



Visual Approximation of Nanosat Trajectories to Augment Ground-based Estimation

Team: Aaron Aboaf, Dylan Bossie, Sean Downs, Justin Fay, Marshall Herr, Josh Kirby, Lara Lufkin, Richard Moon, Nicholas Renninger, Zach Talpas, Jerry Wang

Customer: Prof. Penina Axelrad (CCAR), John Gaebler (CCAR)

Advisor: Prof. Marcus Holzinger

Presenters

Overview	Lara Lufkin
Schedule	Nicholas Renninger
Test Readiness	Josh Kirby, Aaron Aboaf, Sean Downs, Zach Talpas, Marshall Herr
Safety Status	Richard Moon
Budget	Justin Fay



Project Overview



Project Purpose



Objectives:

The **long term vision** of this project is to augment existing, ground-based CubeSat Space Situational Awareness (SSA) by observing CubeSat deployments from the perspective of the NanoRacks (NR) ISS-based deployer.

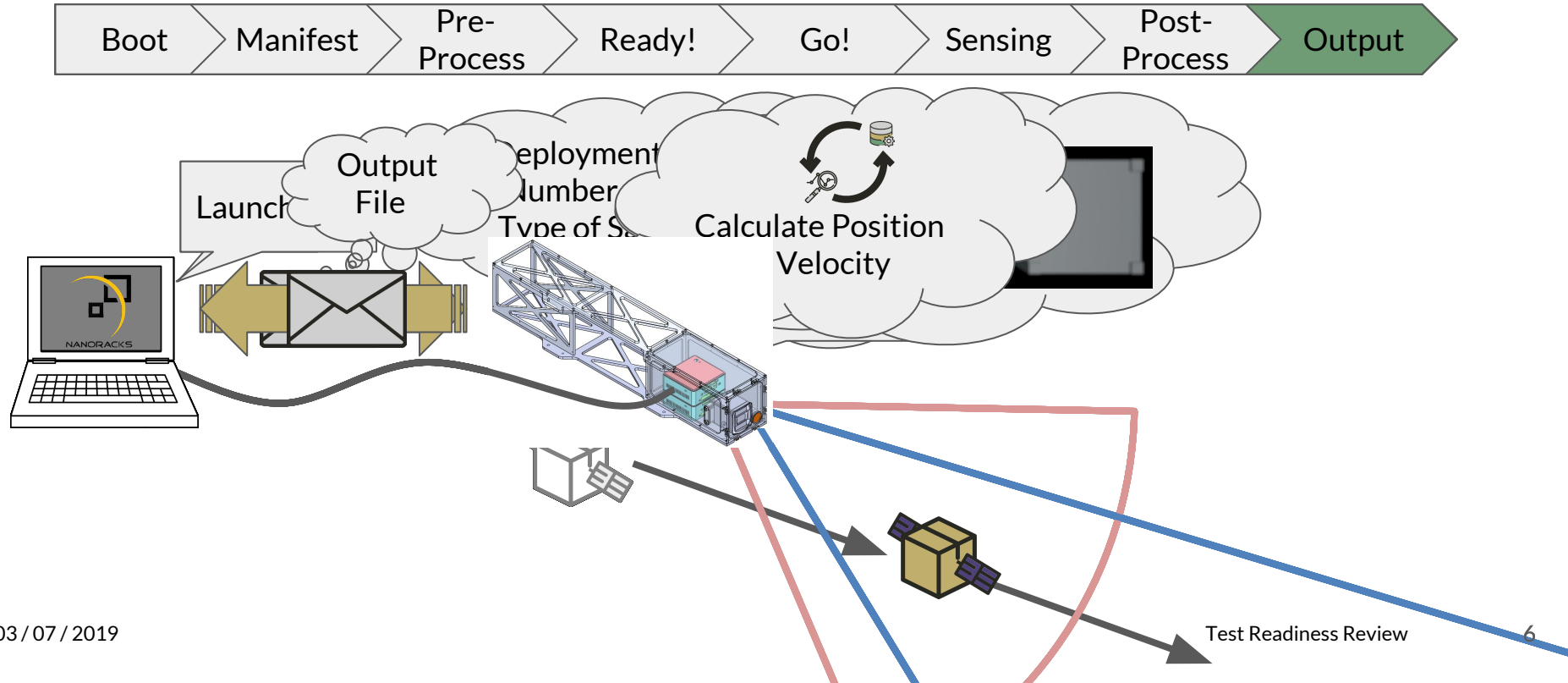
This year's VANTAGE team will produce a **proof of concept** for this mission by developing a **ground based prototype** which will be tested using a simulated CubeSat deployment in a laboratory environment.

Project Stakeholders:

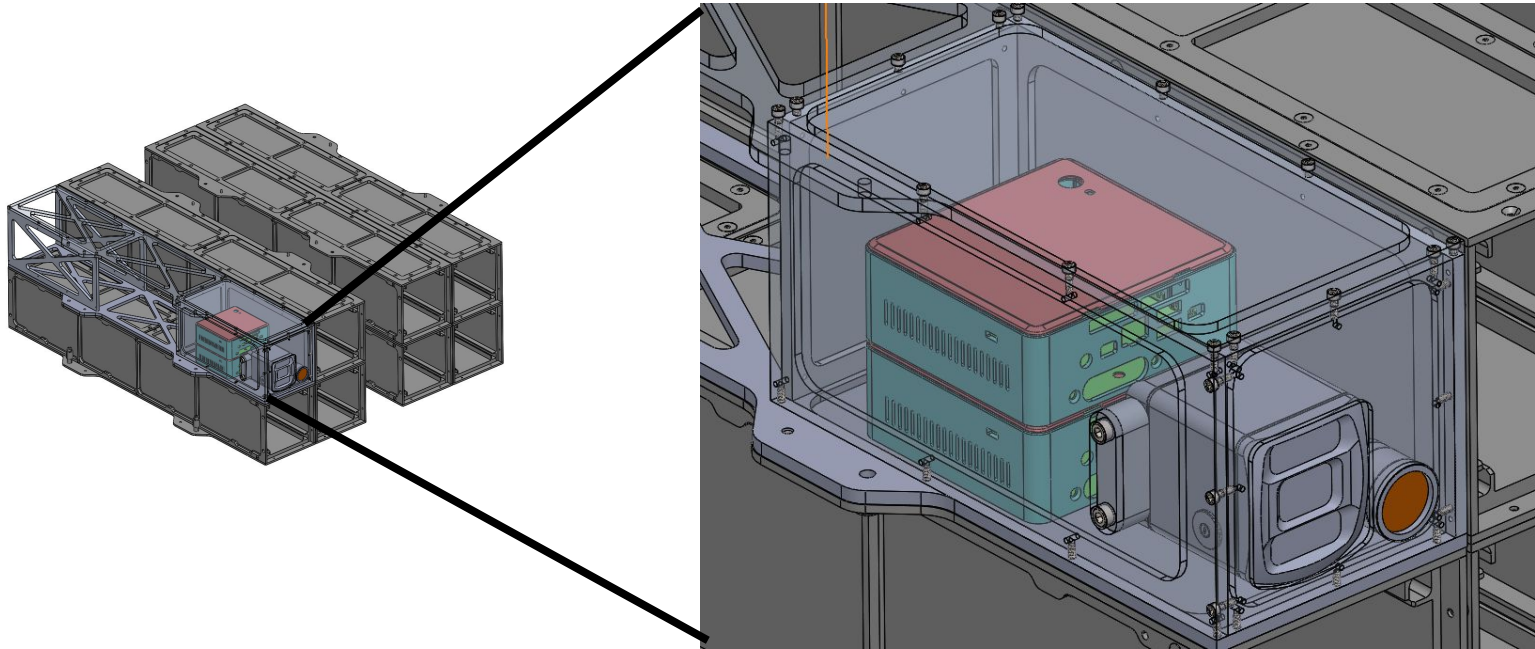
- Customer: Prof. Axelrad and John Gaebler
- Associated Company: NanoRacks

Specific Objectives

Structures - STR (level 2)	All key system components <i>fit</i> in the structure, but they only need to <i>function</i> as a “flat sat”
Tracking - TRK (level 2)	VANTAGE software will <i>track the states</i> of 1-6 mock CubeSats out to 100m and <i>report off-nominal velocities</i> of these CubeSats
Power - EPS (level 3)	VANTAGE’s EPS will distribute power corresponding to the available power from the NR deployer
Testing - TST (level 2)	Test rigs can <i>simulate physical deployment</i> of up to six (6) mock CubeSats <i>out to 100m</i> and record position <i>truth data</i>

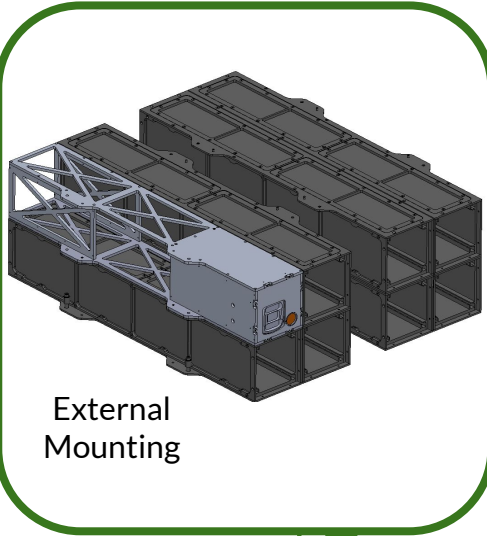


Baseline Design Overview

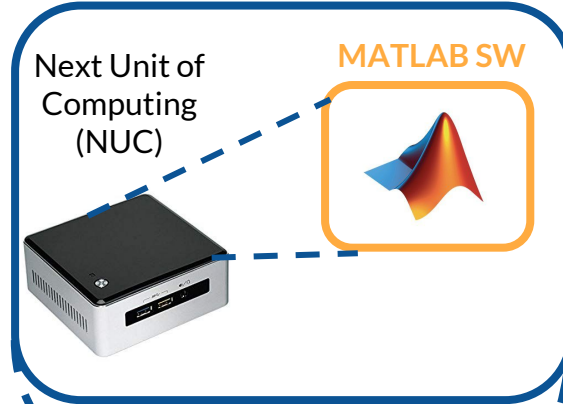


Baseline Design Overview

Interface With NanoRacks Ground-based Hardware



Avionics and Software

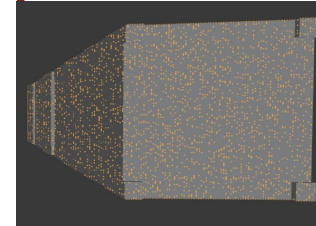


Acquire Data

Time of Flight (TOF) Camera

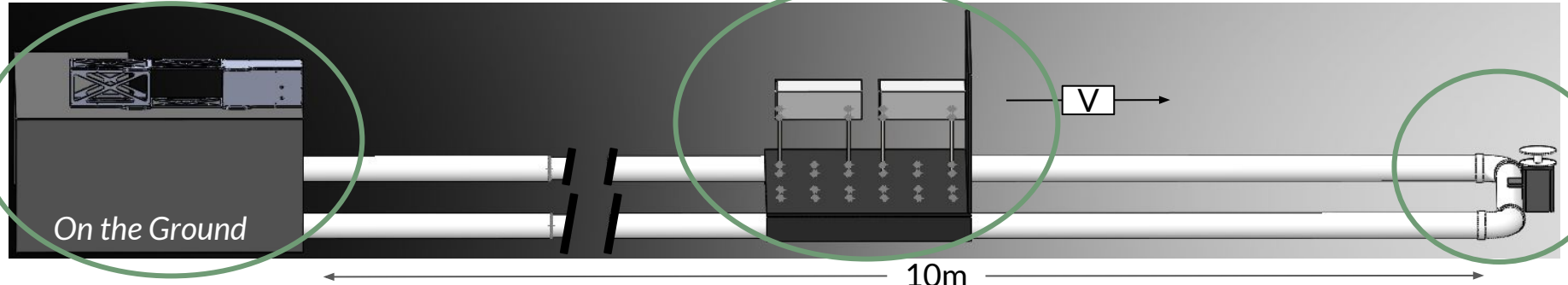


Monochrome Camera



Modular Test Overview

Full Track Not Shown



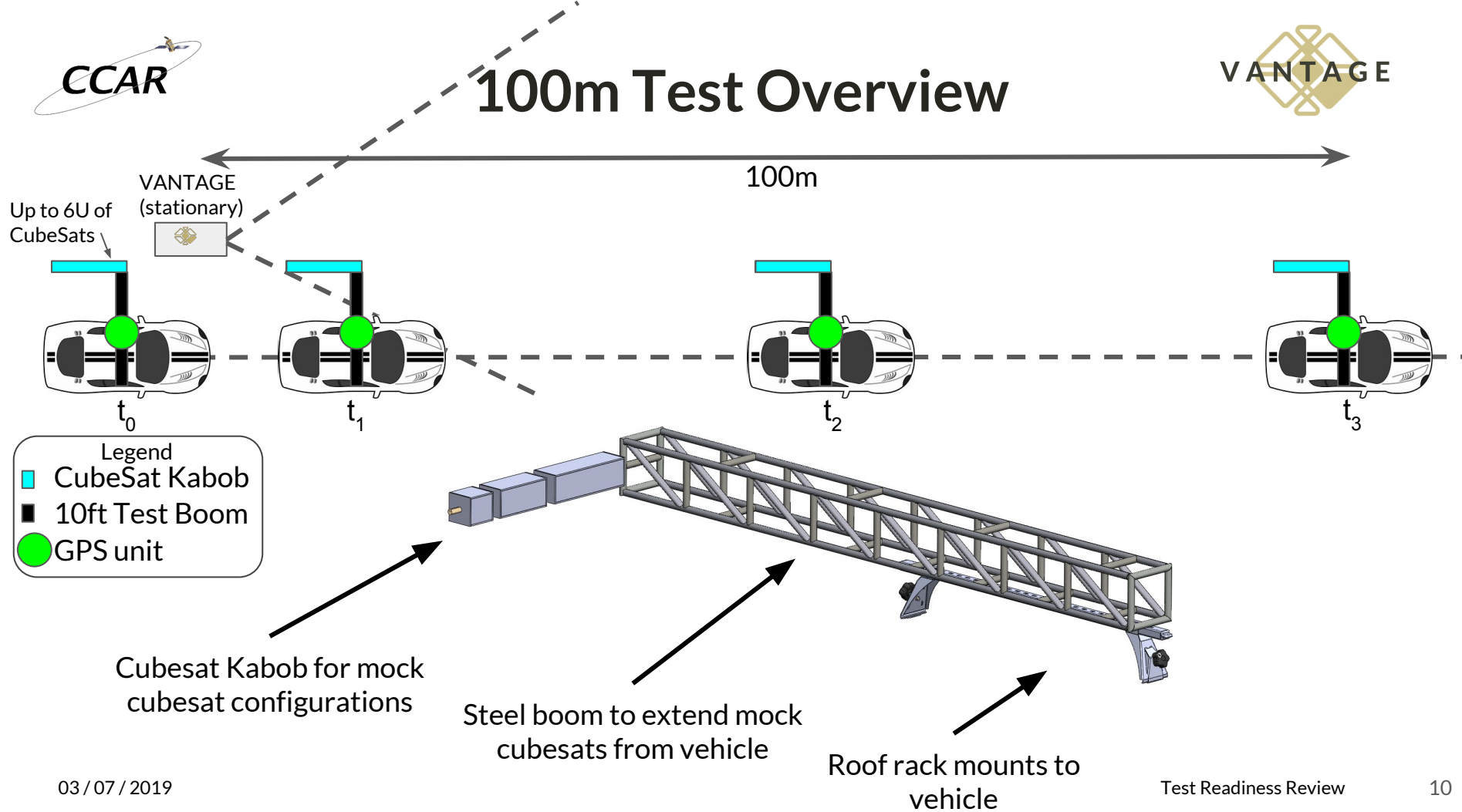
VANTAGE

Cart holds up to 6
1U mock cubesats

Shelf holds VANTAGE
structure

Motor pulls
Cart

100m Test Overview

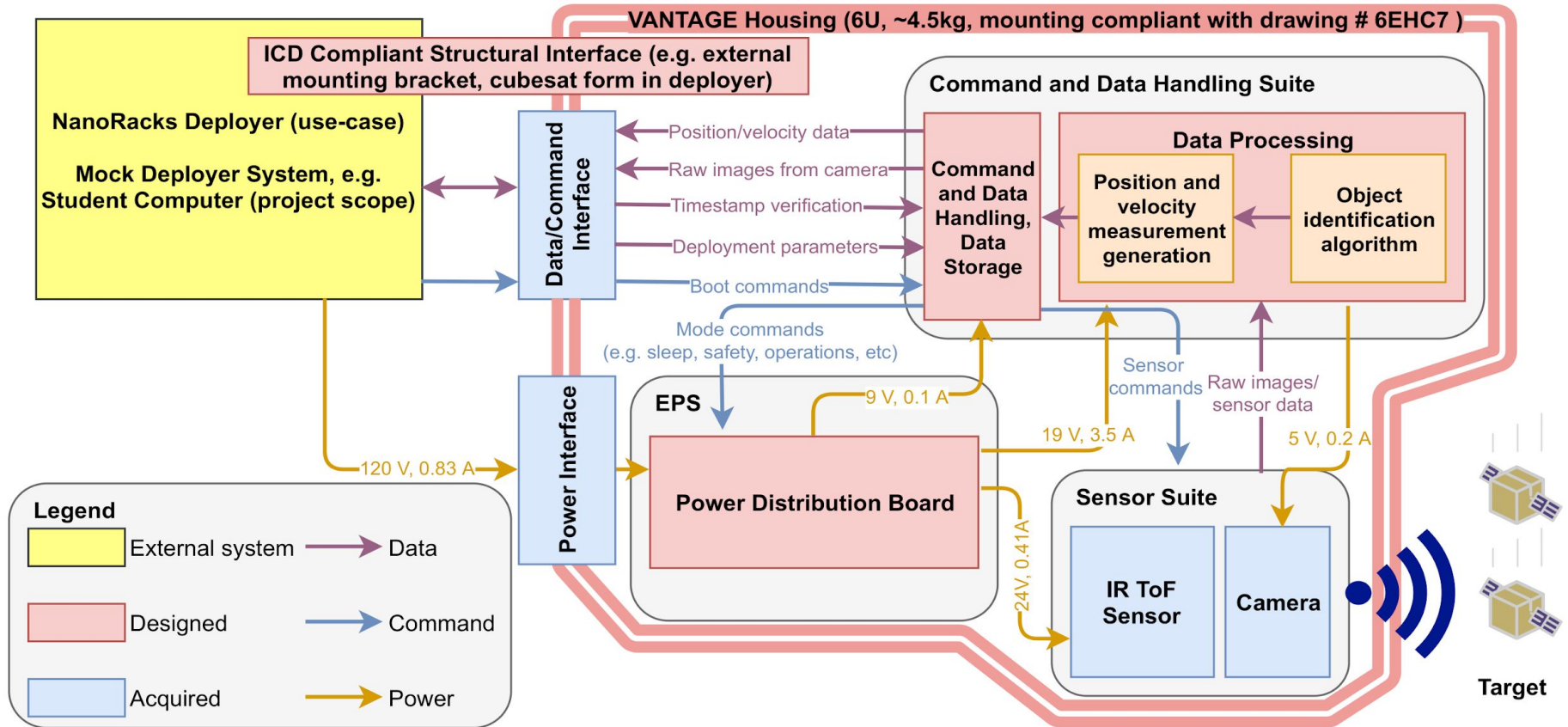


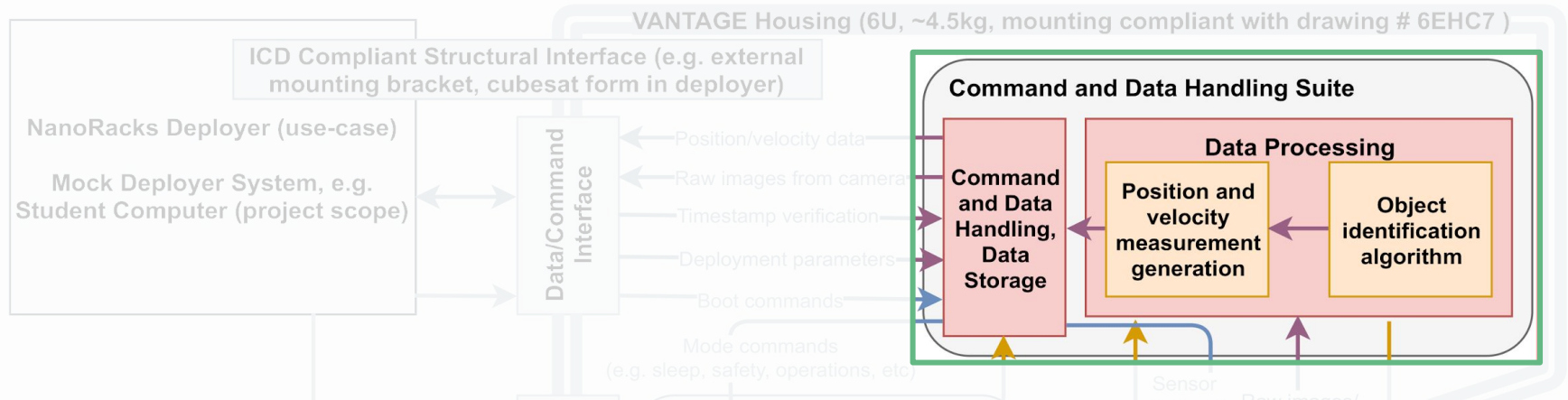


Design Updates Since MSR



- Modular test motor changed from a stepper motor to a DC brushless motor to increase velocity range and decrease complexity.





CPE Summary	Specific Objective	Testing Item
Calculate Individual CubeSat Position and Velocity Within Error Bounds	Tracking Lvl. 2	Use Simulated Data to Verify Software and Data Handling Functionality



NanoRacks Deployer (use-case)

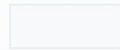
Mock Deployer
Student Computer

CPE Summary	Specific Objective	Testing Task
Individual Components Will Fit Inside the VANTAGE Structure and the Structure Will Interface With the NanoRacks System	Structures Lvl. 2	The VANTAGE Structure Will Be Integrated Onto the NanoRacks Deployer to Verify Compliance

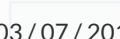
Legend



External system → Data



Designed → Command



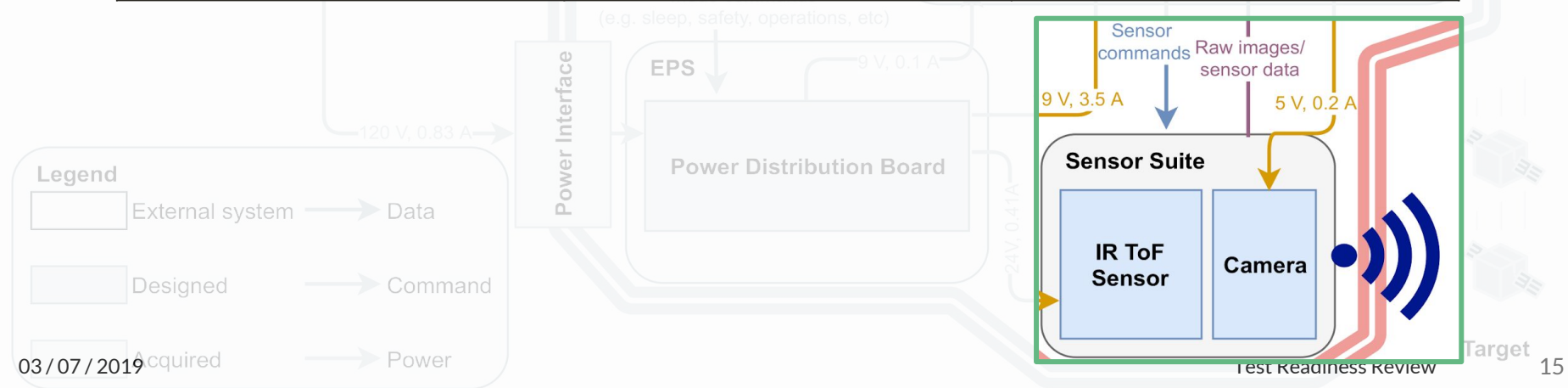
Acquired → Power

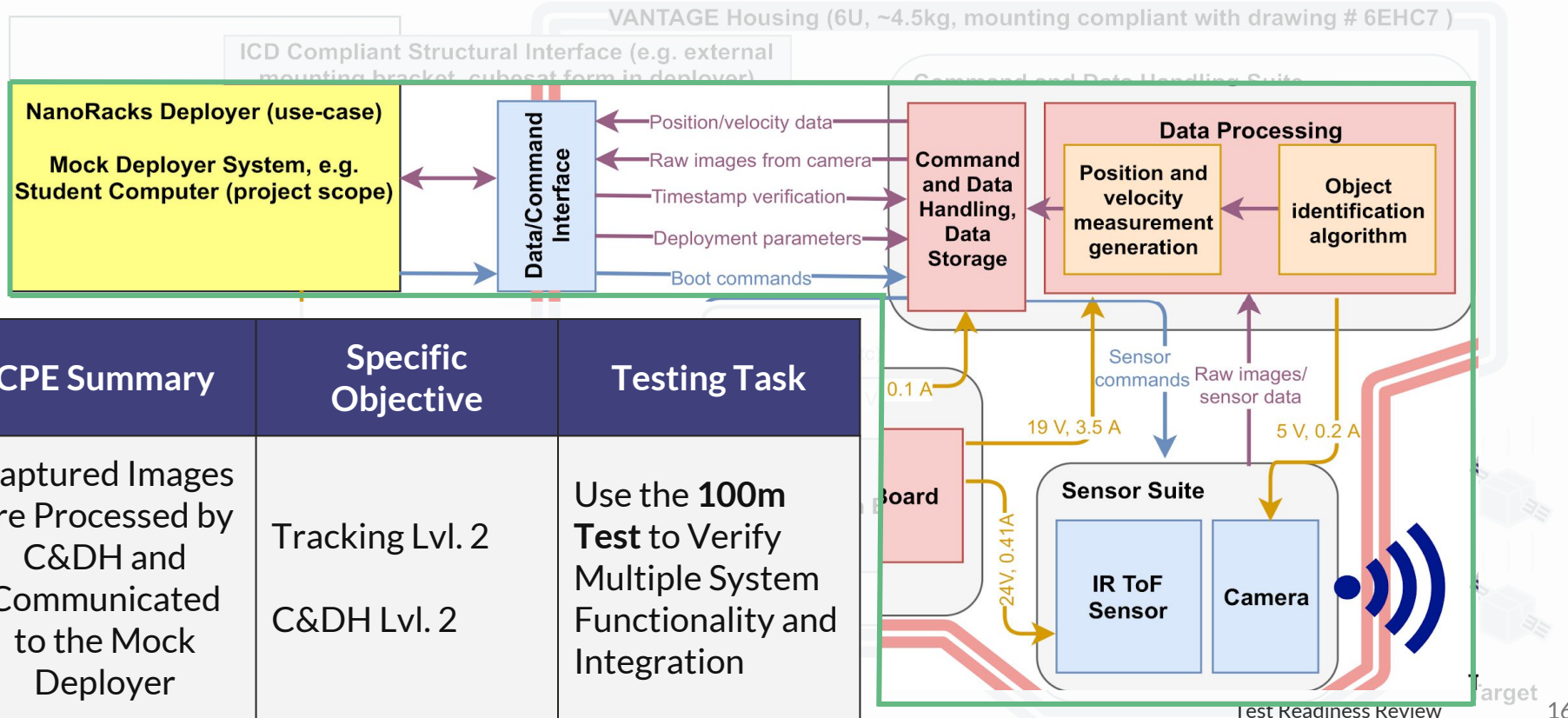
03/07/2019



Critical Testing Elements

CPE Summary	Specific Objective	Testing Task
VANTAGE Captures and Stores Sensor Data for Future Processing	Command & Data Handling Lvl. 2	Use Modular Test Data to Verify Sensor Functionality and Software Integration



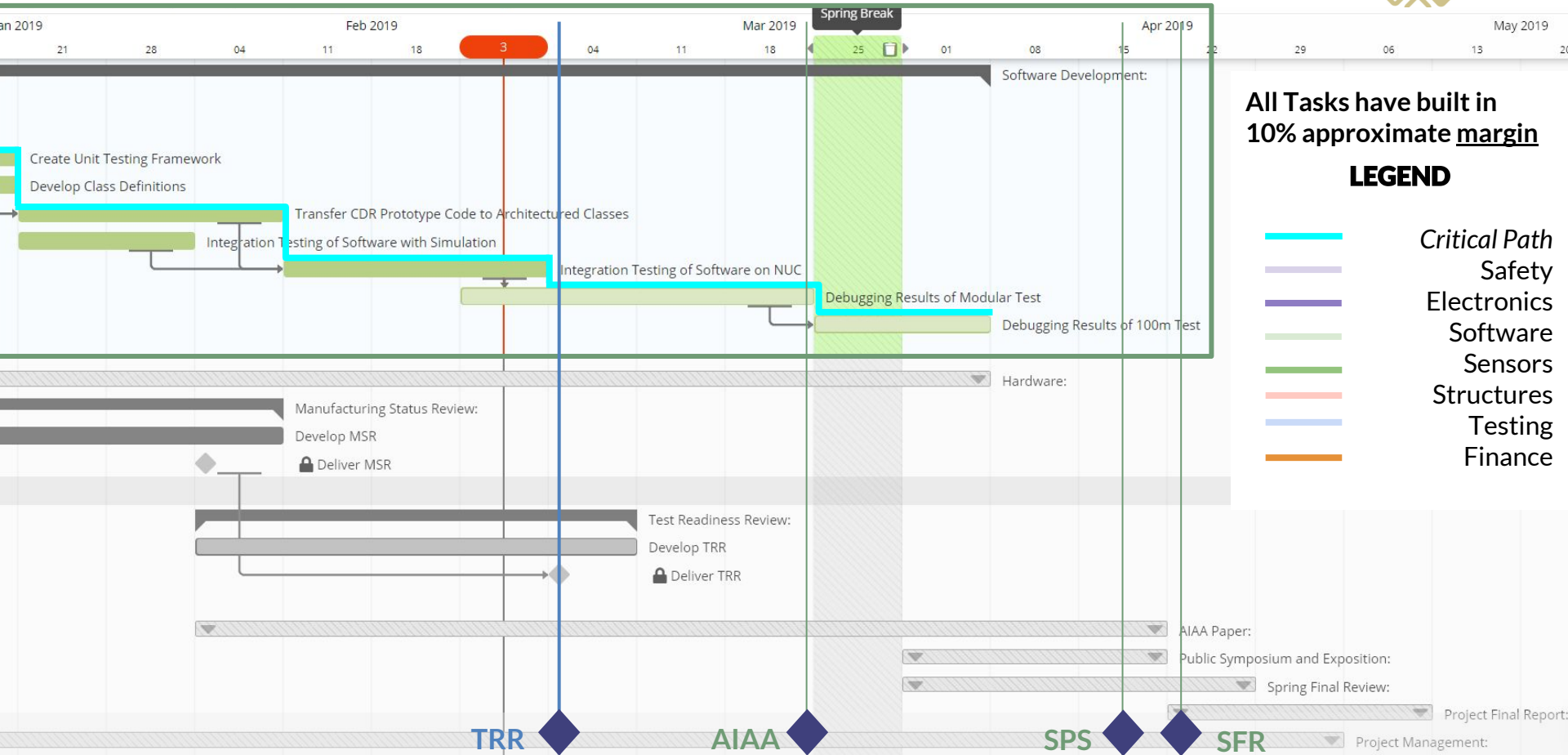




Schedule

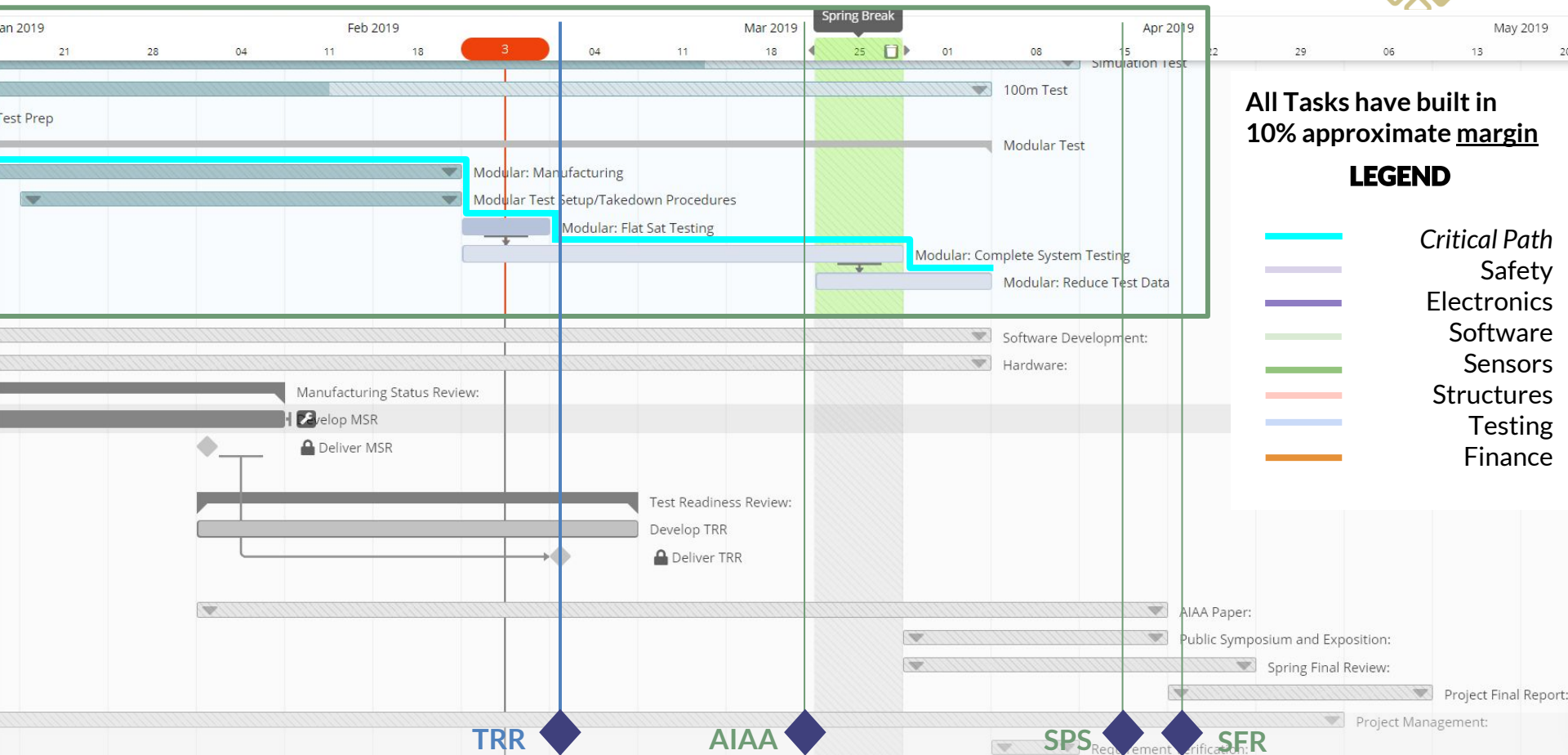


Software Test Schedule

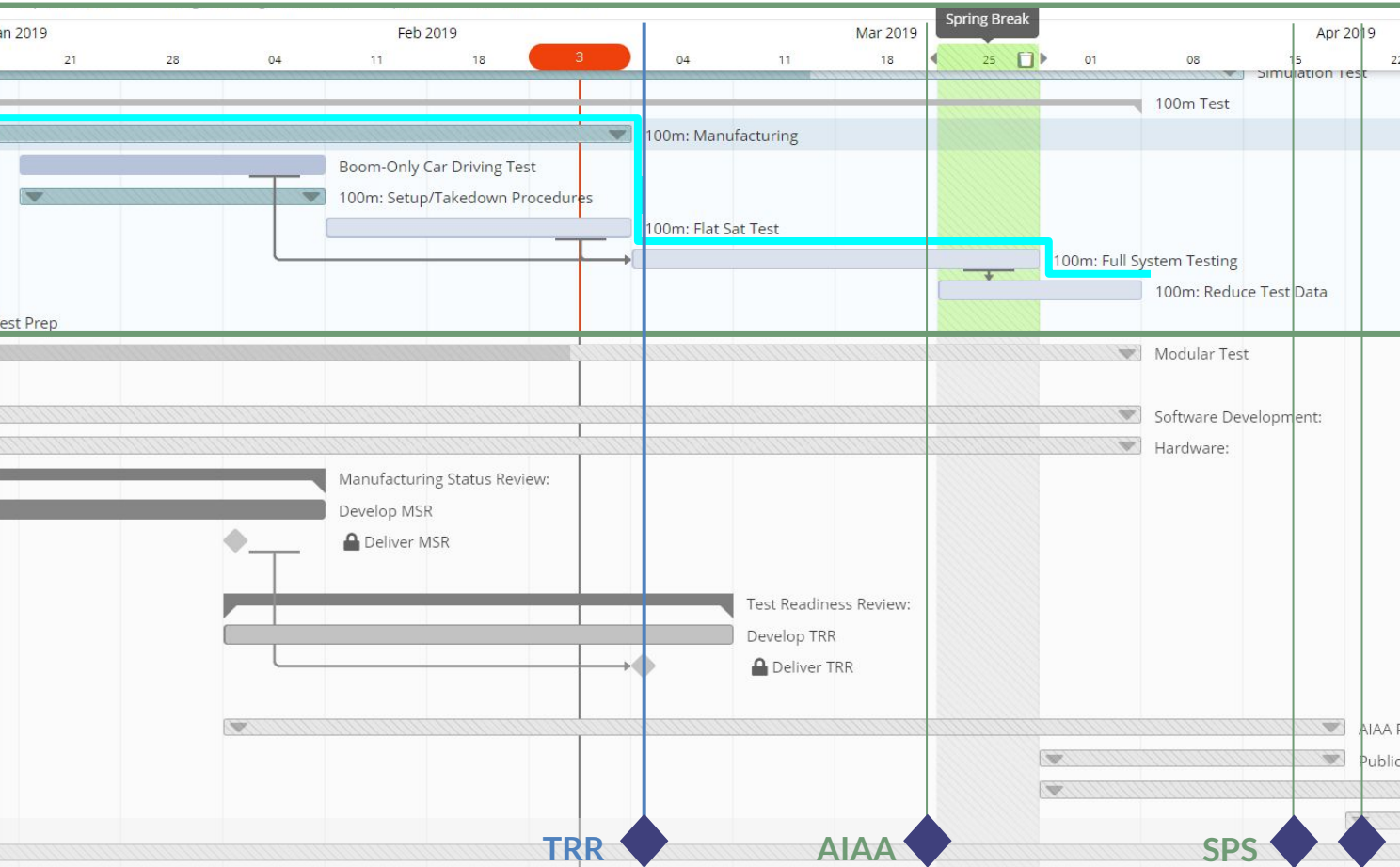




Modular Test Schedule



100m Test Schedule



All Tasks have built in
10% approximate margin

LEGEND

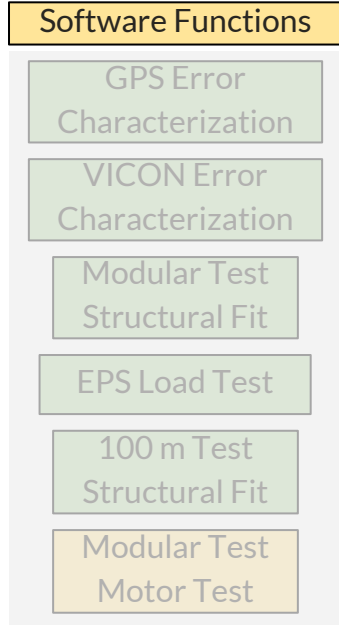
- Critical Path
- Safety
- Electronics
- Software
- Sensors
- Structures
- Testing
- Finance



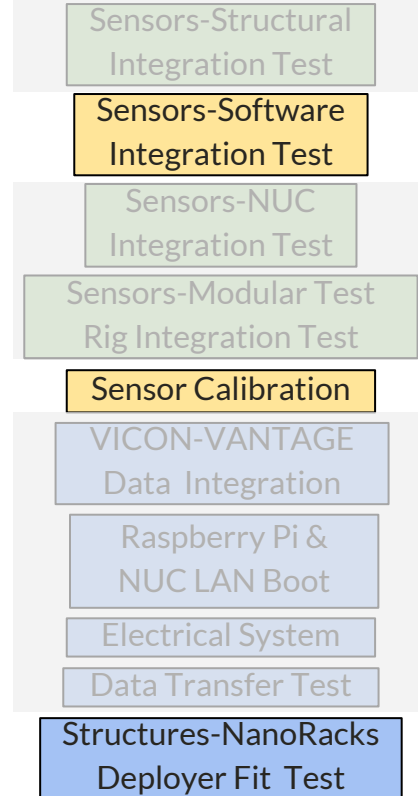
Test Readiness

Testing Overview

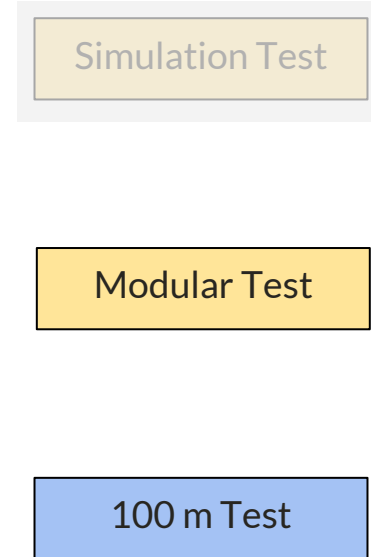
Subsystem Testing



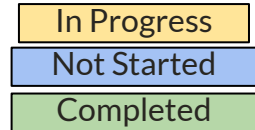
Integration Testing



System Testing

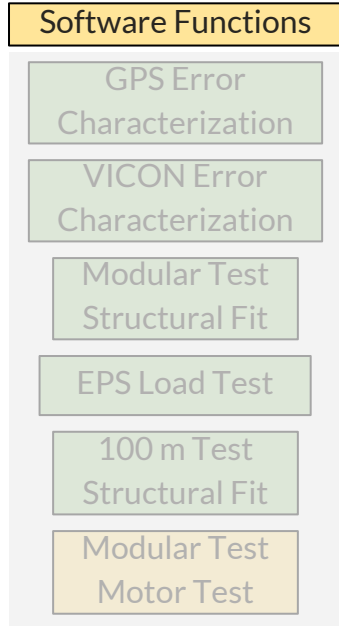


Legend

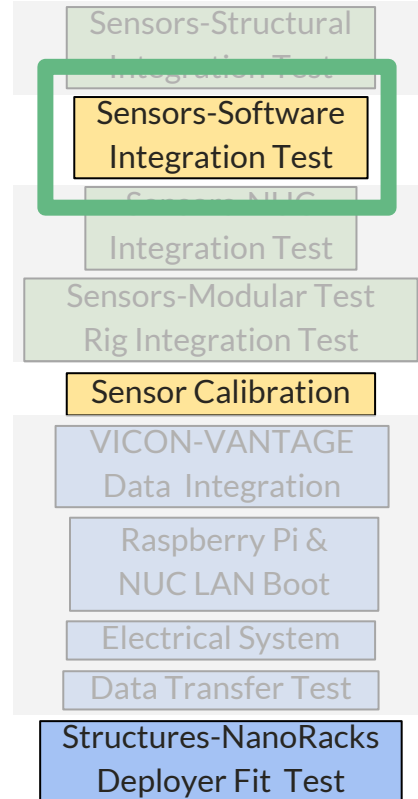


Software Integration Testing

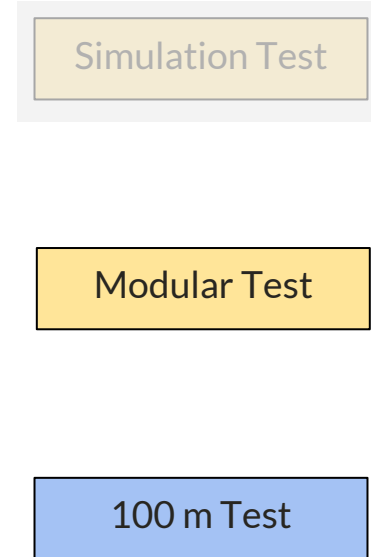
Subsystem Testing



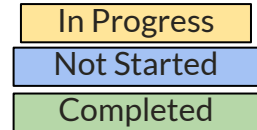
Integration Testing



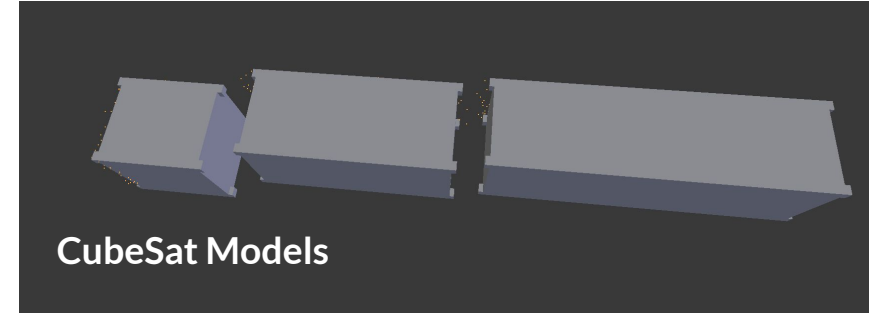
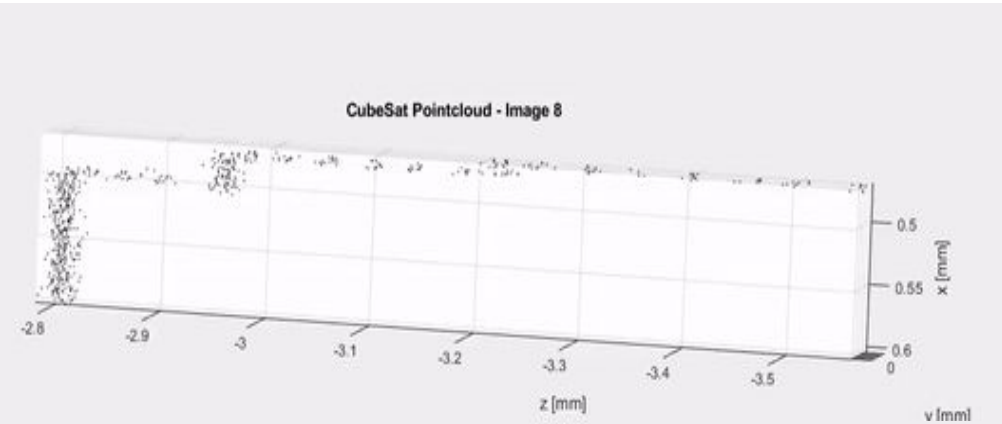
System Testing



Legend



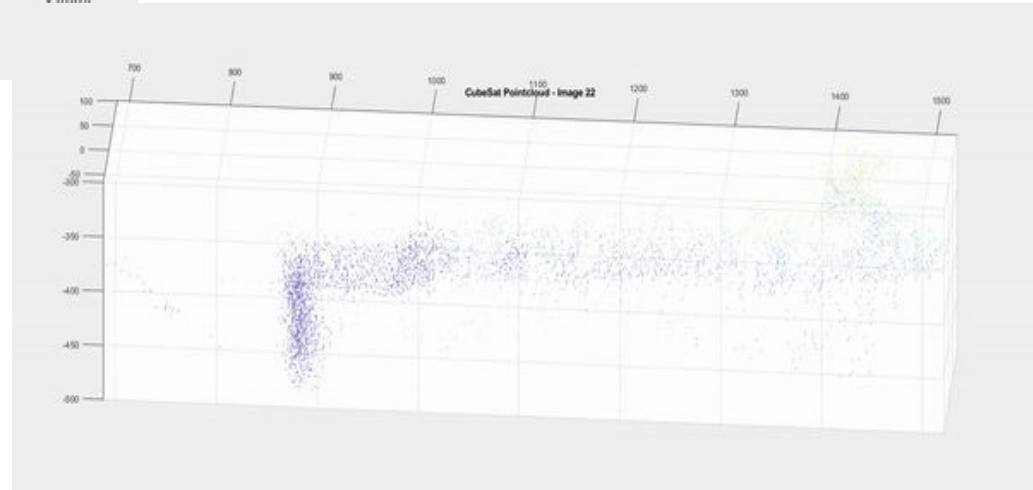
Model Validated	Risk Buy-Down	Expected Results	Status	Obstacles/Mitigation
Validate sensor integration with VANTAGE software for automated data capture	VANTAGE can perform integrated tests	Automated point cloud and grayscale image outputs from sensors	Initial setup complete	Ensuring consistent data capture/Extensive modular testing, reallocating resources



Simulation Data
(from Modular Test Simulation)

03 / 07 / 2019

Actual ToF Sensor Data
(from Modular Test)

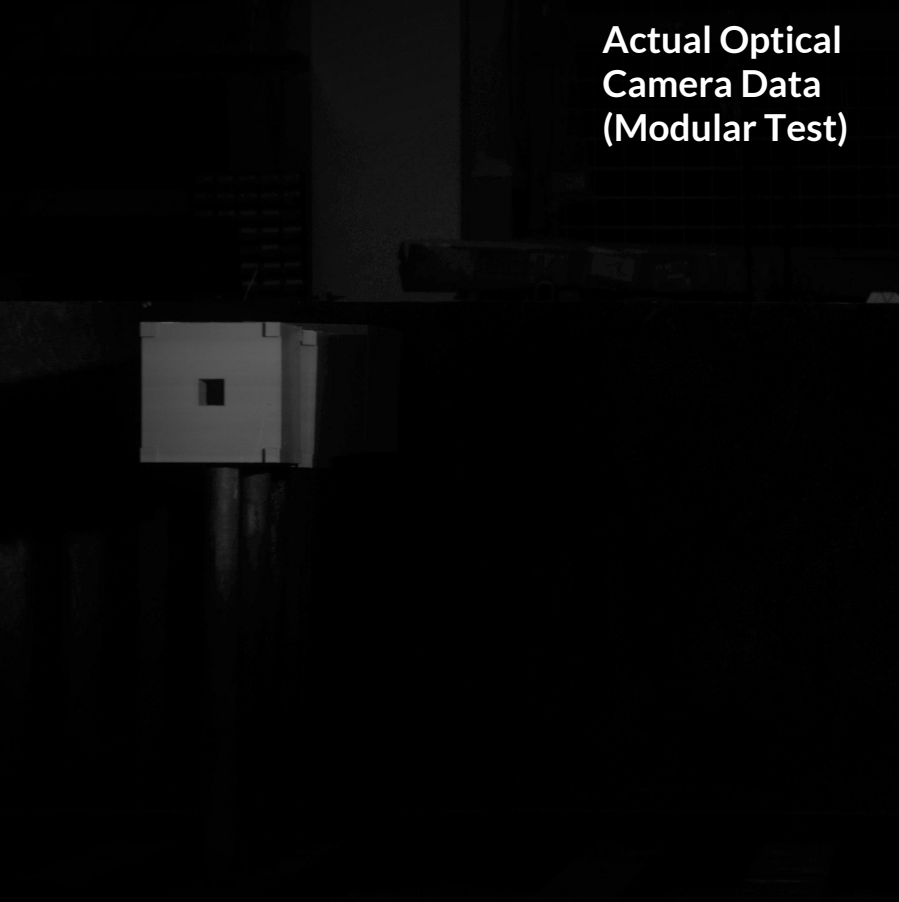




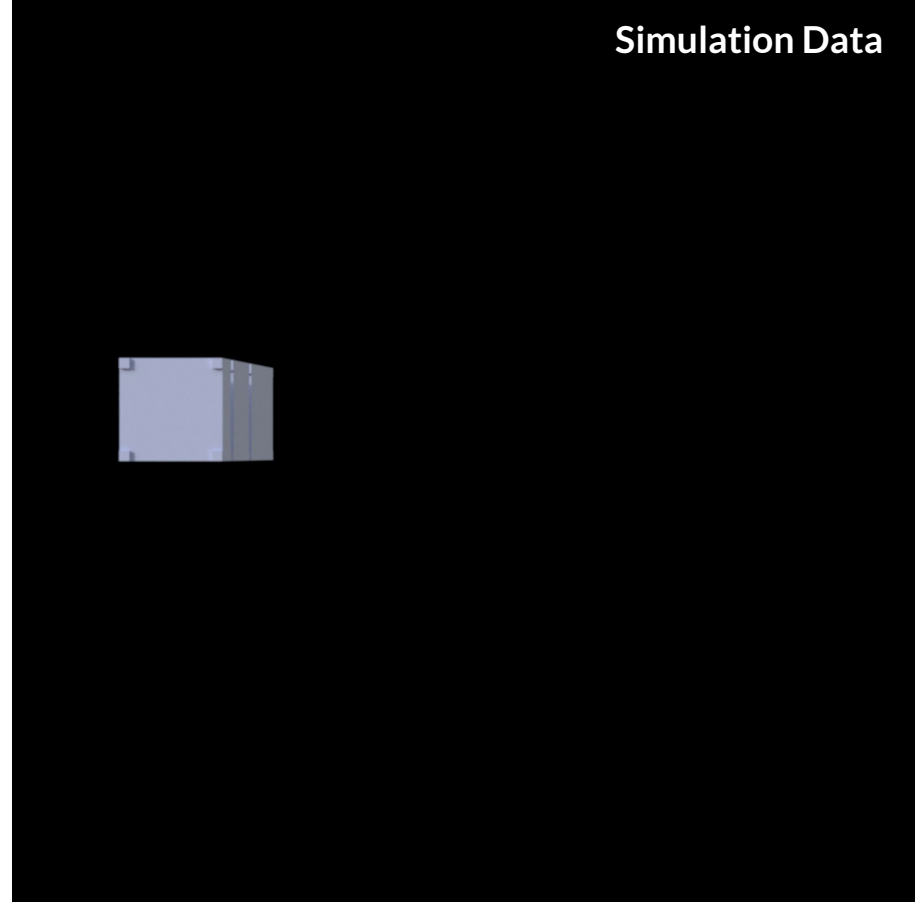
Optical Camera Integration



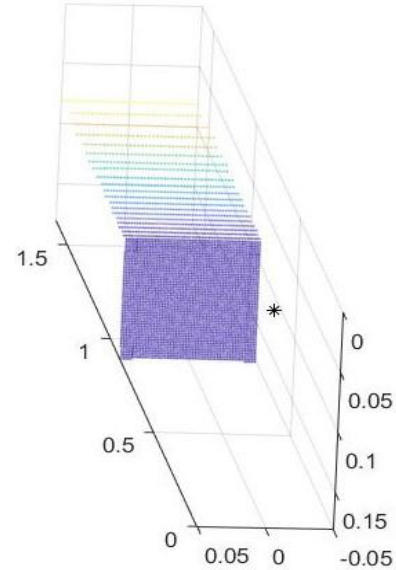
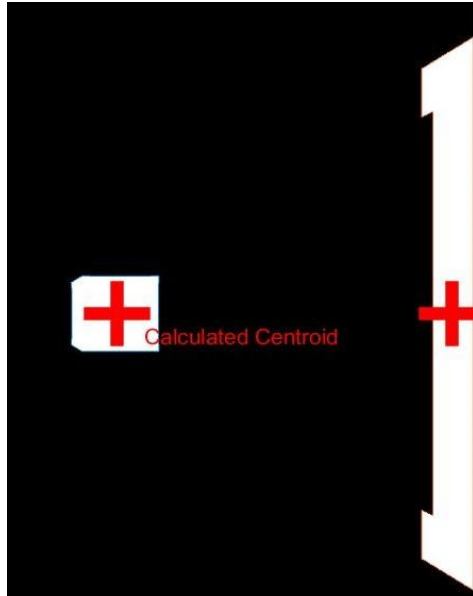
Actual Optical
Camera Data
(Modular Test)



Simulation Data



*Optical
Object
Detections*

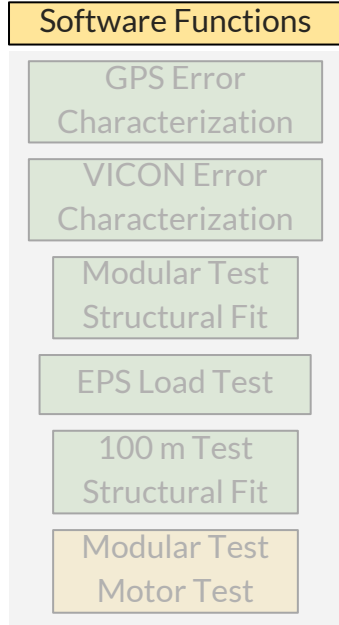


*ToF
Object
Detection*

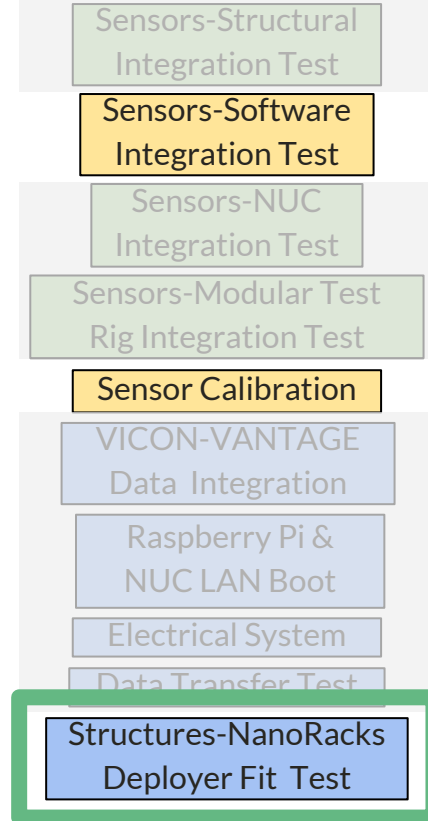
Model Validated	Risk Buy-Down	Expected Results	Status	Obstacles/Mitigation
Validate processing of test data to meet software requirements	Using simulated data to increase real-world testing efficiency	Object detection in both grayscale and point cloud data sets	Unit tests for major functionality written	Pipelining unit tests into full system/Collaborative coding sessions

Structural Interface Testing

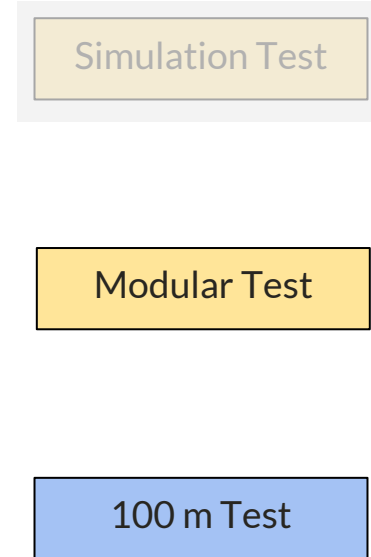
Subsystem Testing



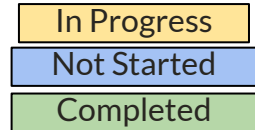
Integration Testing



System Testing

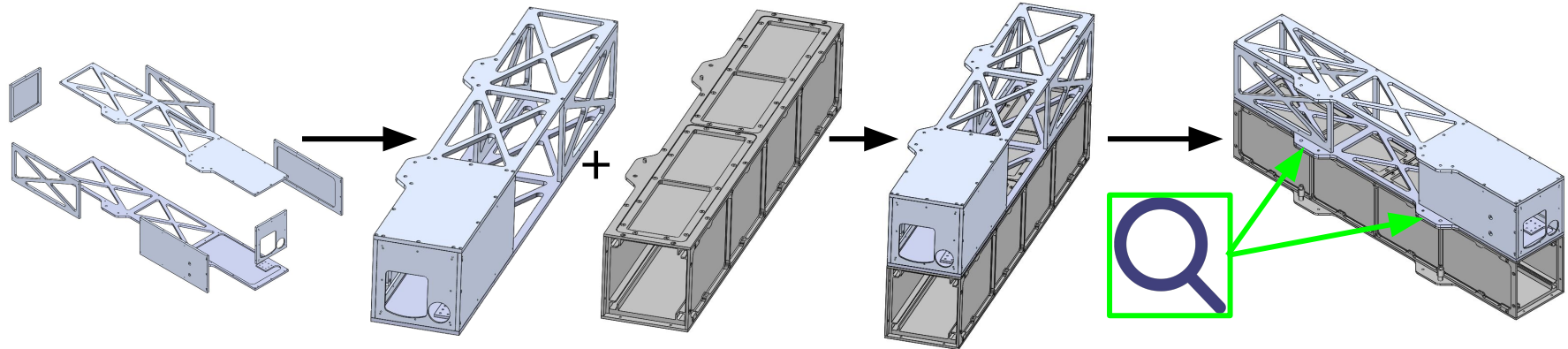


Legend



Structural Interface Test

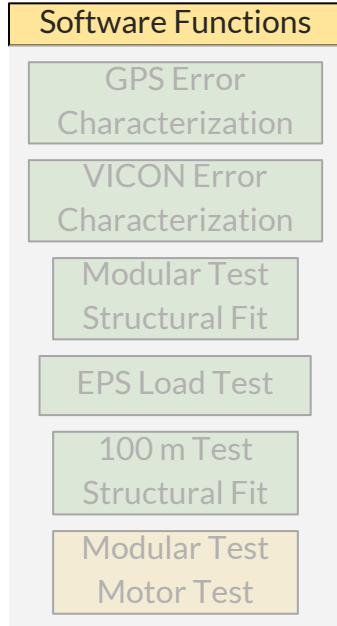
OBJECTIVE: Be Mechanical ICD Compliant with NanoRacks Hardware



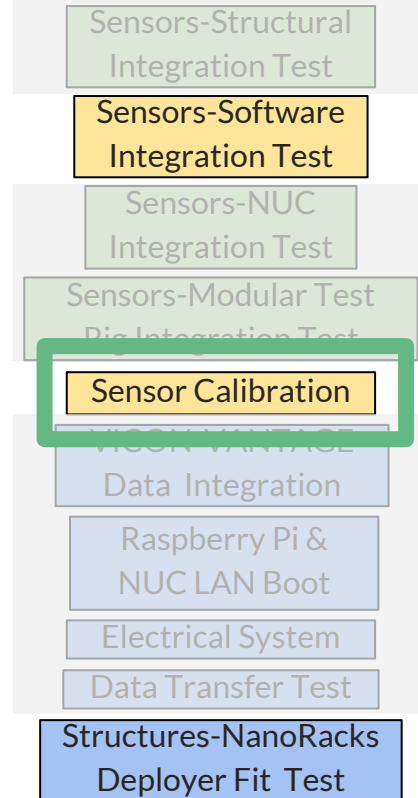
Model Validated	Risk Buy-Down	Expected Results	Status	Obstacles/Mitigation
Validate CAD and CAM for building the VANTAGE structure to support future iterations	VANTAGE provides a future platform for flight payloads	Structure integrates with the NanoRacks Deployer	In Manufacturing	Machining Time/ Early Completion and Plenty of Extra Time

Sensor Calibration Testing

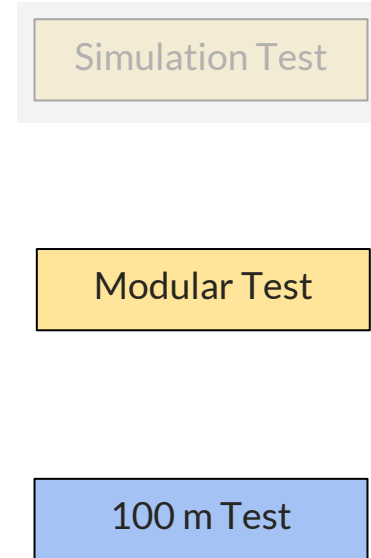
Subsystem Testing



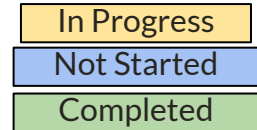
Integration Testing



System Testing



Legend

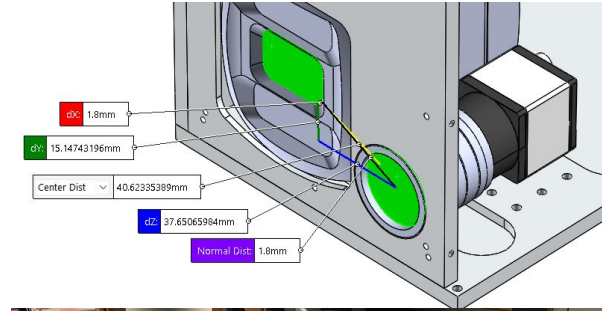




Procedure: Take images of a checkerboard in various orientations with both cameras at the same time. Use **stereo camera calibration** techniques to determine positional and angular orientation and uncertainties

Measurements + uncertainty within expectations from mechanical model:

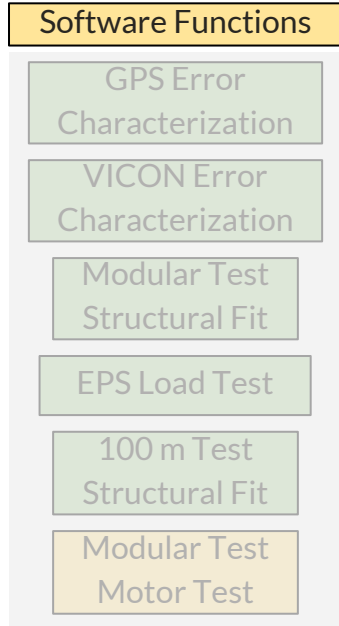
- Angular Uncertainty: **[2.67 4.82 0.34] degrees** [x,y,z]
- Camera Relative Positional Uncertainty: **12 mm**



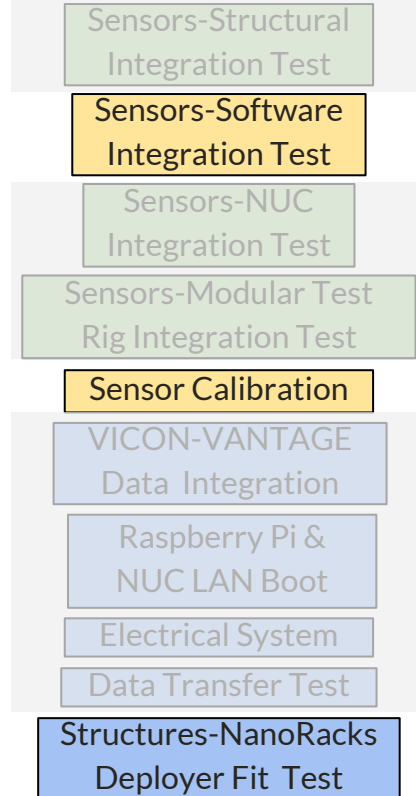
Models Validated	Risk Buy-Down	Expected Results	Status	Obstacles/ Mitigation
Pinhole Camera Model, Mechanical Mounting Model	Tracing sources of error, systematic biases in data	Knowledge of pointing of sensors should be well within total error requirements	Iterating to improve uncertainty	Large calibration uncertainties -> More, smarter samples

Modular Test Overview

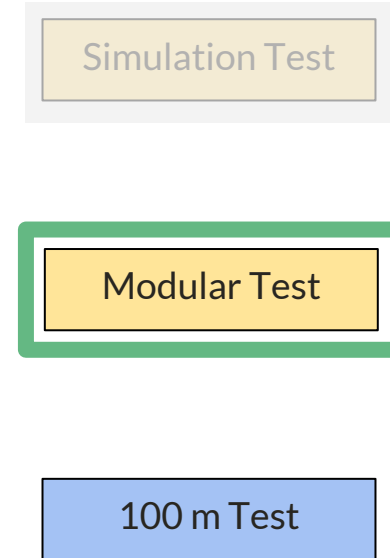
Subsystem Testing



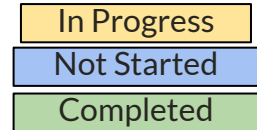
Integration Testing



System Testing



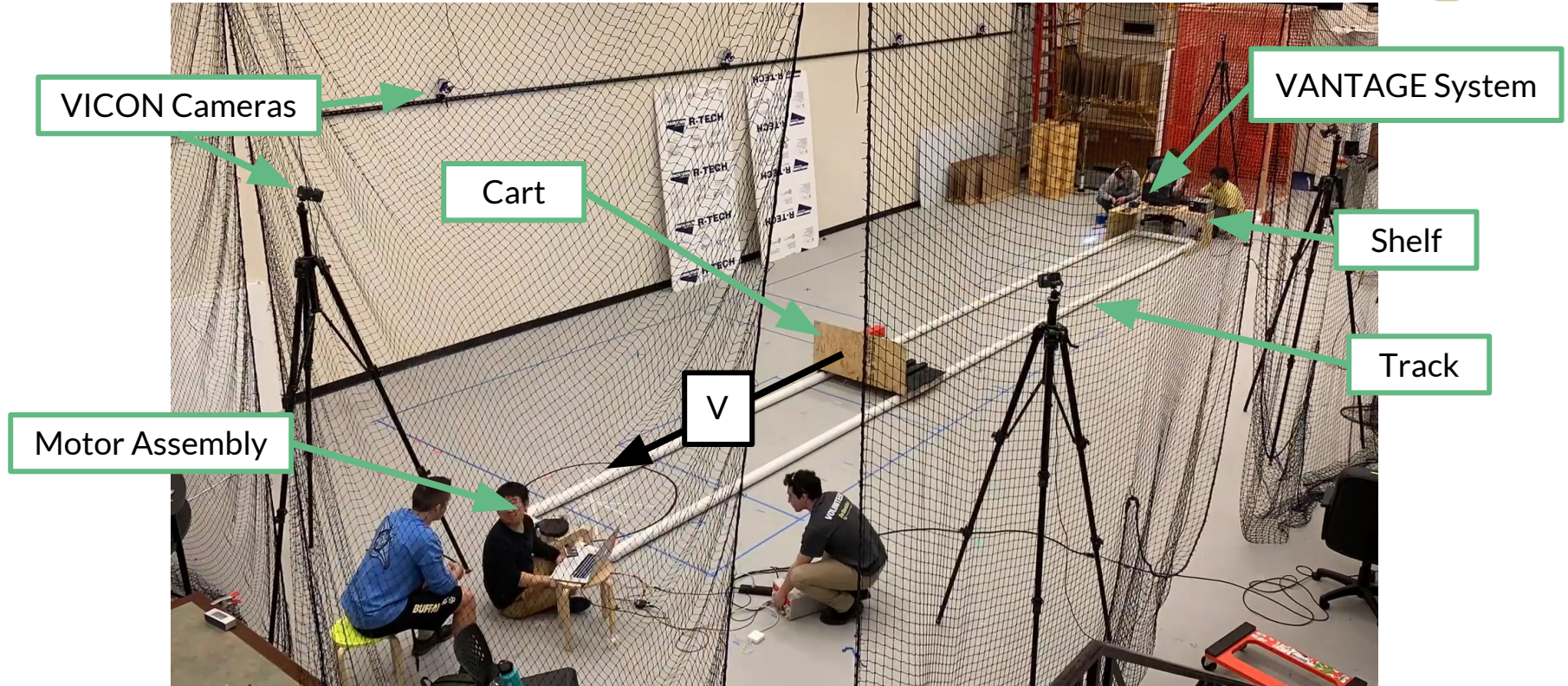
Legend



Modular Test Objectives

Test Objectives	Relevant DR's
Camera system functionality and single infocus image return	DR.1.1 DR.1.3 DR.1.4
Mock cubesat detection at 10 m range	DR.5.2
Position vector and velocity vector measurements are within error bounds for 10 m range	DR.6.1 DR.6.2
Off-nominal ejection times and velocities	DR.7.2 DR.7.3

Most Critical for
Project Success



Status

- Initial data collection has been done
- Error inherent in VICON has been characterized
- *Motor re-design in progress*
 - Motor Controller underperforming: max velocity ~ 0.625 m/s
 - Switching to a new motor with triple the torque that doesn't require a controller

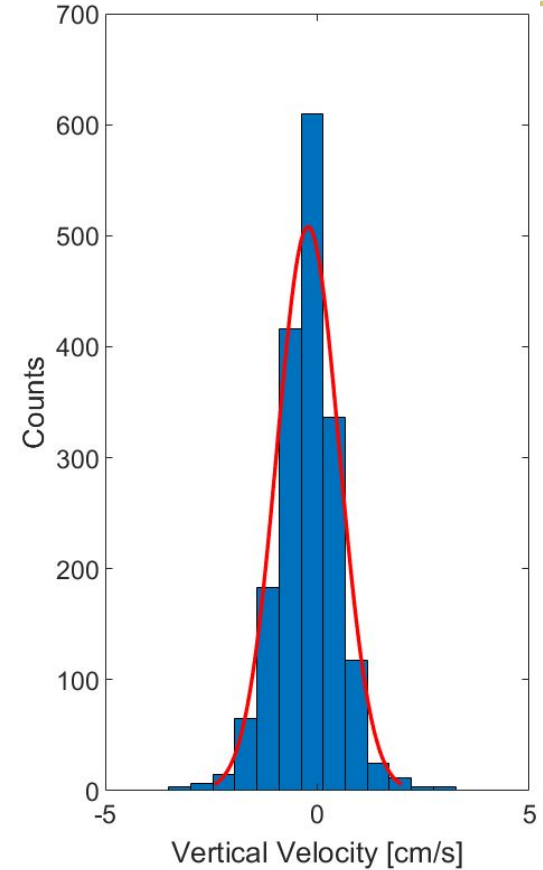
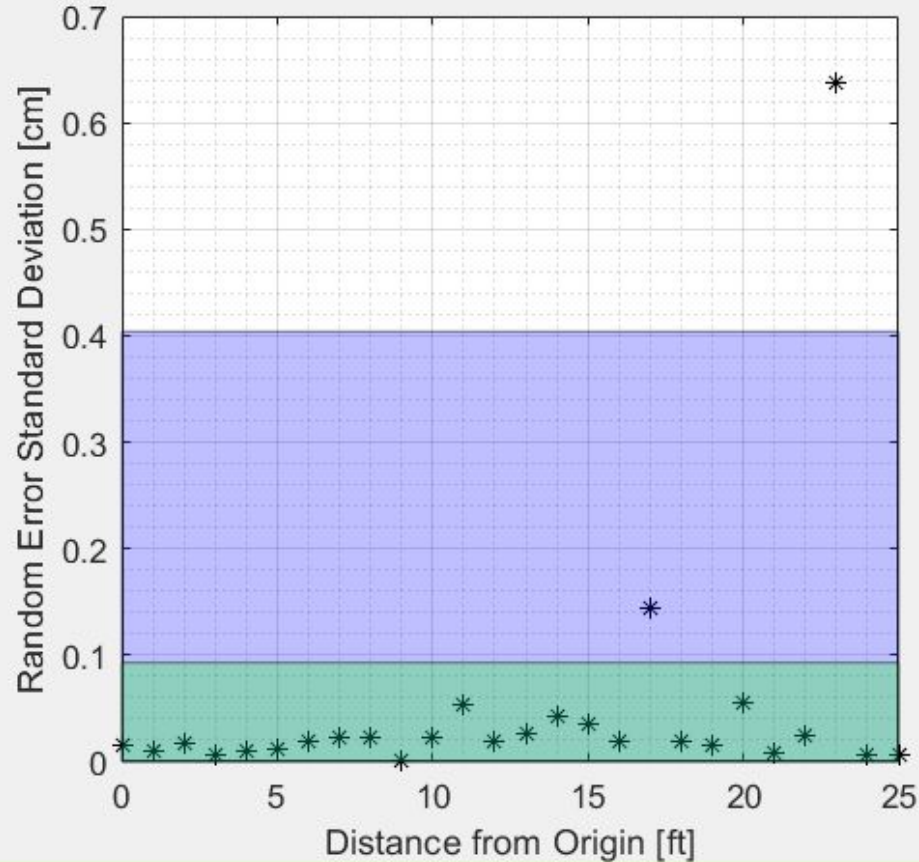
Equipment/Facilities

- Two Power Supplies (TOF Camera & Motor)
- Modular Test Rig
- VICON Tracker Balls
- VANTAGE Sensor Package
- Test done at RECUV VICON Lab

Modular Test Results

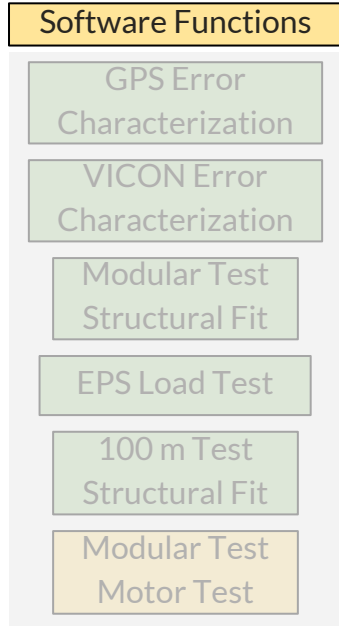
Expected Results	Test Objectives
Images of mock cubesats being deployed	Camera system functionality and single infocus image return
VANTAGE frame x,y,z cubesat centroid positions	Mock cubesat detection at 10 m range
VICON x,y,z positions & a fixed position offset vector from VICON object center to each cubesat centroid	Position vector and velocity vector measurements are within error bounds for 10 m range
Data from off-nominal deployments	Off-nominal ejection times and velocities

VICON Error Characterization

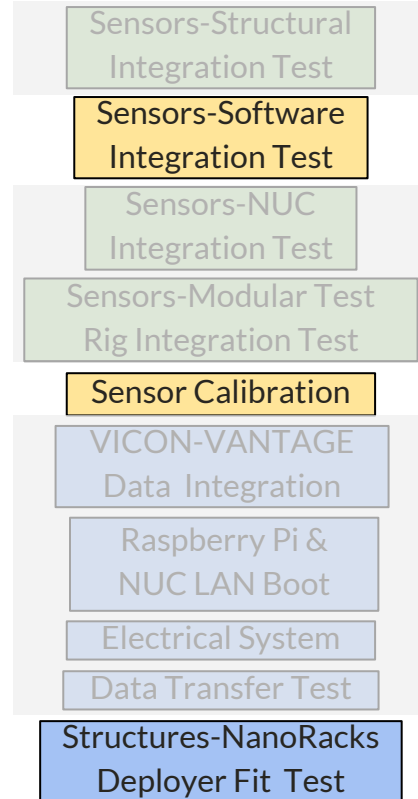


100 m Test Overview

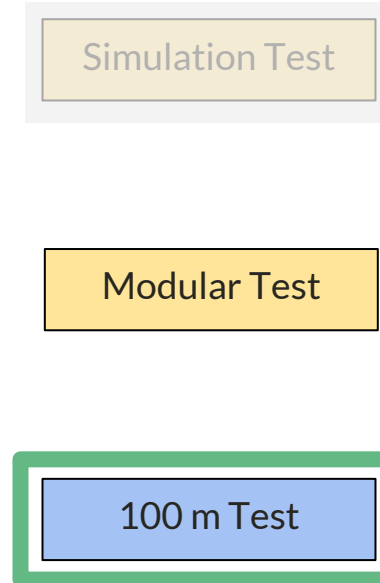
Subsystem Testing



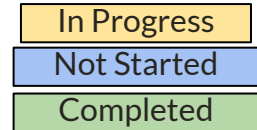
Integration Testing



System Testing



Legend



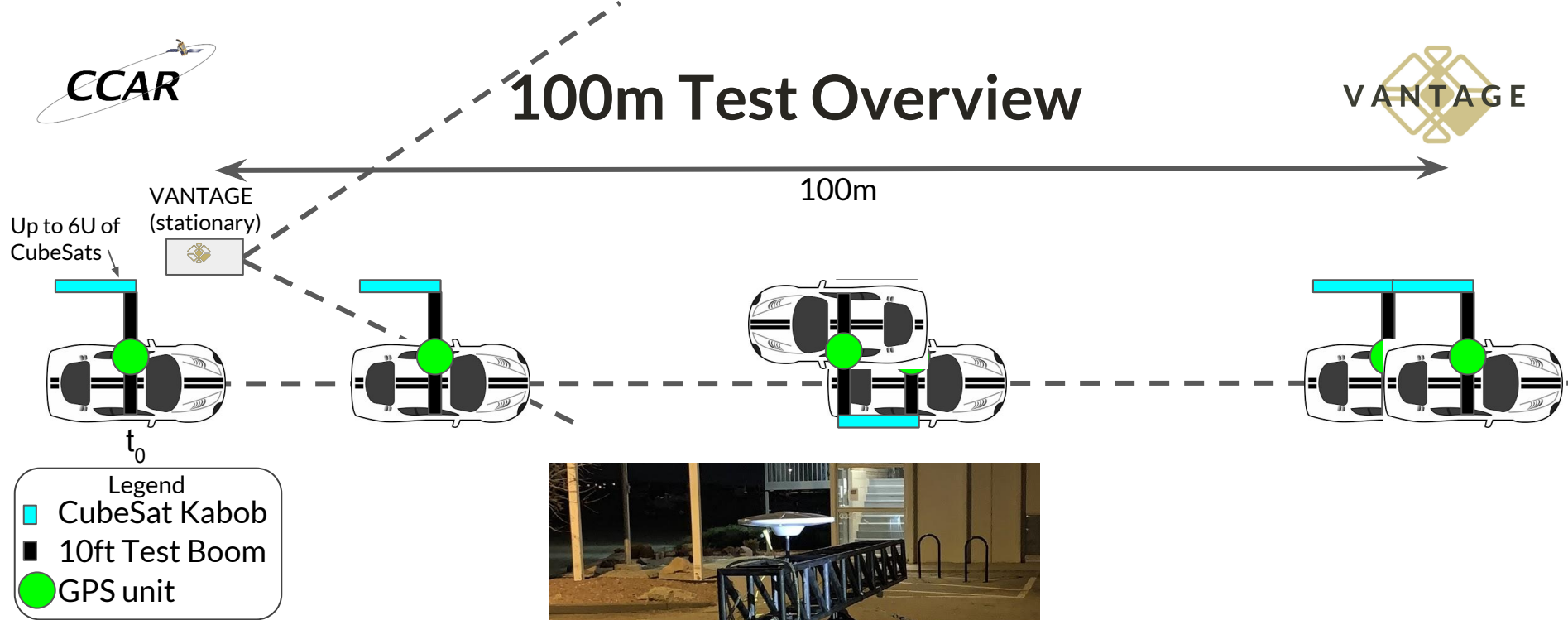
100m Test Objectives

Test Objectives	Relevant DR's
Mock cubesat detection at 100 m range	DR.5.2
Position vector and velocity vector measurements are within error bounds for 100 m range	DR.6.1 DR.6.2
Report data larger data file back to the user within allotted time	DR.8.1

Most Critical for
Project Success



100m Test Overview



100m Test Overview

Status

- All fit checks have been completed
- Done a dry run of on site setup
- GPS uncertainty characterized
- Waiting for software to work with modular test data to characterize VANTAGE uncertainty
 - Ready to test when software is ready for full system automated testing

Equipment / Facilities

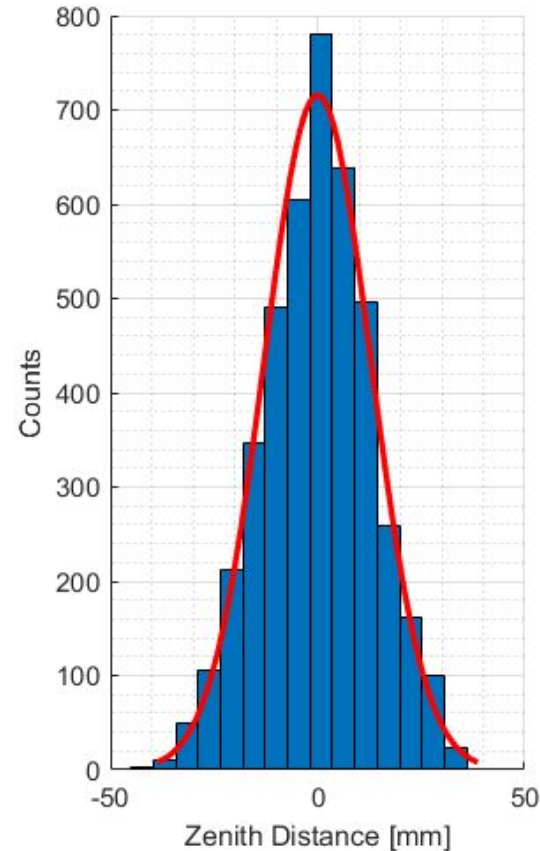
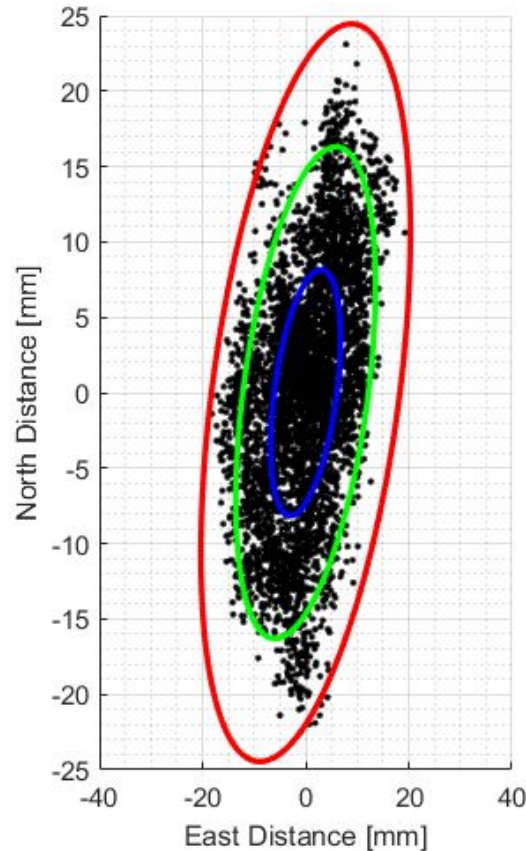
- Boulder Airport location works great
- Power generator available from Trudy
- All test rig stuff is ready
- VANTAGE sensor package ready with student computer ground station

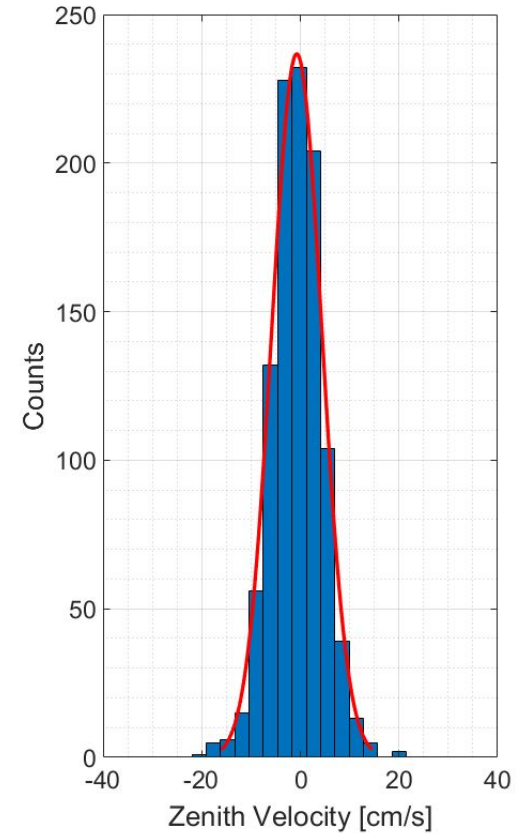
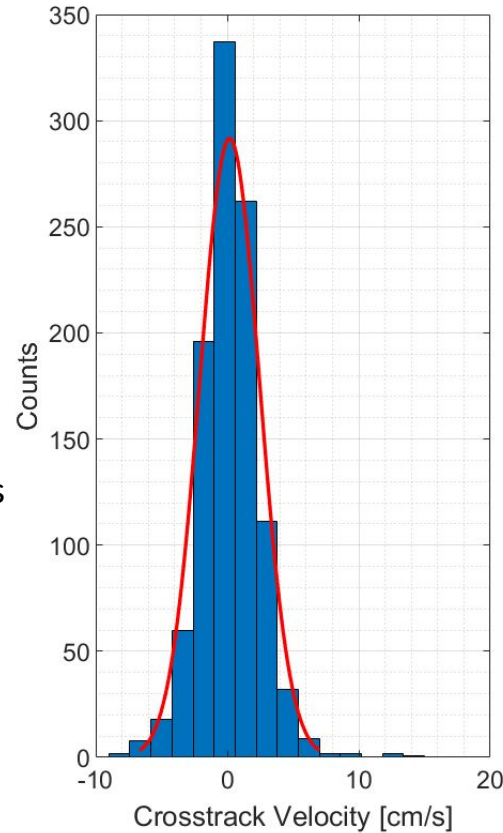
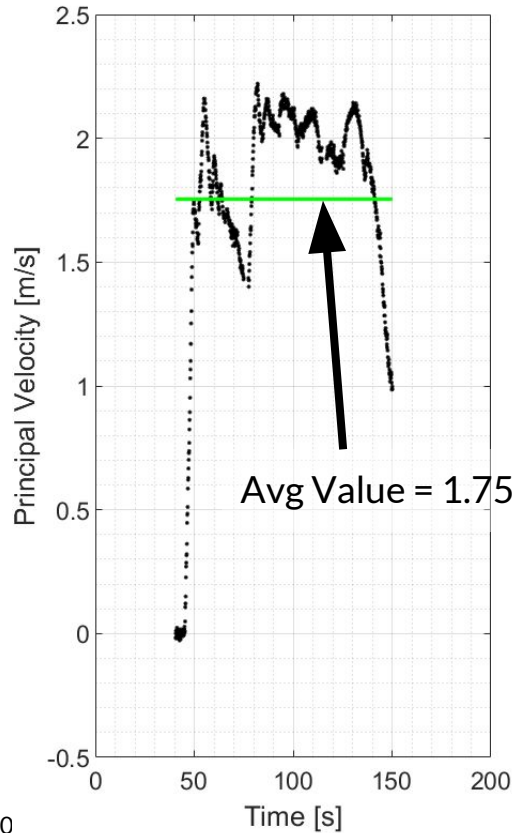
100 m Test Results

Expected Results	Test Objectives
Images of mock cubesats being deployed	Mock cubesat detection at 100 m range
VANTAGE frame x,y,z cubesat centroid positions & GPS truth x,y,z positions*	Position vector and velocity vector measurements are within error bounds for 100 m range
VANTAGE output file	Report data larger data file back to the user within allotted time

*Includes a fixed position offset vector from GPS antenna to each cubesat centroid

GPS Noise Characterization







Safety Status

Testing Procedures and Safety Regulations have been created for each of VANTAGE's main tests.

Modular Test

- When entering and exiting the VICON space, individuals should take precautions not to trip over or knock into *VICON netting or cameras*.
- No person should handle the cart, spool, or motor while the *motor is on*.
- *Sensors* should be handled with two hands and stored carefully.
- Each individual should *stand at least two feet away* from the testing system while it is running.

100m Test

- To ensure equipment safety, all equipment shall be *transported* and set up according to testing procedures. All testing will be rescheduled to avoid inclement weather.
- All members present during testing should be familiar with the testing procedures. While running a test, all members will *stand at least 10m away from the vehicle*.
- To avoid obstacles while in motion, *clear communication protocols* will be used and motion paths will be planned out before moving the vehicle.



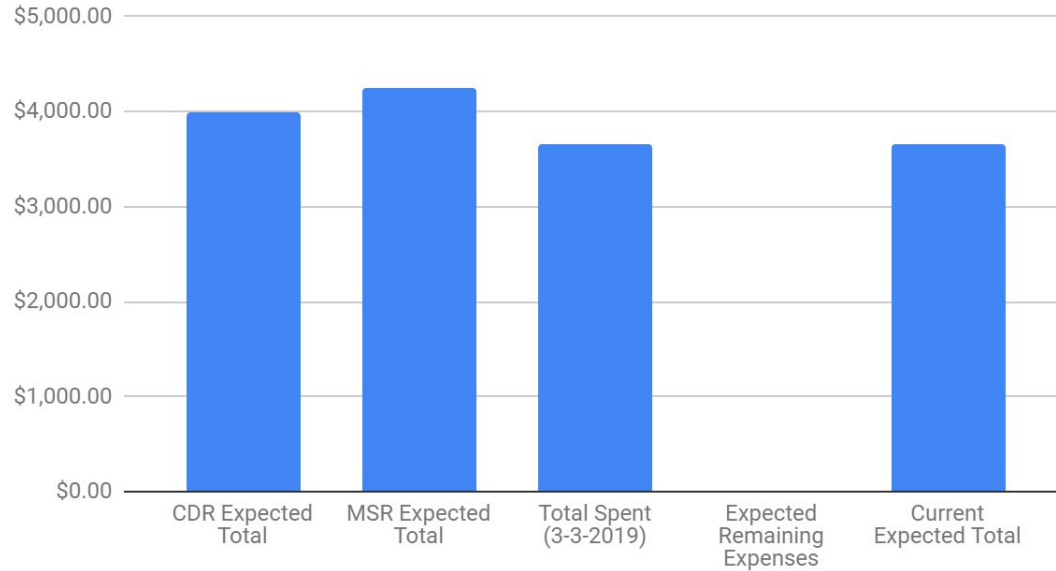
Budget



Budget



VANTAGE Budget (3-3-2019)



Subsystem:	Structures	Sensors	Software	Electronics	Testing	Total
CDR Expected Total:	\$365.86	\$2,430.00	\$0.00	\$916.22	\$645.85	\$3,992.07
Remaining Purchases:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Spent:	\$286.33	\$2,589.13	\$0.00	\$207.44	\$582.34	\$3,665.24
Current Expected Total:	\$286.33	\$2,589.13	\$0.00	\$207.44	\$582.34	\$3,665.24

Questions?

