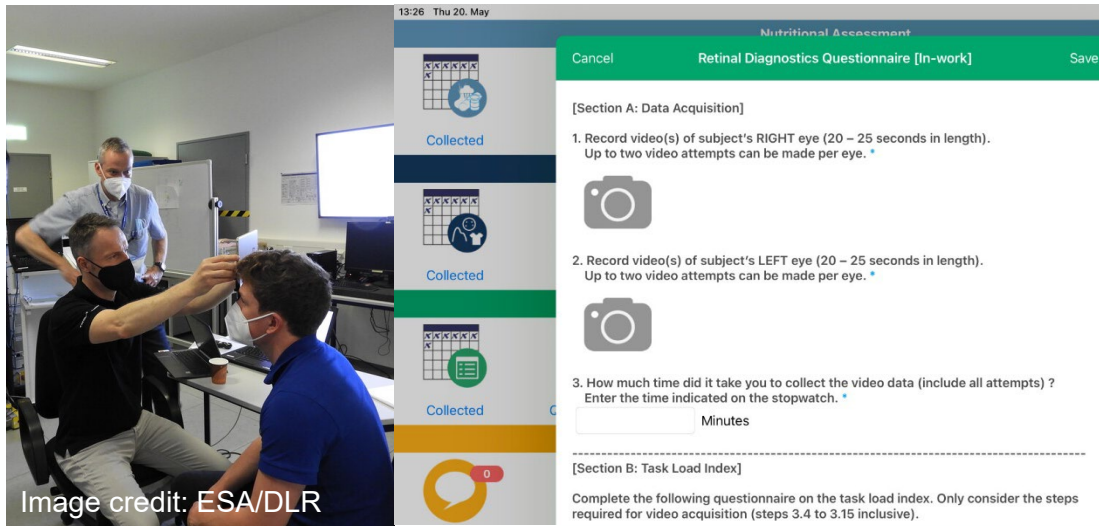
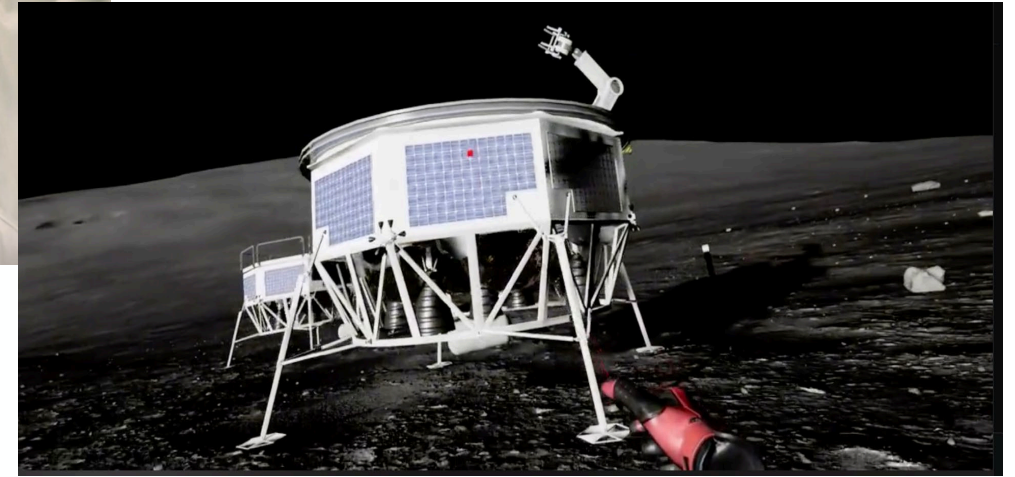
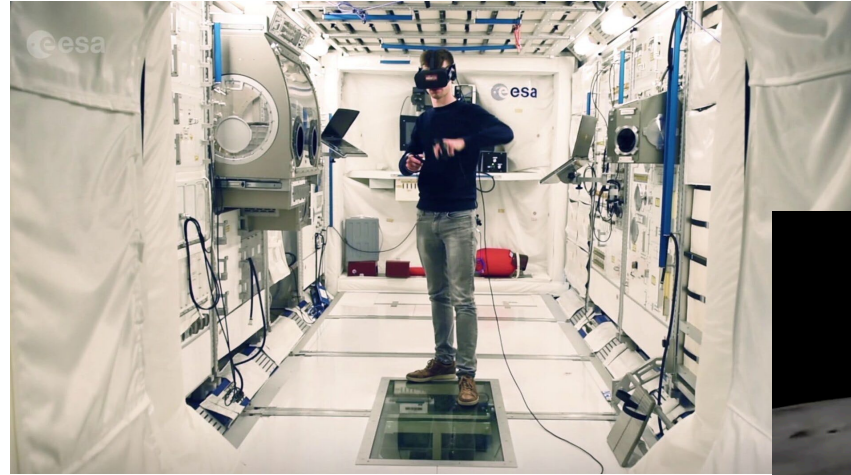


Image credit: ESA/DLR



How can we use virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technology for astronaut training & exploration?

- **VR** → Cost **effective** / **efficient** / **flexible** training of astronauts through simulation of a virtual environment (e.g. ISS, lunar environments) or evaluation of design prototypes (e.g. lunar lander EL3)
- **AR** → Overlaying computer-generated (visual) information on real surroundings



Handheld Augmented Reality in 0g

Creation of a visual IMU to work around microgravity issues in AR

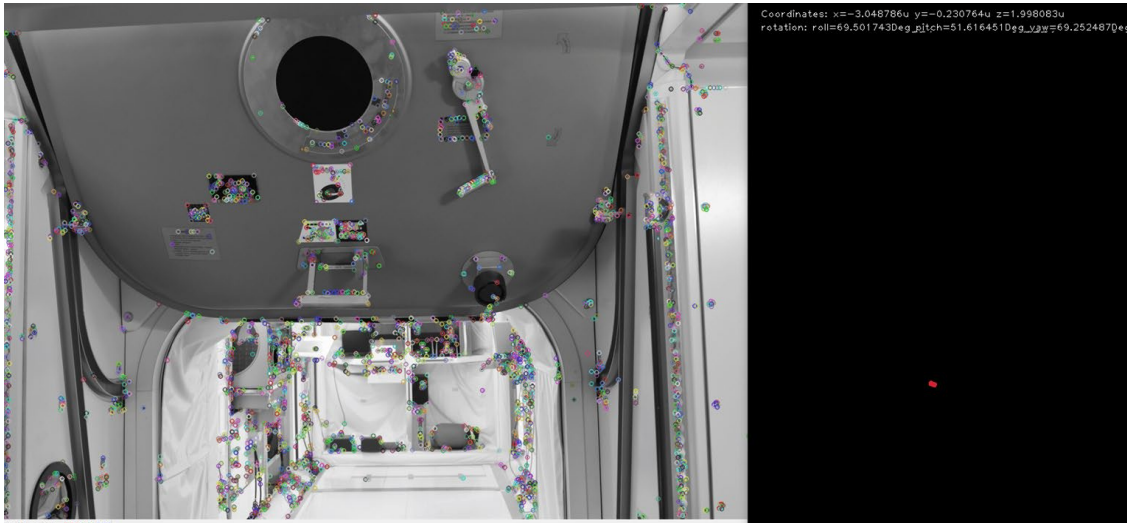
Real time, 6 DoF, position and orientation with a smartphone camera with combination of:

- Visual Odometry
- Visual Localisation

Working demo

What is happening ?

- Localisation in real time of the camera
- Placement of a virtual message
- The virtual message stays immobile despite movement of the camera





Human Factors for Human-Machine Interfaces



Main objective: design proposal for the European Charging Station for the Moon

Astronaut **tasks** during EVAs:

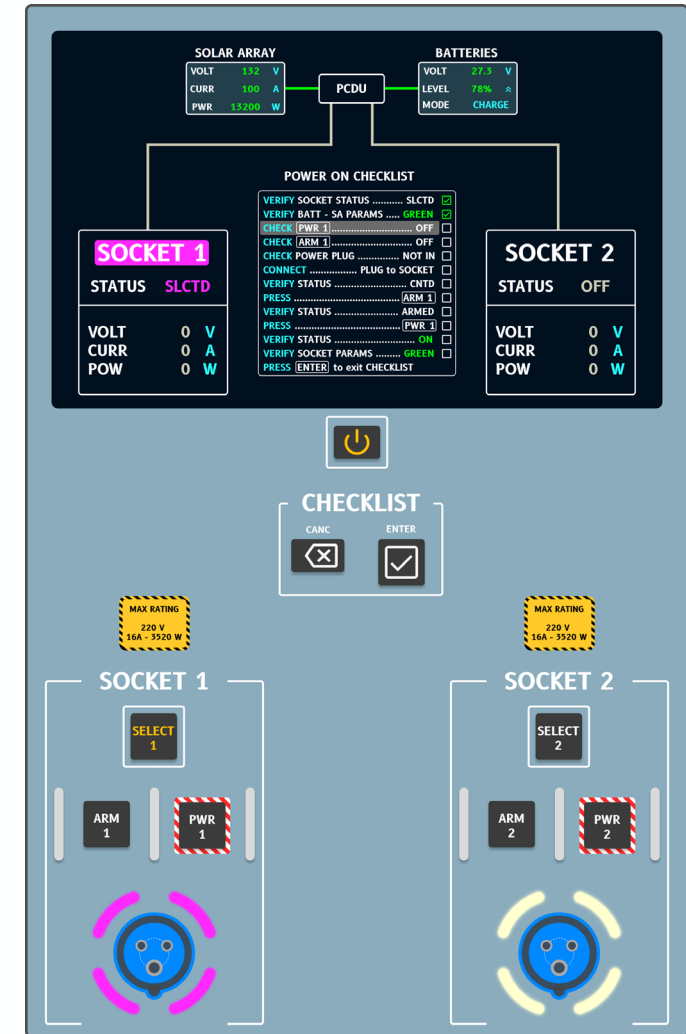
- Approach ECSM
- Operate the system with or without supervision from Mission Control
- Safely connect or disconnect utilities

Human Factors consideration:

- Environment
- Cognitive Load
- EVA **suit** (gloves and arms envelope)
- Design of the **Human-Machine Interfaces**
- Design of the **Socket & Plug system**

Challenges:

- **Apply** a Human-Centred Design approach
- **Design** a first of kind HMI
- **Validate** the initial proposal



Design proposal of the interface

Lunar Facility Filtration Assessment

HEPA filter

Particulate Matter Probe

Dust chamber

Centrifugal fan

Pre-filter with manometer

Anemometer

Flight configuration of the test setup



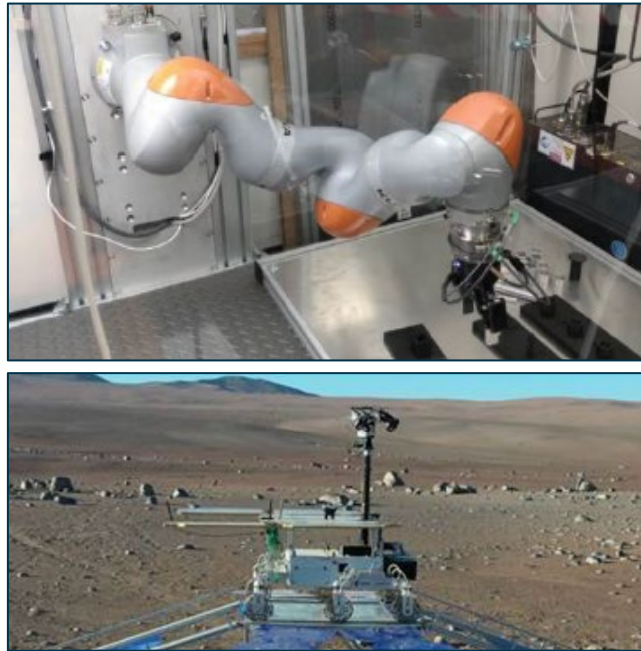
3D printed textiles used as pre-filters



20

- Early 2023 – Definition of the Spaceship ECSAT Roadmap
- 3 main themes identified:

Robotics

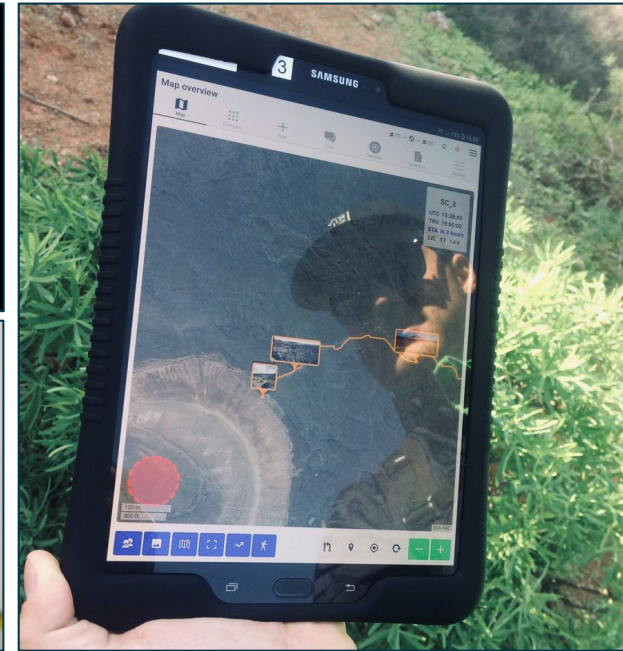


Extended Reality



Astronauts Assistant

(Telecommunications & Navigation)



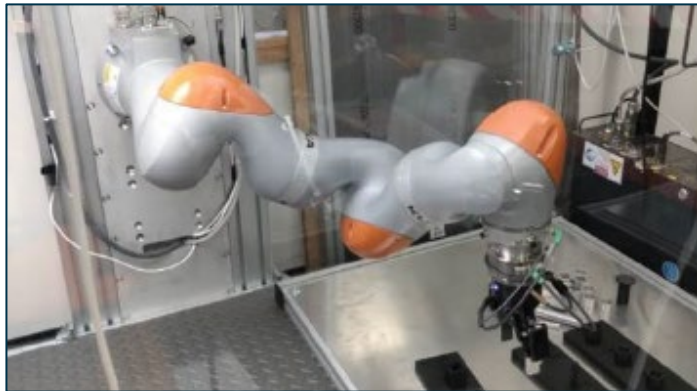
- Presentation of the Spaceship ECSAT roadmap and vision to stakeholders in the agency and outside

- ESA CAVES/PANGAEA team
- ESA Moonlight team
- UK Space Agency
- Catapult (Space Based Solar Power & Robotics)
- CFMS (Center For Modelling and Simulation)
- Ispace
- Oxford University (Robotics lab)
- Portsmouth University (XR lab)



Robotics

2 internships in 2023
+
International PhD Thesis
(NET 2024)



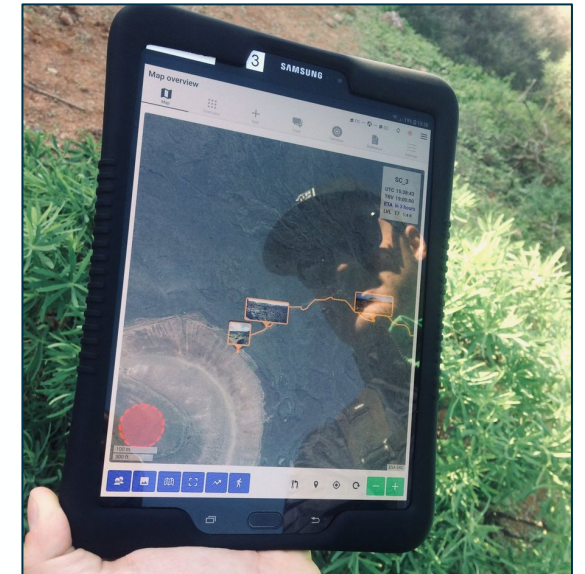
Extended Reality

1 internship in 2023



Astronauts Assistant

TBD with Moonlight team



Thank You!



SPACESHIP ECSAT



SPACESHIP FR – VISION & PROJECT

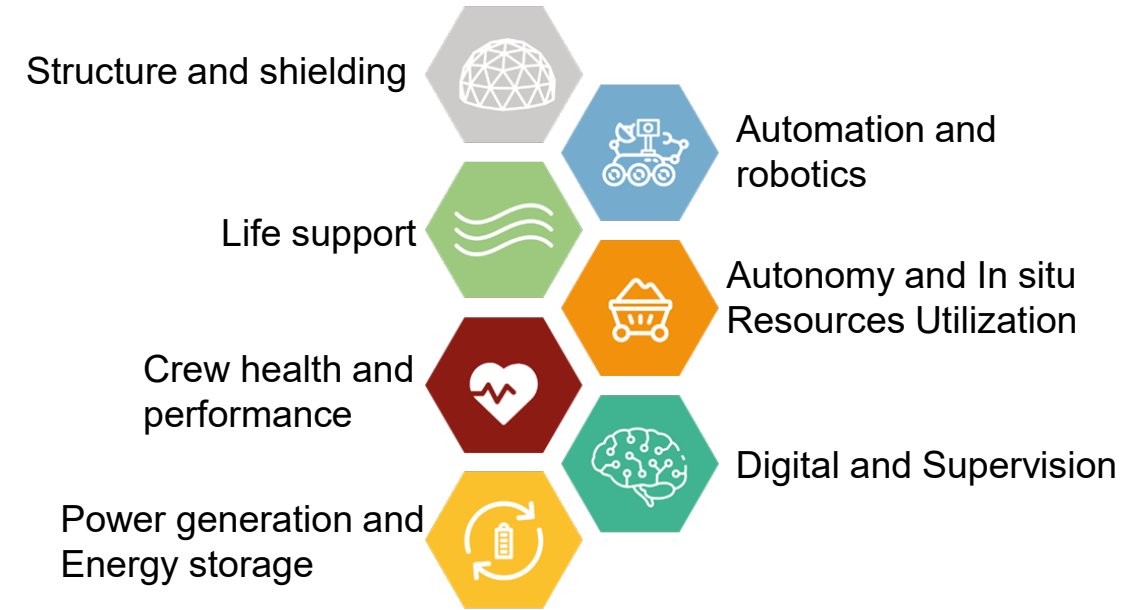
GOAL

- ❖ Bring French technologies on the Moon & Mars

INTEGRATED TEAM WITH EUROPEAN PROGRAMM

- ❖ Spaceships Networks
- ❖ Synergies & partnership behind international project

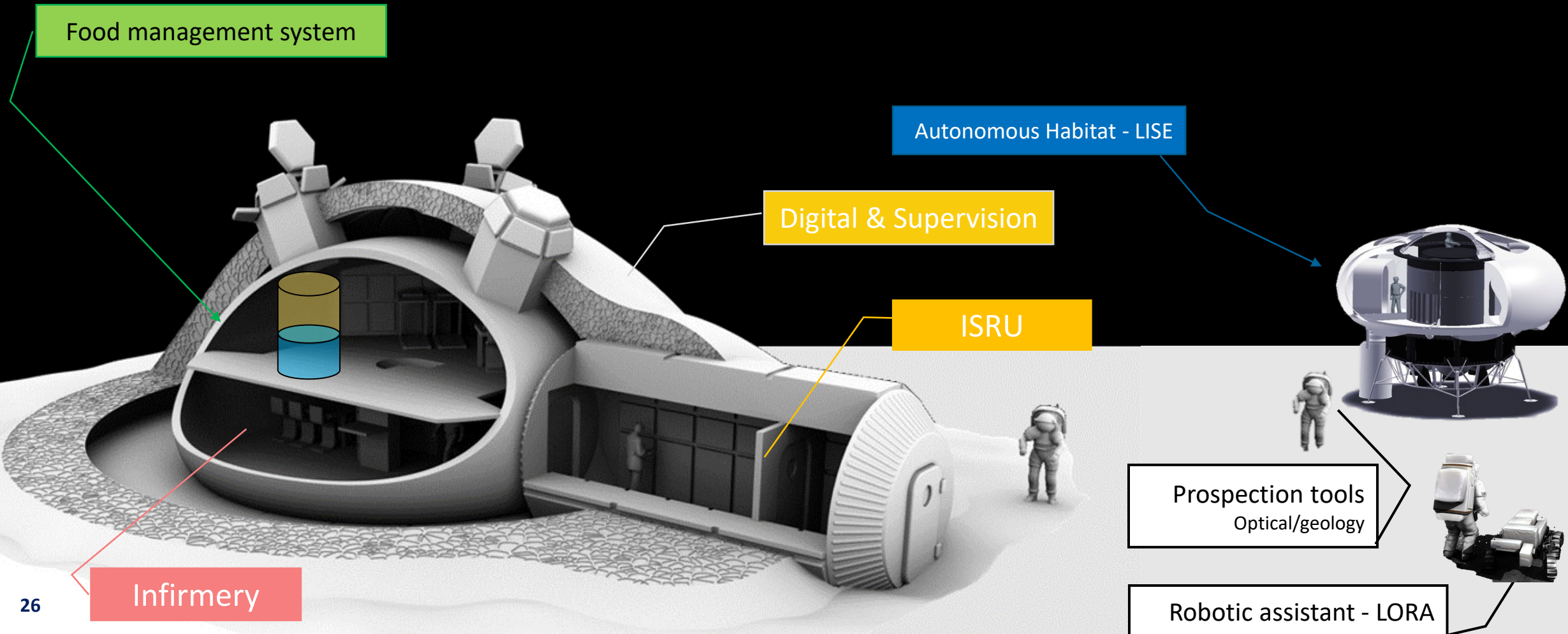
TECHNOLOGIES @ SPACESHIP FR



- ❖ French Ecosystem
- ❖ Spin Off for Industrial

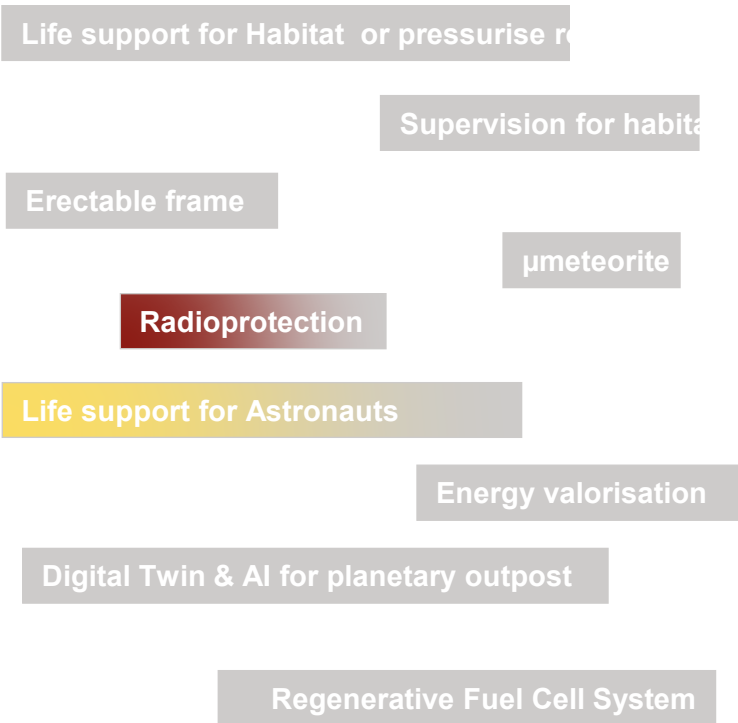


Subsystems in the international outpost

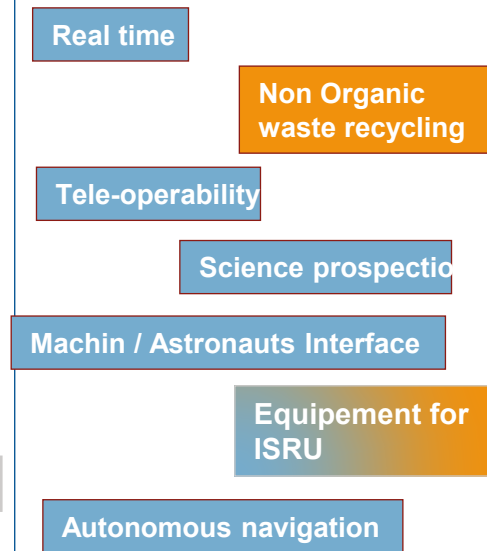


SPACESHIP FR – TECHNOLOGIES & ECOSYSTEM

Life support system & Habitat Protection



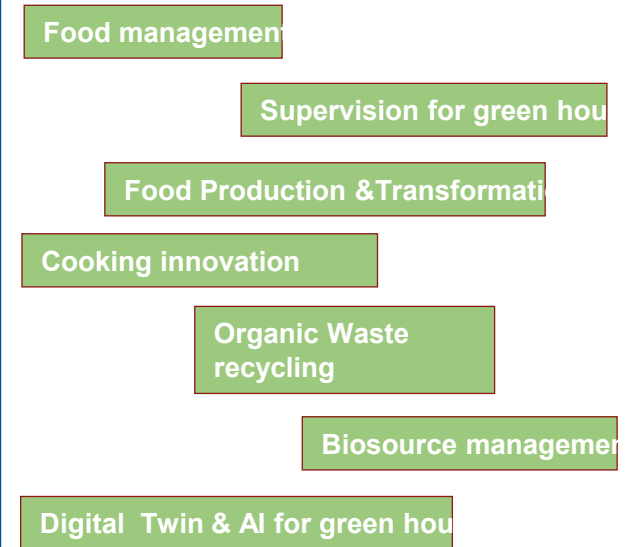
Assistant for Astronaut



Crew Health & Performances



Food Management & Recycling



CONFERENCE

- ❖ **Space Ressources Week / Luxembourg - 1 Poster**
- ❖ **Space Ops / Dubai – 3 articles (Ground segment, astronaute assistance)**
- ❖ **Int Conf Enviromental System / Calgary – 1 Poster, 8 Articles (Health, Life Support & Energy)**
- ❖ **Int. Conf. on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics - 1 Article (Robotics and Interaction Astronaute Rover)**

CHALLENGE

- ❖ **Digital twin for Astronaute**
- ❖ **Surface properties**



SPACESHIP FR – Communauté





CREW HEALTH & PERFORMANCES



DIGITAL TWIN OF THE ASTONAUT FOR PERSONALIZED COUNTMEASURES (MUSCULOSKELETAL)

Franco-Canadian Startup 2 co-founders (PhD and biomedical engineer)

Goals:

Short term – Feasibility study for adaptation of a digital twin to spaceflight environment

Long term – Development of a tool (personalized digital twin) for preventive care of musculoskeletal deconditioning during spaceflight (countermeasures)

Strategy

1st: Literature review: musculoskeletal deconditioning during space flight and identifica countermeasures

2nd: Feasibility simulations for different exercise configurations

3rd: Sensitivity analysis for model assessment

Main Results

➢ Synthesis of the literature: osteoarticular alteration during spaceflight

➢ Discussion/validation of model strategy with space medicine expert (Vico)

➢ Feasibility simulation: FEM walking either under Earth gravity or during treadmill training in microgravity with spring simulated gravity – bone loss prediction

Communication

Podium presentation and publication ICES 2023 – July 2023

DIGITAL TWIN OF THE ASTRONAUT for personalized medication (Pharmakokinetik)

Startup 3 co-founders (PhD, pharmacist, mathematician)

Goals:

Short term – Feasibility study for adaptation of pharmacokinetic models, developed for terrestrial application, to respond to the physiological and pathological phenomena of space

Long term – Development of a tool (personalized digital twin) to give autonomy to the astronaut for his medication

Strategy

1st: Literature review: physiological functions altered during space flight and identification of molecules/areas of interest for spaceflight

2nd: Software development of a prototype model and evaluation of the model from retrospective data (bed rest simulations)

Main Results

➢ Synthesis of the literature: physiological functions altered during space flight

➢ Workshop with space medicine experts (Custeau, Pavy, Gandia, Gatacceca)

➢ Identification of priority molecules for spaceflight (sleep and mental health drugs cardiovascular drugs, emergency treatments (analgesics, antihistamines, antidotes)) are good candidates

➢ Model implementation for acetaminophen and sensitivity analysis

Communication

Podium presentation and publication ICES 2023 – July 2023

Design de la coupe menstruelle pour la collection adaptée au vol spatial

Laboratoire

Startup bretonne Expertise: fabrication de dispositifs médicaux brevetés destinés à l'hygiène intime

Goals:

Develop a prototype of a menstrual cup adapted for blood collection in space environment

Strategy (under discussion)

- Design workshop in Toulouse in September (engineers, designer, gynecologist)

- Prototyping (medical silicone)

- Validation of the dimension with design file

- Finalization of the design by the creation of the Specifications for the mold

Main Results

➢ Project under discussion

➢ Preliminary exchanges with tests on menstrual cup collection capacities in OG flight

Sleep inertia management solution - EOS

Goals:

Validate the efficiency of EOS on the sleep inertia of healthy subjects

Strategy (under discussion)

- Tâche 1 : État de l'art et élaboration du protocole pour le CPP (Comité de Protection des Personnes)

- Tâche 2 : Déploiement des briques technologiques à tester sur le site de l'étude (MEDES)

- Tâche 3 : Développement logiciel de contrôle des composants à tester (MEDES)

Main Results

➢ Project under discussion

➢ Preliminary exchanges with tests on menstrual cup collection capacities in OG flight

ExoCPR - Exoskeleton for assisting chest compression maneuvers during spaceflight

Hôpital Centre d'innovation Laboratoire de recherche plateau technique

Goals:

Short term – Prototype of exoskeleton for assisting chest compression

Long term – Implementation of the exoskeleton in public spaces

Strategy

1st: literature review for cardiac arrest procedure and existing devices

2nd: technical specifications required for the device and medical protocol

3rd: 3D prototype (mechanical and cinematic)

Main Results

➢ State the art:

➢ Epidemiology - cardiac arrest in space

➢ Manual compressions

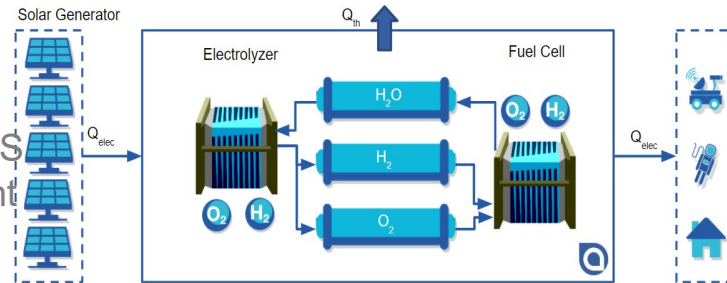
➢ Mechanical chest compression devices (advantage/disadvantage)

➢ Workshop for specification definition and visit to their facilities

Concept design

First activity: Global assessment of RFCS technology

- Task 1: Tradeoffs study of a low power (LP) RFCS
- Task 2: Investigation of a new water management solution for fuel cells
- Task 3: Predesign of a LP RFCS



Future activities

Development of a space fuel cell

- Task 1: Specification and theoretical performances
- Task 2: Design of the FC
- Task 3: Development of a prototype 1000W
- Task 4: Tests and performance evaluation
- Task 5: development plan

2022-2023 activities: Breadboard development and start of the maturation

Task 1: Detailed design of a LP RFCS

- Assessment of RFCS architecture
- Detailed specification of main components
- Modeling and detailed performance estimation

Task 2: TRL3 Breadboard design and test

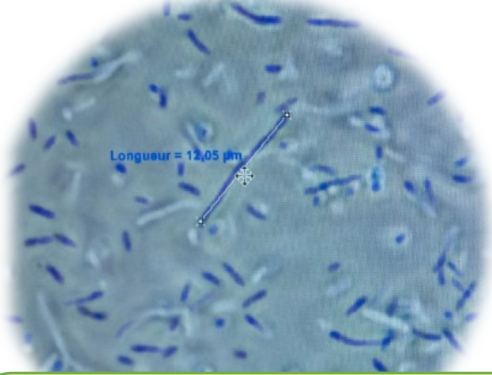
- Specification of main components (ELY, FC and tanks)
- Procurement of COTS to build a first breadboard
- **Test of H2 loop of a RFCS**

Task 3: H2/O2 Test bench for fuel cell

- Elaboration of the specification and design of the test bench
- Procurement of components
- Assembling of the test bench and first tests
- **Performance evaluation of the passive water management system on the functioning FC**



Goals: To demonstrate the ability to produce feed or food proteins and bioplastics (PHA) by bacteria from pretreated organic astronaut waste - faeces and urine-like.

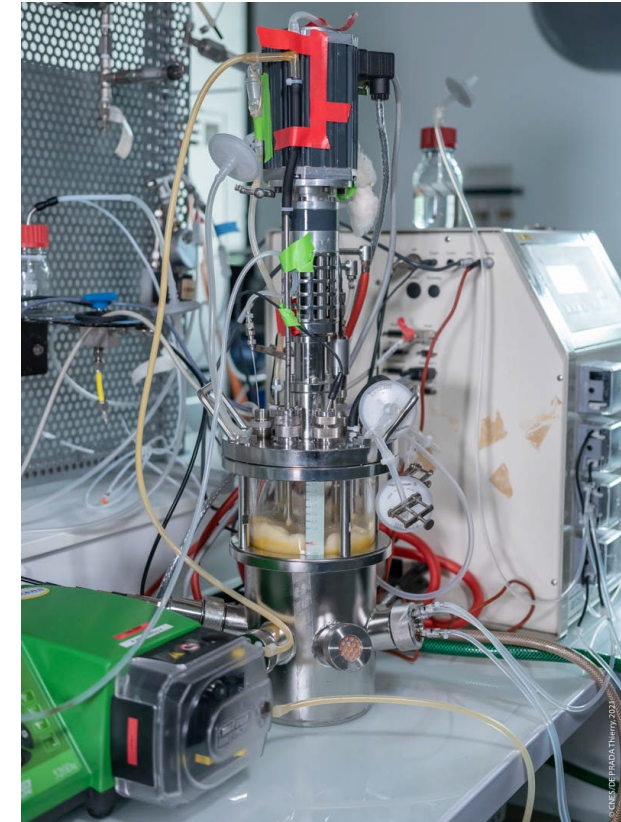
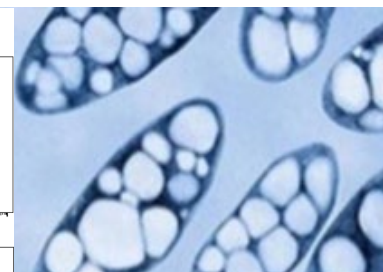
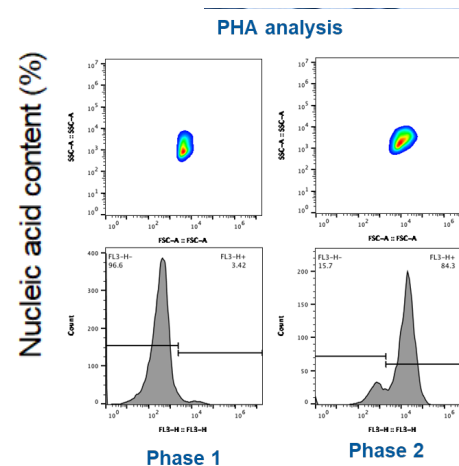
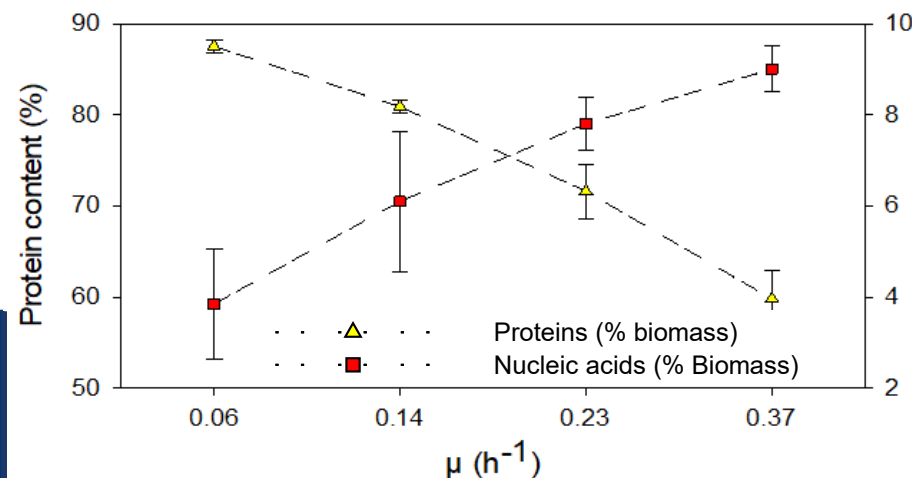


Two Step strategy

- 1st:** Strain screening was performed based on urea consumption ability and protein content. The bacterium *C. necator* was selected.
- 2nd:** Continuous fermentation was performed in bioreactor using a synthetic medium mimicking anaerobic digestate from organic astronaut wastes. Modulation of protein/nucleic acids and bioplastic production was studied at different growth rates (μ)

Main Results

- We demonstrated that **Urea and Volatile Fatty Acids were completely transformed** in protein or bioplastics
- A **high protein content** was reached **87%** of the dried biomass
- The **nucleic acid content can be reduced (< 4%)** by modulating feed rate in the bioreactor



Perspectives 2024

Intensification and consolidation of the concept to reach TRL 4 :

- Process optimization in terms of reactor monitoring and inlet composition
- Evaluation of the product quality



SPACESHIP FR – OTHER TOPICS

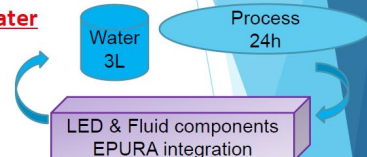


EPURA system Highlights

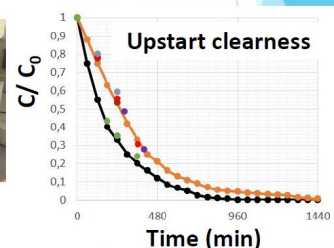
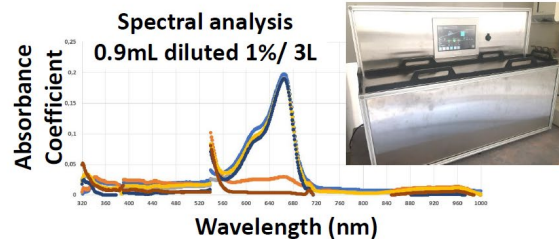


Disinfection & decontamination of the recycled water

- ✓ Light (Sun, UV) drive
- ✓ The photolysis & catalysis coupling



→ Methylene Blue decoloration Tests



Regolith as a substrate : a solution for resource-efficient, reliable fruit & vegetable production in space

Problem statement :

- Aeroponics is complex & lacks resilience
- Regolith is improper for use as plant soil *per se*

⇒ Research on a substrate system based on regolith in porous matrix shows lunar soil has a good potential for growing plants

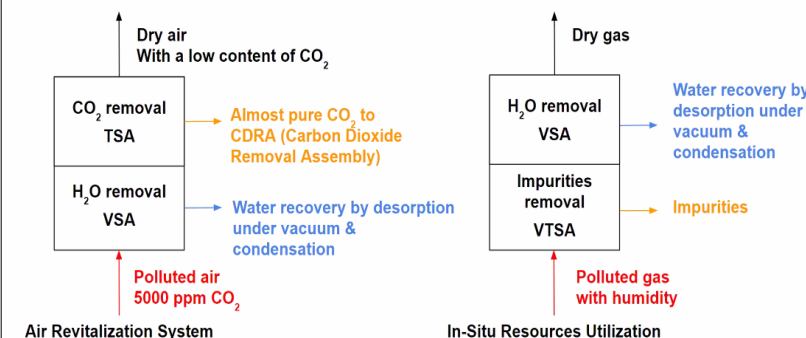


Results achieved on lettuce in simulant EAC-1A :



- Average germination rate (50%) to be improved
- Same yield as control for success modalities
- **22x reduction of geo-sourced matter vs. conventional substrate** (700 mg material per plant)



Applications : water capture for ARS & ISRU by adsorption



Adsorption systems using beads vs solid fibers

	Adsorbent Properties	Classical purification using beads	Purification using Solid Fibers
Solid Fibers			
	Grain geometry	Spheres	Tunable cylinders
	Average dimension	2 - 3 mm diameter	0,4 - 1 mm diameter 100 - 500 mm length
	Adsorbent Packing	Dense 650 - 800 kg/m3	Very dense 800 - 1000 kg/m3
Beads	Kinetics	Rather Good	Excellent
	Performance : expected gain using solid fibers	Mass reduction of the dryer (20%) Volume reduction of the system (30%) Average energy consumption reduction (10%)	

Thank you for your attention

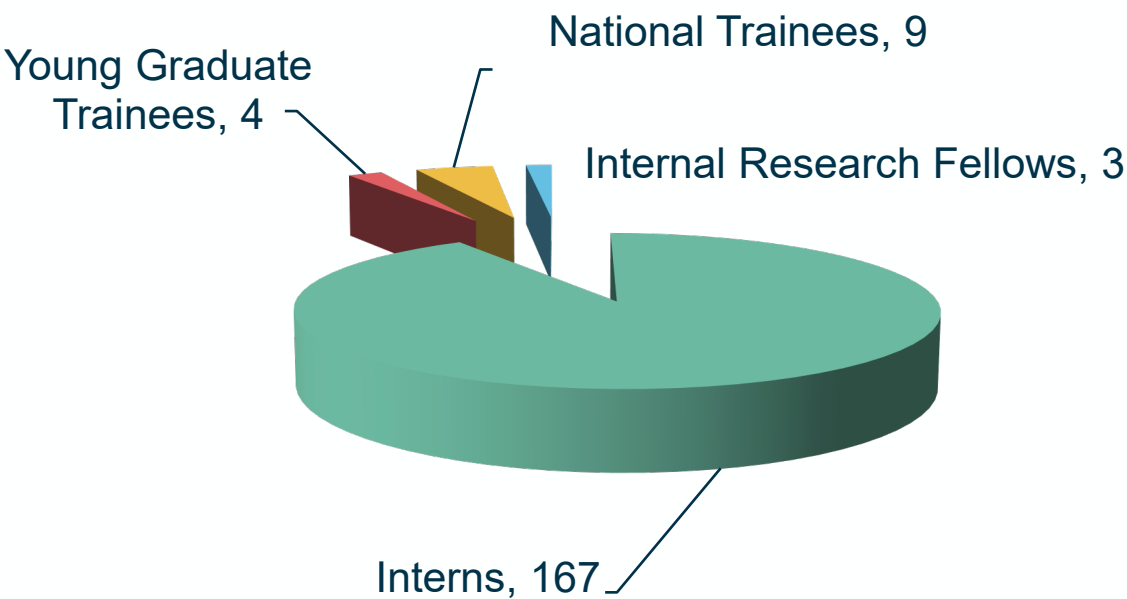


Email to :
alexis.paillet@cnes.fr



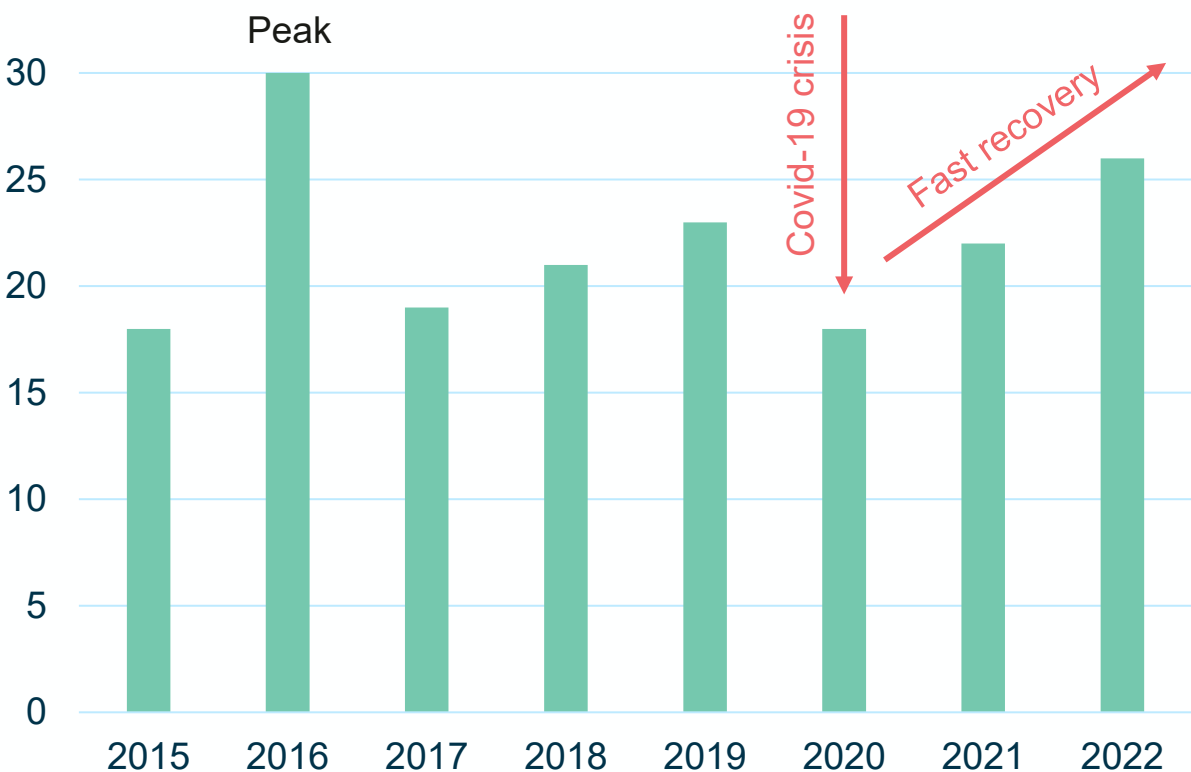
Spaceship in numbers

Between 2015 – 2023*, Spaceship EAC Team hosted 183 young researchers.



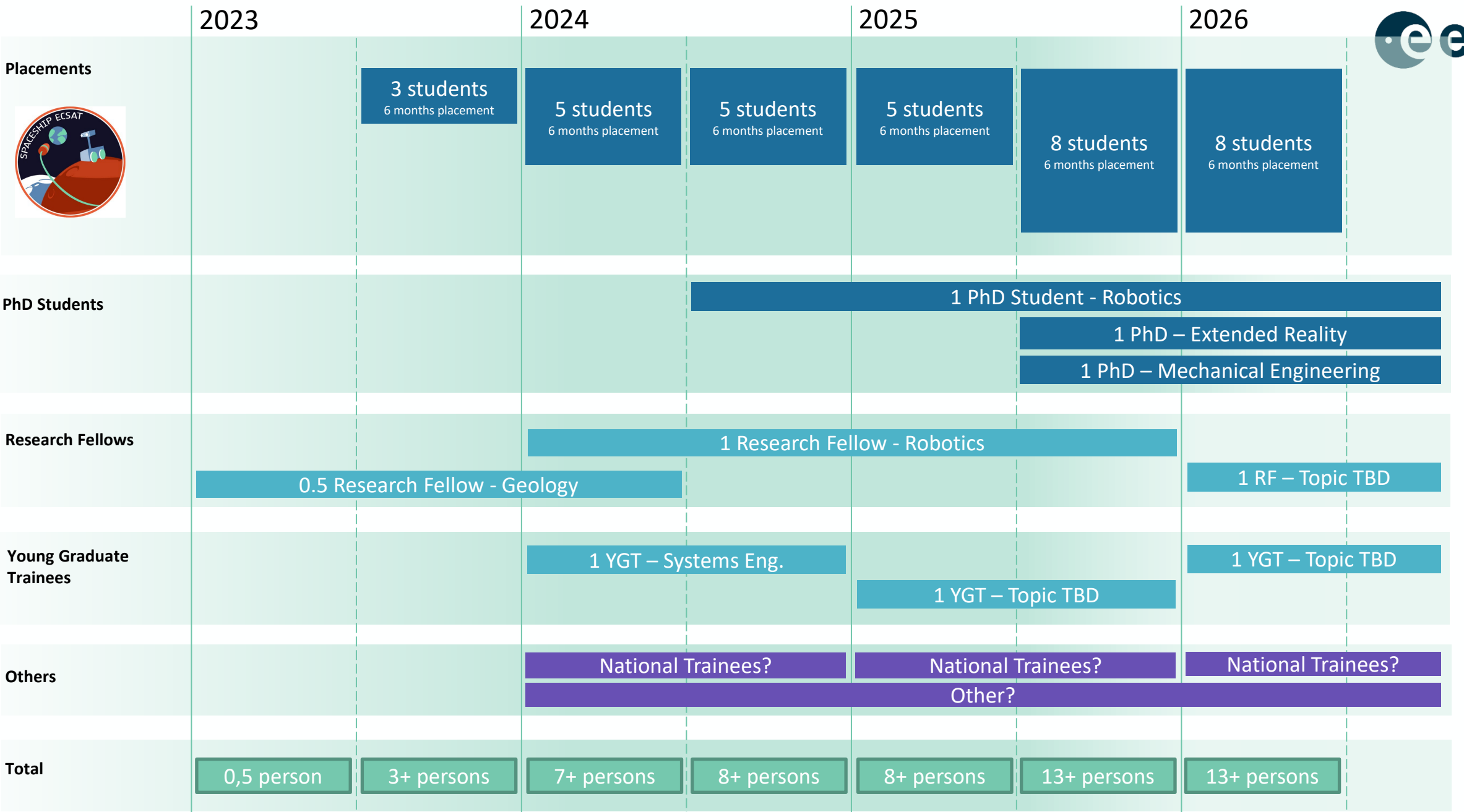
(*) Partial data for 2023

Distributions per year:




For 2023, until February: 4 people (1 NT, 1RF, 2 inters)







		2023		2024		2025		2026		
Core team		2	3	4.5	5	5	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Medical support		0.8	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	
Internship		6 students 6 months placement	6 students 6 months placement	6 students 6 months placement	8 students 6 months placement	8 students 6 months placement	8 students 6 months placement	8 students 6 months placement		
Alternanceship		1 Student 36 months placement					1 Student 36 months placement			
PhD Students		4 PhD – Radioprotection / Recycling / LSS / Vegetal								
							3 PhD – ISRU / Plasma Self healing / Material			
						3 PhD – Mechanical Engineering/Robotics/Health				
							3 PhD –			
Research Fellows						1 Research Fellow -				
								1 Research Fellow -		
Total		13.3 person	17.3 persons	19.5 persons	26 persons	26 persons	26+ persons	26+ persons		

On behalf of all the Spaceship teams

Thank you for your support, interest &
attention!

