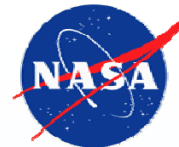


# **The View from 10,000 ft – what is happening and what it means for flight electronics**

**Kenneth A. LaBel  
ken.label@nasa.gov  
301-286-9936**

**Co- Manager NEPP Program**

**<http://nepp.nasa.gov>**



# Outline

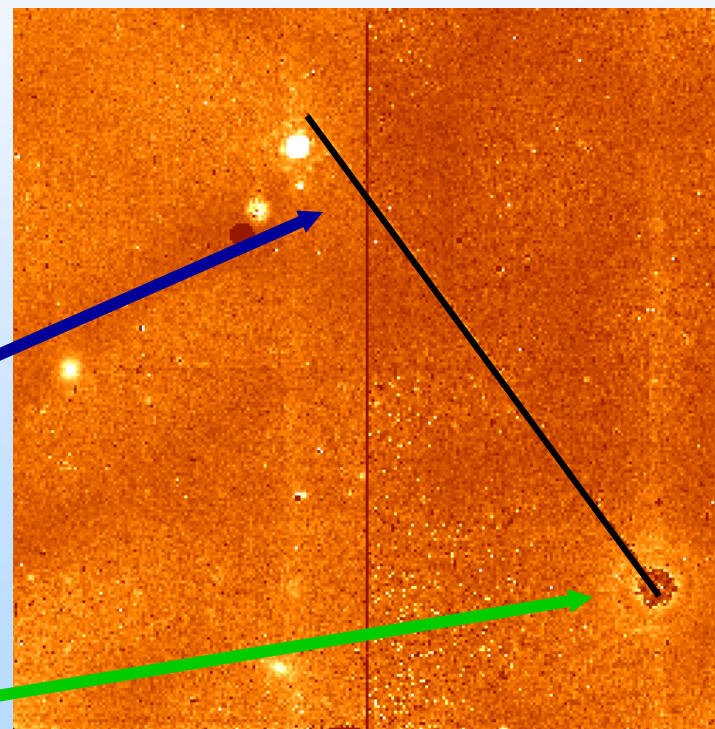
- What's New with Electronics
- What's Unique About Space and Electronics
- How is NEPP Approaching the Problem

## *Atomic Interactions*

- *Direct Ionization*

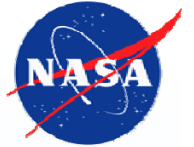
## *Interaction with Nucleus*

- *Indirect Ionization*
- *Nucleus is Displaced*

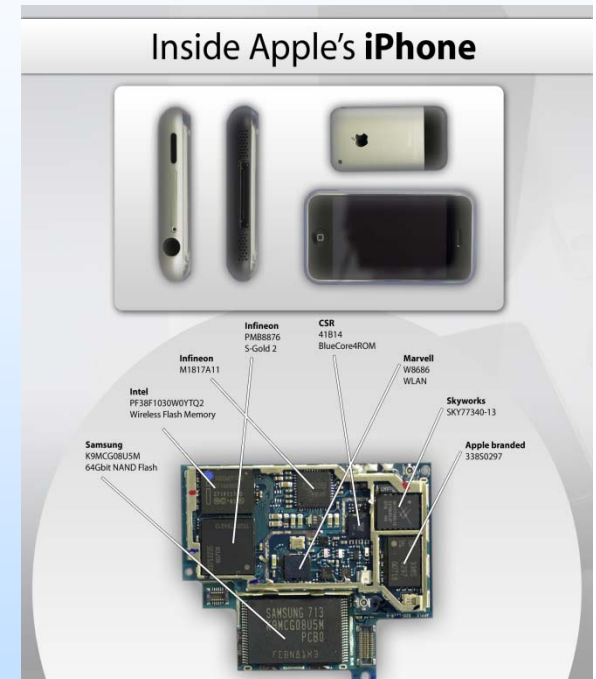


-<http://www.stsci.edu/hst/nicmos/performance/anomalies/bigcr.html>

# The Amazing Progression of the Integrated Circuit (IC)

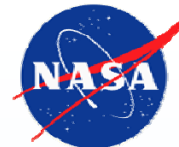


- We have been eyewitnesses to the revolution that's taken place in the semiconductor industry
  - What was once inconceivable is now the ordinary
- Several factors have been at the forefront of this movement
  - Integration
    - Increasing functionality in decreased space
  - Material science
    - Using science to modify the silicon transistor and it's package



*Inside a Apple iPhone™ player*

**Note: this talk has a bit more radiation focus than reliability due to my background**



# The Growth in IC Availability

- The semiconductor industry has seen an explosion in the types and complexity of devices that are available over the last several decades
  - The commercial market drives features
    - High density (memories)
    - High performance (processors)
    - Upgrade capability and time-to-market (FPGAs)
    - Wireless (RF and mixed signal)
    - Long battery life (Low-power CMOS)



*Integrated Cycling Bib  
and MP3*



*Zilog Z80 Processor  
circa 1978  
8-bit processor*

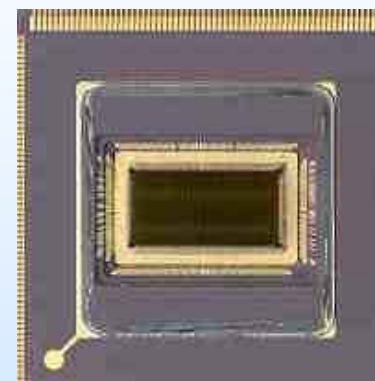


*Intel 65nm Dual Core Pentium D Processor  
circa 2007  
Dual 64-bit processors*



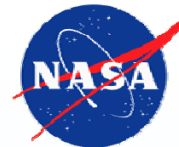
# Types of Electronic Parts for Space

- One may view electronic parts for space as meeting needs in three categories
  - Standard electronics
    - E.g., capacitors
      - Basic components
  - Standard building blocks
    - E.g., Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs)
      - Widespread usage in most systems
  - Custom devices not available as “off-the-shelf”
    - E.g., nuclear power or EVA
      - Needed for a specific application - ASIC
- Note: Commercial-of-the-shelf (COTS) assemblies (e.g., commercial electronic cards or instruments) also may be considered
  - Screening is more complicated than ever before!



**ACTEL RTSX72S FPGA**

***A part that passed “standard” qualification, but requires more complex testing***



# A Critical Juncture for Space Usage – Commercial Changes in the Electronics World

- **Scaling of technology**

- Increased gate/cell density per unit area (as well as power and thermal densities)
- Changes in power supply and logic voltages (<1V)

- **Reduced electrical margins within a single IC**

- Increased device complexity, # of gates, and hidden features
- Speeds to >> GHz (CMOS, SiGe, InP...)

- **Changes in materials**

- Use of antifuse structures, phase-change materials, alternative K dielectrics, Cu interconnects (previous – Al), insulating substrates, ultra-thin oxides, etc...

- **Increased input/output (I/O) in packaging**

- Use of flip-chip, area array packages, etc

- **Increased importance of application specific usage to reliability/radiation performance**

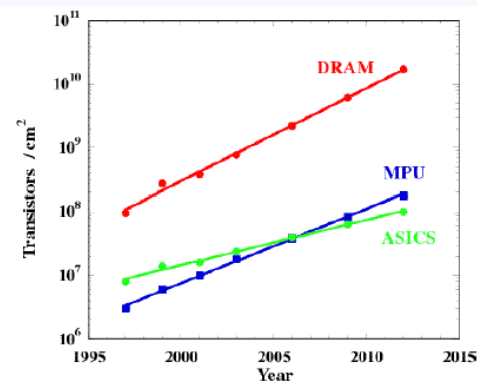
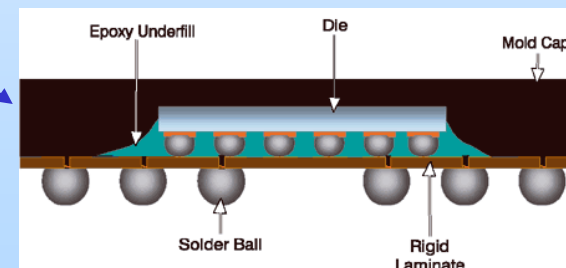


Figure 1.2:- The number of transistors per cm<sup>2</sup> plotted against the year of first manufacture.





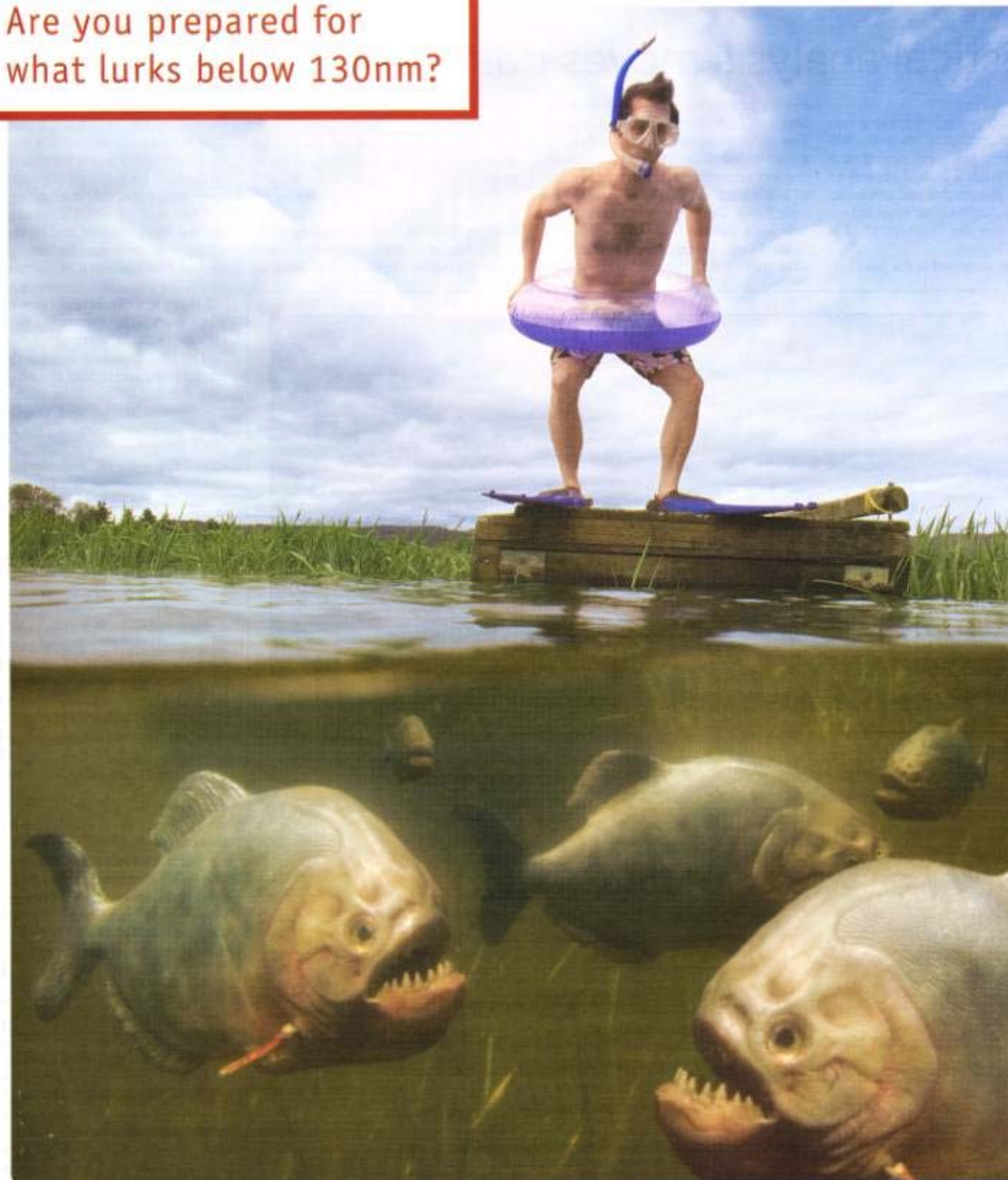
# The Changes in Device Technology

- Besides increased availability, many changes have taken place in
  - Base technology,
  - Device features, and,
  - Packaging
- The table below highlights a few selected changes

| <b><u>Feature</u></b>                    | <b><u>circa 1990</u></b> | <b><u>circa 2007</u></b>  |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| Base technology                          | bulk CMOS/NMOS           | CMOS with strained Si or SOI                                    |
| Feature size                             | > 2.0 um                 | 65 nm   |
| Memory size - volatile (device)          | 256 kb                   | 1 Gb  |
| Processor speed                          | 64 MHz                   | > 3 GHz   |
| FPGA Gates                               | 2k                       | > 1M  |
| Package                                  | DIP or LCC - 40 pins     | FCBGA - 1500 balls  |
| Advanced system on a chip (SOC) features | Cache memory             | >Gbps Serial Link, Serdes, embedded processors, embedded memory |



Are you prepared for  
what lurks below 130nm?



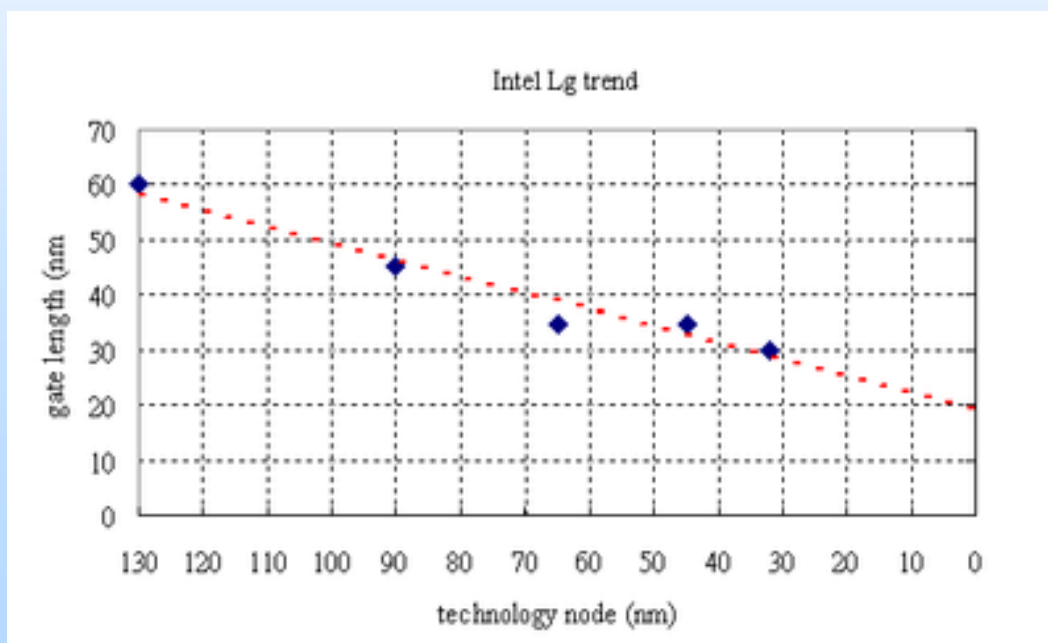
*The View from 10,000 Feet presented by Kenneth A. LaBel at NEPP ETW, NASA/GSFC – June 22, 2010*

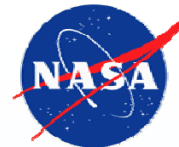




# What is a Scaled CMOS anyway?

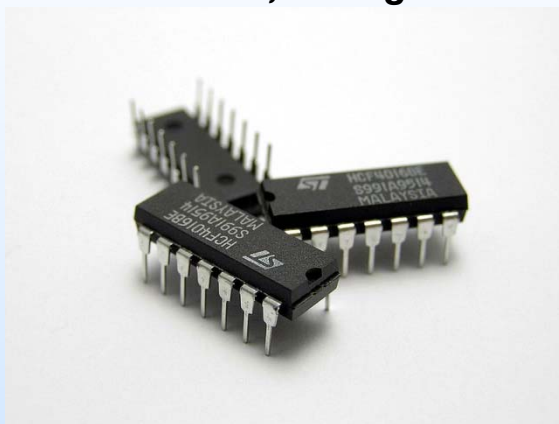
- It's all about transistors and sizing (known as gate or channel lengths) and the desire to pack as many transistors on a chip as possible
  - Transistor node space is now commercially at 32nm (and 25nm is sampling!)





# Package Complexity - Evolution

**Dual in-line Package (DIP)**  
10's of pins  
Wirebonded, through hole

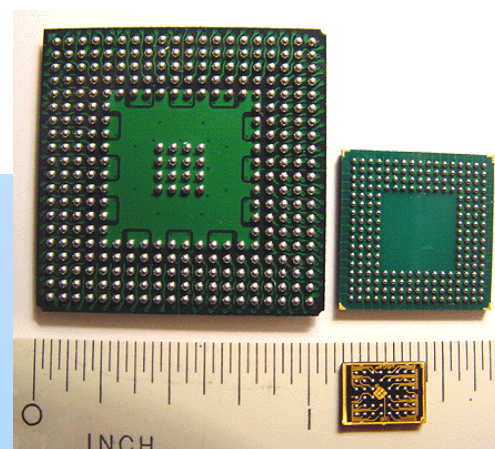


**Quad Flatpack (QFP)**  
100's of pins  
Wirebonded, surface mount



**Area Array Package**  
1000's of pins  
Bump bonded,  
surface mount or columns added

From Computer Desktop Encyclopedia  
© 2001 The Computer Language Co., Inc.

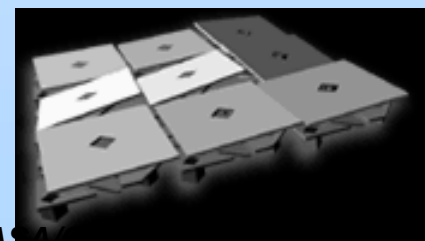




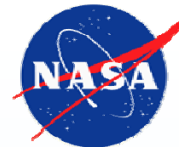


# Microelectronics: Categories

- **Microelectronics can be viewed several ways**
  - Digital, analog, mixed signal, other
  - Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS), Bipolar, etc...
  - Function (microprocessor, memory, ...)
- **There are only two commercial foundries (where they build devices) in the US dedicated to building radiation hardened digital devices. Several others have “foundryless” options.**
  - Efforts within DoD to provide alternate means of developing hardened devices
    - Hardened-by-design (HBD)
    - Provides path for custom devices, but not necessarily off-the-shelf devices
  - Commercial devices can have great variance in radiation tolerance from device-to-device and even on multiple samples of same device
    - No guarantees!
  - **Analog foundry situation is even worse**
- **New technologies have many unknowns**
  - Ultra-high speed, nanotechnologies, microelectromechanical systems (MEMS and the optical versions – MOEMS), ...



*A MOEMS in action*



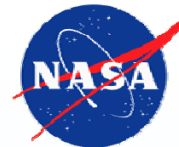
# NEPP:

## *If we used strictly commercial parts*

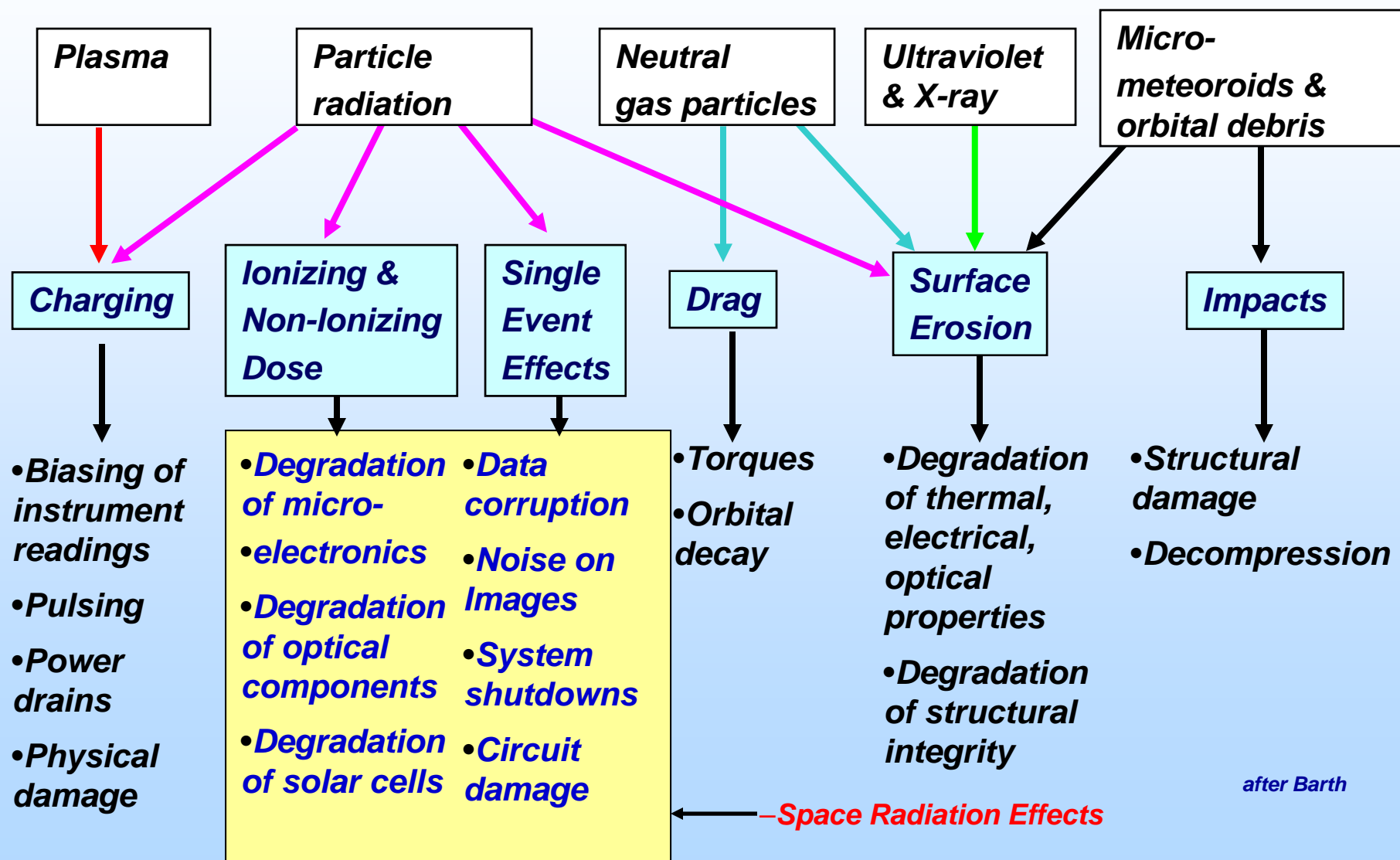
|                  | Terrestrial  | Space  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Lifetime</b>  | 1-3 years, then replaced or thrown out               | 1-20 years and rarely replaceable                |
| <b>Thermal</b>   | 0-70C  | -55 to +125C with extremes much higher and lower |
| <b>Shock</b>     | Oops! I dropped it. Time to get an upgrade anyway... | Launch vibration                                 |
| <b>Anomaly</b>   | Reboot or power cycle or return to dealer            | Anomaly or failure                               |
| <b>Radiation</b> | Is the microwave on?                                 | Protons, electrons, cosmic rays, ...             |

- **NEPP is the only entity at NASA that**
  - Trains young engineers in the difference and provides a growth path for developing project parts and radiation engineers
  - Develops and validates qualification methods
  - Provides knowledge that allows insertion of modern devices into our space systems
  - Shares and gathers knowledge with all the industry
    - If the flight projects don't know there's a problem...

*The View from 10,000 Feet presented by Kenneth A. LaBel at NEPP ETW, NASA/GSFC – June 22, 2010*



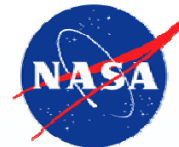
# Space Environments and Related Effects



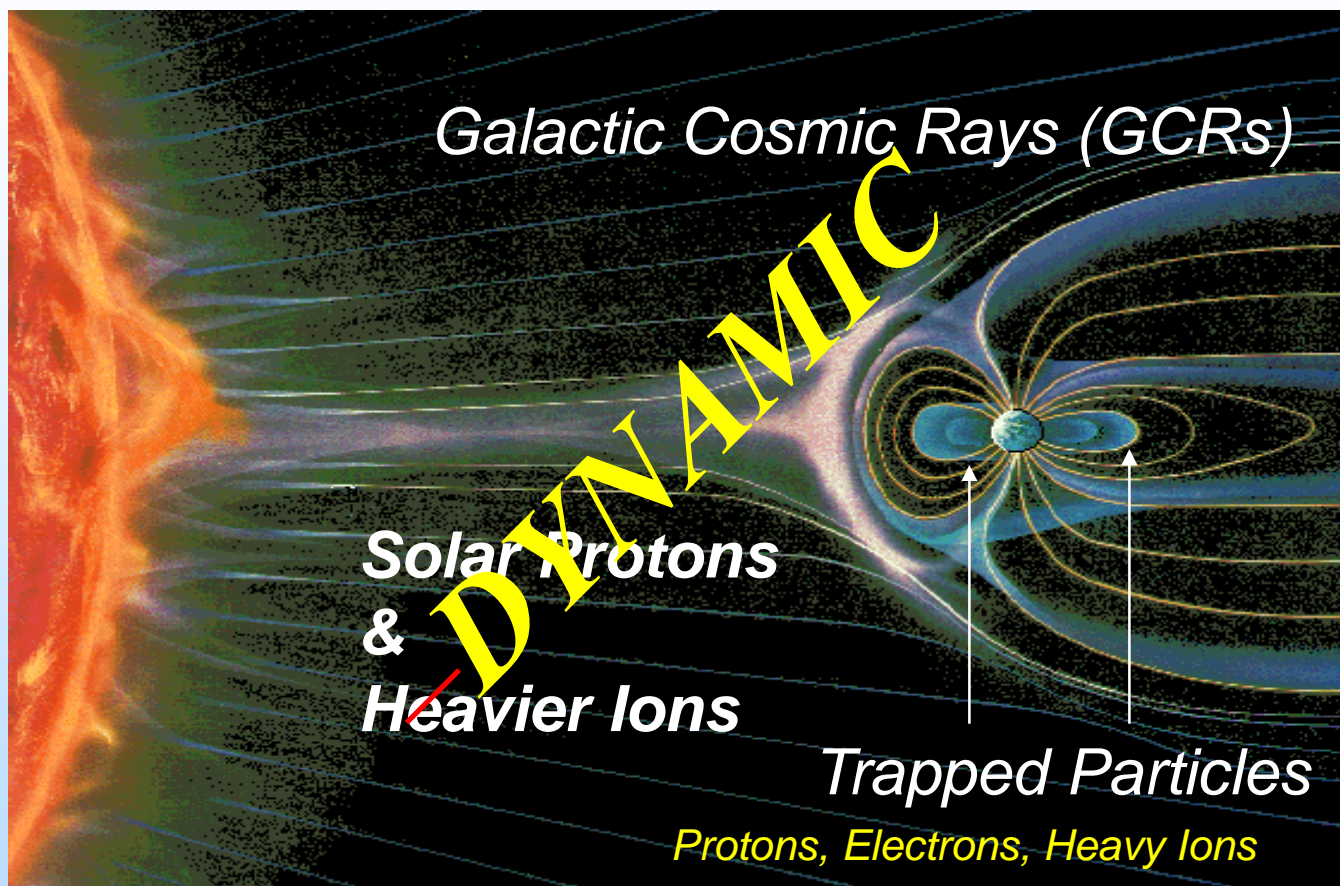
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# Space Radiation Environment

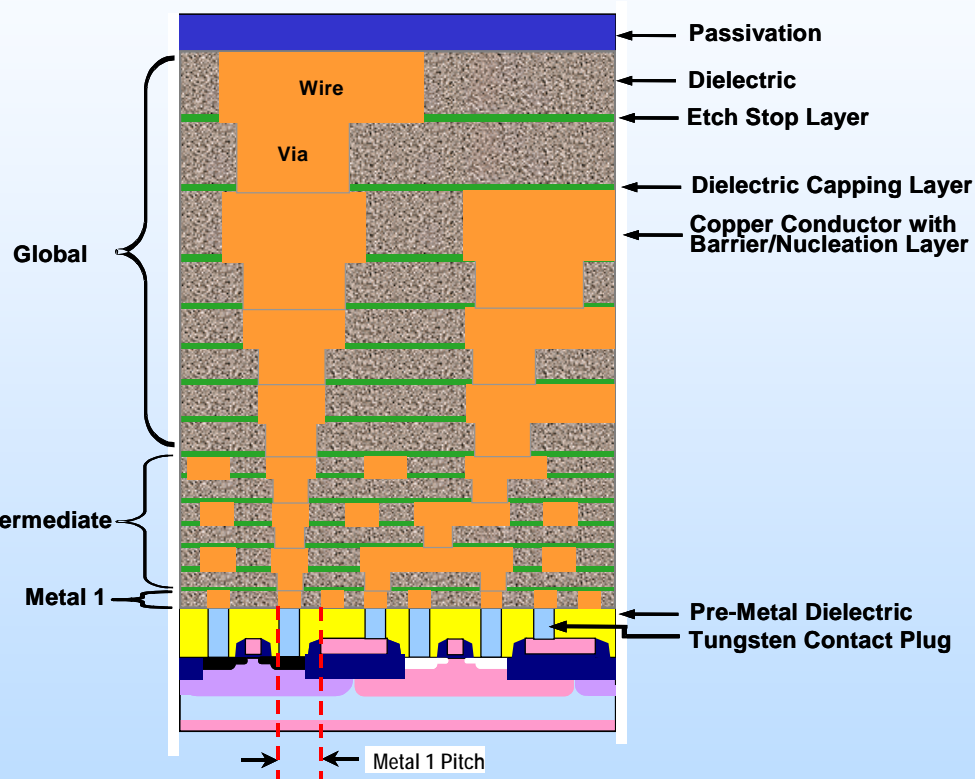


after  
Nikkei Science, Inc.  
of Japan, by K. Endo

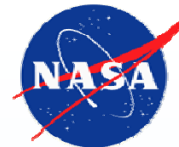
**Deep-space missions may also see: neutrons from background or radioisotope thermal generators (RTGs) or other nuclear source**  
**Atmosphere and terrestrial may see GCR and secondaries**

# Implications for Electronics in Space

- With all these changes in the semiconductor world, what are the implications for usage in space? Implications for test, usage, qualification and more
  - Speed, power, thermal, packaging, geometry, materials, and fault/failure isolation are just a few for emerging challenges for radiation test and modeling.
    - Reliability challenges are equally as great
  - The following chart (courtesy of Vanderbilt University) looks at some of the recent examples of test data that imply shortfalls in existing radiation performance models.
    - Technology assumptions in standard tools such as CREME96 are no longer valid

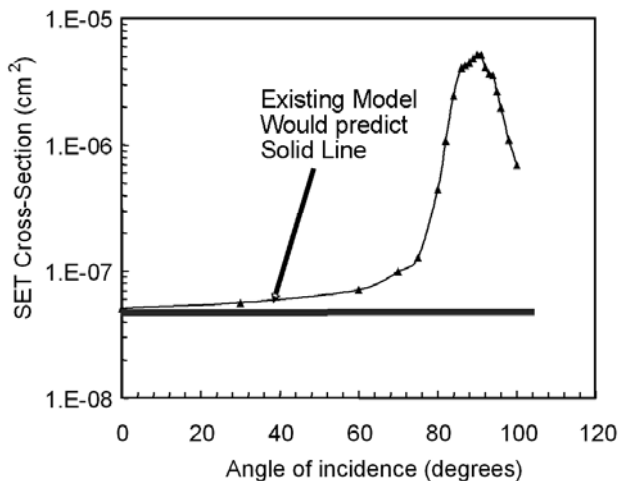


*Typical device cross-section.  
Current generations of digital devices  
take over 1500 processing steps.*

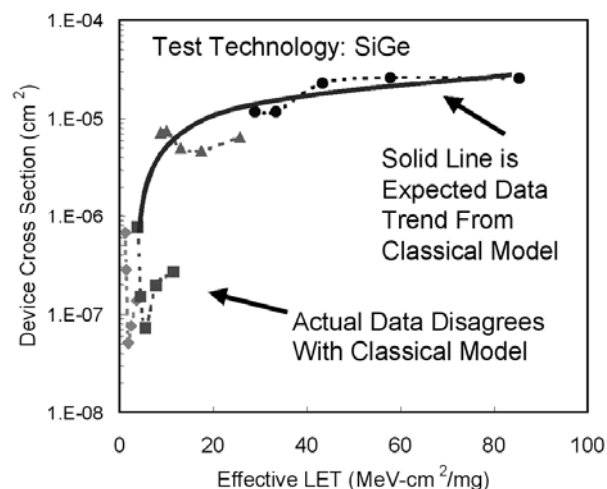


# Sample Radiation Modeling Shortfalls

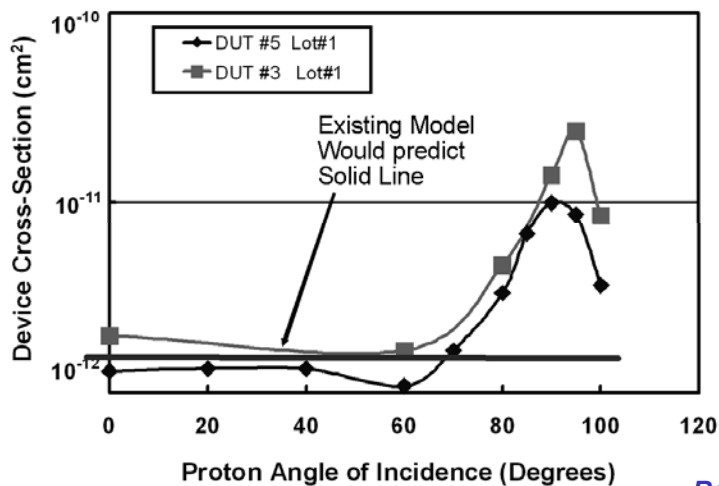
### High-Speed Optical Link



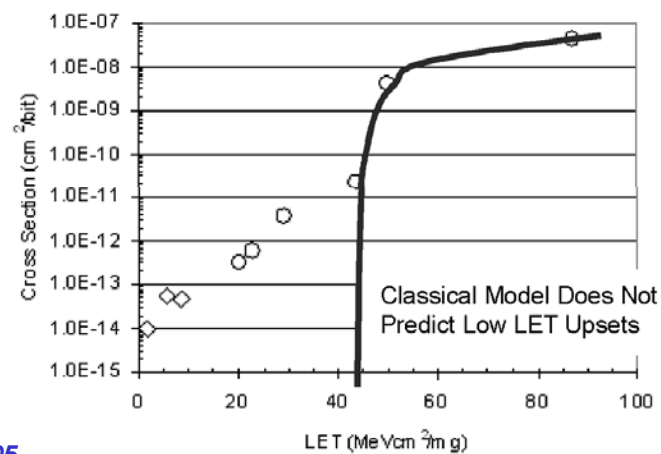
### SiGe Hetrojunction Bipolar Transistor



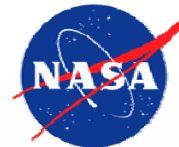
### Silicon On Insulator



### Bulk RHBD CMOS



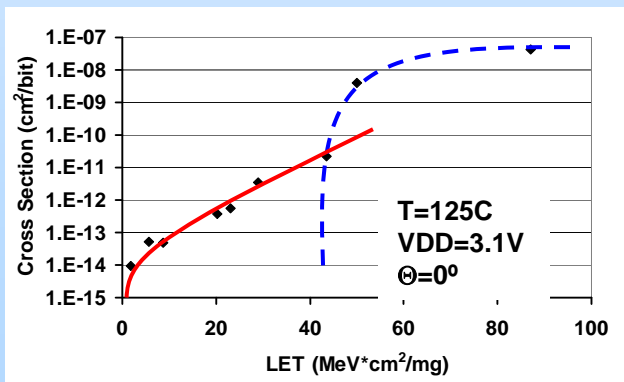
Reed-05



# Where we are –

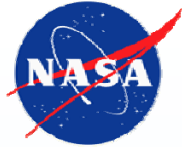
## *Radiation test methods and what has changed in the world*

- Existing test methods
  - SEE
    - JEDEC JSD 57
    - ASTM, F1192-00
  - TID
    - MIL-STD-883B, Test Method 1019.8
    - ASTM, F1892-06
- All had prime development in the mid-90s with some updates since, however, many new issues have been discovered that may not be covered adequately
- Examples: Recent SEE Phenomena
  - Angular effects in SOI technologies
  - Role of single event transients (SETs) and commensurate speed-related issues in both analog and digital circuits
  - Ion penetration and range issues in power and packaged components
  - Approaches to die access
  - Impact of application and reconfigurable approaches to SEE performance
  - Role of nuclear reactions from heavy ion particle interactions



***Reliability testing has had commensurate complications***

# Hypothetical New Technology Part Qualification Cost Circa 2008



| <i>Item</i>  | <i>Cost</i>       | <i>Note</i>   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| <b>Parts Procurement<br/>(500-1000 devices for testing only)</b>       | <b>\$25-1000K</b> | Individual device costs can run from cents to tens of thousands                                   |
| <b>“Standard” Qualification Tests</b>                                  | <b>\$300K</b>     |   |
| <b>Radiation Tests and Modeling</b>                                    | <b>\$400K</b>     | Assumes total dose and single event (heavy ion) only  |
| <b>Failure Modes Analysis</b>  | <b>\$300K</b>     | Out-of-the-box look at the “hows and whats” for non-standard research required for qualification  |
| <b>Additional Tests, Modeling, and Analysis based on Failure Modes</b> | <b>\$500K</b>     |   |
| <b>Total cost for one device type</b>                                  | <b>\$1.5-3M</b>   | Not all new technologies will meet standard qualification levels: technology limitations document |

***Assumption: 12-24 months to develop sufficient data for technology confidence***



# Device Complexity Drives Cost and Schedule!



## - Ex., Standard Memory

| 1996 SEE Test of a 4M SRAM                |                    |            |               |   |
|---|--------------------|------------|---------------|---|
| Description                               | Man-weeks or units | Cost in \$ | Total         | Note  |
| Heavy Ion at BNL SEUTF                    |                    |            |               |   |
| Test plan                                 | 0.20               | \$4,000.00 | \$800.00      | Includes eng, rad, other to define what needs to go into test set with project. |
| Device procurements                       | 10.00              | \$50.00    | \$500.00      |   |
| Misc parts                                | 1.00               | \$250.00   | \$250.00      | Sockets, connectors, etc...   |
| Device delidding                          | 0.05               | \$3,500.00 | \$175.00      |   |
| Test board design - electrical and layout | 0.40               | \$4,000.00 | \$1,600.00    |   |
| Board fab and population                  | 1.00               | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00    | In-house board build  |
| Board/tester debug                        | 0.50               | \$4,000.00 | \$2,000.00    |   |
| Rad expert (test oversight and plan)      | 0.40               | \$5,000.00 | \$2,000.00    |   |
| Heavy ion test performance - contractor   | 2.00               | \$1,500.00 | \$3,000.00    |   |
| BNL Beam                                  | 6.00               | \$700.00   | \$4,200.00    | Simple data: bit flips, latchup   |
| Data analysis                             | 1.00               | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00    |   |
| Test report (eng, rad expert, rad lead)   | 0.50               | \$4,000.00 | \$2,000.00    |   |
|   |                    |            | <b>Total:</b> |   |
|   |                    |            |               | <b>\$23,525.00</b>  |

| 2006 SEE Test of SDRAM                  |                    |            |                 |   |
|---|--------------------|------------|-----------------|---|
| Description                             | Man-weeks or units | Cost in \$ | Total           | Note  |
| Heavy Ion at TAMU                       |                    |            |                 |   |
| Test plan                               | 1.00               | \$4,000.00 | \$4,000.00      | Includes eng, rad, other to define what needs to go into test set with project.                           |
| Device procurements                     | 10.00              | \$75.00    | \$750.00        |   |
| Misc parts                              | 1.00               | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00      | Higher speed drives cost  |
| Device thinning and package processing  | 10.00              | \$350.00   | \$3,500.00      | Assumes FBGA package; If this does not work, more expensive test facility like NSCL needed: >\$100K delta |
| Daughterboard Board design - electrical | 0.40               | \$4,000.00 | \$1,600.00      |   |
| Daughterboard Board design - PCB        | 0.50               | \$3,500.00 | \$1,750.00      |   |
| Test Boards                             | 10.00              | \$500.00   | \$5,000.00      |   |
| Board population                        | 0.40               | \$3,500.00 | \$1,400.00      |   |
| Board/tester debug                      | 0.50               | \$4,000.00 | \$2,000.00      |   |
| Tester VHDL development                 | 3.00               | \$4,000.00 | \$12,000.00     |   |
| Technician                              | 1.00               | \$3,500.00 | \$3,500.00      |   |
| Rad expert (test oversight and plan)    | 0.60               | \$5,000.00 | \$3,000.00      |   |
| Heavy ion test performance - contractor | 2.00               | \$2,000.00 | \$4,000.00      |   |
| TAMU                                    | 16.00              | \$750.00   | \$12,000.00     | 2X time required: more data, more error types, more complex results                                       |
| Data analysis                           | 3.00               | \$3,500.00 | \$10,500.00     |   |
| Test report (eng, rad expert, rad lead) | 1.00               | \$4,000.00 | \$4,000.00      |   |
|   |                    |            | <b>Total in</b> |   |
|   |                    |            |                 | <b>\$70,000.00</b>  |

1996 vs 2006 a 3X Cost Delta

Other test costs (radiation and reliability)

have increased commensurately with ~3X schedule increase as well!

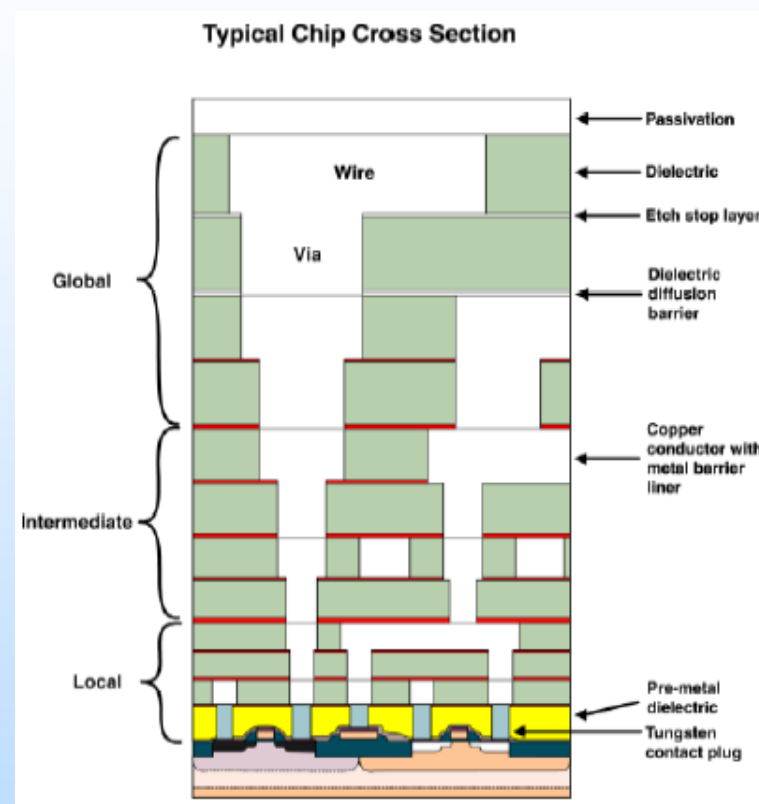
Now >> \$100K

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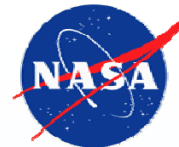
# NEPP Mission

- To provide guidance to NASA:
  - Selection and application of microelectronics technologies
  - Improved understanding of risks related to the use of these technologies in the space environment
  - Appropriate evaluations to meet NASA mission assurance needs for electronic systems
- NEPP evaluates new\* and emerging\*\* electronic parts technologies and provides assurance support for technologies in current use in NASA spaceflight systems



*\*New – Recently marketed, commercially available*

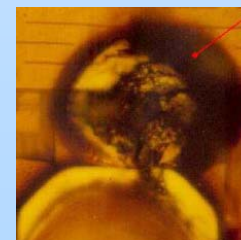
*\*\* Emerging – Available in limited quantities for evaluation, on path to commercial products*

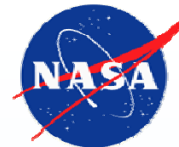


# NEPP Overview

- NEPP supports all of NASA for >20 years
  - 7 NASA Centers and JPL actively participate
- The NEPP Program focuses on the reliability aspects of electronic devices
  - Three prime technical areas: *Parts (die), Packaging, and Radiation*
- Alternately, reliability may be viewed as:
  - Lifetime, inherent failure and design issues related to the electronic parts technology and packaging,
  - Effects of space radiation and the space environment on these technologies, and
  - Creation and maintenance of the assurance support infrastructure required for mission success.

*Electrical overstress failure  
in a commercial electronic device*

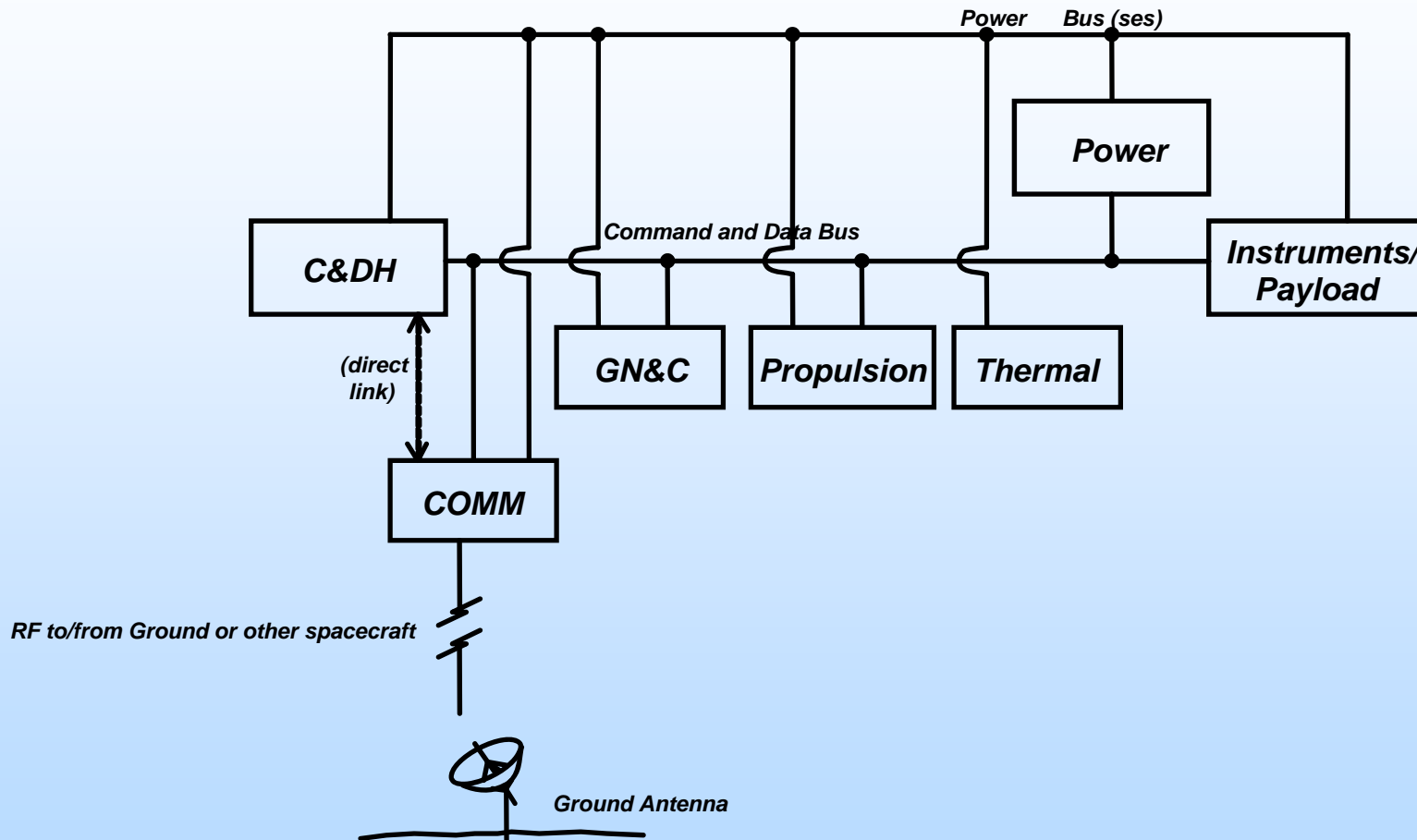




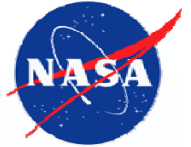
# NEPP Works Two Sides of the Equation

- **Assurance**
  - *Issues that are applicable to space systems being designed and built (i.e., currently available technologies)*
  - **Examples**
    - Cracked capacitors
    - DC-DC converter reliability
    - Enhanced Low Dose Rate Sensitivity (ELDRS)
  - **Communication infrastructure via website and working groups**
    - **NASA Electronic Parts Assurance Group (NEPAG)**
  - **Audit and review support**
- **New electronics technology**
  - *Issues that are applicable to the next generation of space systems in conceptualization or preliminary design*
  - **Examples**
    - 45-90 nm CMOS
    - SiGe
    - State-of-the-art FPGAs
  - **Collaboration with manufacturers and government programs for test, evaluation, and modeling**
  - **Development of new predictive performance tools**

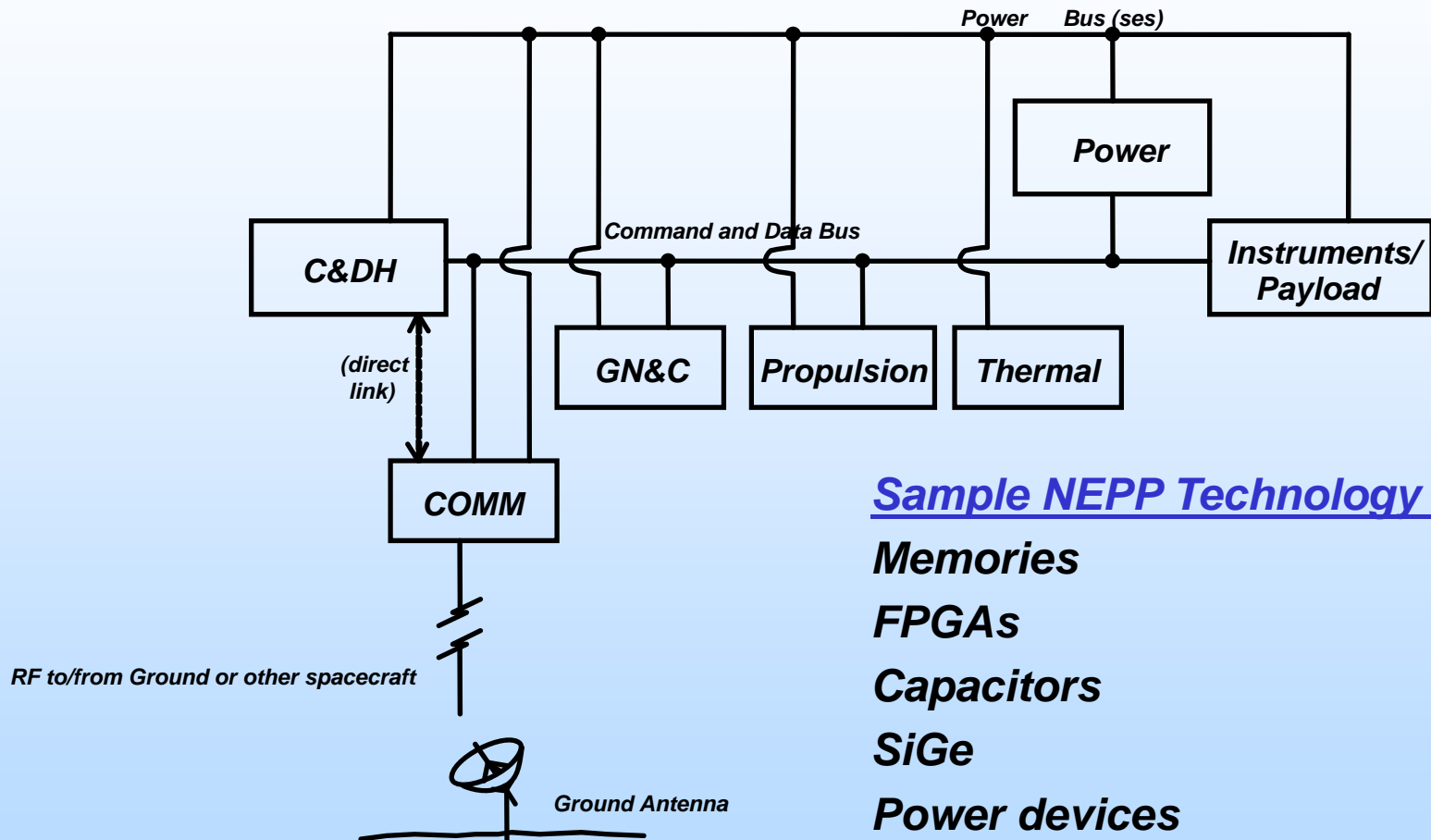
# Typical Spacecraft Electrical Architecture



# Typical Spacecraft Electrical Architecture



## The 90/90 Goal



### Sample NEPP Technology Areas

Memories

FPGAs

Capacitors

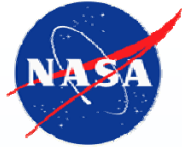
SiGe

Power devices

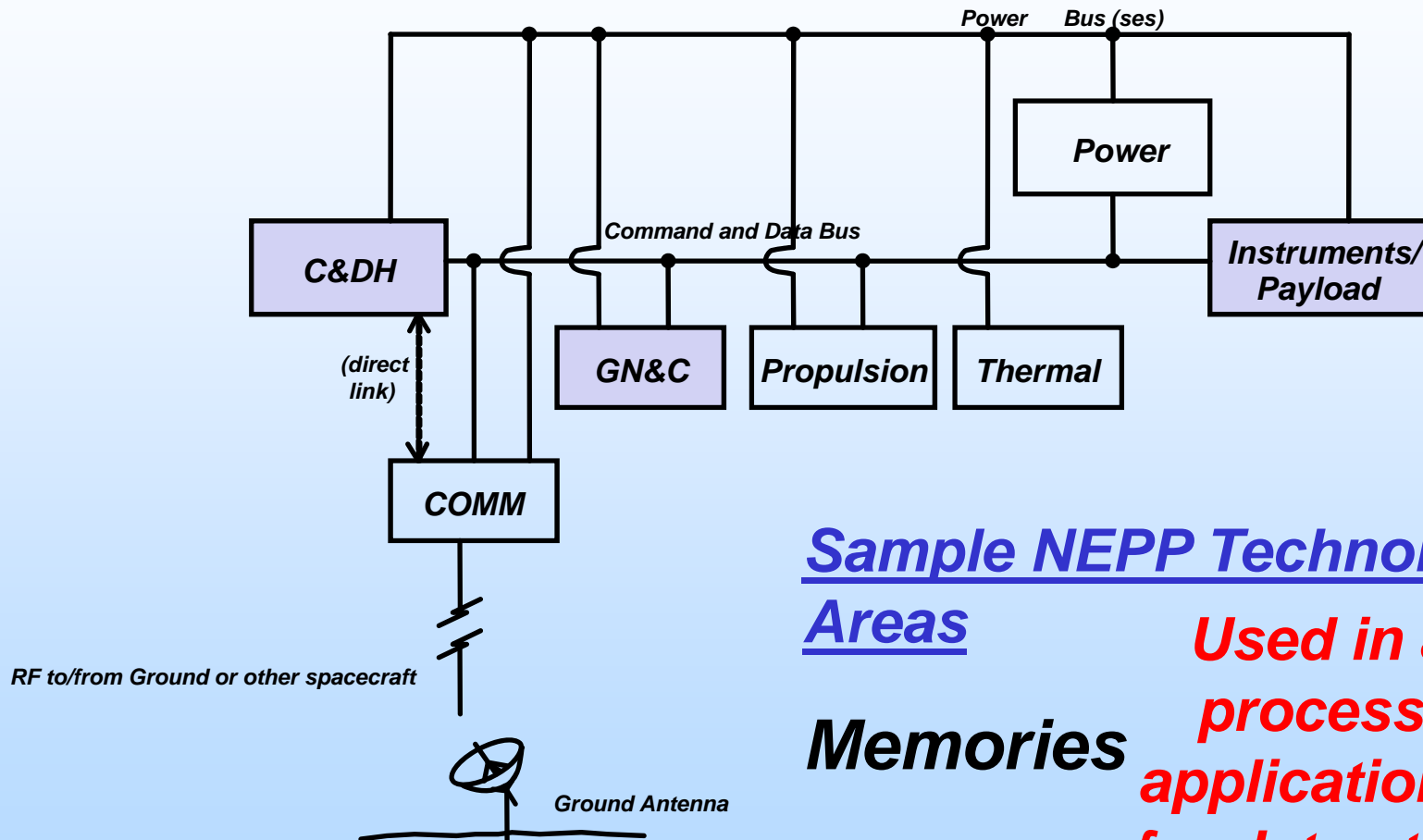
**90% of NEPP efforts should support**

**90% of NASA flight missions**

# Typical Spacecraft Electrical Architecture



## The 90/90 Goal - Example



### Sample NEPP Technology Areas

**Memories**

**Used in any processing application and for data storage on a spacecraft.**

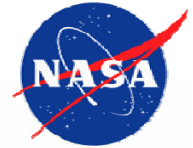




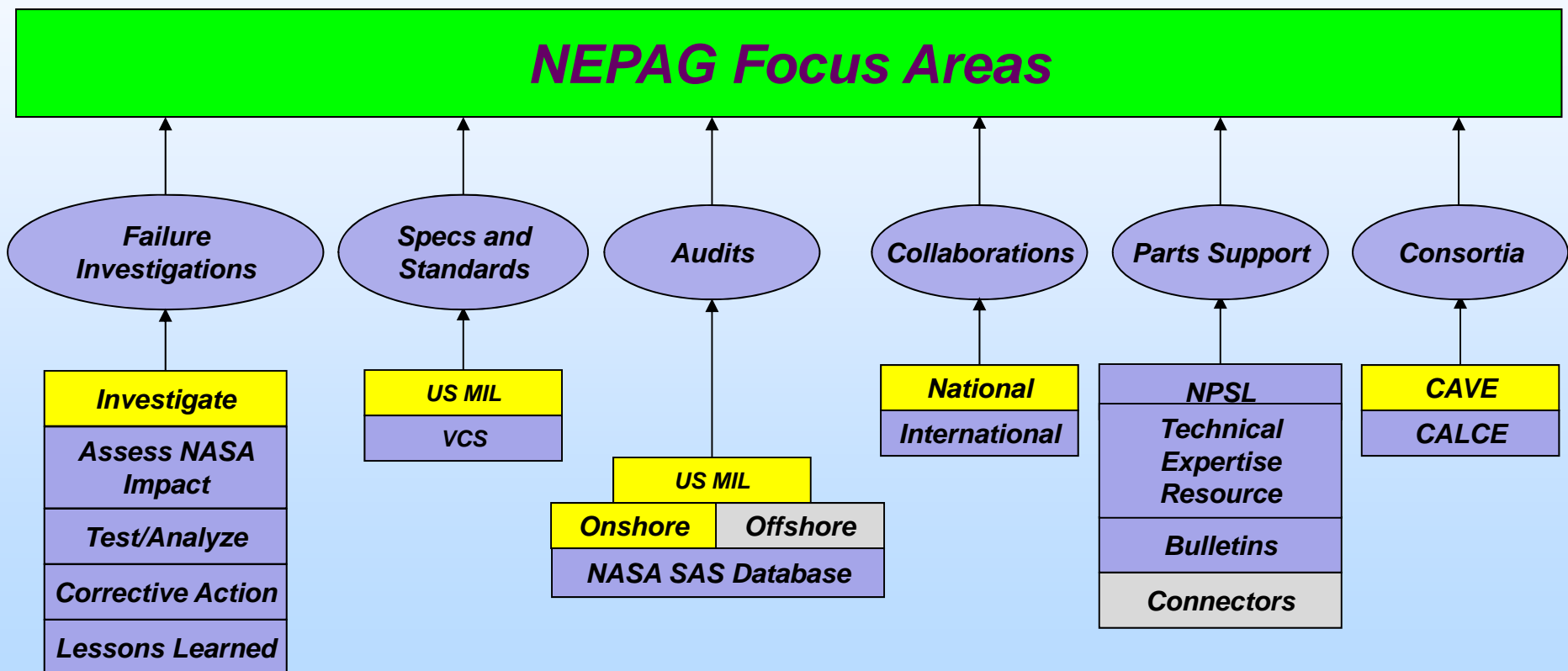
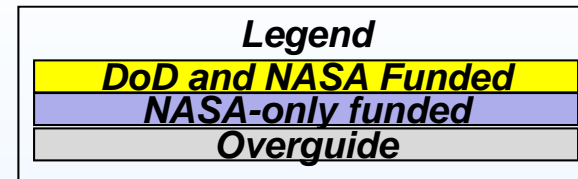
# NEPP Has a Wide Range of Efforts

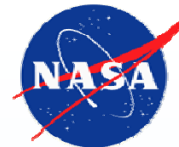
- **Tasks vary extensively in the technologies of interest**
  - Building blocks like capacitors
  - Standard products like DC-DC Converters, linear bipolar devices, and A-to-D Converters
  - New commercial devices such as FPGAs and memories
  - Test structures on emerging commercial or radiation hardened technologies
  - Specialized electronics such as IR arrays and fiber optics
  - New assurance methods and investigations
- **NEPP ETW provides forum to present recent results, as well as current and future plans**
- **Currently in FY11 planning cycle**
  - ***PRELIMINARY PLANS FOLLOW***

# NASA Electronic Parts Assurance Group (NEPAG)



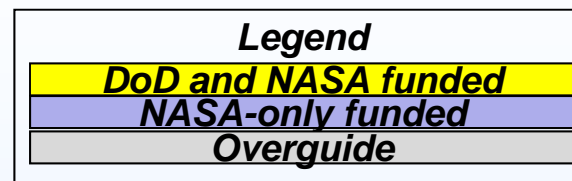
**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are elements in each core**



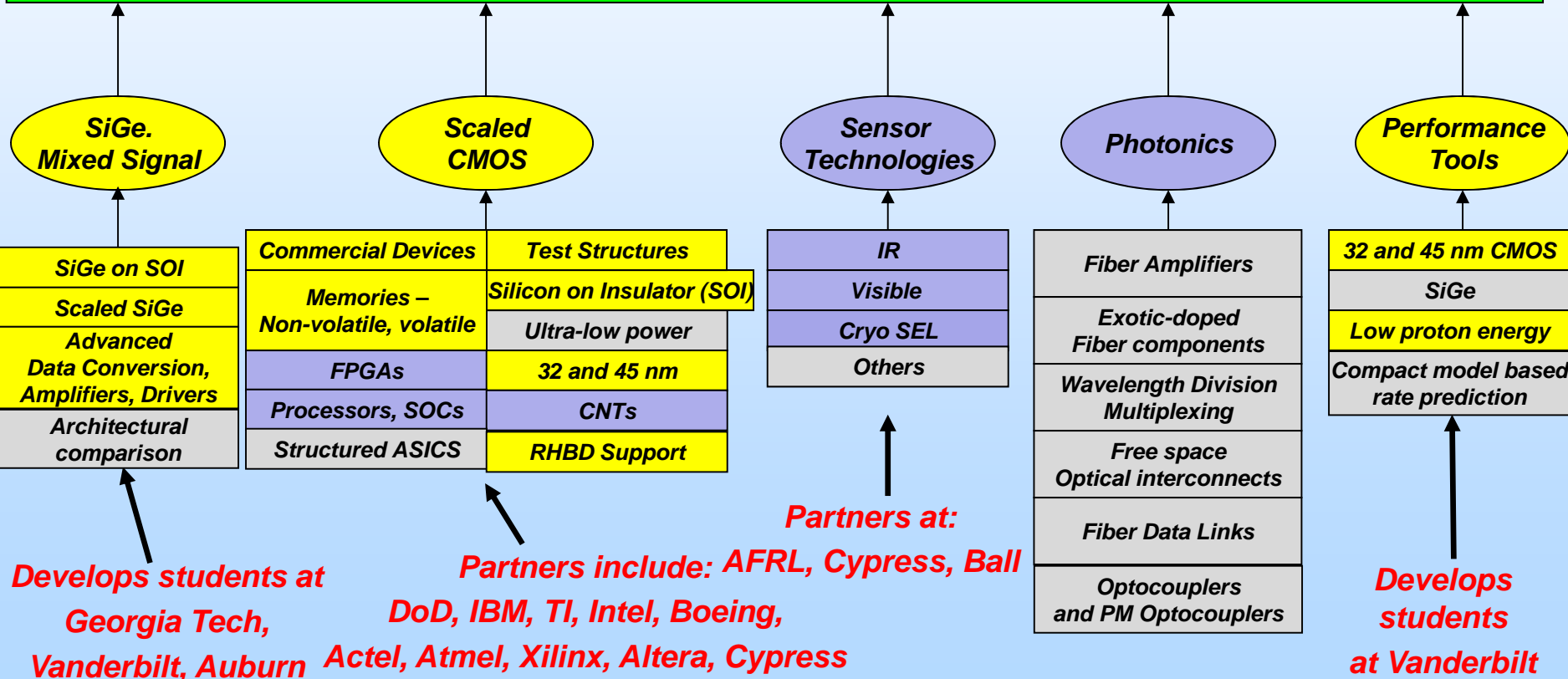


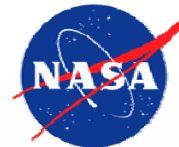
# FY11 Radiation Plans for NEPP Core (1)

**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are variable tasks in each core**



## NEPP Research Categories – Active Electronics



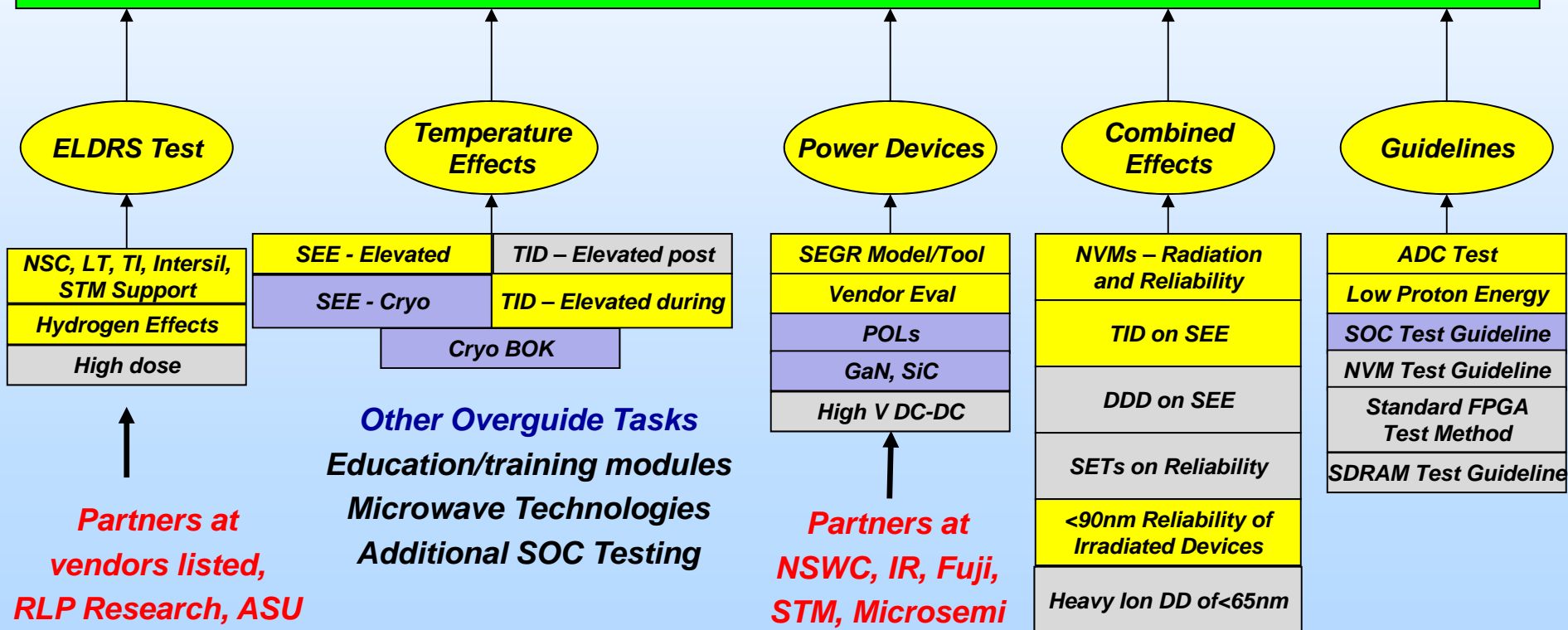


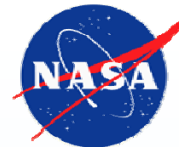
# FY11 Radiation Plans for NEPP Core (2)

**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are variable tasks in each core**

| Legend |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
|        | DoD and NASA funded |
|        | NASA-only funded    |
|        | Overguide           |

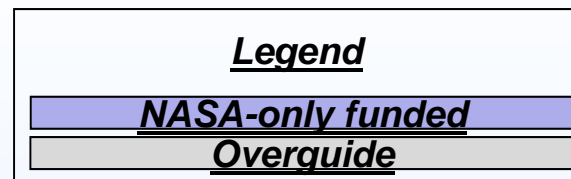
## NEPP Research Categories – Hardness Assurance



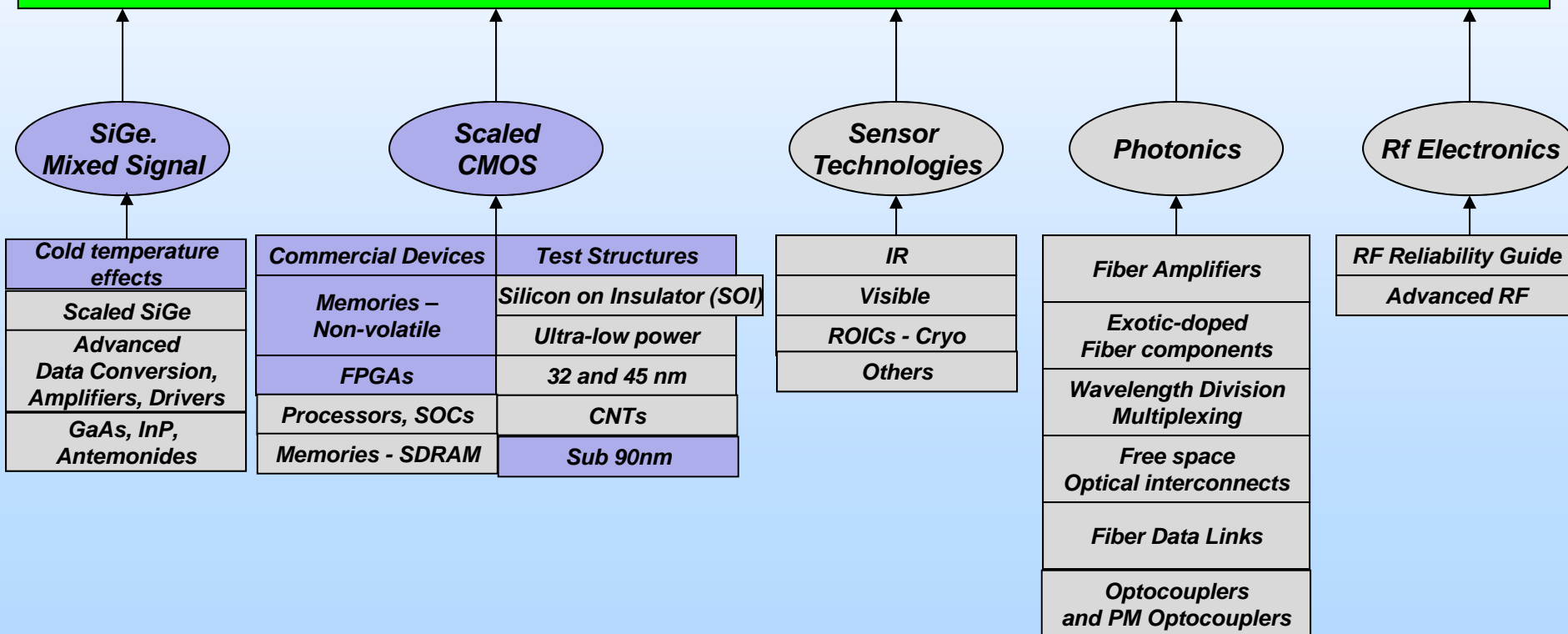


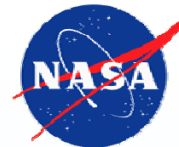
# FY11 Parts Plans for NEPP Core (1)

**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are variable tasks in each core**



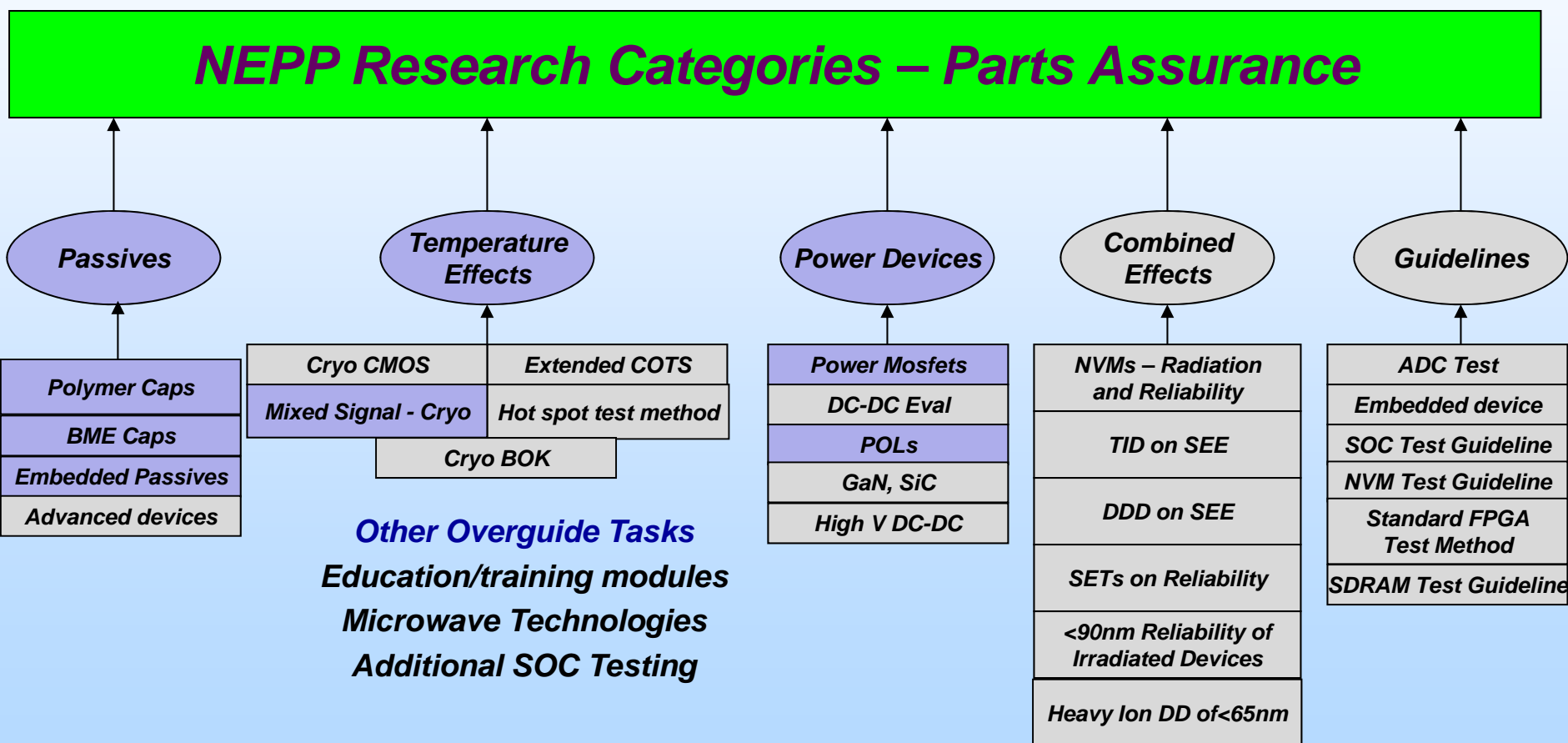
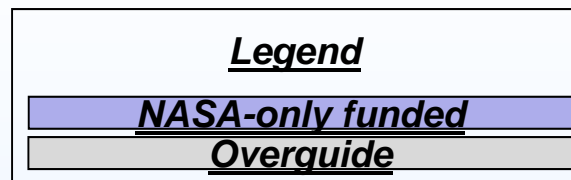
## NEPP Research Categories – Parts Assurance



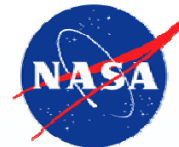


# FY11 Parts Plans for NEPP Core (2)

**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are variable tasks in each core**

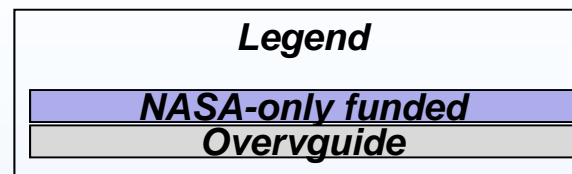




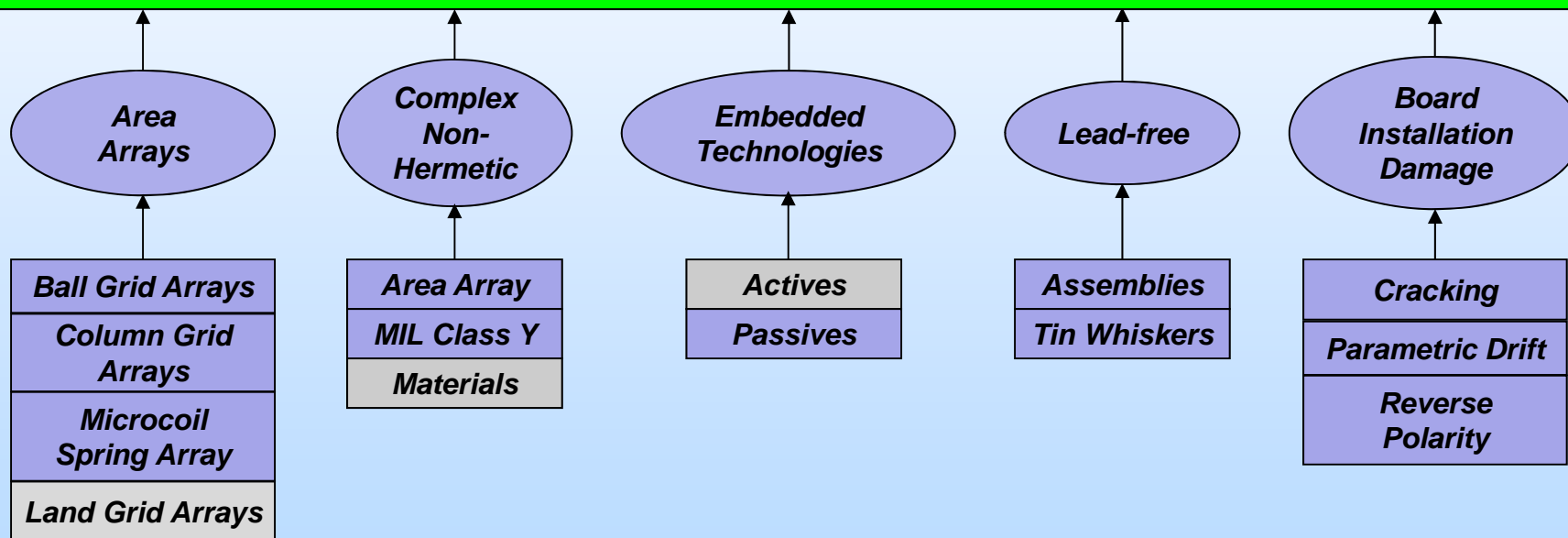


# Core Element - Packaging

**Core Areas are Bubbles;**  
**Boxes underneath are**  
**variable tasks in each core**



## -NEPP Research Categories - Advanced Packaging



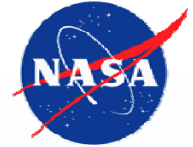
# Samples of NEPP Impact to the Community (1 of 2)



*NASA Flight Projects and some of the related areas that NEPP has provided a knowledge-base that has allowed anomaly/problem resolution*

- **MAP**
  - Single Event Transients (SETs) – anomaly resolution led to NASA alert
- **TERRA**
  - Optocouplers, Solid State Recorders (SSR), High Gain Antenna anomaly
- **AURA**
  - Oscillators
- **AQUA**
  - Interpoint DC-DC converters
- **TRMM, XTE**
  - SSRs, FODBs
- **TOPEX/Poseidon**
  - Optocouplers
- **SeaStar**
  - SSRs
- **Launch Vehicles**
  - Optocouplers
- **Suborbital**
  - Parts screening
- **Hubble Space Telescope**
  - Optocouplers, Capacitors, SSRs, Fiber Optic Data Bus (FODB)
- **Hubble Robotic Servicing**
  - Processors
- **JWST**
  - Detector technologies
- **Cassini**
  - Interpoint DC-DC converters, optocouplers, processors
- **AXAF/Chandra**
  - Optics
- **SWIFT**
  - ACTEL FPGAs
- **MER**
  - ELDRS, Processors, Memories, Packaging
- **ISS**
  - Fiber optics, wire/cable
- **Shuttle**
  - ACTEL FPGAs, capacitors

# Samples of NEPP Impact to the Community (2 of 2)



***NEPP has supported DoD and other government anomaly/problem issues, technology developments, as well as joint knowledge-base development that have import to the NASA community***

***In addition, NEPP has worked with industry to develop improved products for spaceflight***

**– Government partners**

- DoD
  - USD(AT&L)
  - Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
  - Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
  - Air Force Space and Missile Command (AFSMC)
  - Missile Defense Agency (MDA)
  - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
  - NAVSEA
  - NAVAIR
  - Naval Research Laboratory
  - US Army Strategic and Missile Defense Command (USASMDC)
  - OGA
- DOE
  - Sandia National Laboratories
  - Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories
  - Brookhaven National Laboratories
- NSF
  - National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory
- ESA
- JAXA
- CNES

**– Industry partners**

- Actel
- Lambda/International Rectifier
- Interpoint
- Vishay
- Presidio
- BAE Systems
- Honeywell
- Aeroflex
- Intersil
- Xilinx
- IBM
- Freescale (formerly Motorola)
- Cardinal
- LSI Logic
- Ball Aerospace
- Micro RDC, many others



# QUESTIONS?