

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

**1st ESA-NASA Working Meeting on Optoelectronics:
“Fiber Optic System Technologies in Space”
5th & 6th of October 2005**

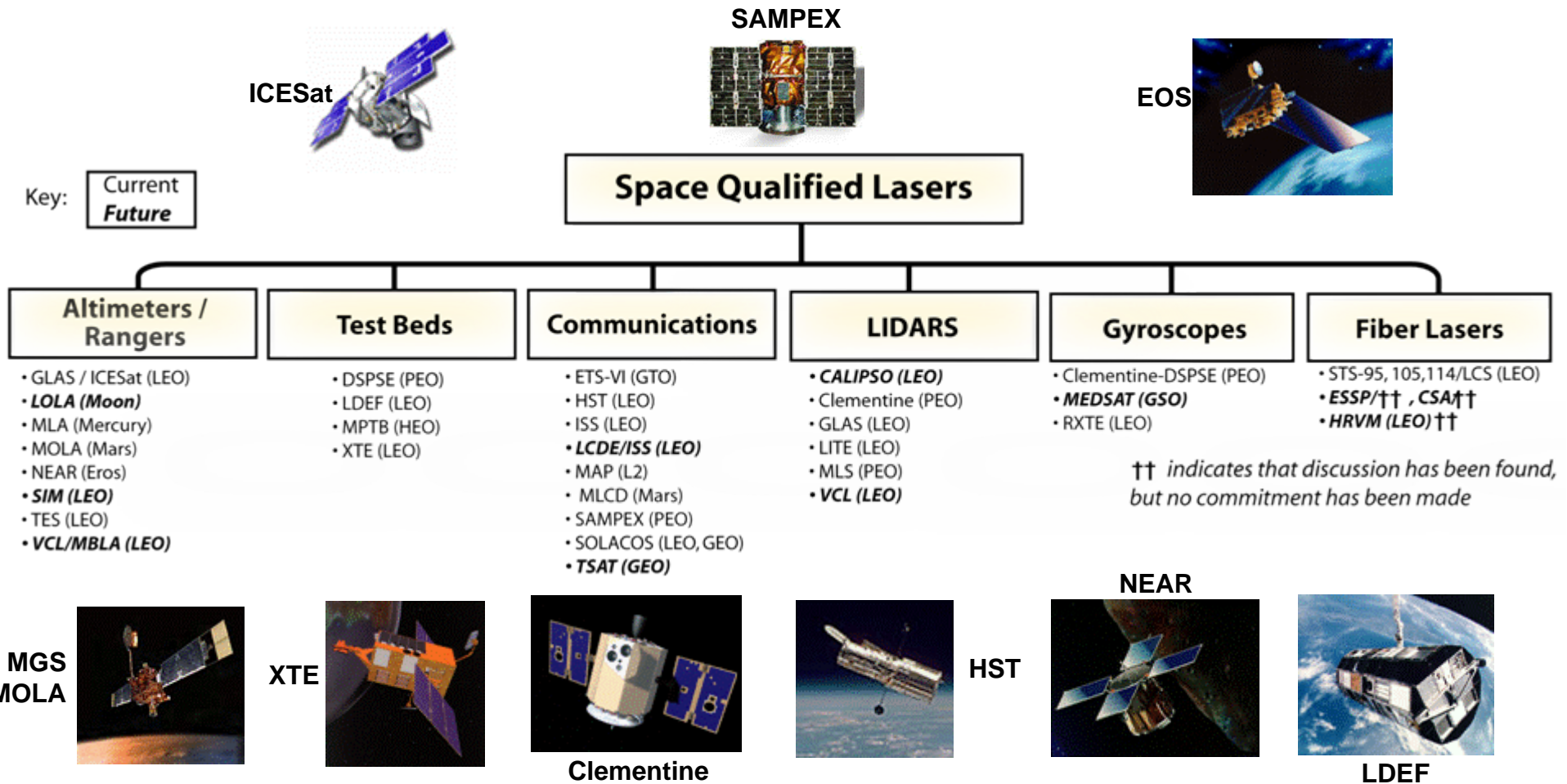
Einstein Hall, ESTEC/ESA, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

**Overview of Usage and Testing of
Laser Components in Space Environments
Survey 2005**

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Northrop Grumman Jackson and Tull**



Lasers and Fibers are Currently Used in Space



Successful Implementations of Lasers in Space and Failures (Lessons Learned) were Surveyed



Background Survey of Laser Systems in Space

- **Survey of space qualifying laser systems performed May 2005**
 - **All information freely accessible to the public were surveyed and reviewed**
 - **Concentrated on past 12 years**
 - **Includes fiber laser systems and components**
- **Surveyed >350 Articles in Bibliography**
- **Interviewed personnel at DOD, NASA, Aerospace, and other experts**
- **Telcordia, DOD, NASA, and other standards reviewed for space applications**

Survey Results Grouped into Five Categories

Environment Definitions

Summarizes the specifications for space flight in an LEO; including radiation, thermal, vibration, and electrical.

Space Qualification

Summarizes current specifications and procedures for qualification of laser system components for space flight. Interviews with personnel at DoD, NASA, and others with experience in the area provide valuable background information.

Standards / Test Methods

Discusses the types of tests performed and needed for space qualification of laser components, modules, and systems.

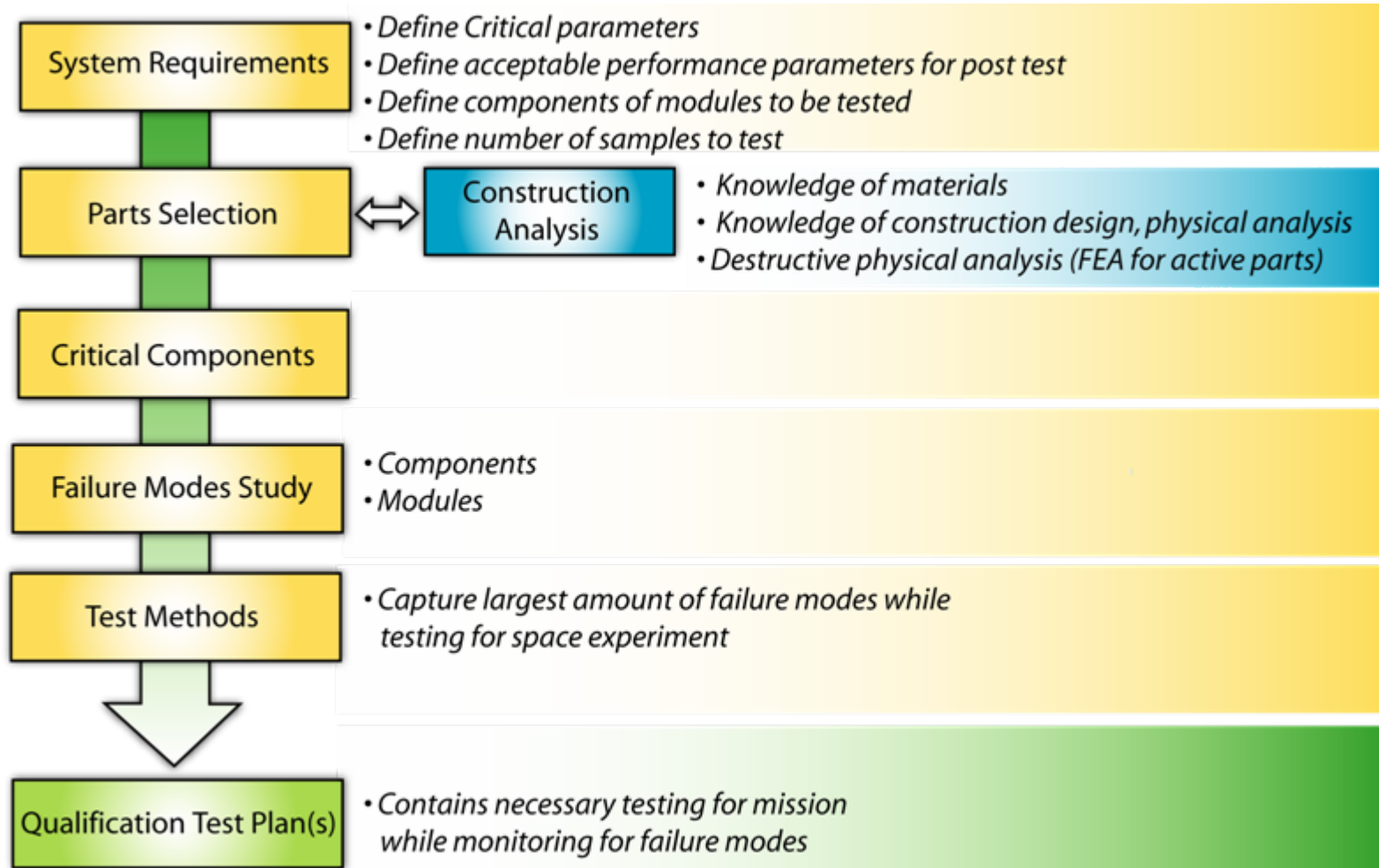
Failures / Lessons Learned

Summarizes just what title suggests, for the analysis done for on-orbit GLAS instrument and other space-flight laser systems, to aid in future assessments and definition of space qualification protocols.

Components

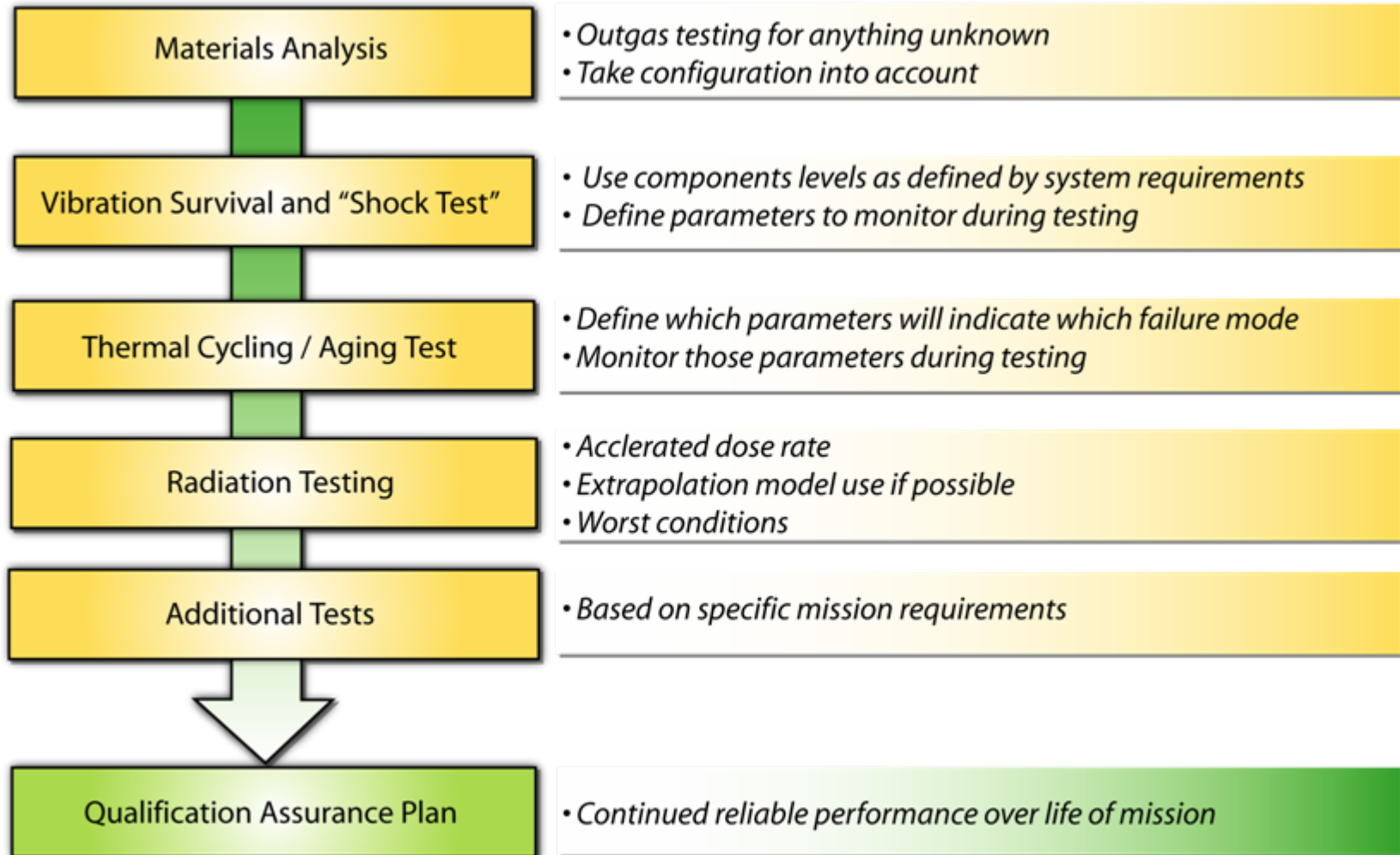
Discusses the environmental testing results for laser components, modules, and systems, and identifies areas of concern for component tests that have not been performed or results that effect the development of a space qualification protocol.

COTS Technology Assurance Approach for Space Flight*



* Photonic Components for Space Systems, M. Ott, Presentation for Advanced Microelectronics and Photonics for Satellites Conference, 23 June 2004.

Space Flight Qualification*



* Photonic Components for Space Systems, M. Ott, Presentation for Advanced Microelectronics and Photonics for Satellites Conference, 23 June 2004.



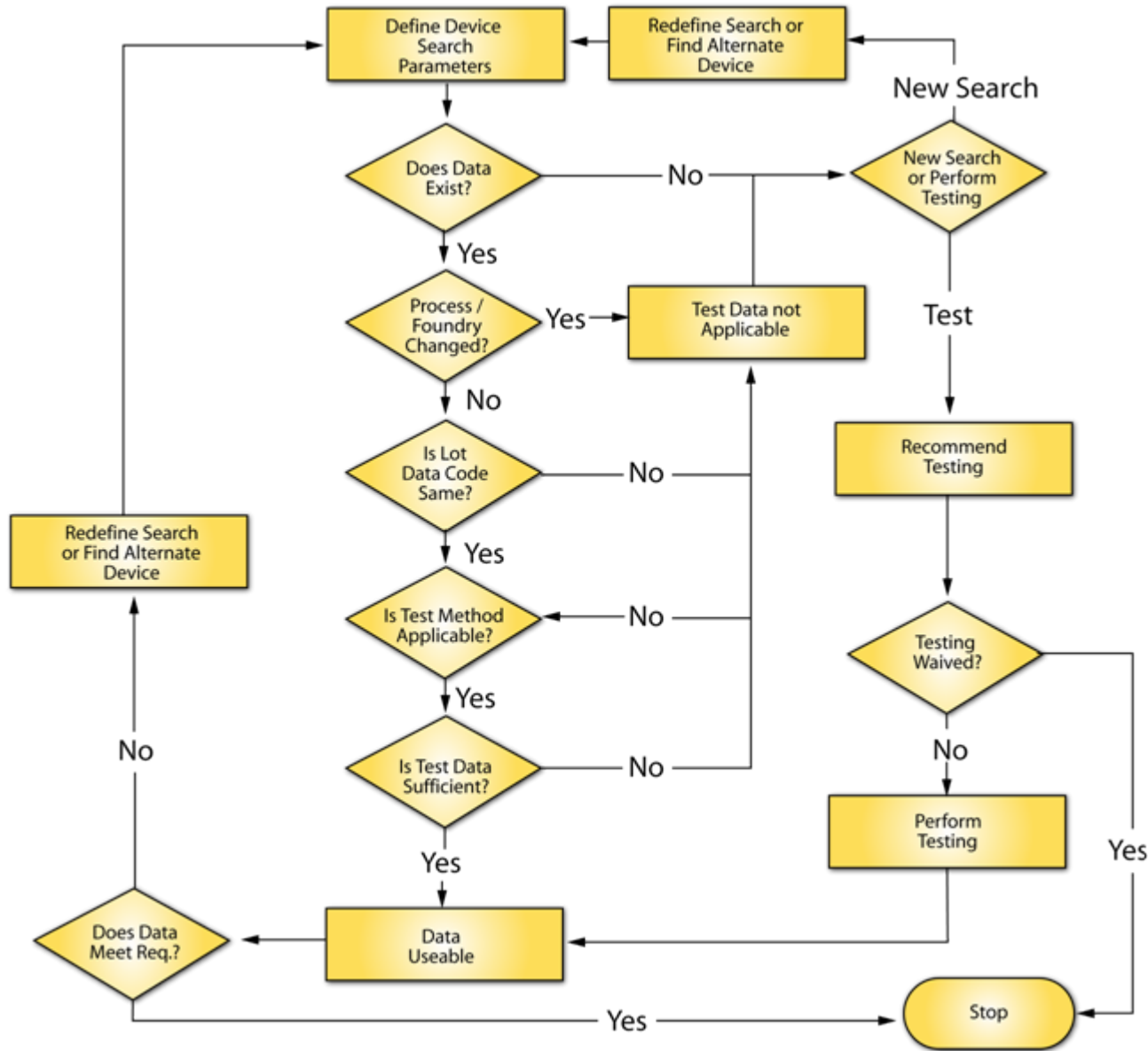
Standards and Test Methods

- **Ground Testing for Space Qualification**
 - **Laboratory conditions significantly different from actual conditions**
 - **Test for worst case on ground to assure space reliability and survivability**
- **Always Perform Materials Analysis First**
 - **Reduced cost and schedule of overall tests**
 - **Understand mechanisms for failures**
 - **Aids in design of tests**
- **Combine Tests When Possible**
 - **Reduced costs**
 - **Compounded failure mechanisms**

Don't Make Requirements Harder than They Need to Be



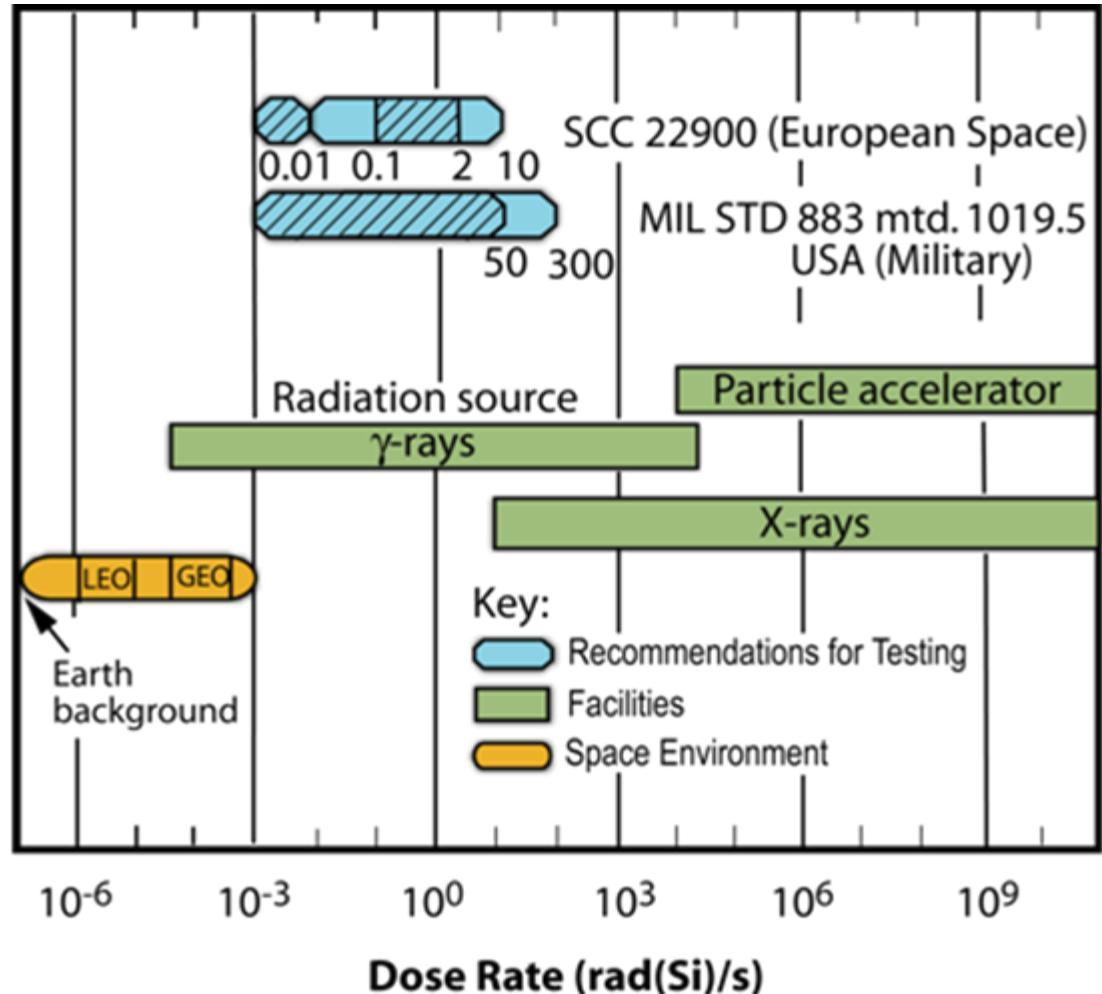
Materials Analysis Data Flow Example*



* *Space Radiation Environments and Effects*, J. Howard, Bright Light TIM #1, Presentation to AFRL, Mar 2005

Radiation Sources and Dose Rates – TID*

- **Laboratory Dose Rates are Significantly Higher than Actual Space Dose Rates**
- **Testing According to Test Standards Gives Conservative Estimates of Devices TID Sensitivity**



* Radiation Hardness Assurance (RHA) for Space Systems, Presentation, C. Poivey, Nuclear and Space Radiation Effects Conference, 15-19 July 2002

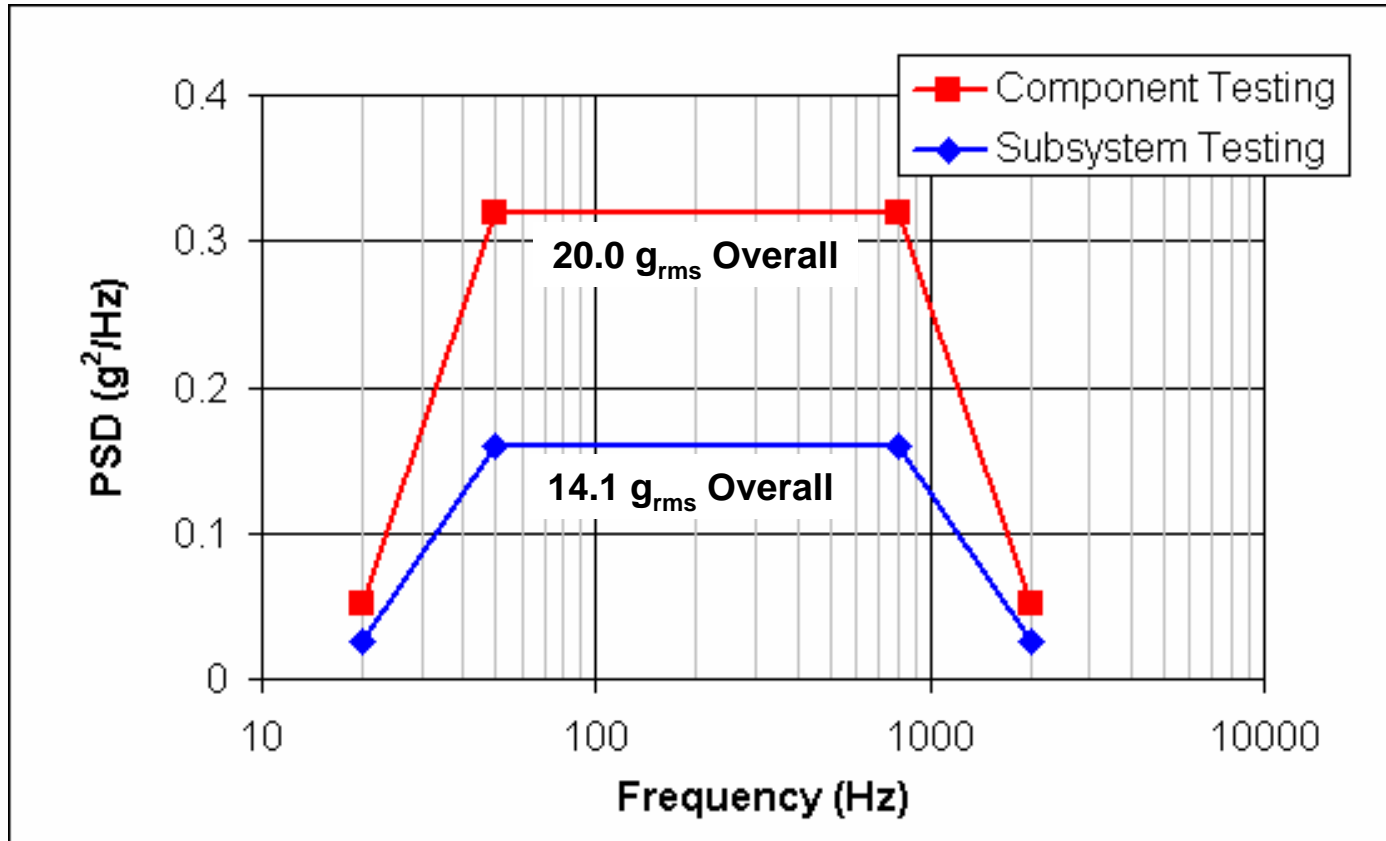


LEO System Thermal Testing Limits*

Parameter	Value	Units	Comments
Interior			Controlled environment
Thermal Vacuum	10 ⁻⁵	Torr	
Extreme Temperatures	-10 to +55	°C	Minimum 20 min dwell at extremes
Thermal Cycling	12	cycles	2 °C/min ramp rate
Humidity, Relative	30 to 70	%	Ground testing
Exterior			Uncontrolled environment
Thermal Vacuum	10 ⁻⁵	Torr	
Extreme Temperatures	-65 to +125	°C	20 min dwell at extremes
Thermal Cycling	12	cycles	2 °C/min ramp rate

* *The Effects of Space Environments on Electronic Components*, M. Petkov, NASA JPL, Jan 2003, and *Environmental Conditions for Space Flight Hardware – A Survey*, J. Plante, B. Lee, NEPP Web Article, Nov 2004

Vibration Profile Testing Levels*



3 minutes per axis, tested in x, y, and z.

* *Reliability of Optical Modulators for Space Flight Environments*, M. Ott, J. Vela, NASA Parts and Packaging Program, IPPAQ Task Report, Oct 2002, and *Validation of Commercial Fiber Optic Components for Aerospace Environments*, M. Ott, Presentation given at the 12th SPIE International Symposium on Smart Structures and Materials, Mar 2005



Many Test Methods have been Established

- Telecommunications Industries Association (TIA) Testing Methods Widely Accepted and Available
- NASA/GFSC Adapts Existing Test Methods
 - Utilizes TIA testing methods
 - Recommends Telcordia standards
 - Modifies existing methods for specific mission
 - TIA, MIL, IEEE, Telcordia, DOD, GSFC, IEC, ANSI, ASTM, etc.
 - Develops internal methods where none exists
- There is Consistency in Test Philosophies Across Agencies
 - Government (NASA/GSFC, NASA/JPL, NASA/LRC)
 - Military (Air Force, Navy, DOD)
 - Industry (Aerospace, Coherent Technologies, Fibertek, Northrop Grumman, Sandia National Labs)

Passive Components Test Methods Readily Available
Active Components Test Methods are NOT



Example NASA vs. Telcordia Test Requirements*

- Due to the usage of MIL-STD-883 in Telcordia specifications, the random vibration environmental parameters and duration are of greater intensity than is required for space flight launch vehicles.

	NASA Requirements		Telcordia Requirements
Vibration Testing	Vibration conducted on each of three areas	3 minutes / axis	20-2,000 Hz min / cycle
	Frequency (Hz)	Protoflight Level	
	20	0.052 g ² / Hz	
	20-50	+6 dB / Octave	
	50-800	0.32 g ² / Hz	
	800-2000	-6 dB / Octave	
	2000	0.52 g ² / Hz	20G 4 cycles / axis
	Overall	20.0 grms	
Thermal Cycling Testing	-20°C / +85°C, 30 cycles for pass / fail, 42 cycles for info		-40°C / + 70°C, 100 cycles for pass / fail, 500 cycles for info

Don't Make Requirements Harder than They Need to Be

* Reliability of Optical Fiber Modulators for Space Flight Environments, M. Ott, et al, NASA Parts and Packaging Program Report, Electronic Parts Project, IPPAQ Task Report, October 2002.



Space Environment Hazards for Typical Orbits*

Space Hazard	Spacecraft Charging		Single-event Effects			Total Radiation Dose		Surface Degradation		Plasma Interference with communications	
	Surface	Internal	Cosmic Rays	Trapped Radiation	Solar Particle	Trapped Radiation	Solar Particle	Ion Sputtering	O ⁺ Erosion	Scintillation	Wave Refraction
LEO<60°	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red
LEO>60°	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red
MEO	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
GPS	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
GTO	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
GEO	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
HEO	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red
Inter-planetary	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green

Important
 Relevant
 Not applicable

Space environment hazards for typical orbits. Key : LEO<60° --- low Earth orbit less than 60 degrees inclination, LEO>60° ---low Earth orbit, more than 60 degrees inclination, MEO ---medium Earth orbit, GPS ---Global Positioning System satellite orbit, GTO ---geosynchronous transfer orbit, GEO--- geo-synchronous orbit, HEO ---highly elliptical orbit, O⁺ --- atomic oxygen.

* Radiation in the Space Environment, Crosslink®, the Aerospace Corporation Magazine, Vol. 4, No.2, 2003



Sensitive Parameters

Example of Sensitive Parameters in Photonic Devices
(which are likely to be affected by one or more environmental tests)

Device Type	Sensitive Parameters
Optocouplers	Current transfer ratio
Fiber Optics	Transmissivity, polarization
LED	Light output
Laser Diode	Light output (efficiency), wavelength shift, threshold current shift, facet damage
AO & EO Modulators (Inorganic)	Refractive index, increased absorption, bandwidth, diffraction efficiency, coupling
AO & EO Modulators (Organic)	Increased absorption, conductivity changes, EO coefficient, SHG
Optical Fiber Modulators	Index of refraction
PIN Photodiodes	Increase in dark current
Waveguides	Transmissivity, absorption, polarization



Failure Modes and Mechanisms (1 of 2)

Component	Test	Mode / Mechanism
Fiber Optic Connector	Cable/Fiber Tension, Flex, Twist	Fiber Failure, Assembly Damage
	Vibration/Shock	Fiber End-face Damage, Assembly Damage
	Mating Durability	Fiber End-face Damage, Assembly Damage, Broken Sleeve
	Temperature/Humidity	Fiber Failure, Fiber Pistoning, Env/mech degradation of Assembly Materials, Fiber Withdrawal, Adhesive Degradation
Fiber Optic Splices	Cable/Fiber Tension, Flex, Twist	Fiber Failure, Assembly Damage
	Vibration/Shock	Fiber End-face Damage, Assembly Damage
	Temperature/Humidity	Fiber Failure, Fiber Pistoning, Env./mech. Degradation of Assembly Materials, Degradation, Moisture Absorption, Particulate Occlusion of Index Match Medium, Adhesive Degradation
Fiber Optic Cable Assemblies	Thermal Cycling	Material Changes Attenuation, Cold Temp Attenuation, Materials Shrinkage Attenuation, Fiber Exposure, Cracking of Fiber
	Vibration (Survival)	Cracking of Fiber and crack propagation
	TID (Attenuation)	Radiation Induced Effects
	Electron (Scintillation, SEE)	Radiation Induced Effects
Optocouplers	Radiation Hardness Assurance	Displacement Damage, Device Degradation
AO & EO Modulators	Radiation Testing	Thermooptic and Ionic Induced Refractive Index Changes, Increased Absorption



Failure Modes and Mechanisms (2 of 2)

Component	Test	Mode / Mechanism
Optical Fiber Modulators	Raised Thermal Operating Temperature	DC Drift, Hydrogen Diffusion
	Thermal Cycling	Fiber Buckling, Break, Material Expansion (OTE) Mismatching
	Vibration Testing	Fiber Buckling, Break
	Increased Optical Power	Degradation of Coupling Material
Optical Fibers & Waveguides	Radiation Testing	Radiation-Induced Color Centers, Changes to Absorption
Fibers, lenses	Radiation Testing	Darkening in Passive Optical Components
Optoelectronics	Radiation Testing	Particle Induced Displacement Damage
Laser Diodes	Materials Analysis	Laser Bar Material Defect, Solder Creep/Mitigation, Solder De-bonding, Bond Wire Failure, Packaging Issues
	Thermal Cycling	Accelerated Aging
Light Emitting Diodes	Radiation Testing	Displacement Damage in Active Region, Excess Minority Carriers, Decrease in Minority Carrier Lifetime, Nonradiative Recombination
Edge Emitting Laser Diodes	Radiation Testing	Displacement Damage in Active Region, Excess Minority Carriers, Decrease in Minority Carrier Lifetime, Nonradiative Recombination
Injection Laser Diodes	Proton Radiation	Displacement Damage



Lessons Learned

Component	Parameter	Lesson
Laser Diode Bars	Reliability, Lifetime	Inspect bars to ensure that any gold wire is not in contact with indium
Injection Laser Diodes	Damage Mitigation	Utilize recombination enhanced annealing
Transmitter	Optical Power ⁴¹	Design with sufficient margin
Fiber Optic Receiver	Radiation Performance	SEU test a system with an application specific method
Solid State Recorders	Radiation Hazards	Utilize system level fault tolerance to mitigate SEU concerns
Receiver Diode	Proton Reactions	Understand physical SEU mechanisms
Flight System	Risk Management	Use a thorough test and qualification program
Fiber Optic System	Space Integration	Utilize standard interfaces to reduce system integration time
Laser Transmitter	Thermal Control	Modify thermal model to improve the accuracy of temperature predictions
Various	Spacecraft Charging	Conduct a spacecraft charging prevention analysis
Fiber Optic Cable	<u>Outgassing</u>	Conduct a materials analysis first
	Shrinkage	Perform thermal preconditioning
	ESD	Review <u>respooling</u> process
Support Electronics	SEU, SEE, TID, <u>Latchup</u> , etc. Tolerance	Utilize appropriately hardened technologies



Components Test Data Results

- A considerable amount of TID & SEU radiation test has been accumulated
- Other data scarce
 - Lasers are new to space
 - Fiber systems have emerging technologies
- Concern is for lack of data for new technologies
 - An NEPP Readiness Overview summarizes nicely the reliability concerns and issues for space flight environments of fiber laser components technology*

Component or Device	Radiation Data	Vibration Data	Thermal Data	Lifetime/Reliability Data
Fibers, Optical	○		○	○
Fibers, Graded Index	○			
Fibers, Single Mode Optical	○			
Fibers, Polarization Maintaining	○			
Fibers, Double Clad				
Fiber Optic Cables	○	○	○	
Fiber Optic Couplers	○			
Fiber Amplifiers	○		○	○
Fiber Bragg Gratings	○			
Fiber Laser Scanner	○	○	○	
Fiber Gyroscopes	○	○	○	○
Fiber Sensors	○	○		
Fiber Optic Data Bus	○	○	○	○
Optical Link Devices	○			
Optical Isolators	○			
Optical Glasses	○	○		
Laser Diodes, Injection	○			
Laser Diodes, MQW	○		○	○
Laser Diodes, Semiconductor	○	○	○	○
Light Emitting Diodes	○		○	○
Laser, Nd:YAG		○	○	○
Lasers, Semiconductor	○			○
Lasers, VCSEL	○			
Modulators, AO & EO	○			
Optocouplers	○			
Photodiodes, APD	○			
Photodiodes, PIN	○		○	
Q-switch, Passive	○	○		○
Waveguide Couplers	○			

KEY:
 Further Testing Needed;
 Data Exists;
 Dependent Testing Operational Use
 * An ○ in a cell indicates that data exists for this component

* Fiber Laser Components, Technology Readiness Overview, M. Ott, NASA Electronic Parts and Packaging Program, Electronic Parts Project Report, March 2003



Performance Risk Test Matrix

Component or Device	Radiation				Thermal				Vibration		Electrical								
	TID	DD	SEU	ELDRS	Internal	Vacuum	Extreme Temps	Thermal Cycling	External	Vacuum	Extreme Temps	Thermal Cycling	Sinusoidal	Random	Acoustic	Pyrotech Shock	EMI	ESD	
Attenuators																			Low Risk
Detectors																			Low Risk
Fiber Amplifiers	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk															High Risk
Fiber Bragg Gratings																			Low Risk
Fiber Collimators, Termination																			Low Risk
Fiber Connectors, Termination																			Low Risk
Fiber Optic Cables	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Fiber Optic Couplers	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Fiber Optic Data Bus	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Fiber Optic Splitters																			Low Risk
Fiber-Pump Combiners	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk															High Risk
Fibers, Doubled Clad	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk															High Risk
Fibers, Undoped																			Low Risk
Filters																			Low Risk
Gating Electronics																			Low Risk
Glasses, Gain Medium	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Isolators, Fiber Coupled																			Low Risk
Isolators, high power																			Low Risk
Laser Diodes	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk															High Risk
Light Emitting Diodes																			Low Risk
Mirrors, Laser Coupling	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Modulators, AO & EO																			Low Risk
Optical Glasses	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Optical Isolators																			Low Risk
Optical Link Devices	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Optocouplers																			Low Risk
Photodiodes, APD, PIN	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk															Low Risk
Q-Switch, Passive																			Low Risk
Seed Master Oscillator	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	High Risk															High Risk
Waveguide Couplers																			Low Risk

key:
 Low Risk
 Medium Risk
 High Risk



Conclusions

- Successful Implementations of Lasers in Space and Failures (Lessons Learned) Were Surveyed
- Actual Radiation Environment Encountered Depends on Altitude and Inclination of Orbit, Total Mission Life, and Assumptions Made About Solar Flares
- In Developing Standards and Test Methods for Space Qualification, Don't Make Requirements Harder Than They Need to Be
- Passive Components Test Methods Readily Available, Active Components Test Methods Are NOT
- Concern is for Lack of Data for New Technologies (Fiber Lasers)
- Many Components for Fiber Lasers Need to be Tested to Reduce Performance Risk



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