



# Ball Grid Arrays (BGAs) NASA-Guidelines: Update

by

**Reza Ghaffarian, Ph.D.**

*NASA-JPL-CalTech/(818) 354-2059*

*Reza.Ghaffarian@JPL.NASA.gov*



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

**National Aeronautics & Space Administration**

**California Institute of Technology**

Copyright 2023 California Institute of Technology

Government sponsorship acknowledged

**NEPP Electronics Technology Workshop (ETW 2023)**

**June 12-15, 2023, NASA GSFC**

<https://nepp.nasa.gov/workshops/etw2023/>

# Outline

## ■ BGA/DSBGA Guidelines

- Thermal Cycle Results BGA Packaging Technologies
- Part, PCB, Assembly, Qualification, MEAL, and Recommendations

## ■ FCBGA & Lessons Learned

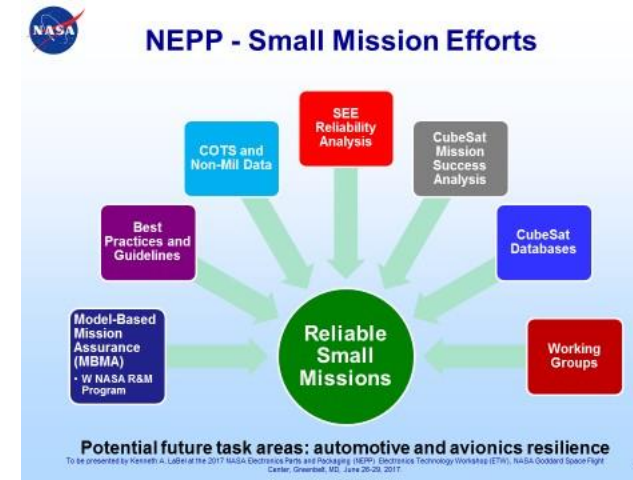
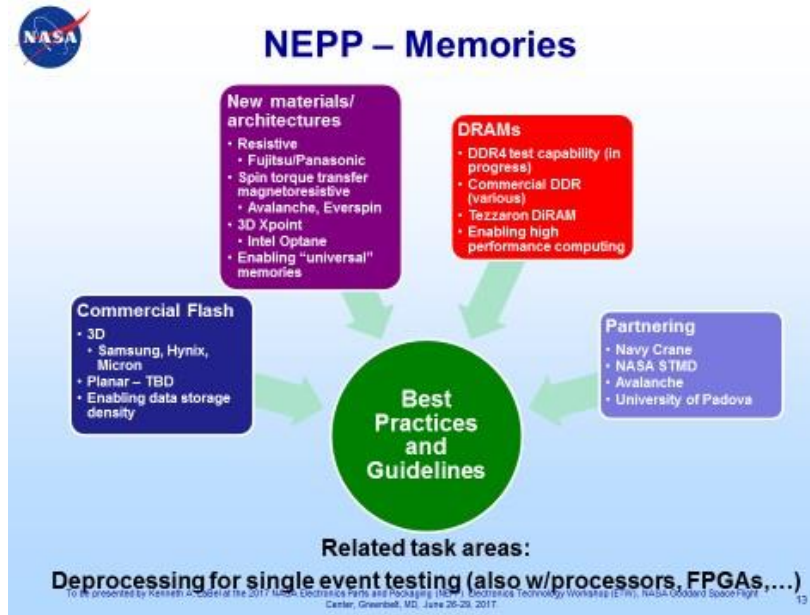
- FBGA1924 X-section and Failure Analysis after 200 TS (-65°C and 150°C)
- BGAs with Cu-Wirebonds are Here
- FCBGA Solder Bump Transition to Lead-Free Solder
- RTG4 CGA Last Buy with SnPb Solder Bump 208/228/360 with 0.8, 0.5, 0.4 pitches

## ■ BGA Reviews

- Standards to Review before BGA/DSBGA Selection
- BGA and Lead-Free Transition
- Polymer and Moisture Sensitivity
- Electrical Testing Considerations
- PCB
- MEAL

## ■ Summary: Key Findings

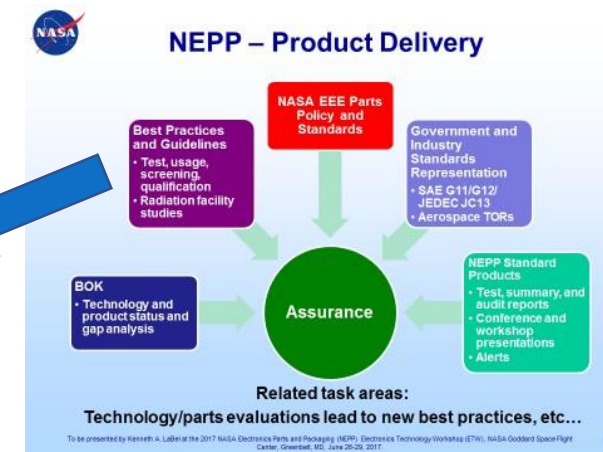
# BGA/DSBGA Guidelines



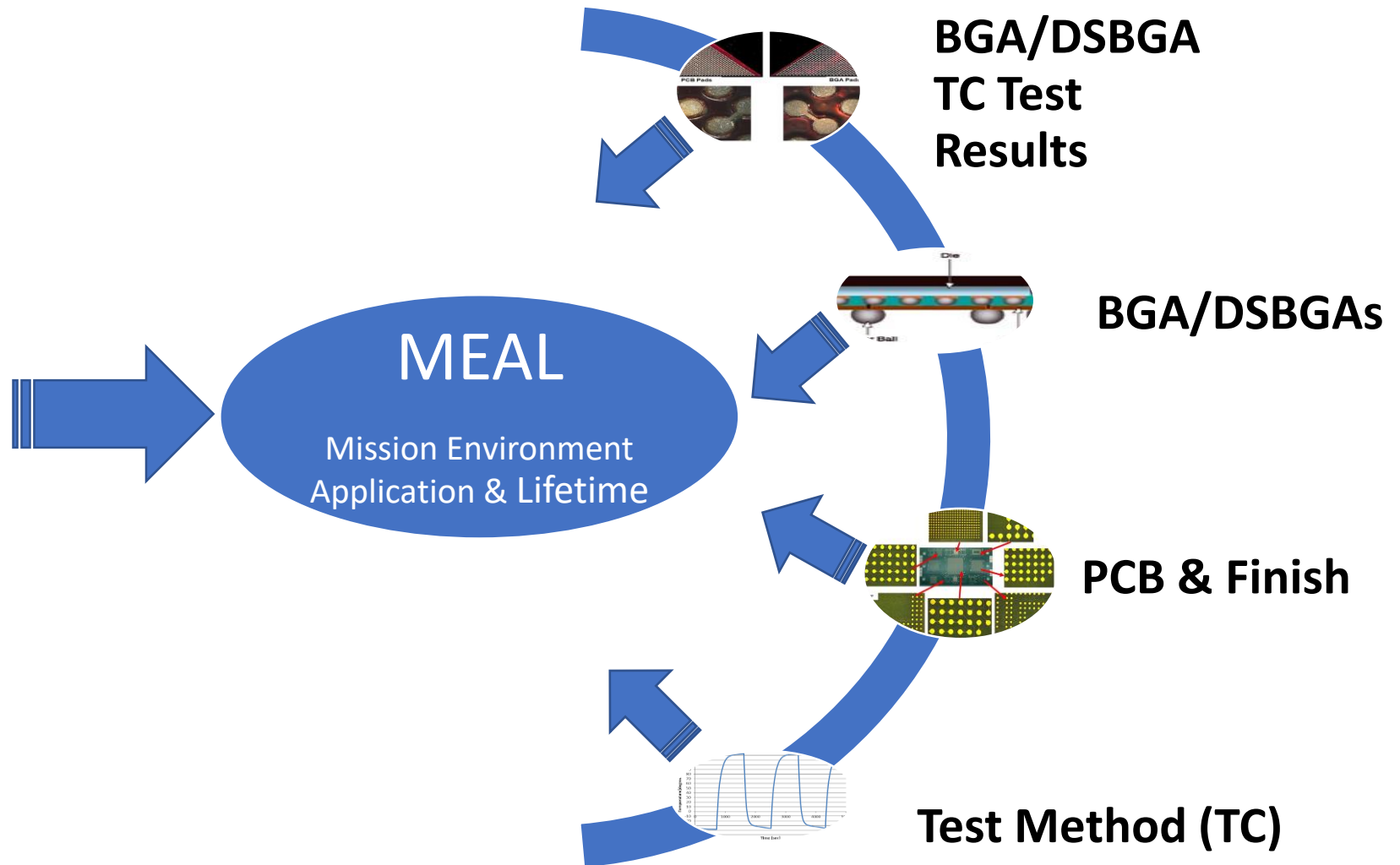
**Guidelines  
on  
NEPP  
Website**

**Best Practices and Guidelines**

- Test, usage, screening, qualification
- Radiation facility studies

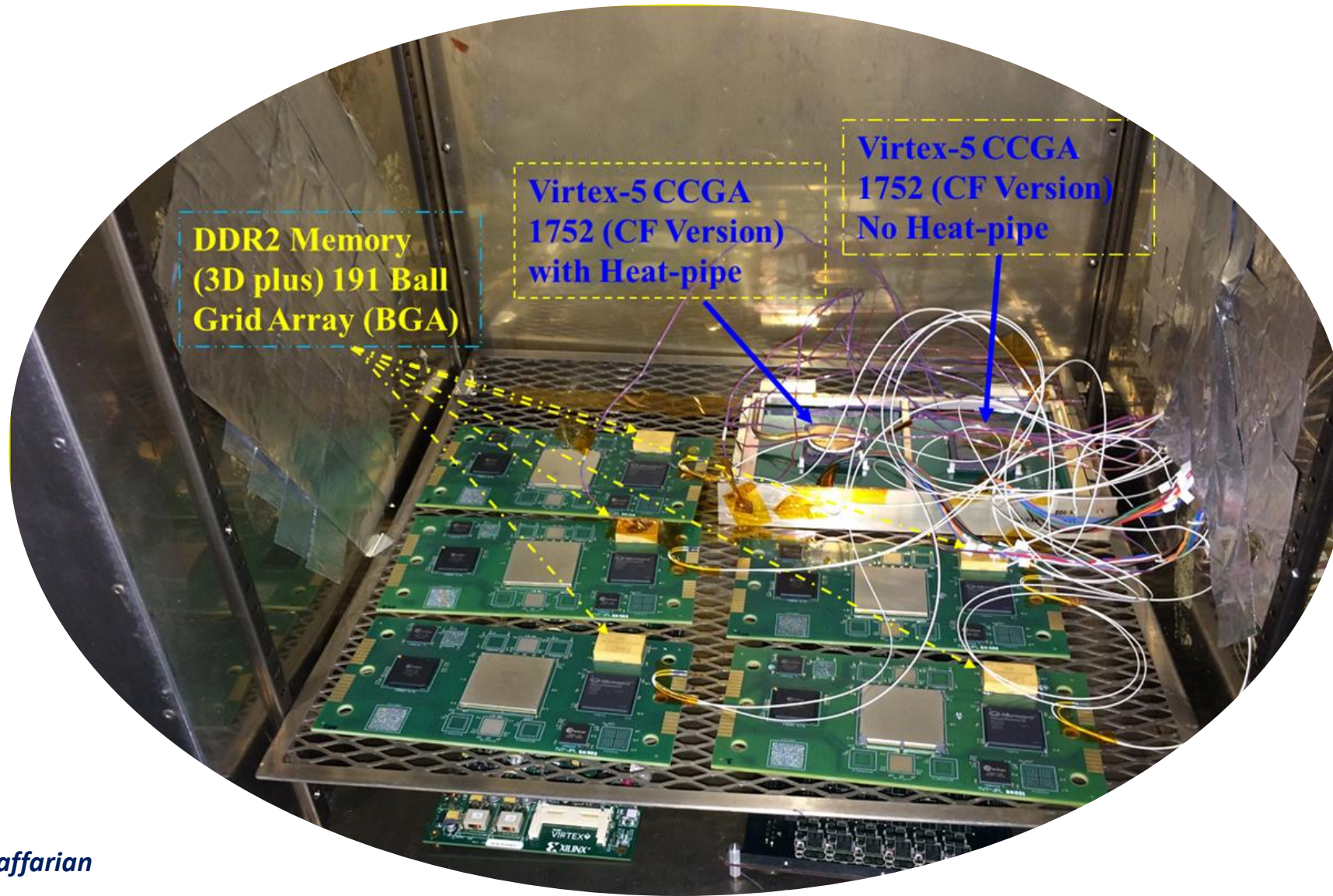


# BGA/DSBGA Guidelines

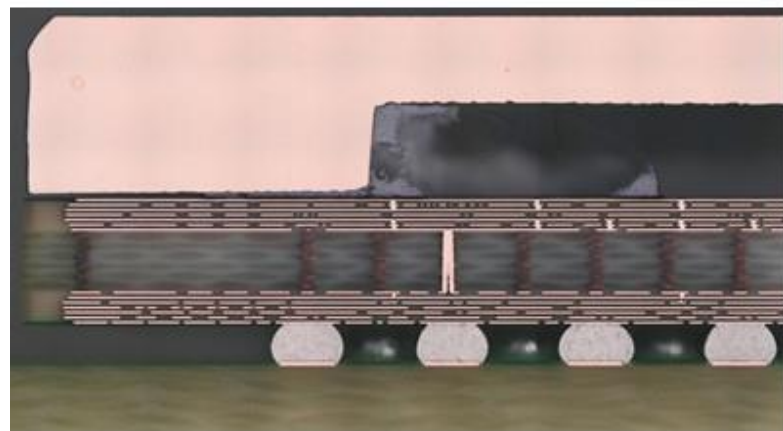
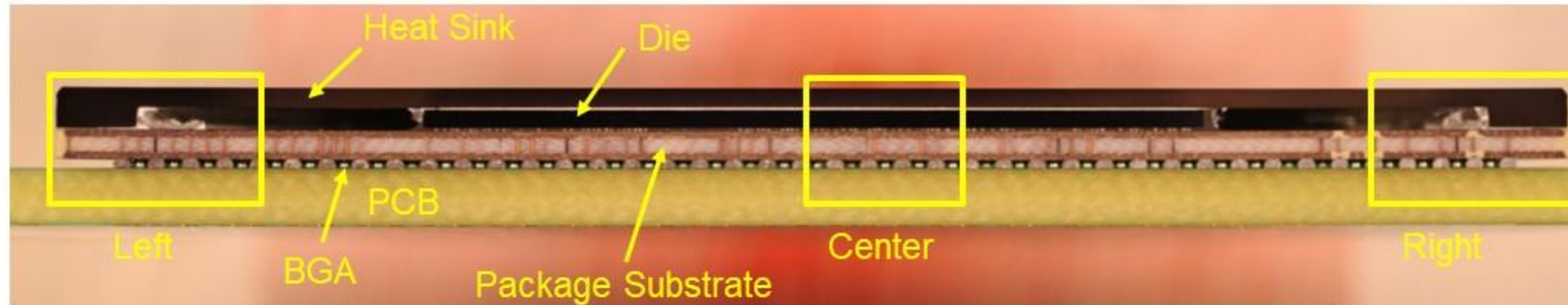




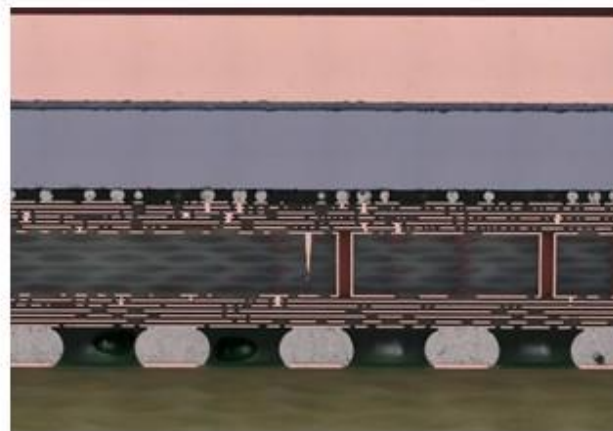
# Assembly TC Results & Lessons Learned in BGA/DSBGA Report



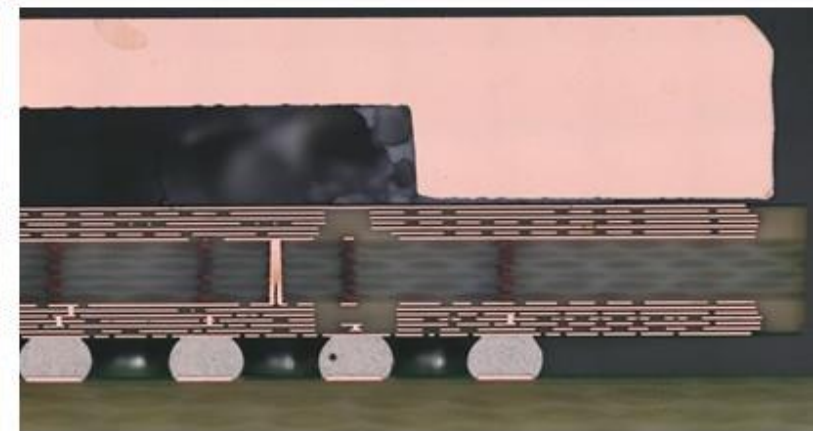
# FCBGA 1924 – TC Test Results



Left



Center

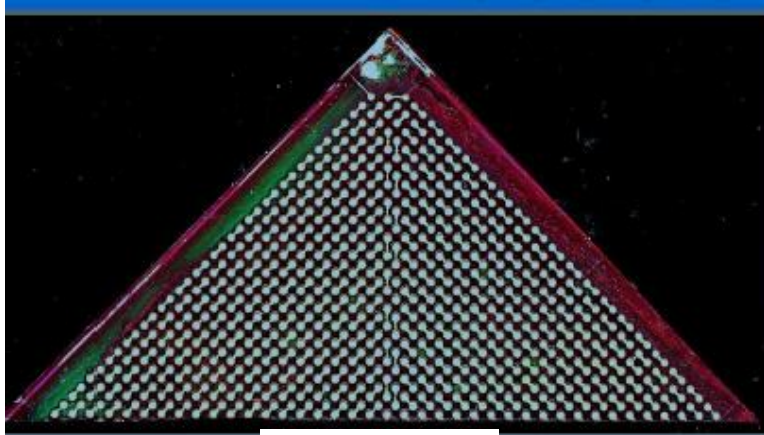


Right

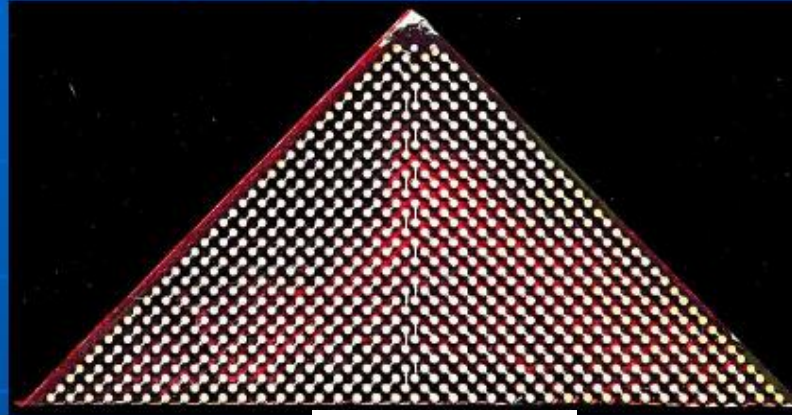


# FCBGA 1924 on HASL PCB Finish

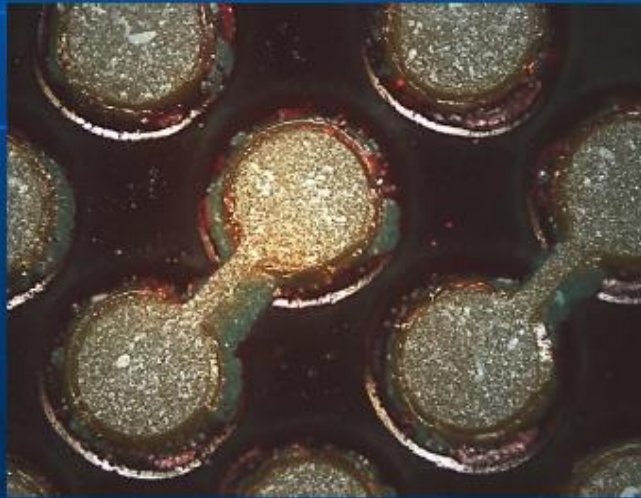
## 200 TSC (-65°C/150°C)



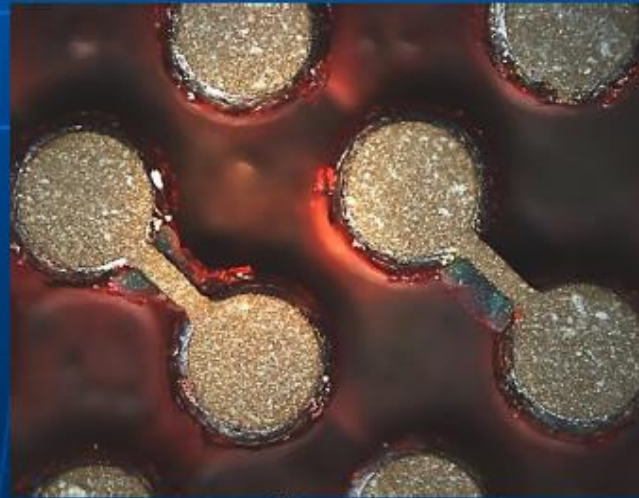
PCB Pads



BGA Pads



PCB Pads



BGA Pads

No defective solder connections were found.



# BGA SELECTION & Review-I

- **Review NASA, Military, and Industry Standards**
  - GSFC-STD-6001A
    - Area Array Package Assembly and Manufacturing Practices for Flight Hardware
  - NASA-STD-8739.1
    - Polymeric Applications
  - IPC 7095
    - Design for BGAs
  - IPC 7094
    - Design for Flip Chip
  - IPC 9701
    - Qualification and Performance for SMT
- **Define MEAL and Risk Posture**
  - Radiation, mechanical, thermal, life cycle, vibration, etc.



# BGAs with Cu-Wirebonds Are Here

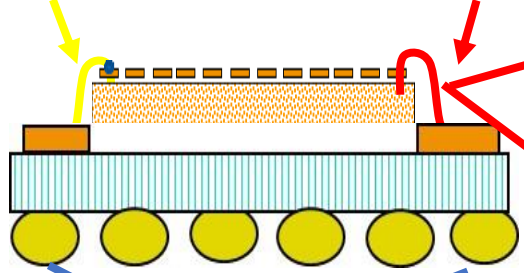
## FCBGA: **LF** Creeps in

BGA with Internal Wire Bond



Gold Wire

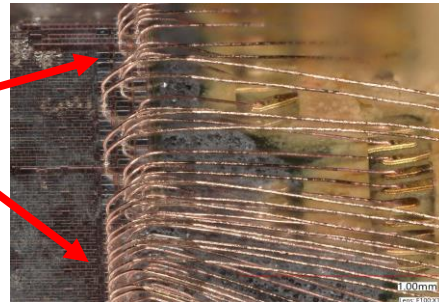
Cu- Wire



Tin Lead or Lead-free Balls



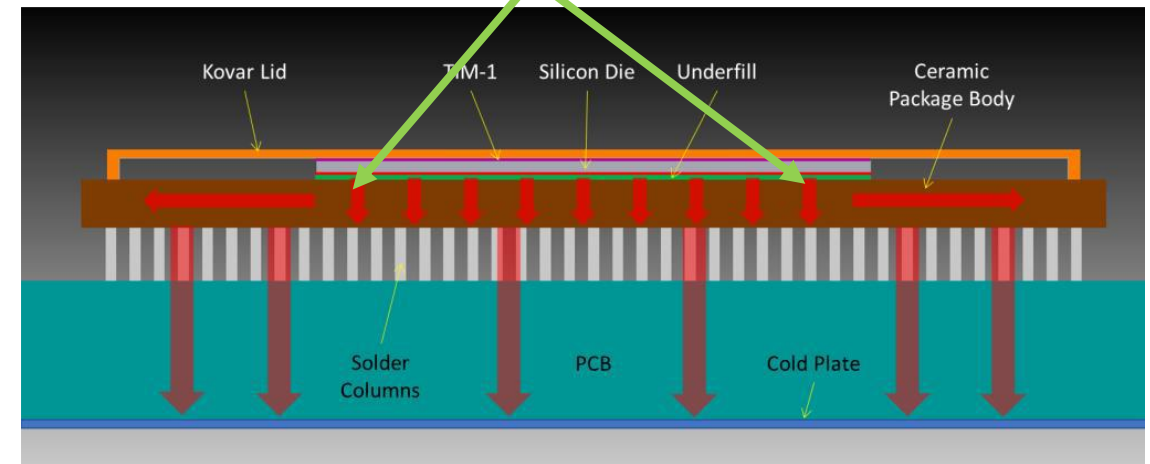
Printed Circuit Board (PCB)



Cu-Wirebonds

**BGA/Cu-Wire  
FCBGA/Lead-Free Bump**

**RTG4: LF for Flip-chip bump inside package**



# BGA SELECTION & Review-II

- Determine Solder Alloy of Solder Balls for BGA/DSBA**
  - Lead-free solder alloys, now 3<sup>rd</sup> generation
  - Compatibility with tin-lead solder is critical
    - Affects solder joint reliability under thermo-mechanical loading, shock and vibration

**High Silver (Ag)**  
**SAC405(Sn, 4%Ag, 0.5% Cu)**  
**SAC 305**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Lead-free Solder Alloys

SAC 405 for BGA Solder Ball

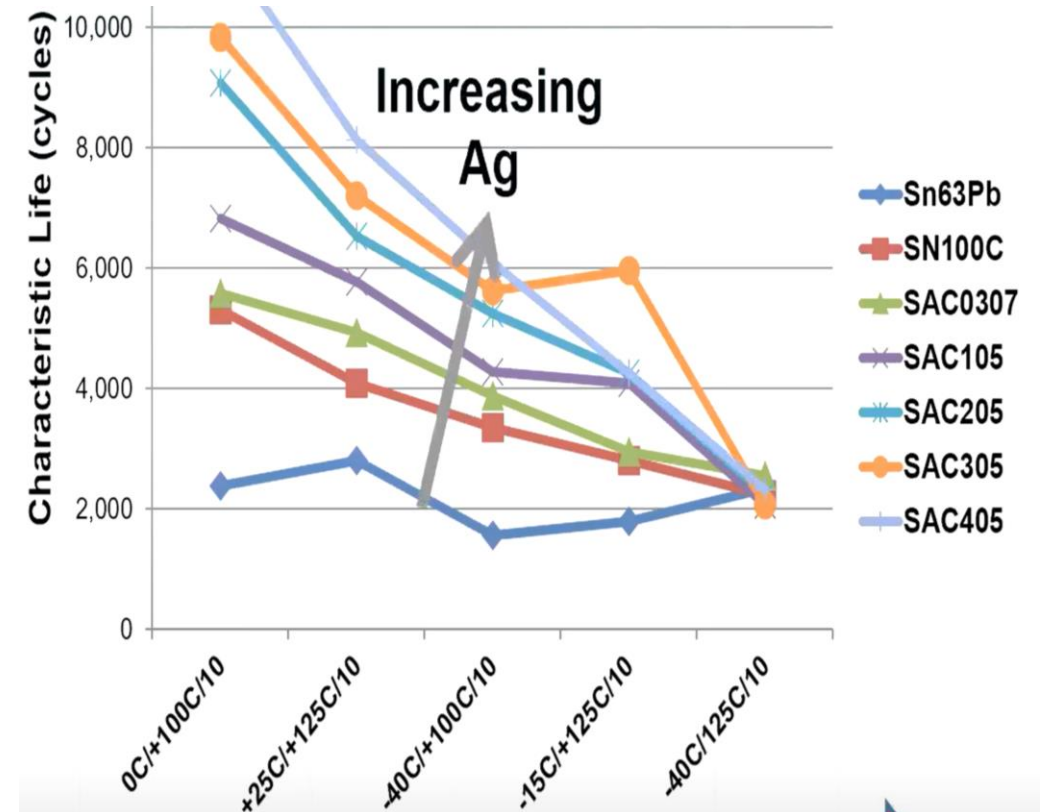
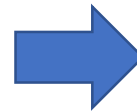
SAC305 for solder paste

**Others: SAC387**

**Better or comparable** to SnPb on resistance to thermal cycling (TC)

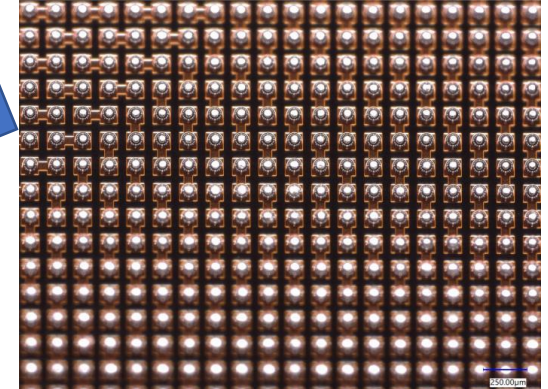
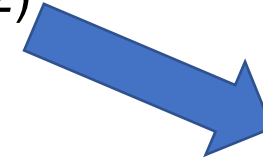
**Low resistance** to drop impact

**High cost** due to high Ag

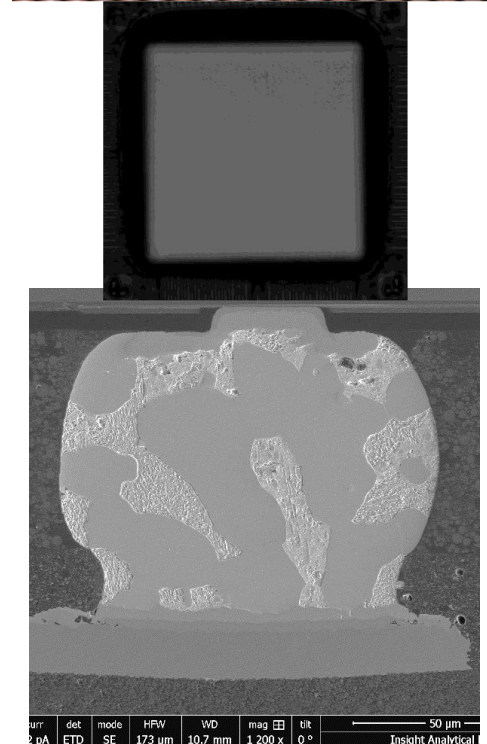


# Lead-Free Creeps into High Reliability

- SnPb Replaced High Lead Flip-chip Bump
  - F150 SnPb shown to be robust (Ref: *Scott Popelar, ETW 2022*)
- LF to Replaces SnPb Even for CGA



- **FC150 Test Die Solder Bump**
  - 70 $\mu$ m eutectic 63Sn/37Pb solder bump
- Condition B Temperature Cycle Testing ( -55/125°C)
  - Parts assembled with underfill
- 5000 cycles, no failures detected
  - Extended testing to 8000 cycles (3 failures detected)
- 125°C High Temperature Storage
- 4000 hours, no failures detected
- 150°C High Temperature Storage
- 4000 hours, no failures detected





# LF for RTG4 Flip-chip Bump

## ■ Problem

- Lead solder flip-chip bump discontinued by Microchip vendor, Amkor, in June 2022
- Impacting all RTG4 in ceramic packages (CG1657 and CQ352)
  - Solder Bump Alloy 98.2% Sn, 1.8% Ag (SAC1.8)
- RTG4 in **plastic package** and RT PolarFire are NOT impacted
  - **They always use lead-free bump**

## ■ Tests Performed

- RT4G150 CGG1657, Passed, 1000 TCs (-65 to 150°C)
- RT4G150 CGG 1657 passed, 2000 TCs (-65 to 150°C)
- RTPF500 CG1509, Passed 1000 TCs (-65 to 150°C)
  - **No whisker**, flip chip bump integrity TM2010, 2013 and DPA.
- RTPF500 CGG1509, Passed thermal shock ( MIL STD 883, TM1011), Cond B, 15 cycles)
  - No issue for flip chip bump integrity connection
- RTPF500 CG1509, HTS (high temperature storage of 1000 hours at 150°C), and long term room storage up to 1.5 years
  - Passed tri temp production test flow limits with delta measurement. No issue for flip chip bump integrity connection. **No whisker**

Ref: Microchip, Minh Nguyen, March 14, 2023

# Polymer & Moisture Sensitivity-III

- **Review Moisture Sensitivity and Bake out Recommendation**
  - BGAs/DSBAs absorb moisture, which has degradation effect
  - Assigned different moisture sensitivity and bake out
  - For bake out, use either manufacturer recommendation or J-STD-033 or equivalent
- **Provide Controls Steps Based on Moisture Sensitivity**
  - Use Moisture Barrier Bag (MBB)
  - Drying cabinet, or nitrogen-blanket.
- **Polymeric Underfill for Flip-chip and Adhesively Bonded Heat sink**
  - Avoid polymeric underfill to cleaning solvent
- **Consider Tg and Filler Content for Molded BGA/DSBGA**
  - Molding compound effects thermal cycle reliability.
- **Look for Vent Holes in BGA**
  - Small vents to allow for outgassing/moisture
  - These become a reliability issue
  - Cleaning solvents seep through
  - Attacks materials inside the BGAs
  - Recently, suppliers add note on vent

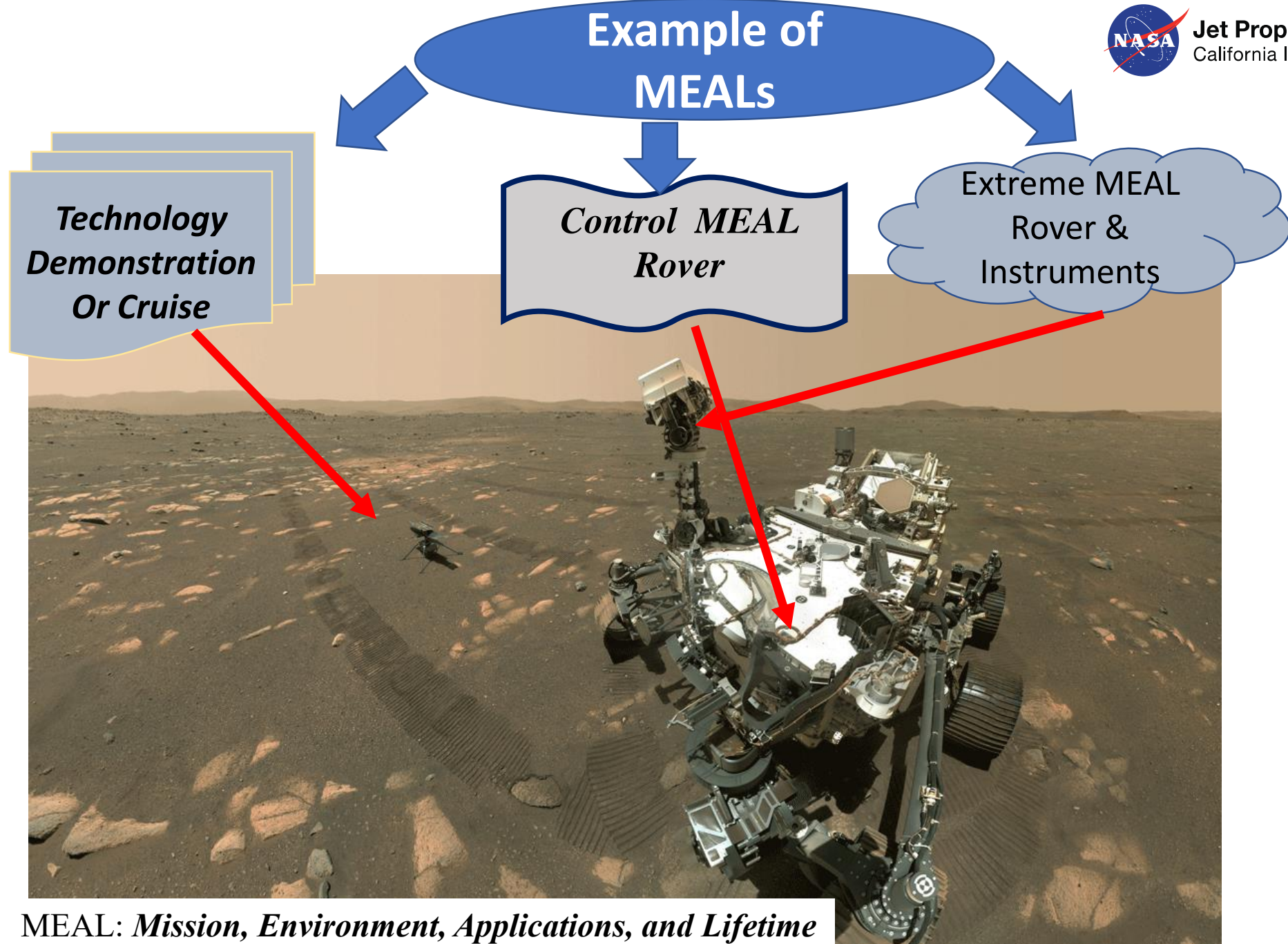
# Electrical Test Consideration-IV

- **Electrical Verification is Challenging**
  - FCBGA/BGA field programmer array packages
  - User has limited access to burn-in/electrical tests
- **Review Electrical Burn-in Socket Approach**
  - It may induce stress, especially at high temperatures
  - Could cause damage and/or dislodge/dislocate solder balls
  - Reliability of burn-in on assembly is not well established
- **Consider the Effect of Burn-in Beyond the Part Degradation**
  - It affects the die behavior
  - It affects the integrity of BGA/DSBA solder ball joints
  - It subjects solder balls to shear or tensile loading
  - It affects assembly reliability
- **3D Stack Die with Head-on-Pillow (HoP)**
  - Perform 3D X-ray for HoP
  - Closeness of wirebonds for BGAs

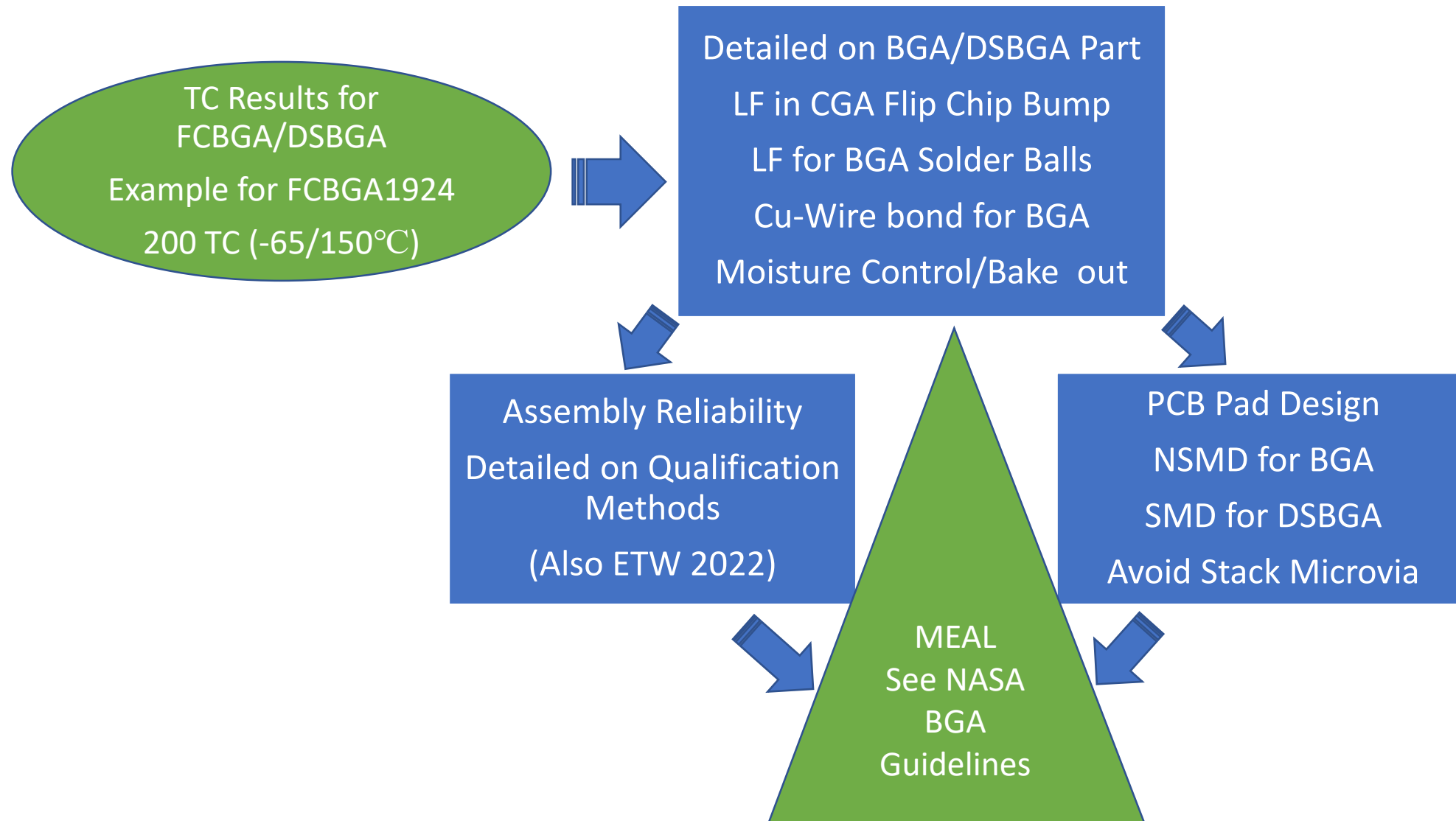


# Key PCB Guides-V

- **Review Non-standard PCB Technologies for MEAL**
  - Modifications required for BGAs//DSBGAs
  - Microvias, stacking vias, surface finish, pad opening/mask
  - Stack vias prone to latent failures
- **BGAs: Design Non-Solder Mask Design (NSMD)**
  - NSMD PCB pads, mask openings larger than the pads
    - NSMD prevents crack initiation in solder joints
    - NSMD reduces solderable pad size
    - SMD (Solder Mask Defined) initiates crack via mask being in proximity contact with solder joint
- **DSBGAs: SMD is Better**
  - SMD reduces the likelihood of the pad lifting during the soldering or de-soldering process



# Summary: Key Discussion



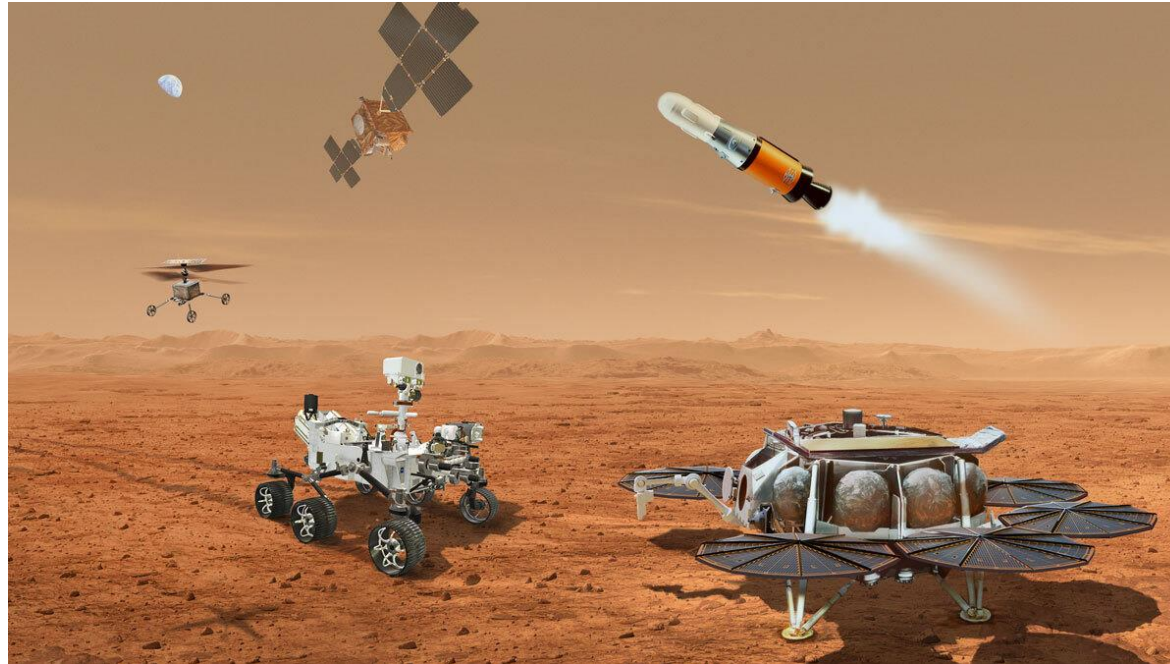


# Acknowledgment

The research described in this publication is partially funded by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Copyright 2023 California Institute of Technology. U.S. Government sponsorship acknowledged.

The author would like to acknowledge team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) who were critical to the progress of this activity. He also extends his appreciation to the program managers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Electronics Parts and Packaging (NEPP) Program.

## Mars Sample Return



**Thank  
You!**



**Note:** Pre-Decisional Information – For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only