

# QubeSat for Aerothermodynamic Research and Measurements on AblationN

G. Bailet

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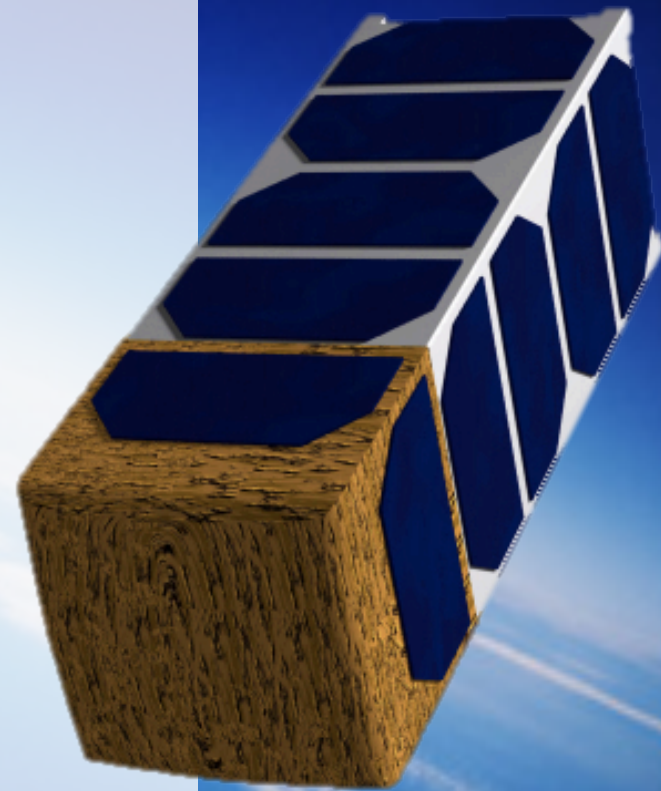
*Aeronautics & Aerospace Dept., von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics*

9<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop  
- Toulouse, June 16-22 2012 -



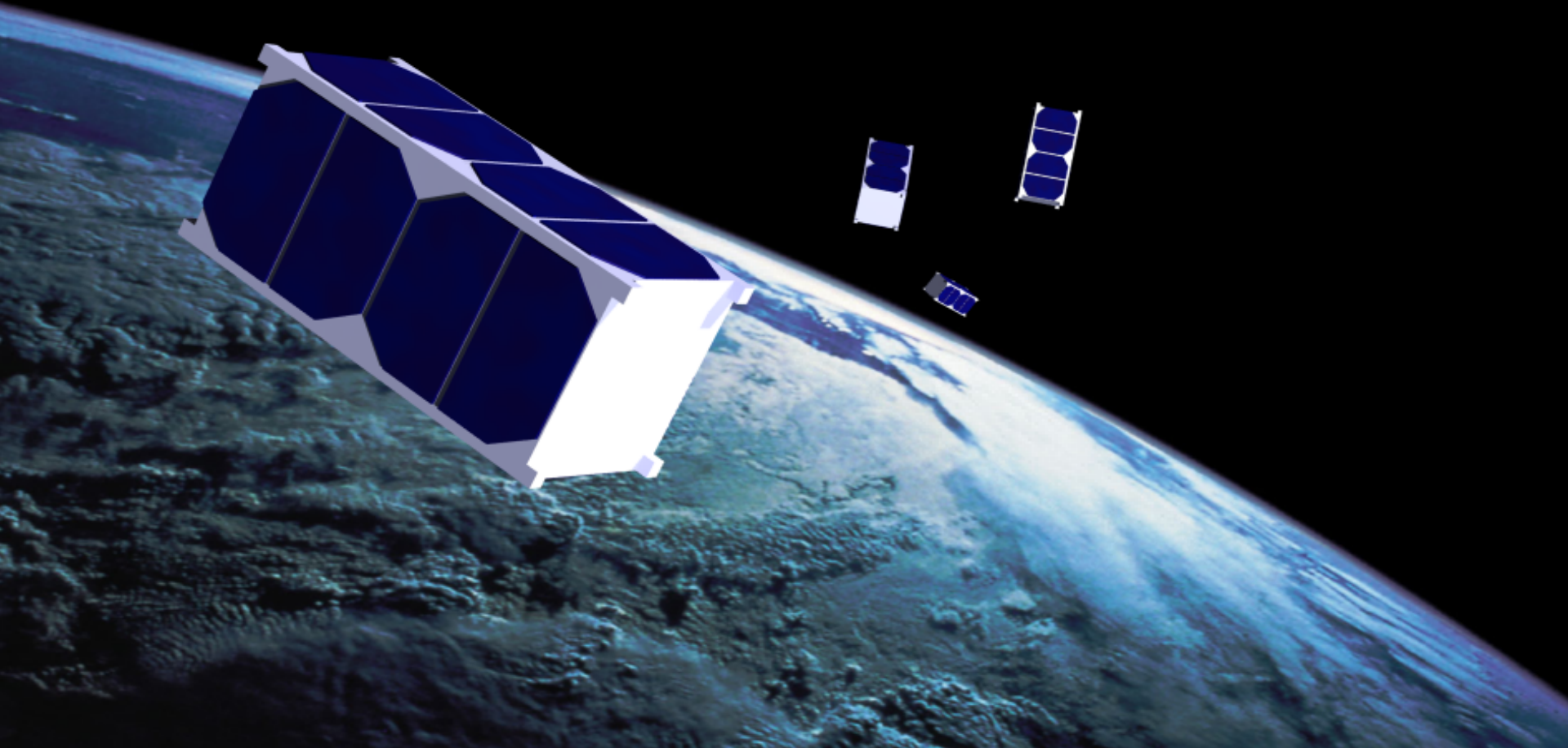
# Content

- Introduction
- Conceptual design
- Challenges
- Specific payloads



# Introduction

-[www.qb50.eu](http://www.qb50.eu)-



9<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop  
- Toulouse, June 16-22 2012 -





# Introduction

-[www.qb50.eu](http://www.qb50.eu)-



QB50:

- First network of CubeSats
- 40 (+10 IOD) CubeSats sequentially deployed at an initial altitude of 320 km
- Each CubeSat will perform in-situ measurements of atmospheric parameters



# Introduction

-[www.qb50.eu](http://www.qb50.eu)-



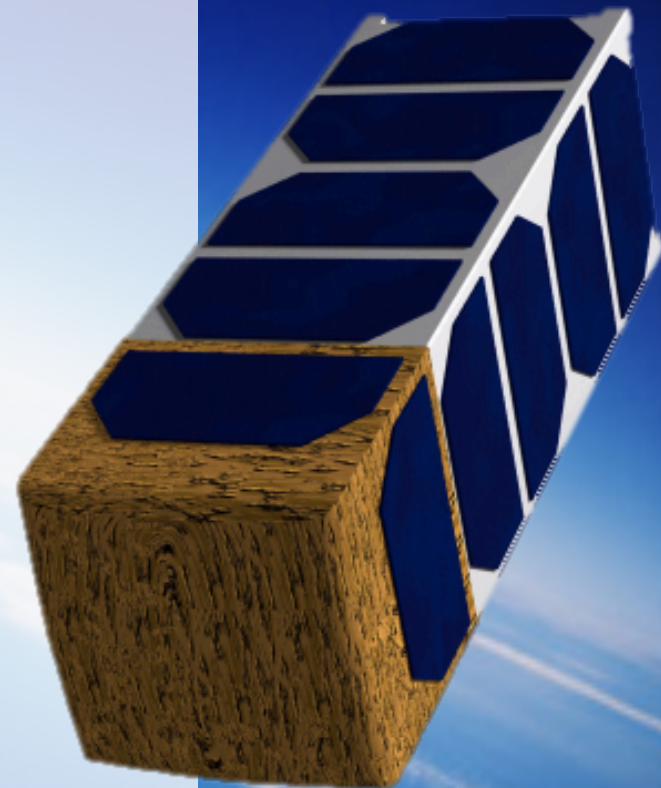
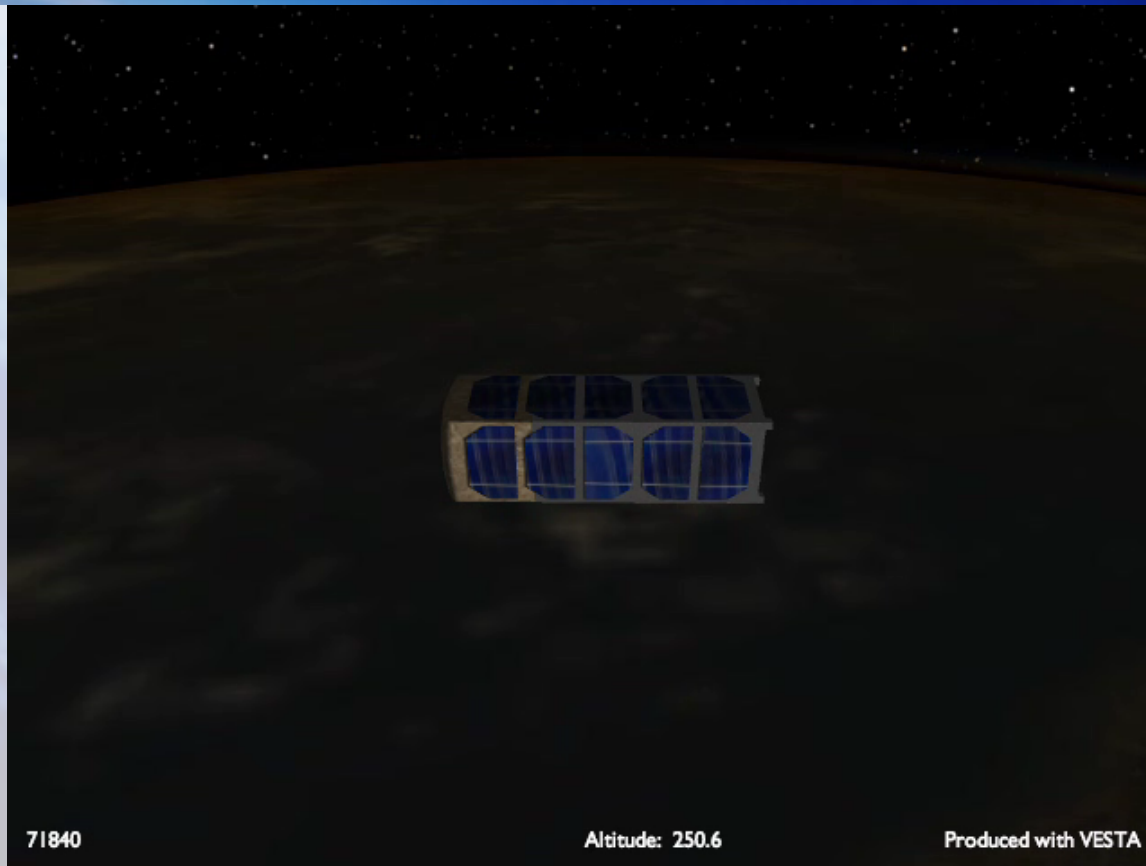
**SHTIL 2.1**

QB50:

- First network of CubeSats
- 40 (+10 IOD) CubeSats sequentially deployed at an initial altitude of 320 km
- Each CubeSat will perform in-situ measurements of atmospheric parameters
- Launch together in Spring 2015

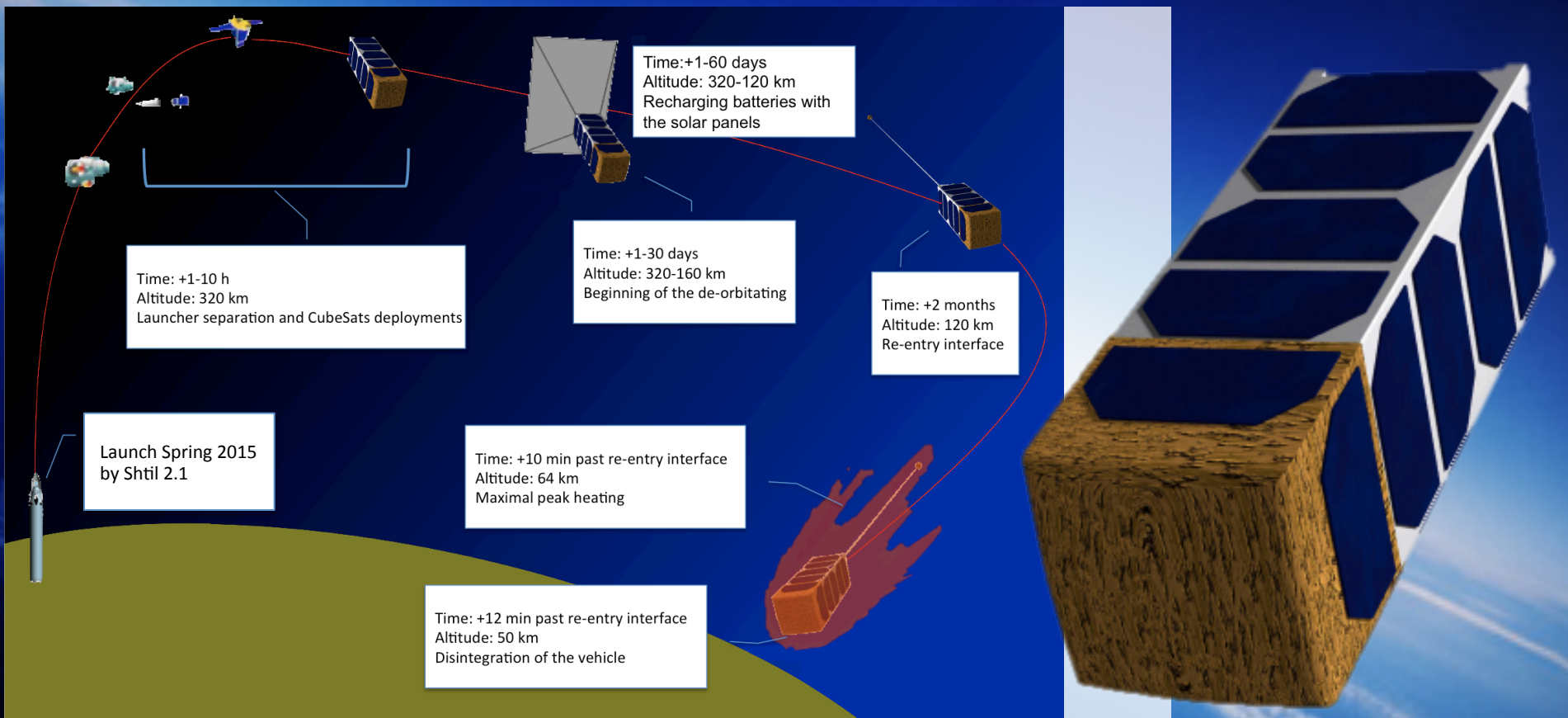
# Context

-Scenario time line-



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-Scenario time line-

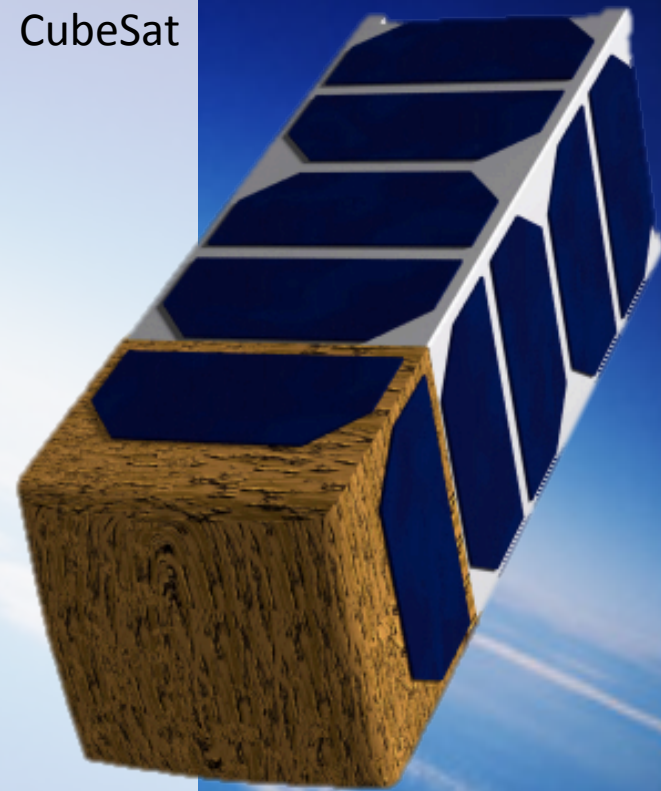
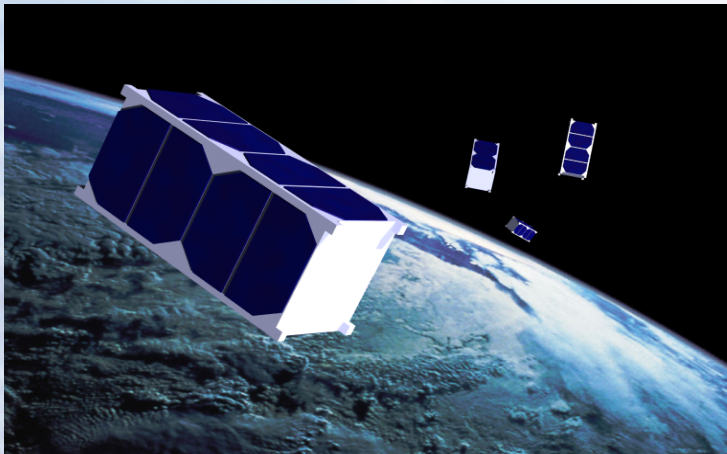




# Introduction

In addition of the main QB50 payload, the Re-entry CubeSat demonstrator will:

- Be deployed at the same time with the other QB50 CubeSats



# Introduction

In addition of the main QB50 payload, the Re-entry CubeSat demonstrator will:

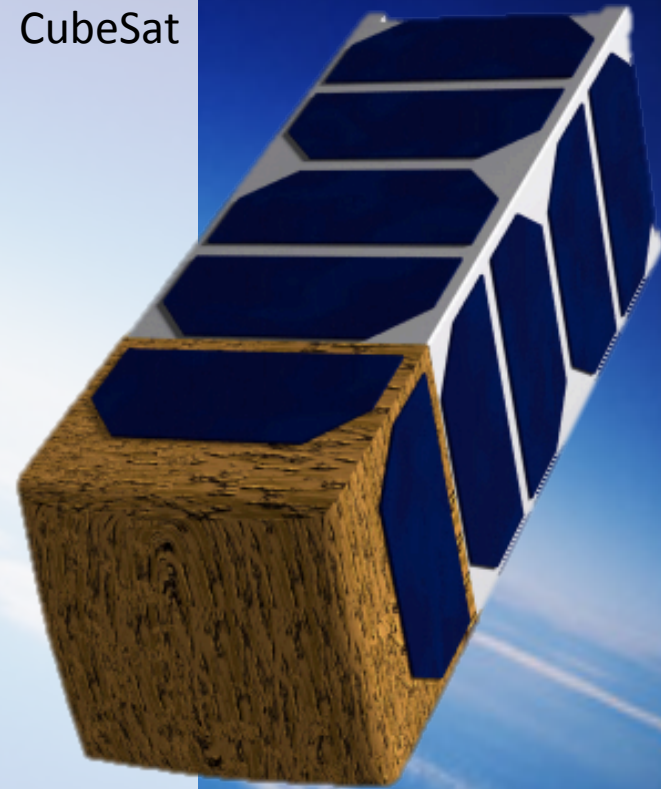
- Be deployed at the same time with the other QB50 CubeSats
- Based on the three unit CubeSat standard 100x100x340 mm



# Introduction

In addition of the main QB50 payload, the Re-entry CubeSat demonstrator will:

- Be deployed at the same time with the other QB50 CubeSats
- Based on the three unit CubeSat standard 100x100x300 mm
- Provide Re-entry flight data until the max heating point (>50 km)
- No debris should reach the ground  
(DRAMA code: Debris Risk Assessment and Mitigation Analysis)



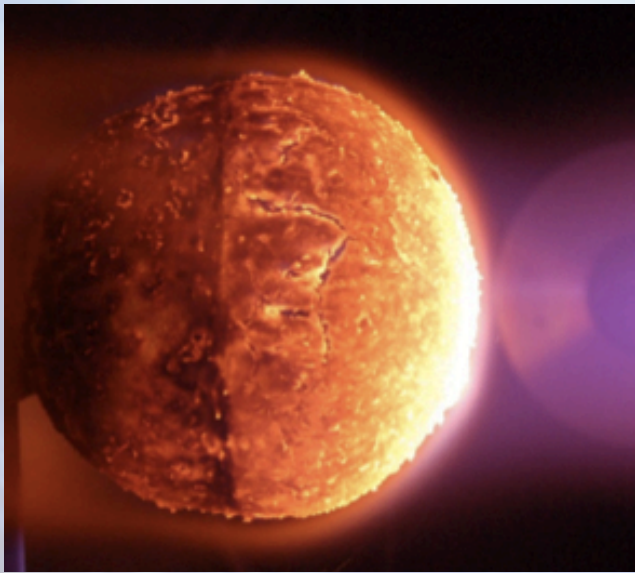


# Scientific opportunities for low-cost re-entry platforms

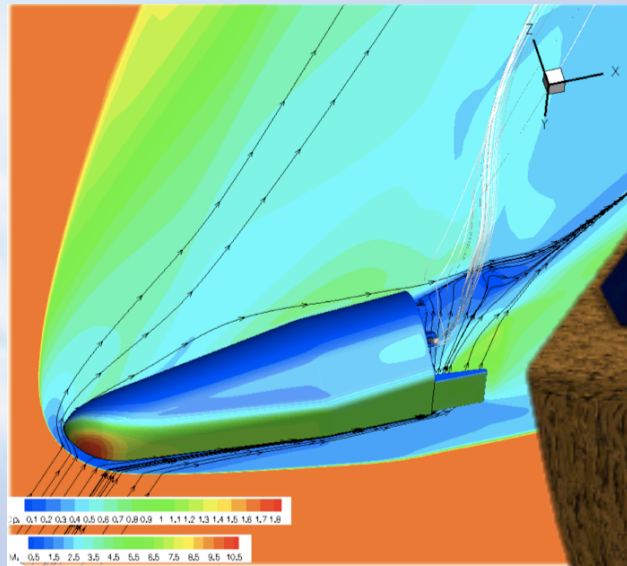
-Affordable platform for research oriented re-entry study-

- VKI's field of expertise at in ground testing and simulations:

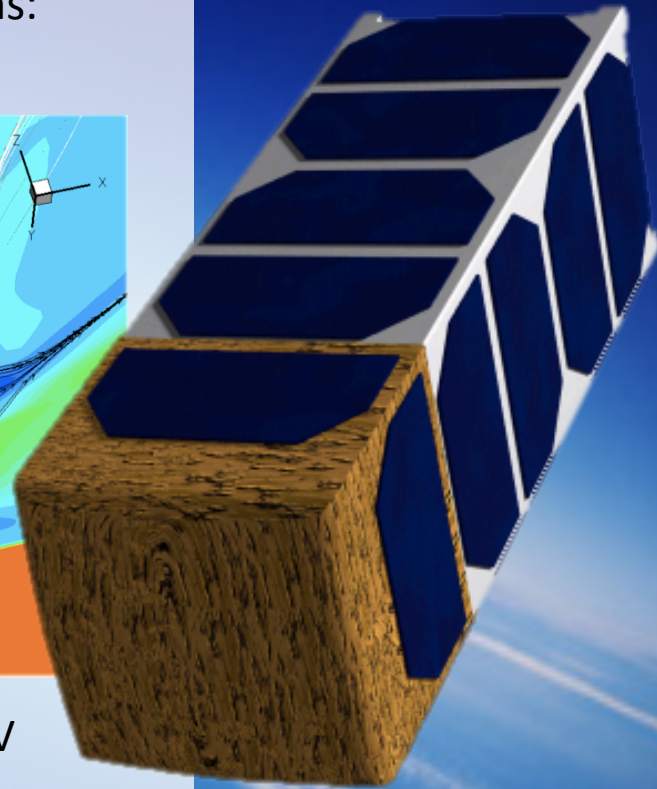
YES2, Expert, IXV



Ablation test in Plasmatron  
for the YES 2 capsule



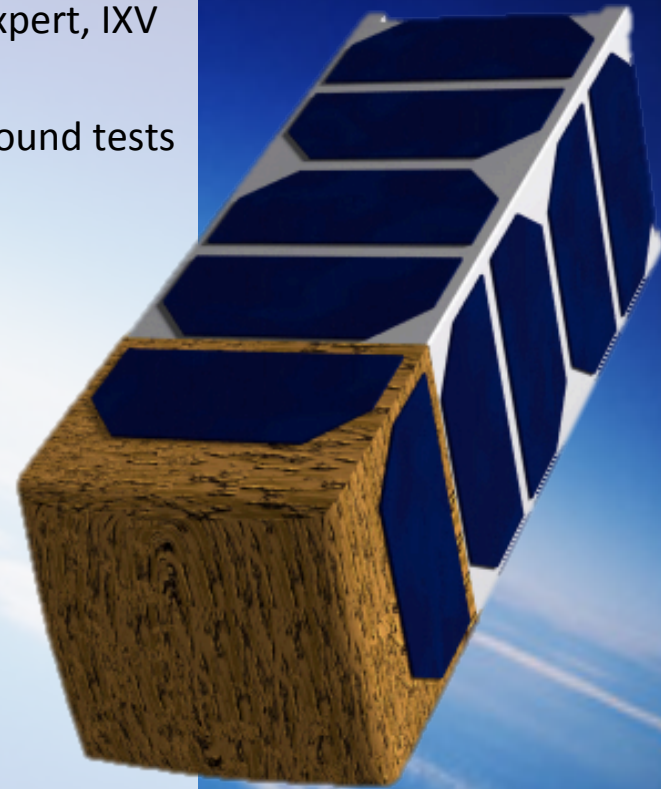
CFD simulation of IXV



# Scientific opportunities for low-cost re-entry platforms

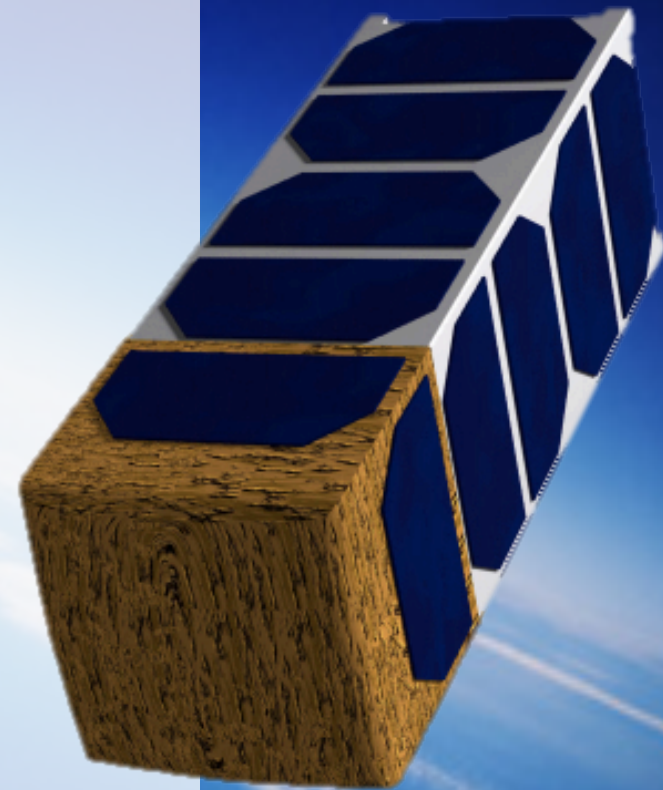
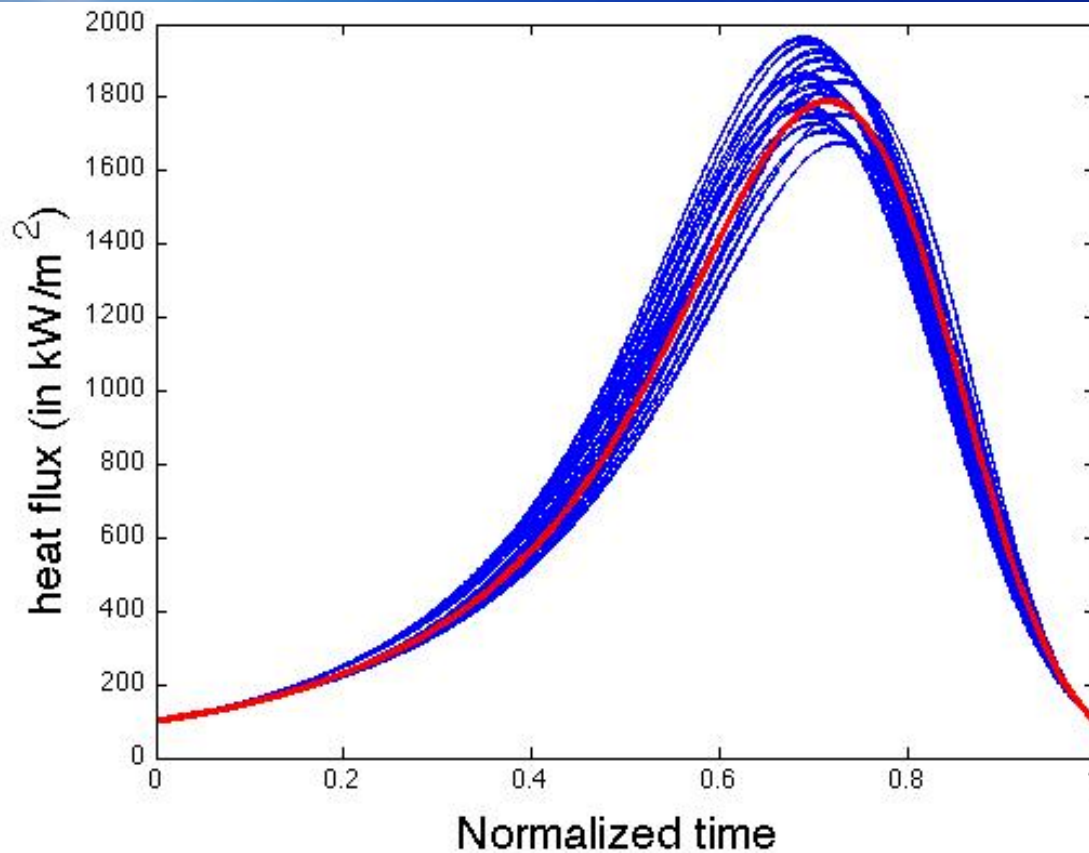
-Affordable platform for research oriented re-entry technology-

- Field of expertise at VKI in experiments and simulations: YES2, Expert, IXV
- Flight experiments for validation of numerical simulations and ground tests
- Characterization of TPS materials in flight conditions
- Re-entry Challenges & Solutions:
  - Deorbiting
  - Stability and trimming
  - Max heating/TPS
  - Communication blackout
  - Disintegration



# Conceptual design

-Result for the proposed geometry with uncertainty analysis-





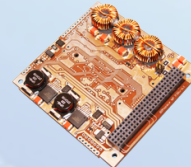
# Conceptual design

-Result for the proposed geometry with uncertainty analysis-

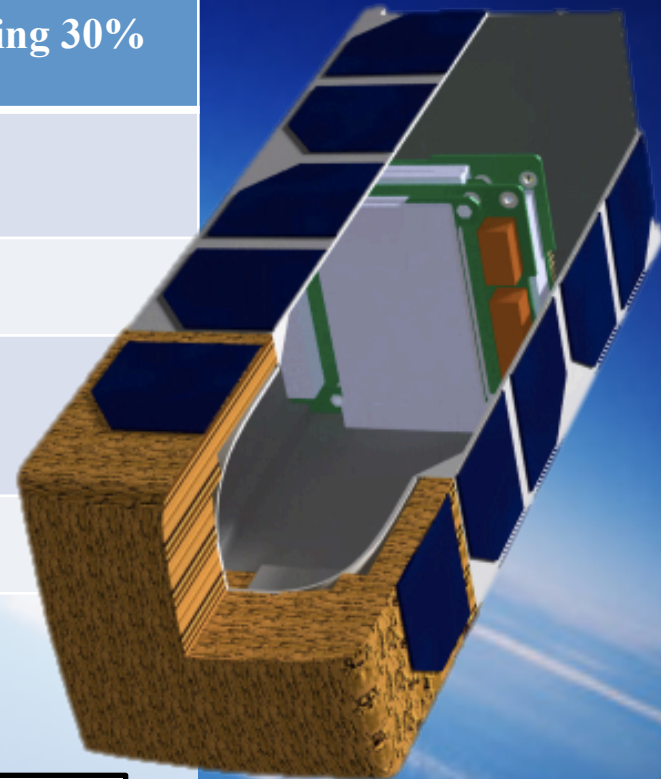
Reference: QARMAN proposal for QB50 call

Entity	Energy needed (in Whr, including 30% margin)
Functional unit (OBC, EPS...)	1.09
Payload + amplifier	6.28
Telecommunication system (Antenna + Iridium transceiver)	1.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.62</b>

NanoPower BP4 battery needed  
to survive for the 10 min mission  
(including the 45 min margins)



NanoPower BP4  
8.4V 5200mAh

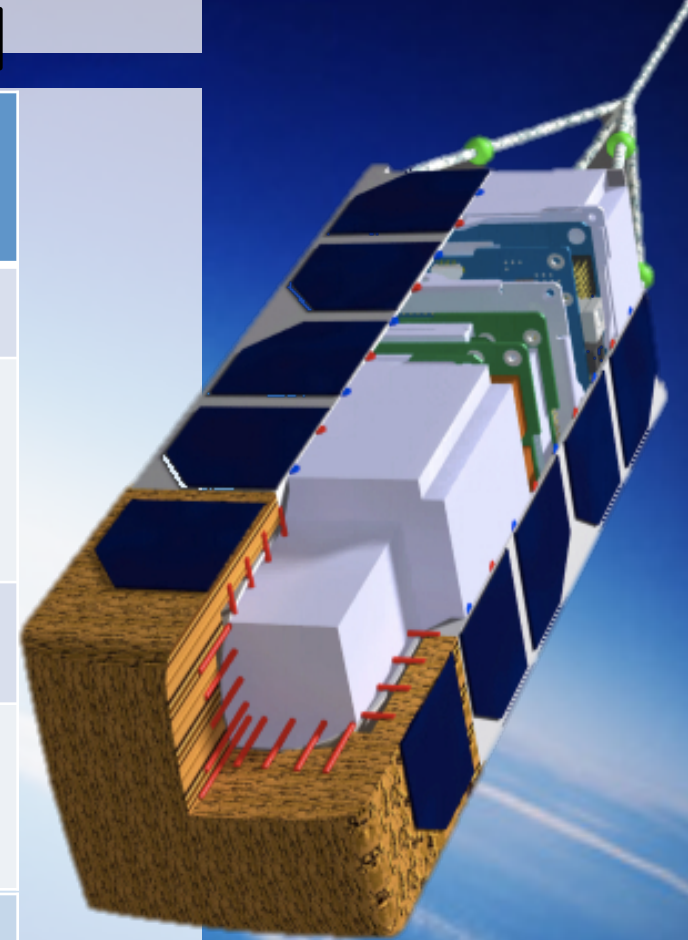


# Conceptual design

-Result for the proposed geometry with uncertainty analysis-

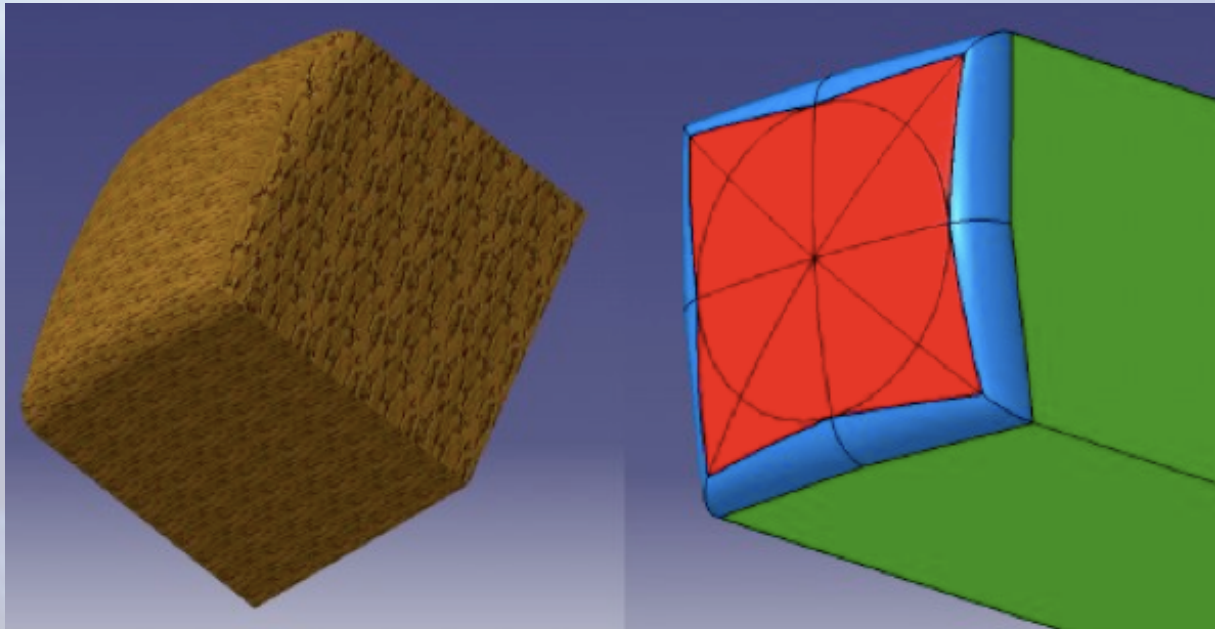
Reference: QARMAN proposal for QB50 call

Subsystem	Mass (in g)	Margin	Mass with margin (in g)
Heat shield	300	20%	360
Functional unit +Structure +telecommunication system	1411	20%	1693
Deorbiting and stability system	240	25	300
<b>Functional unit</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>2353</b>
<b>Payload</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>647</b>

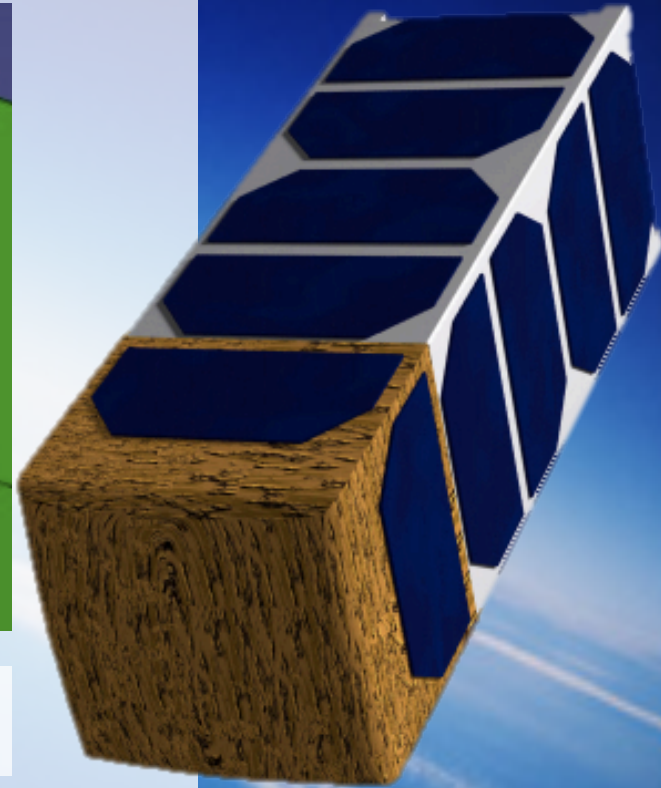


# Challenges

-TPS sizing-



*An artistic impression (left) and the tree critical parameters(right;  
1: nose radius= 230 mm, 2: edge radius= 12 mm , 3: inclined surface ( $\alpha=0$ ))*

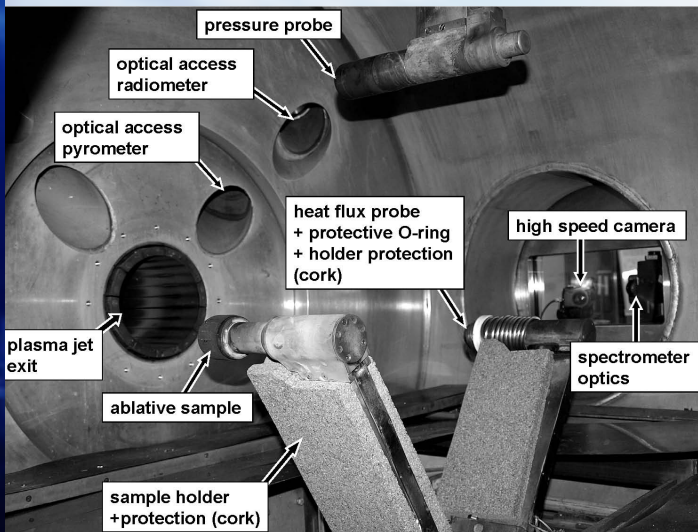




# Challenges

-TPS sizing-

## ➤ Plasmatron tests (Material characterisation)



[Asma, C. O., et al., 2010]. Infrared Thermography Measurements on Ablative Thermal Protection Systems for Interplanetary Space Vehicles. 10th QIRT, Quebec, Canada, 2010.



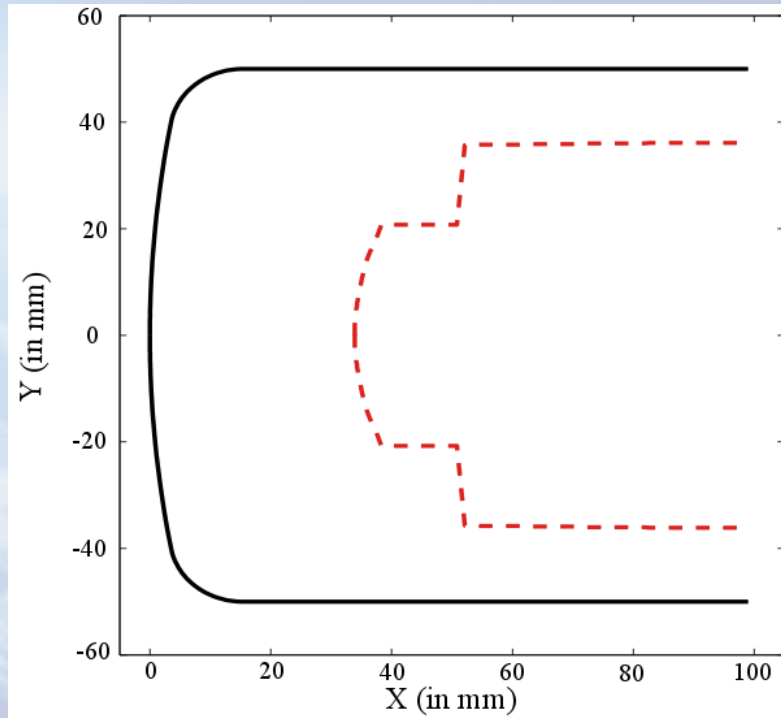
Cork P50 (Amorim)

# Challenges

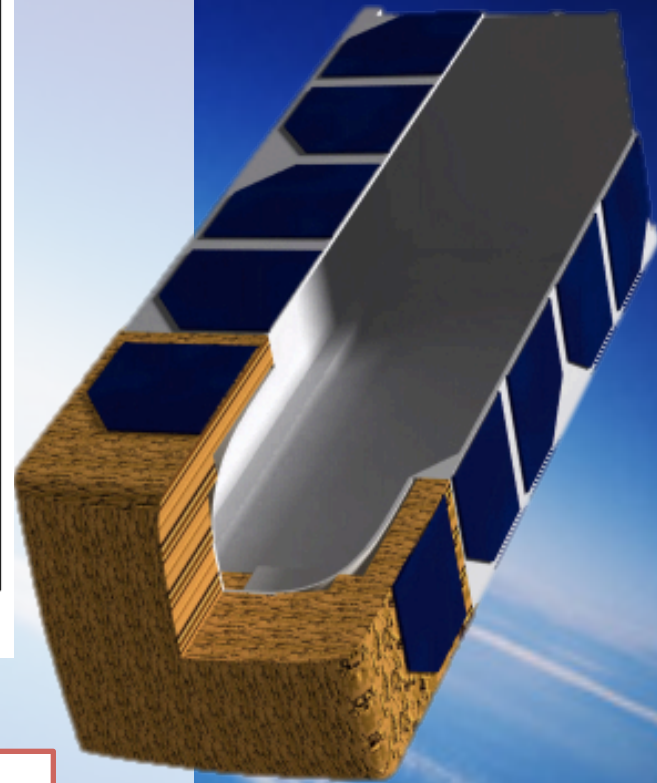
-TPS sizing-

By considering:

- Recession rate
- 1d conduction
- 3D CFD
- No safety margins



Cross section of the heat shield

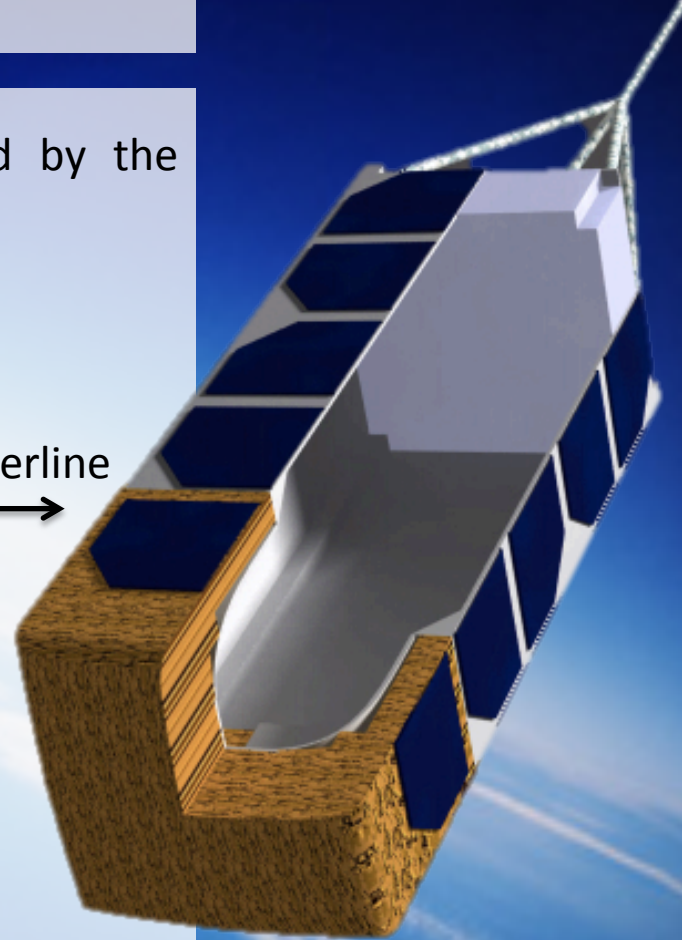
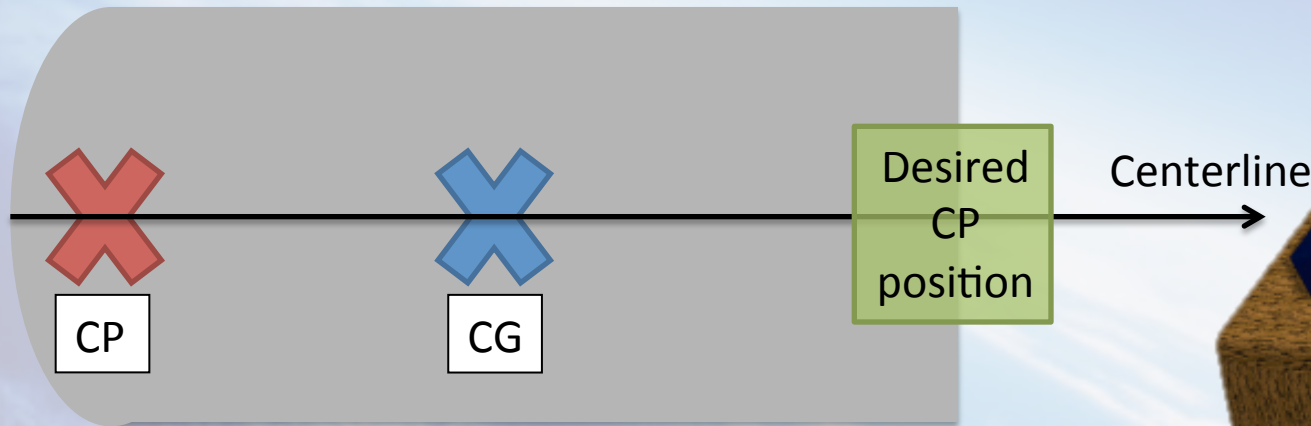


➤ Future work: use of EADS codes for more accurate sizing

# Challenges

-Stability of the vehicle-

- Position of the center of pressure (CP) evaluated by the Modified Newtonian Theory code

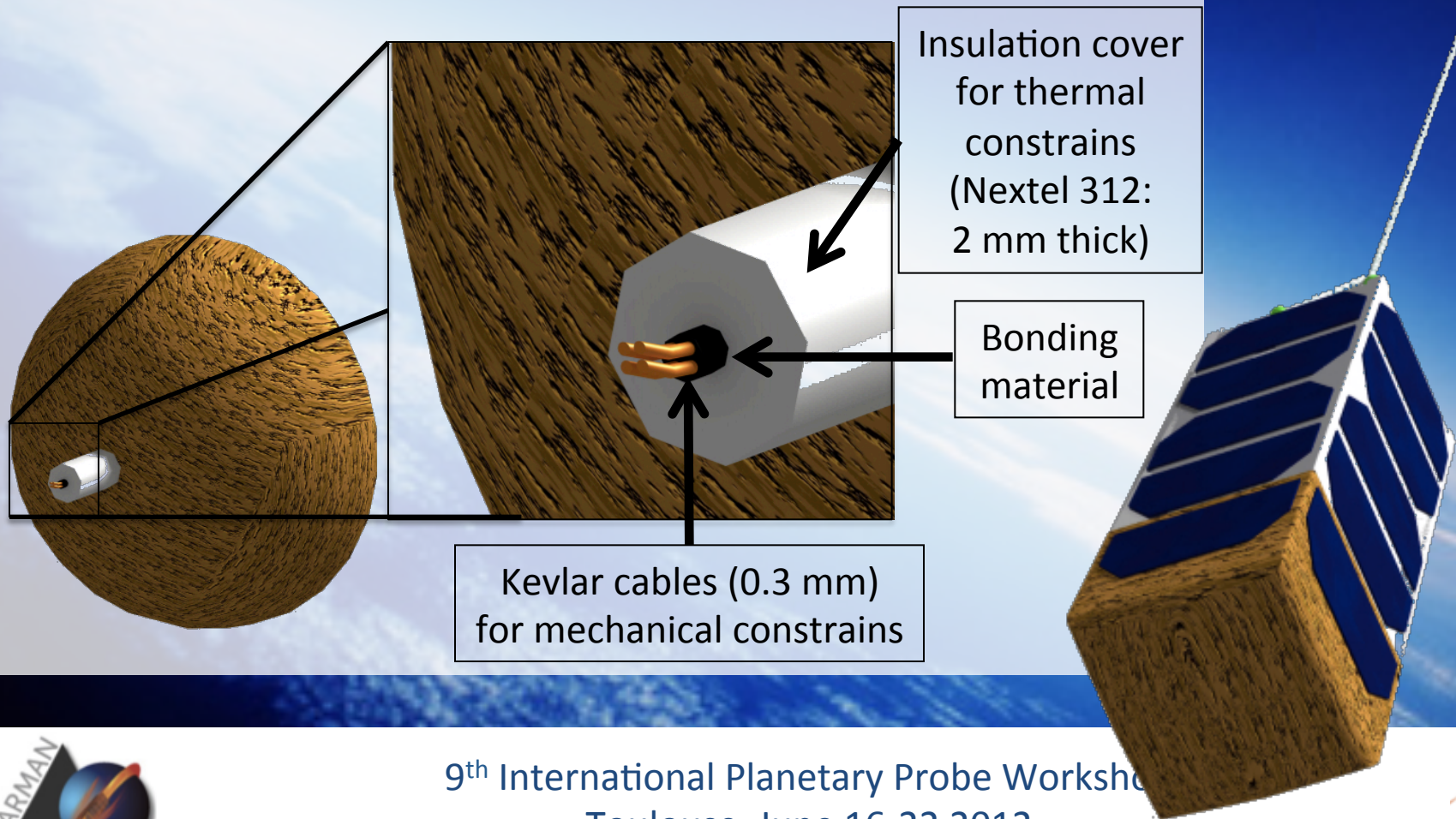




# Challenges

-Stability of the vehicle-

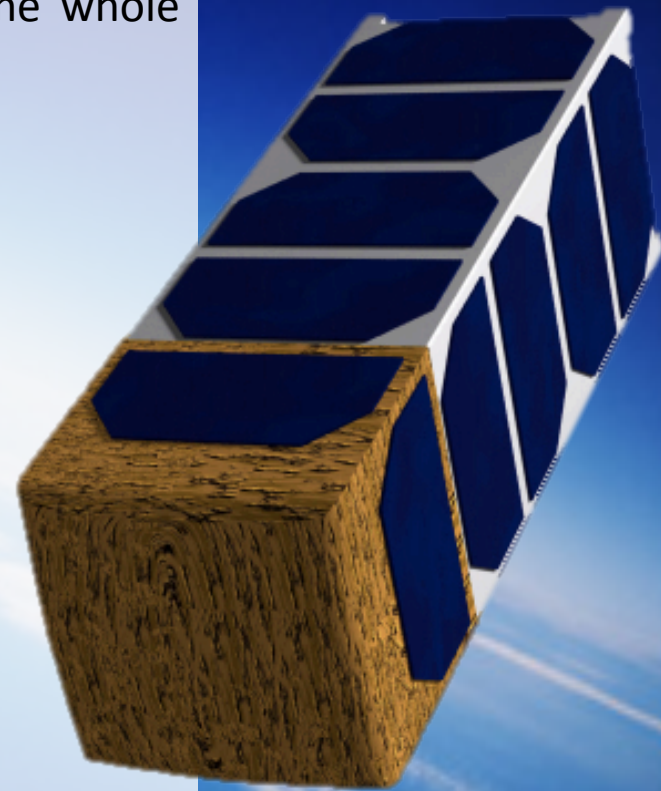
## ➤ Stability system proposed:



# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-

- Quantify the impact of the deorbiting system on the whole trajectory within the mission constraints.

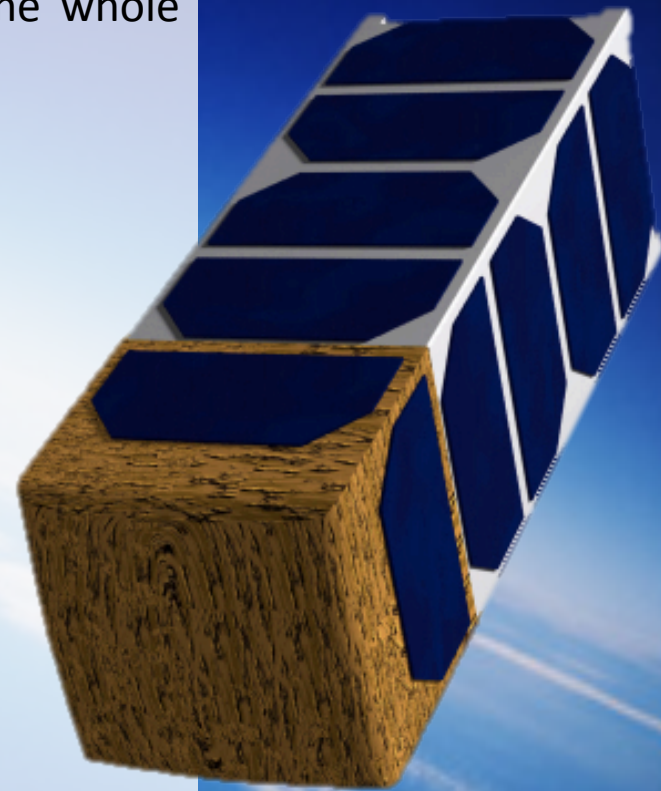




# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-

- Quantify the impact of the deorbiting system on the whole trajectory within the mission constraints.
- Limit the heat load within heat flux constraints (our case)
- Collect data from a specific phenomenon or range of altitude
- Any specific mission (where you can associate an efficiency coefficient)

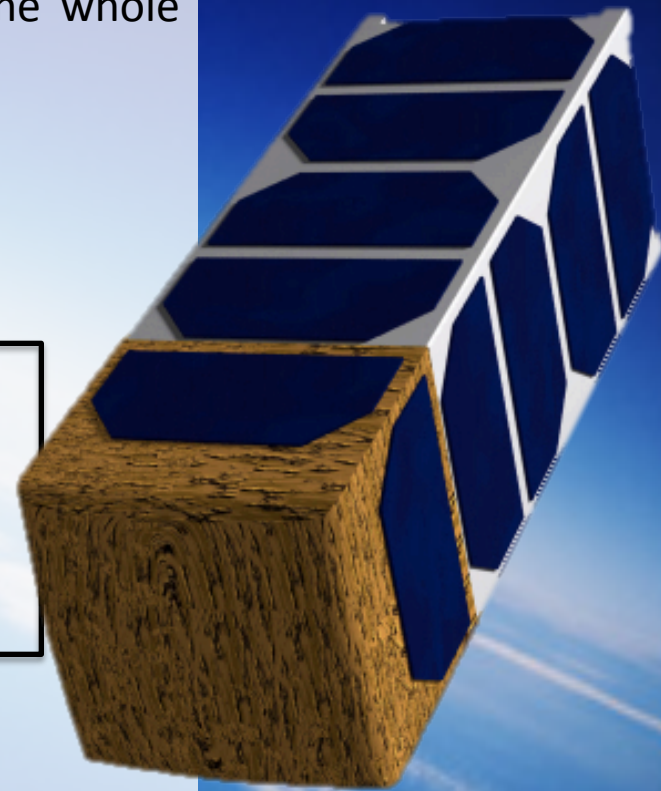
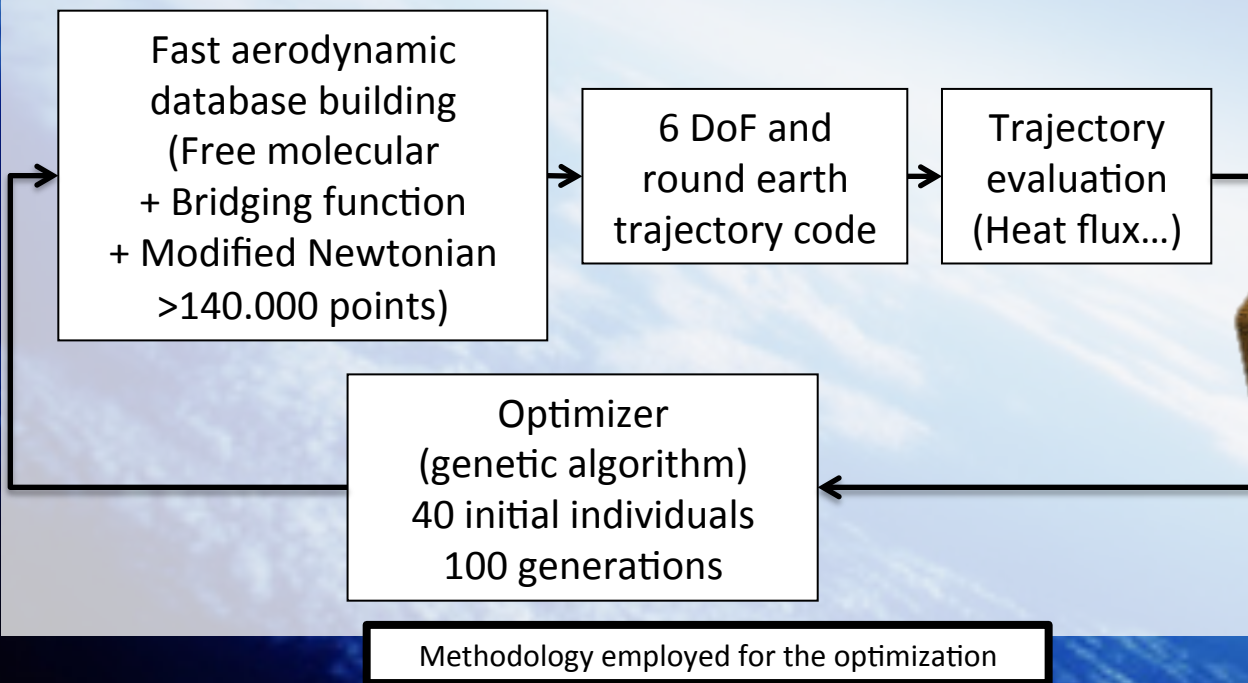




# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-

- Quantify the impact of the deorbiting system on the whole trajectory within the mission constraints.



# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-



0 ms



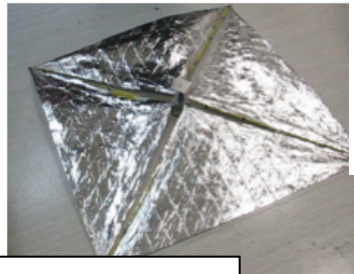
700 ms



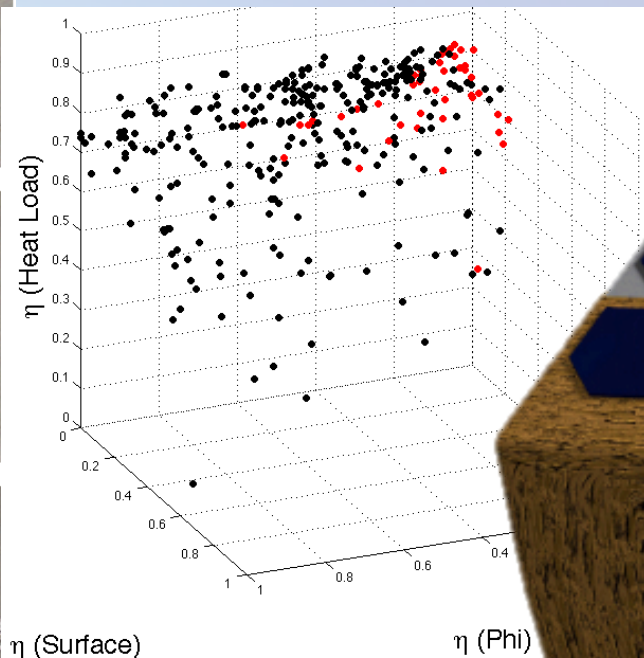
900 ms



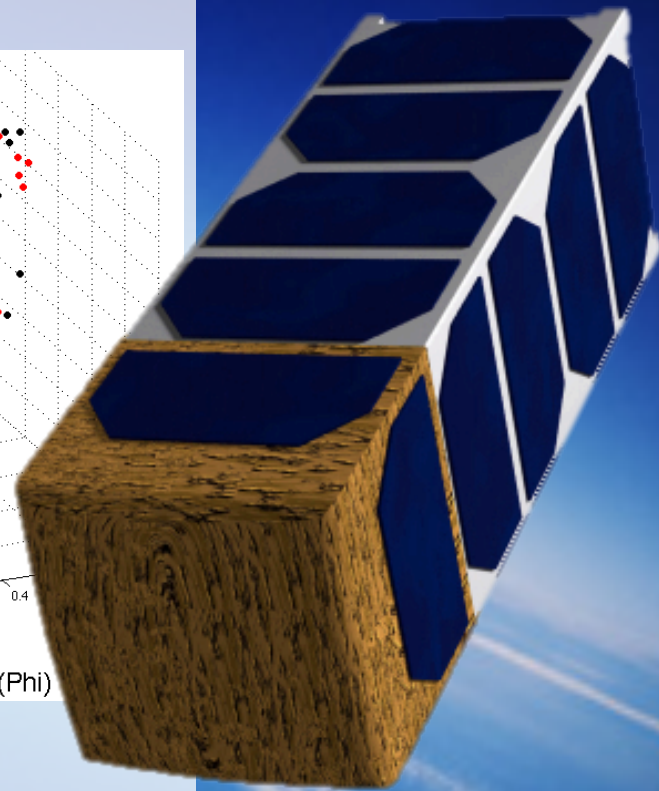
1100 ms



Credit Surrey Space Center



Optimum of the  
deorbiting system

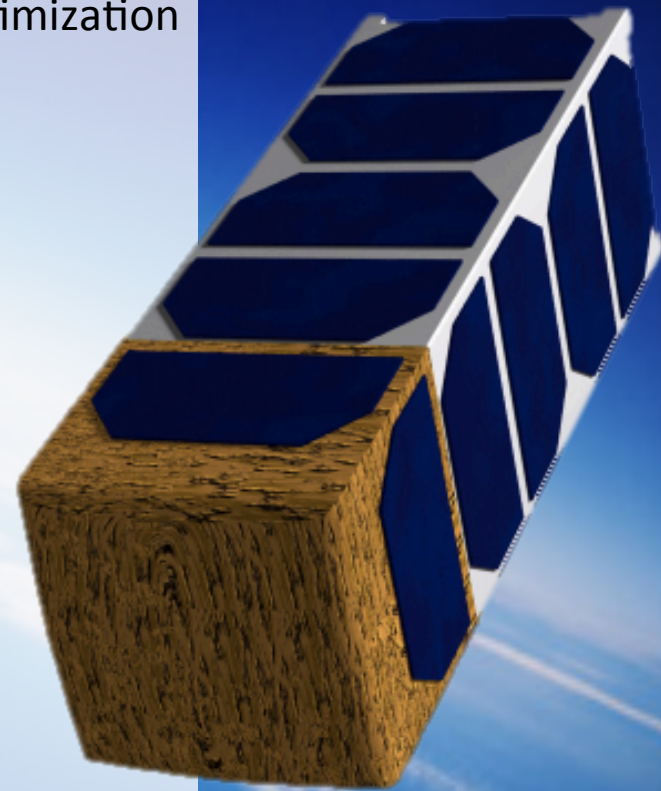


# Challenges

-Deorbitation system-

➤ Several parameters are affected within the optimization process:

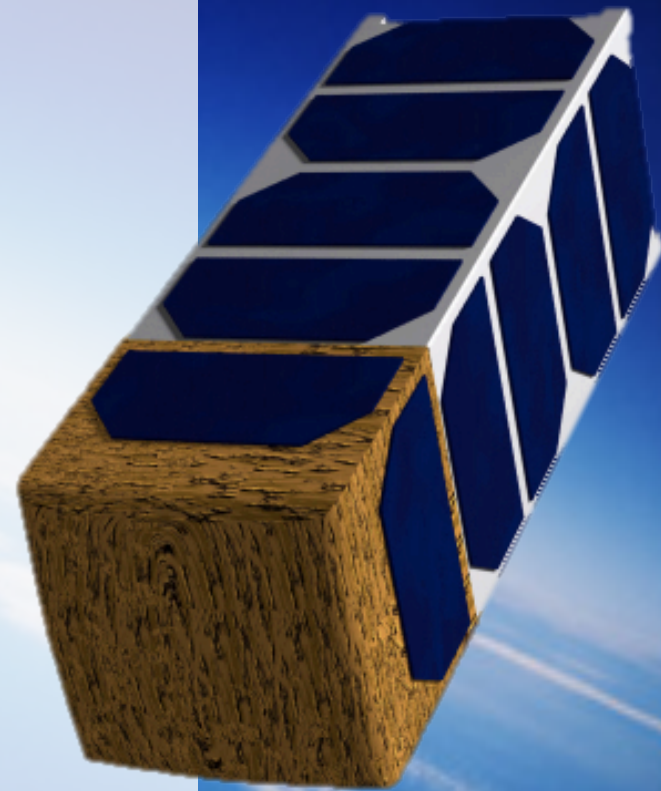
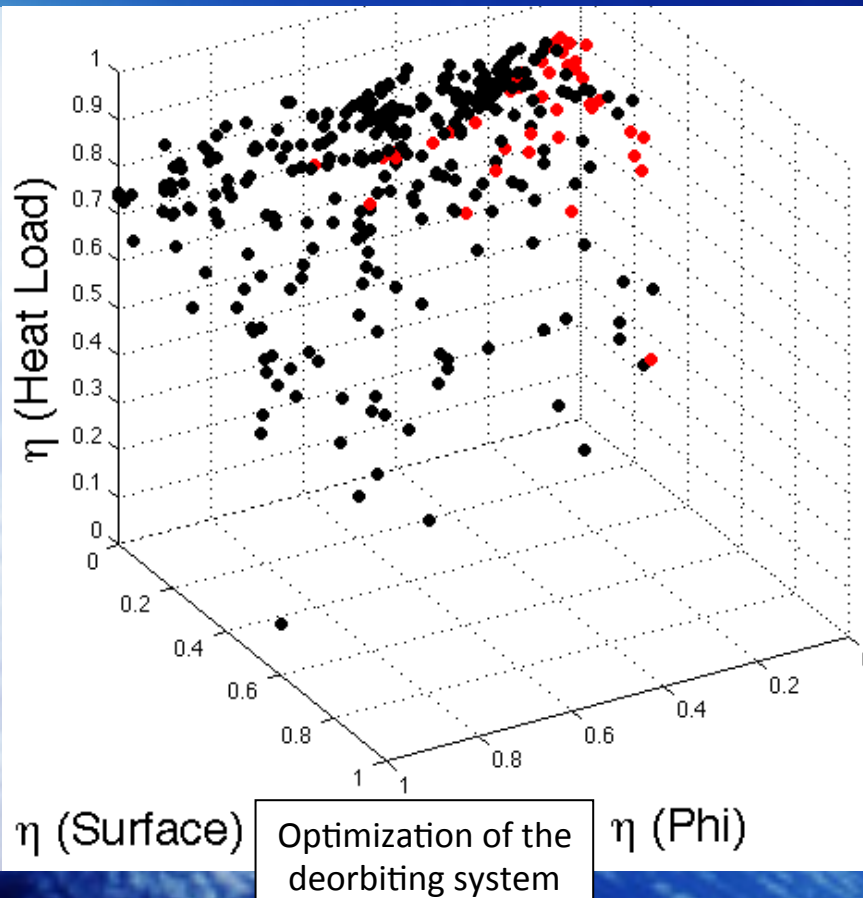
- Geometry of the deorbitation system  
(size, orientation of the panels)
- Altitude to deploy the deorbitation system
- Altitude to jettison the deorbitation system





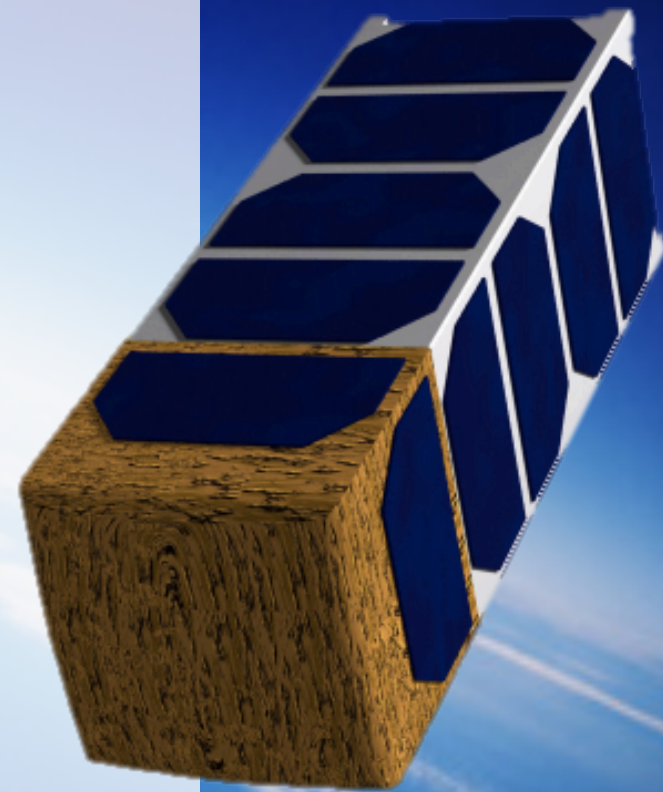
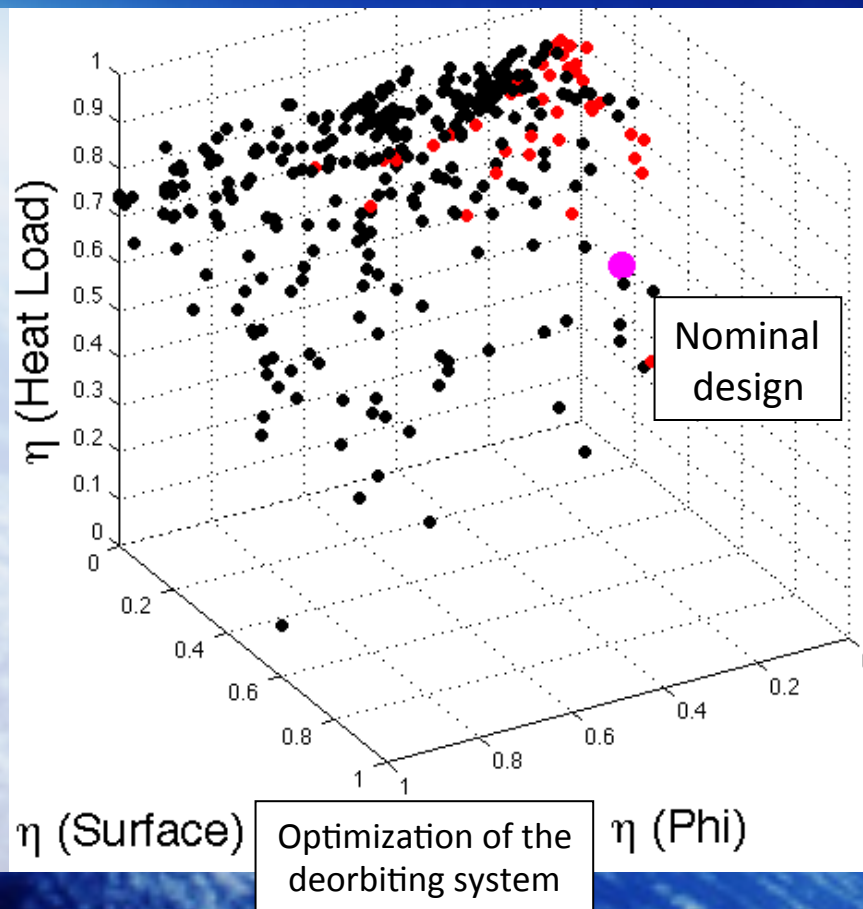
# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-



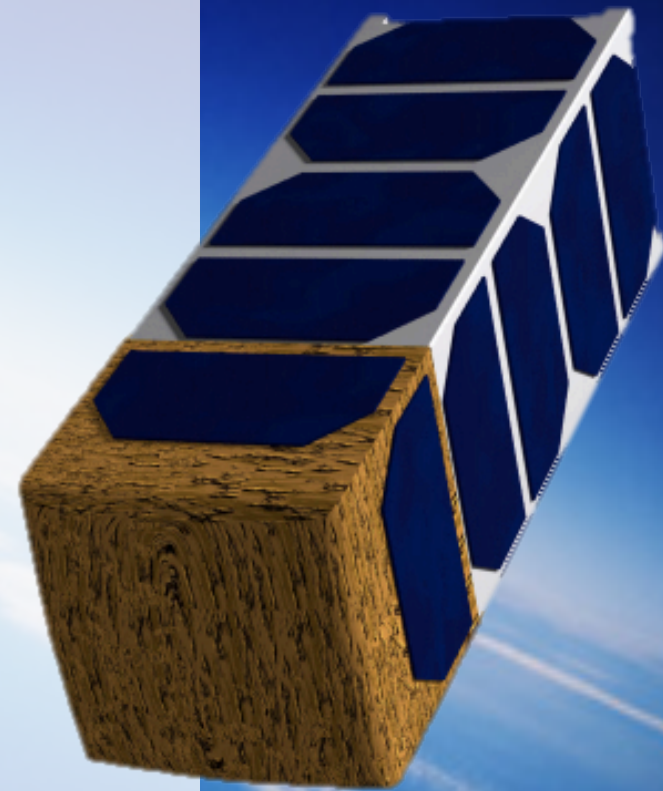
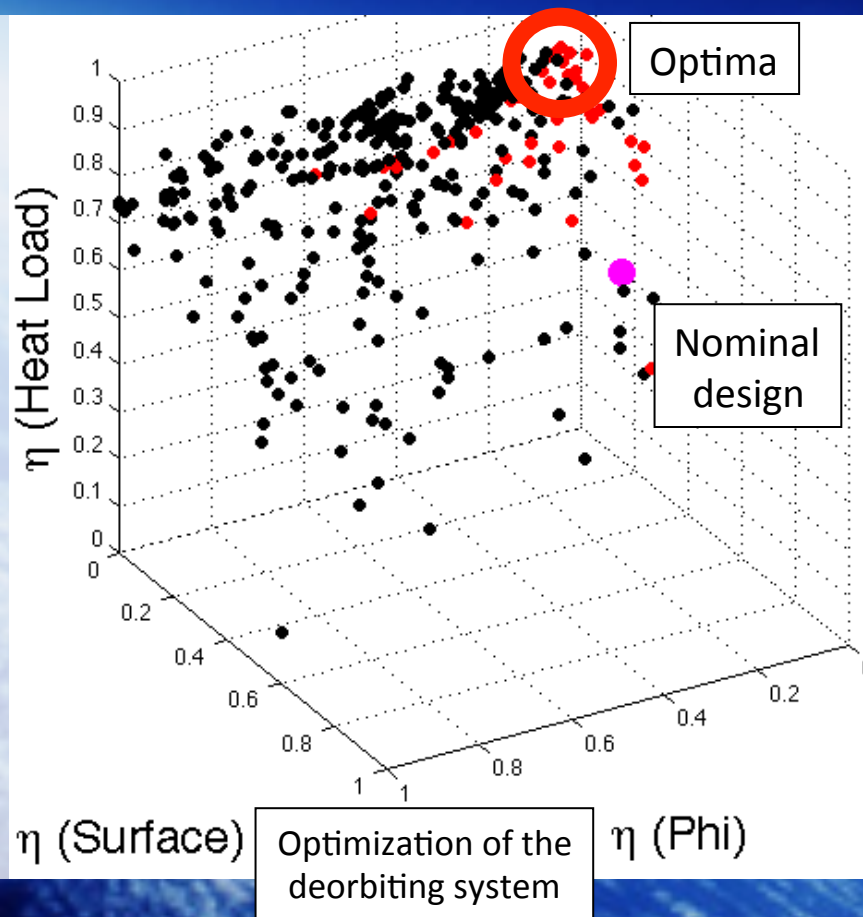
# Challenges

-Deorbiting system-



# Challenges

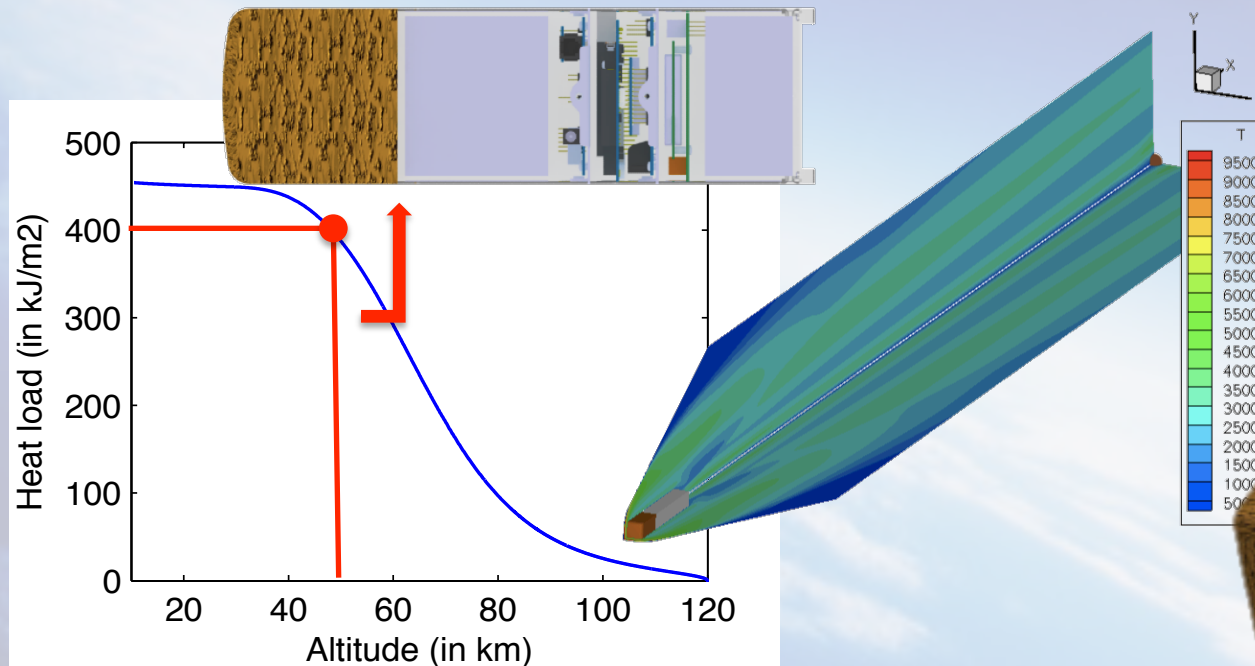
-Deorbiting system-





# Challenges

-Thermal management-



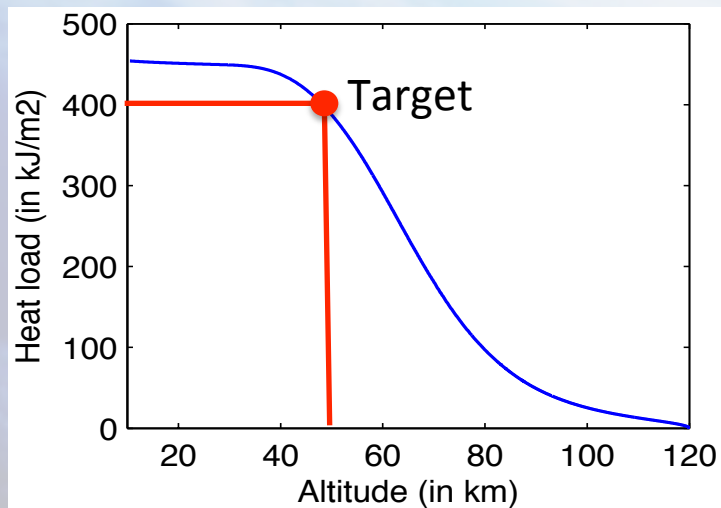
Heat load on at the side panel interface  
versus time during re-entry

# Challenges

-Thermal management-

After a review of the possible side panels configurations, the final configuration is proposed as following:

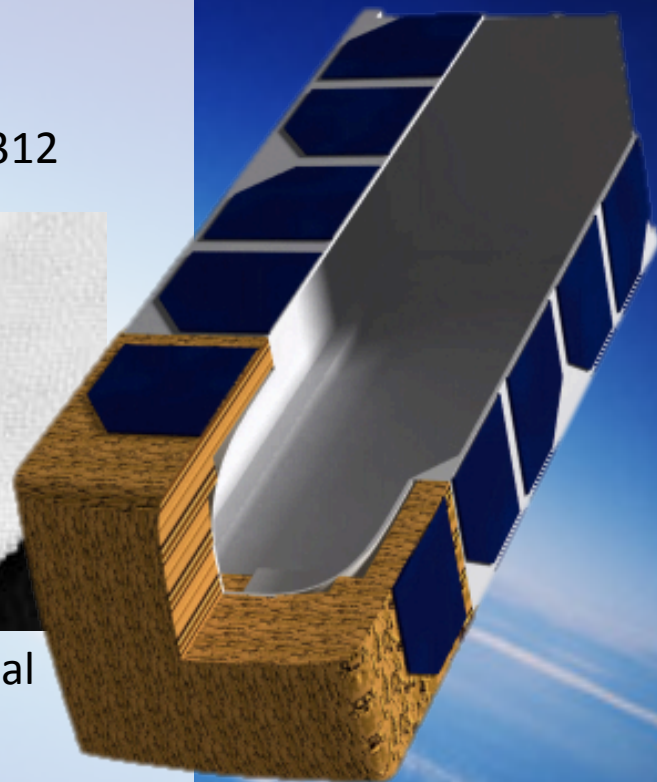
- Standard Aluminium panel (thickness of 1.5 mm)  
+ 1.6 mm of thermal blankets made out of 3M Nextel 312



Heat load on a side panel versus  
time during re-entry



3M Nextel 312 thermal  
blanket sample



# Challenges

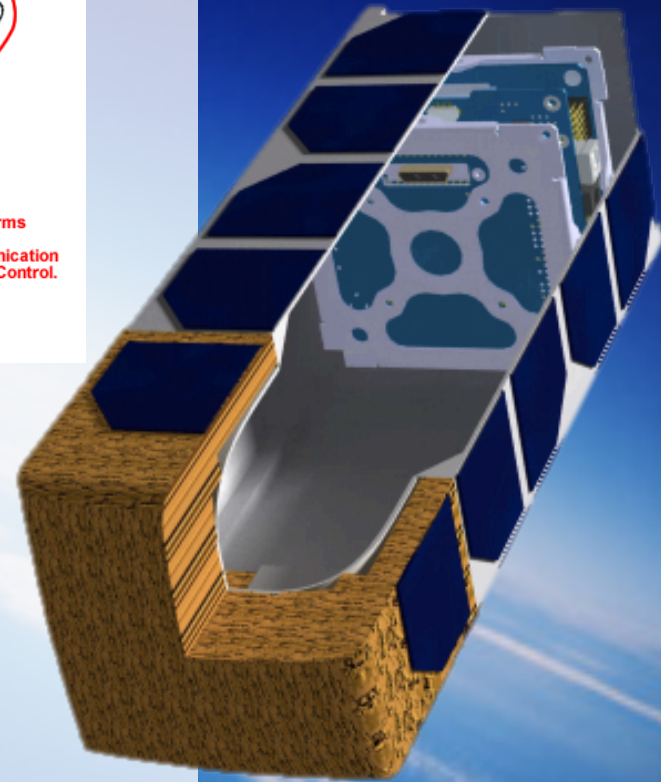
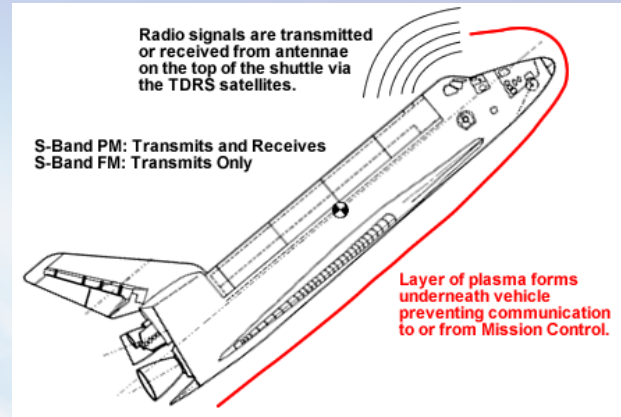
-Telecommunication system-

Maximum of 10 minutes for the Re-entry and the vehicle will not survive:

➤ Needs to transmit the data before disintegration

Utilization of the Iridium constellation:

➤ Permanent coverage of all the trajectory (by 4-6 satellites)

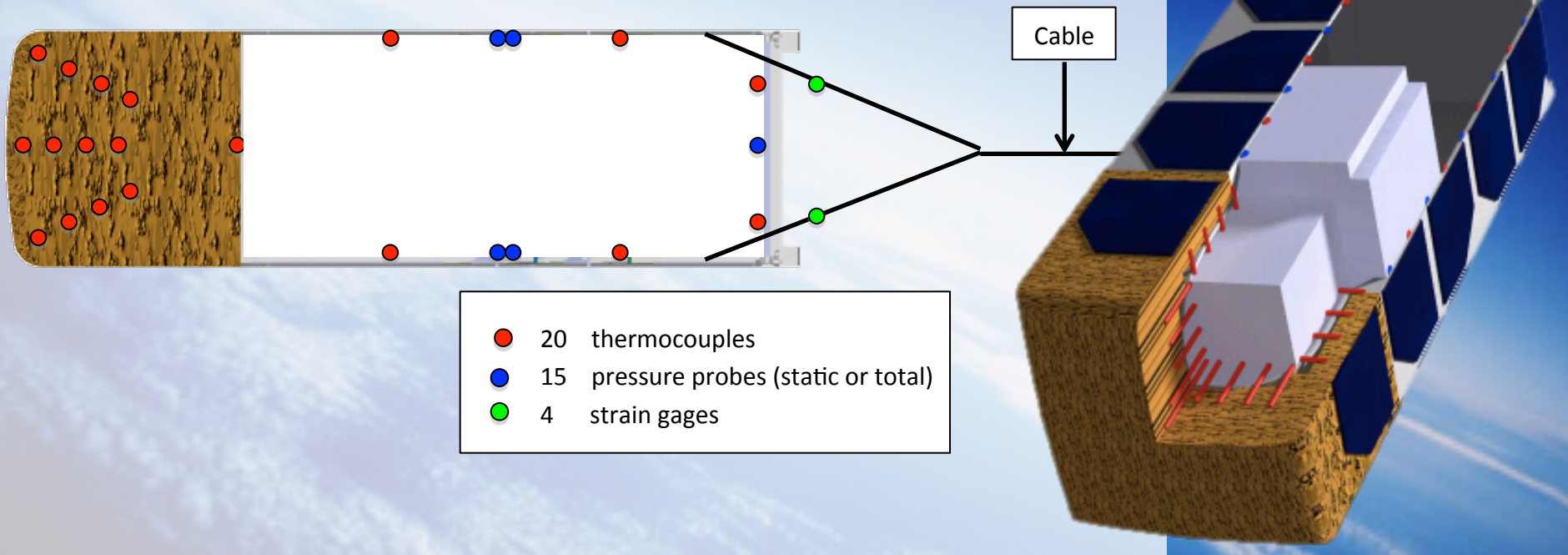




# Payloads

-minimal configuration-

## ➤ Minimal payload



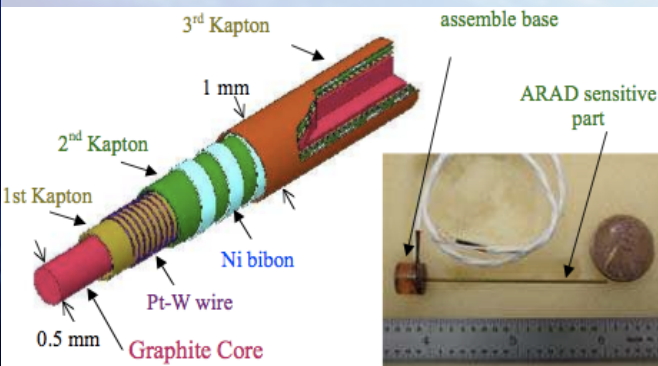
# Payloads

-Ablation characterization: example of a recession sensor-

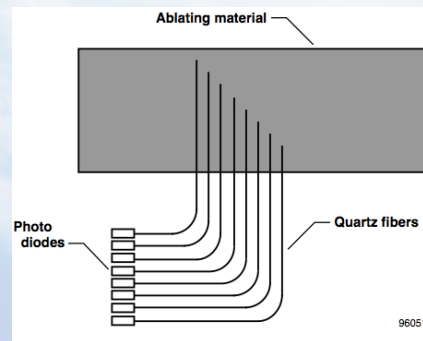


## Ultrasound recession sensor

McGunigle, Richard D. and Michael Jennings, "Ultrasonic Ablation Recession Measurement System," *Proceedings of the 21st International Instrumentation Symposium*, Philadelphia, Penn- sylvania, 1975.

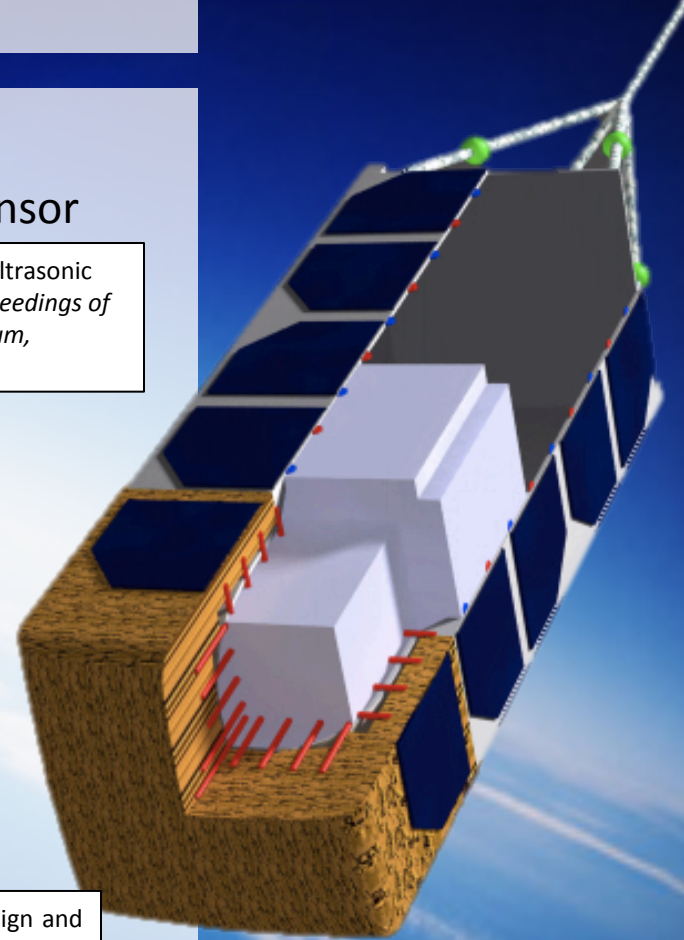


ARAD recession sensor  
(NASA Ames)



## Light pipe gage

Ref: G.K. Noffz and M. P. Bowman, 1996, "Design and Laboratory Validation of a Capacitive Sensor for Measuring the Recession of a Thin-Layered Ablator" NASA TM 4777

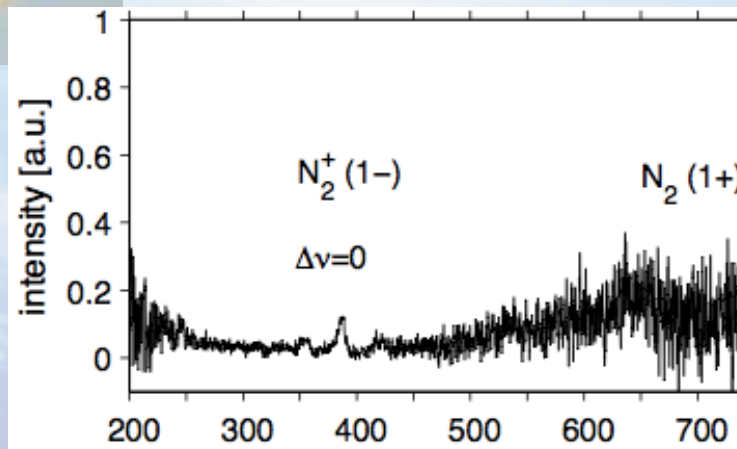


# Payloads

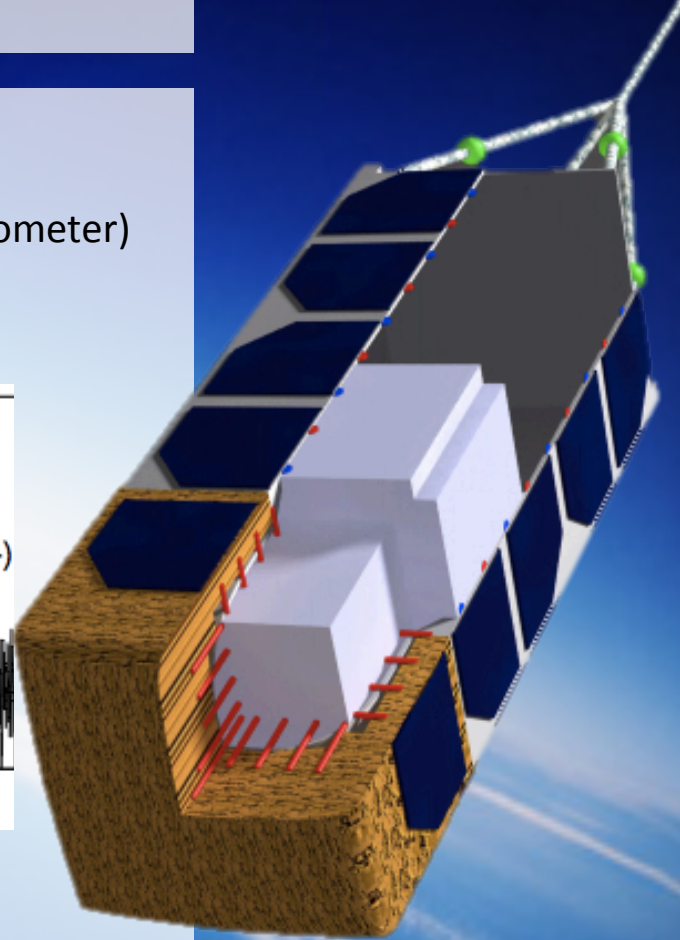
-Emission spectroscopy-



Qmini (highly integrated spectrometer)  
range 200-700 nm  
from [www.rgblasersystem.com](http://www.rgblasersystem.com)



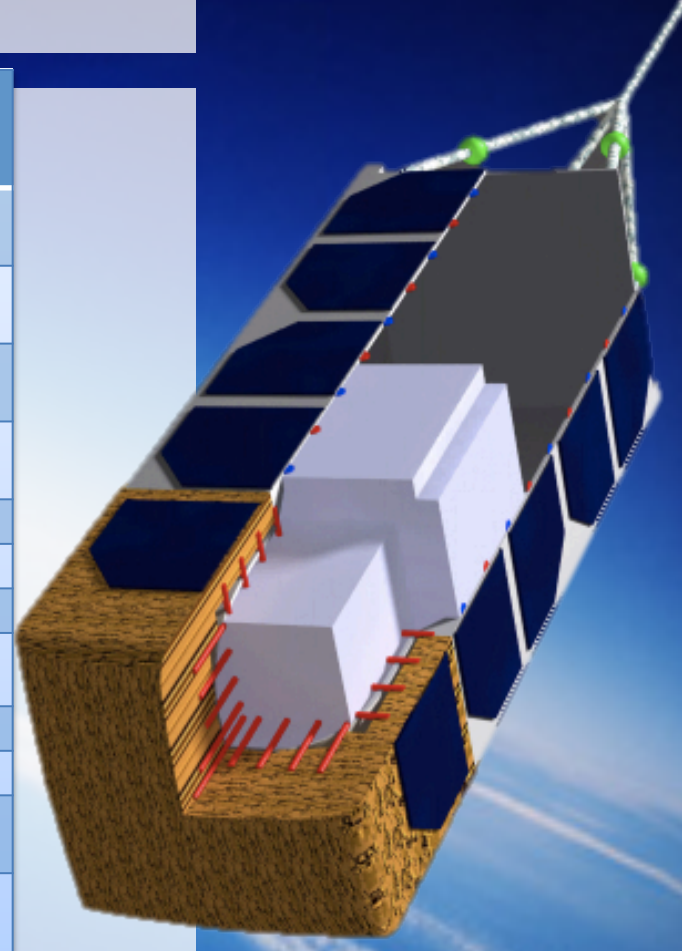
Example of Nitrogen diagnostic  
in an Air plasma





# Payloads

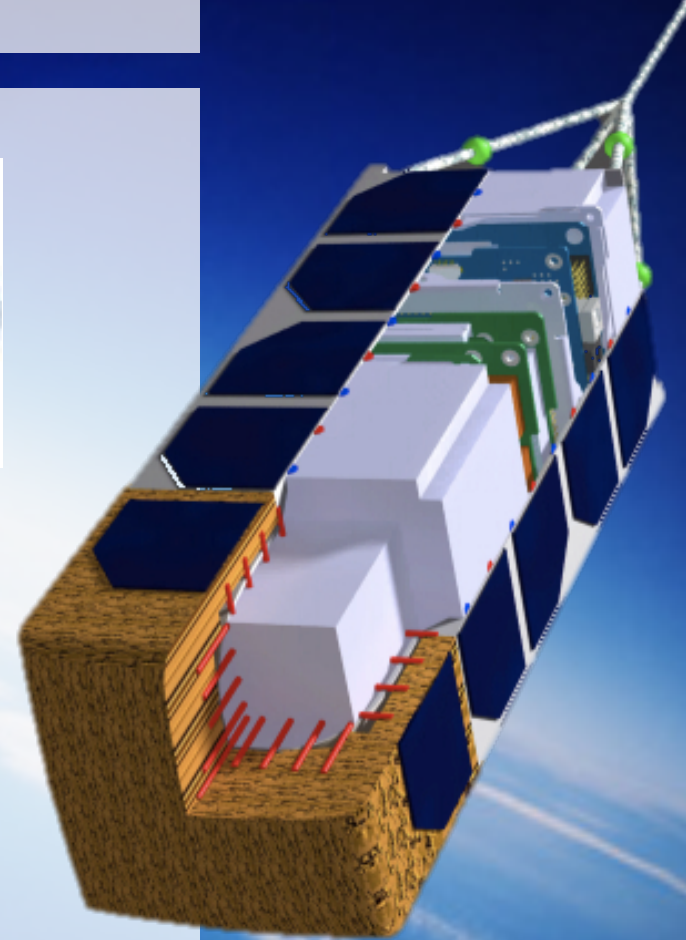
Investigated Challenge	Parameter to measure	Sensor	Total Mass [kg]	Power [mW h]	Data Size / Meas. [bit]	Phase	Total Data Size [KB/Phase]
TPS Ablation	Recession	2 x Recession Sensor	0,004	1.67	10	3	3.0
TPS Efficiency	Temperature Distribution	8 x TC	0,031	1.67	14	3	16.8
TPS & Environment	Pressure	2 x Pressure Sensor	0.060	8.33	10	3	3.0
Stability	Pressure	4 x Pressure Sensor	0,060	840	10	2	302.4
Rarefied Flow Conditions	Low Pressure / Vacuum	1 x Vacuum Sensor	0,011	756	10	1	151.2
				756		2	151.2
Shear Force, Laminar to Turbulence Transition	Skin Friction	2 x Preston Tube	0.120	2520	10	2	907.2
				16.67		3	3.0
Off-Stagnation Temperature Evolution	Temperature	10 x TC	0,021	16.8	14	2	211.68
				1.67		3	21.0
Aerothermodynamic Environment	Species	1 x Spectrometer	0,084	6250	28	3	3.5
<b>Total</b>			<b>0.391</b>	<b>6250</b>	<b>338</b>		



# Acknowledgement



The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Program ([FP7/2007-2013]) under grant agreement n° 284427 for the QB50 Project





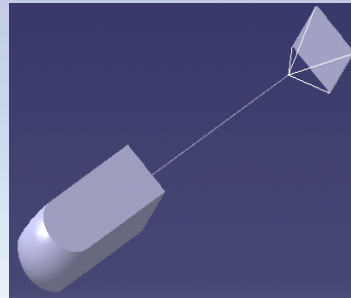
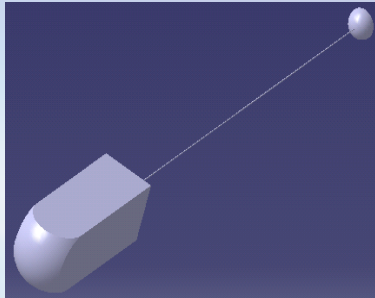
Thank you  
for your attention

-gilles.bailet@vki.ac.be-



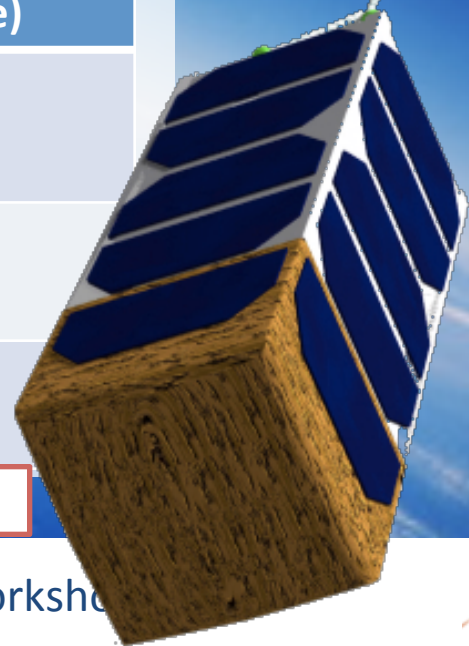
# Stability system

-How can a brick fly?-



	Low drag increment (hemisphere)	High drag increment (flat plate)
Surface area (in cm <sup>2</sup> )	42.25	100
Position downstream the vehicle (in m)	1.3	0.32
Drag coefficient increment	0.38	2

➤ Future work: PASDA code (Parachute System Design and Analysis Tool)



9<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Probe Workshop  
- Toulouse, June 16-22 2012 -

# Structural consideration

-CATIA FEM module-

- Small increment of mass
  - Good substrate for TPS bonding
  - Keep integrity of the vehicle
- (safety factor of 5)

