

2025 NASA Student Launch

Team 509: Payload

Virtual Design Review Two

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Team Introductions



Matthew Archibald
ME - Structural
Engineer



Donovan Dwight
ME - Test Engineer



Nathan Hardie
CE -
Communications
Systems Engineer



Kyle Mahoney
ME - Fabrication
Engineer



Neil Maldonado
EE - Data Systems
Engineer

Faculty Sponsor and Advisor



Sponsor
Shayne McConomy,
Ph.D.
ME – Teaching
Faculty II



Advisor
Taylor Higgins
Ph.D.
ME – Assistant
Professor

Project Objective

The objective of this project is to design and integrate a payload into a high-powered rocket for the 2025 NASA Student Launch Competition.



Project Association

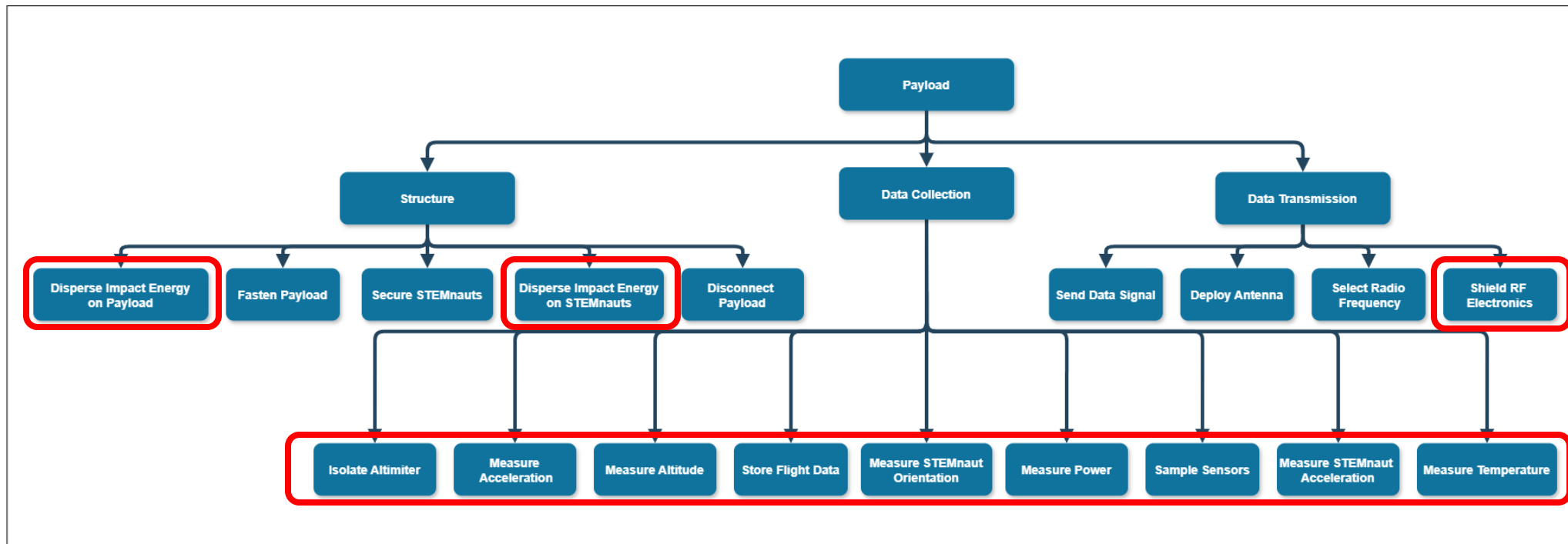


University Association
FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
ME Department

Government Association
National Aeronautics and Space
Admiration (NASA)

Club Association
American Institute of Aeronautics
and Astronautics (AIAA)

Updated Functional Decomposition



Targets and Metrics

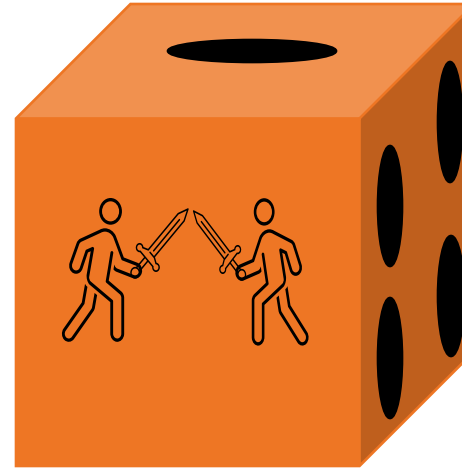
Donovan
Dwight

Function	Target	Metric
Fasten Payload	41.02 lbf	Pull out load
Secure STEMnauts	0.09 in	Physical Displacement
Disperse Impact Energy on STEMnauts	9 G	Acceleration
Disperse Impact Energy on Payload Body	2	Degree of Damage
Measure Altitude	0-5500 ft	Measure Range
Measure Acceleration	0-10 g	Measure Range
Measure Temperature	0-38 Celsius	Measure Range
Measure STEMnaut Acceleration	0-10 G	Measure Range
Select Radio Frequency	144-148 MHz	Frequencies of Operation
Sample Sensors	20 Hz	Sample Frequency
Send Data Signal	5W	Transmission Power

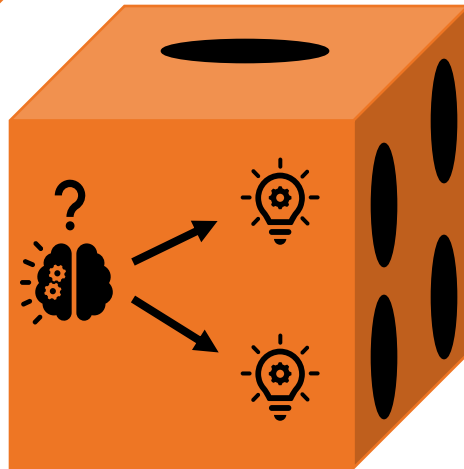
Concept Generation



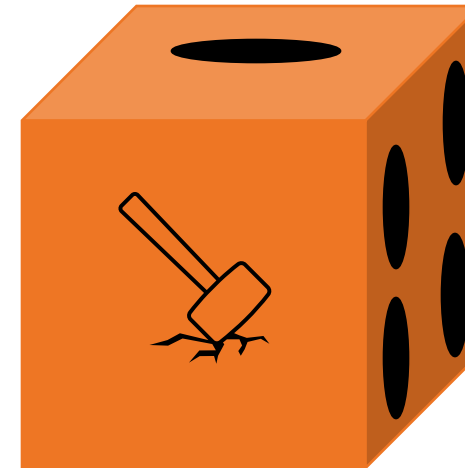
Crapshoot



Battle of Perspectives



Morphological Chart



Forced Analogy

Concept Generation – Medium Fidelity

1

Adding a compartment to the payload using the outer openings in the CAD design will create more space for sensors and STEMnauts, allowing for separation of components and reducing interference.

2

Integrating all electronic modules into a single custom PCB within the payload will minimize space, creating room for more STEMnauts or a smaller capsule.

3

Design where all electronic modules are integrated into a single custom PCB, optimizing space for more STEMnauts or a smaller capsule.

4

In this concept, the payload's structure is the rocket's nosecone, with data collection systems mounted on trays that slide into slots, secured by external bolts, and a permanently deployed radio antenna at the tip.

5

This concept uses airbags in smaller compartments to cushion the payload's fall, ensuring STEMnauts' safety, with sensors to activate the airbags upon impact, based on the crap shoot method.

Concept Generation – High Fidelity



1

The first concept features a small cylindrical capsule mounted below the rocket's nosecone, housing the payload's electronics, with a separator for electronic trays and a permanently deployed radio antenna, secured with screws and epoxy.



2

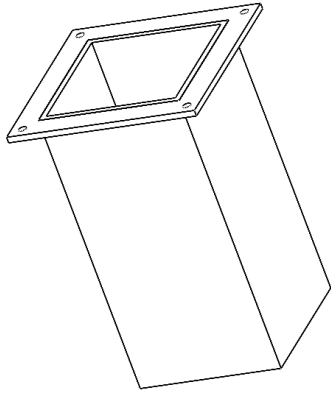
Includes a deployable antenna extending through the nosecone, with a linear motor to extend it and the radio module mounted at the top-center of the capsule, requiring coordination with the rocket team for deployment.



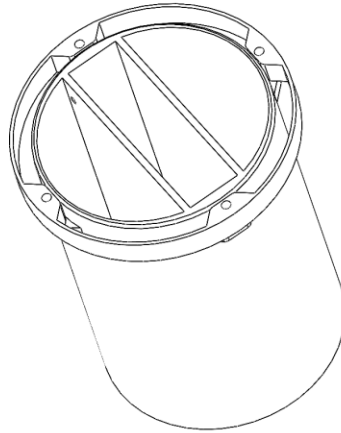
3

This payload design builds on Concept 1, using the same attachment flanges and sliding electronic trays, while adding motors and flaps to reorient the payload for antenna clearance, with the final antenna configuration pending coordination with the rocket team.

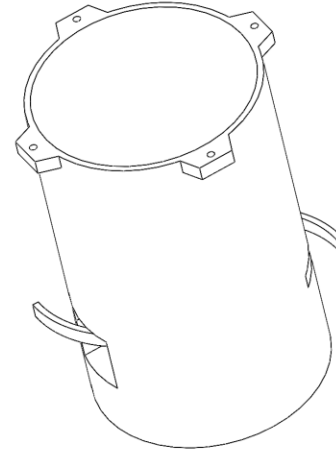
Important Design Features



- Rectangular body
- Welded Flange
- Components mount to inner wall

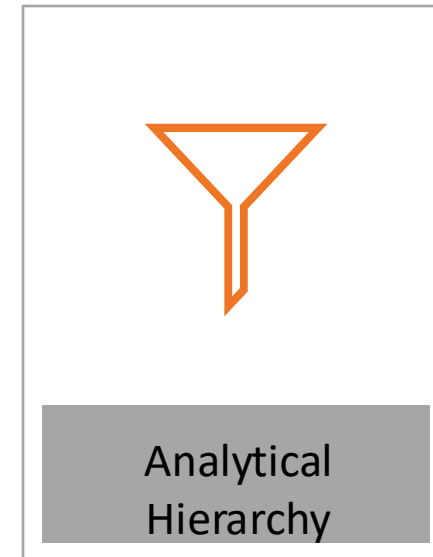
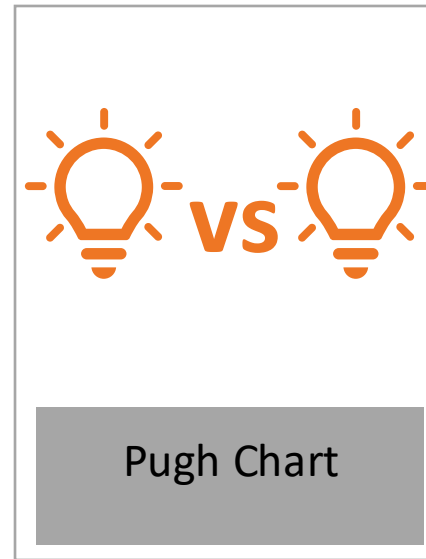
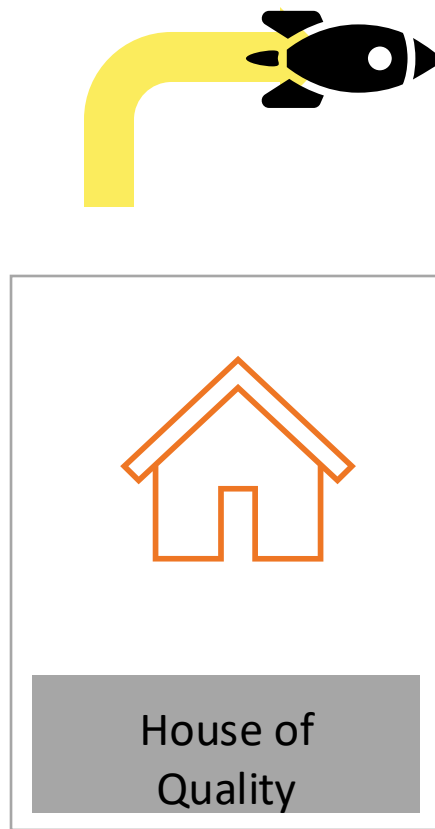
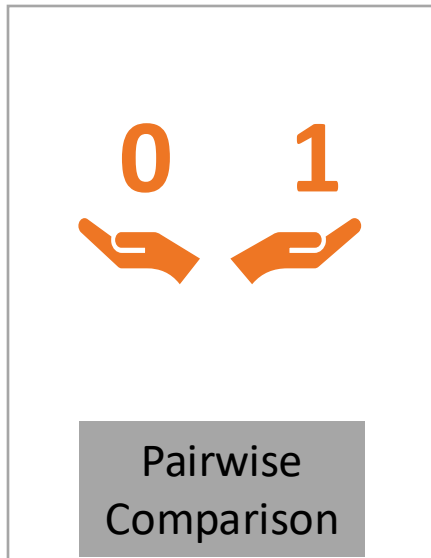


- Mounting bracket
- 3D printed body
- Components mount to divider inside body



- Flaps installed to reorientate capsule
- Motors fixed to 3D printed body
- No mounting bracket

Concept Selection Process



Pairwise Comparison

Pairwise Comparison	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15	Total
1. STEMnauts must be creative representations	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. The payload must transmit on a 2m-band	1	-	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	10
3. Payload must transmit at specific frequencies	1	0	-	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	5
4. Payload must be compatible with an FTM-300DR	1	0	1	-	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	9
5. Payload must abide by all NAR and FAA regulations	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14
6. Payload must not protrude more than 0.25" from the rocket	1	0	0	0	0	-	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
7. Transmission of radio signal must be controlled by the operator	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	4
8. Payload must transmit at or below 5W of power	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	-	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
9. Payload must structurally withstand rocket's landing conditions	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	13
10. Payload must transmit a variety of data	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	2
11. Payload must have an independent power source	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	0	1	1	0	6
12. Payload's electronics must be independent from rocket's	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	-	1	1	0	11
13. Location of payload must not negatively impact rocket's flight	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	0	0	2
14. Payload must not pull above the multitude of gravitational acceleration that a human can survive	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	0	3
15. Payload can withstand flight stresses	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	-	12
	14	4	9	5	0	7	10	7	1	12	8	3	12	11	2	n-1 = 14
Check	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	

House of Quality

Improvement Direction		Engineering Characteristics										
Units		↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	↑	↓
Customer Needs		↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↑	↑	-	↑	↓
Customer Needs	Importance Weight Factor	Fasten Payload	Secure STEMnauts	Disperse Impact Energy on STEMnauts	Disperse Impact Energy on Payload Body	Measure Altitude	Measure Acceleration	Measure Temperature	Measure STEMnaut Acceleration	Select Radio Frequency	Sample Sensors	Send Data Signal
		10.4	10	10	10	6	7	10	5	10.15	10	10
1. STEMnauts must be creative representations	0	1	7	7	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1
2. The payload must transmit on a 2m-band	10	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	9	5	9
3. Payload must transmit at specific frequencies	5	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	9	5	9
4. Payload must be compatible with an FTM-3000R	9	1	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	9	3	9
5. Payload must abide by all NAR and FAA regulations	14	7	3	5	5	3	3	3	7	3	3	5
6. Payload must not protrude more than 0.25" from the rocket	7	5	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
7. Transmission of radio signal must be controlled by the operator	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	7	3	3
8. Payload must transmit at or below 5W of power	7	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	5	5	9
9. Payload must structurally withstand rocket's landing conditions	13	9	9	9	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10. Payload must transmit a variety of data	2	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	1	9	7
11. Payload must have an independent power source	6	3	1	1	1	5	5	5	5	3	3	7
12. Payload's electronics must be independent from rocket's	11	3	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	5	9	3
13. Location of payload must not negatively impact rocket's flight	2	7	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14. Payload must not pull above the multitude of gravitational acceleration that a human can survive	3	3	9	9	7	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
15. Payload can withstand flight stresses	12	7	5	5	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Raw Score	3092	445	327	351	397	379	379	379	435	433	369	543
Relative Weight Percent (%)		14.39	10.58	11.35	12.84	12.26	12.26	12.26	14.07	14.00	11.93	17.56
Rank Order		7	11	10	5	6	6	6	2	4	9	1

Neil Maldonado

Shows us customer needs compared to engineering characteristics

Rank all the characteristics to the customer's needs

Top 5: Send Data Signal, Fasten Payload, STEMnaut Acceleration, Select Radio Frequency, Disperse Impact Energy of Payload Body

Pugh Chart 1

Selection Criteria	Criteria Weight	Zenith 1 Rectangular Prism Design	Concepts							
			Cylindrical capsule below nosecone, electronic trays to house sensors, fixed antenna, single custom PCB	Cylindrical capsule, electronic trays to house sensors, deployable antenna out top of rocket	Cylindrical capsule below nosecone, electronic trays to house sensors, flaps on payload to reorientate payload while on the ground	Cylindrical capsule, an extra tray to house the stemnauts and sensors independently, mounts to nosecone	Shock absorbing foam, storing velocity, acceleration, apogee, antenna sticking out the top of rocket	Cylindrical capsule, , electronic modules all separate	Data collection and transmission mounted onto trays that slide into nosecone of the rocket, bolts would mount the trays, antenna permantly deployed from the noseconse	Airbag cushion structure, , compartments for the sensors and STEMnauts, and a fixed antenna
Send Data Signal	17.56%	Datum	\$	+	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Fasten Payload	14.39%		+	+	\$	\$	\$	\$	-	-
Measure STEMnaut Acceleration	14.08%		+	\$	\$	-	\$	+	\$	-
Select Radio Frequency	14.00%		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	+	\$	\$
Disperse Impact Energy on Payload Body	12.84%		+	+	-	+	+	\$	-	+
Number of (+)			3	3	0	1	1	2	0	1
Number of (-)			0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2

Process Overview

- Compare generated concepts to selected datum based on selection criteria
- Concepts ranked based on amounts of plus and minus signs
- Results in four concepts with no minuses moving on to the next stage of Pugh, and another datum being established

Top Concepts

- 1) Cylindrical capsule below nosecone, electronic trays for sensors, fixed antenna, custom PCB
- 2) Cylindrical capsule, electronic trays for sensors, deployable antenna out top of rocket
- 3) Shock absorbing foam, storing velocity, acceleration, apogee, antenna protruding from cone
- 4) Cylindrical capsule, electronic modules all separate

Pugh Chart 2

Selection Criteria	Criteria Weight	Cylindrical capsule, an extra tray to house the stemnauts and sensors independently , mounts to nosecone	Concepts			
			Cylindrical capsule below nosecone, electronic trays to house sensors, fixed antenna, single custom PCB	Cylindrical capsule, electronic trays to house sensors, deployable antenna out top of rocket	Shock absorbing foam, storing velocity, acceleration, apogee, antenna sticking out the top of rocket	Cylindrical capsule , electronic modules all separate
Send Data Signal	17.56%	Datum	S	+	S	S
Fasten Payload	14.39%		+	S	-	S
Measure STEMnaut Acceleration	14.08%		S	S	S	+
Select Radio Frequency	14.00%		S	S	S	S
Disperse Impact Energy on Payload Body	12.84%		+	S	+	S
Number of (+)			2	1	1	1
Number of (-)		0	0	1	0	

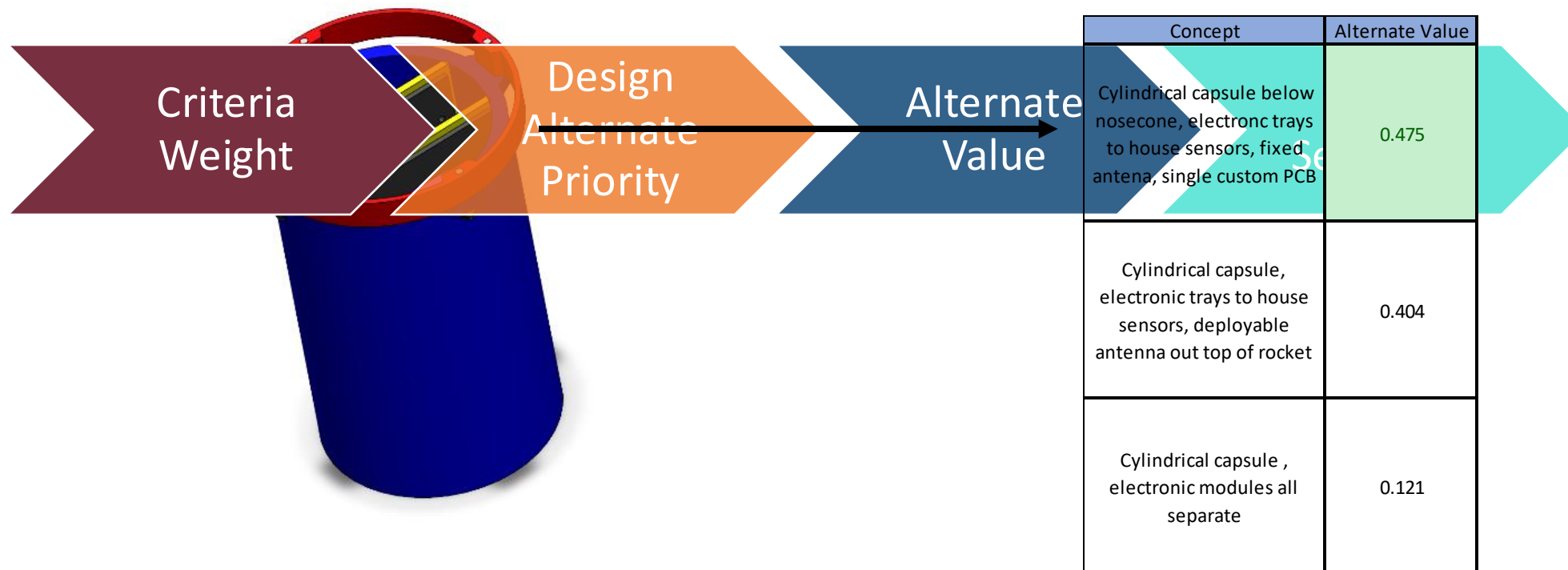
Process Overview

- New datum established from previous Pugh chart
- Compare top concepts to new datum based on selection criteria
- Results in 3 concepts which proceed to the analytical hierarchy stage
- Elimination of one concept occurs

Top Concepts

- 1) Cylindrical capsule below nosecone, electronic trays for sensors, fixed antenna, custom PCB
- 2) Cylindrical capsule, electronic trays for sensors, deployable antenna out top of rocket
- 3) Cylindrical capsule, electronic modules all separate

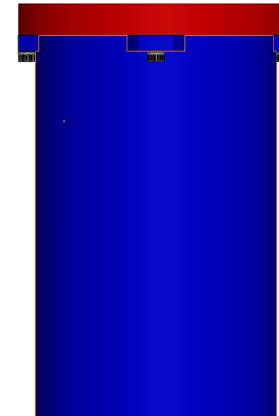
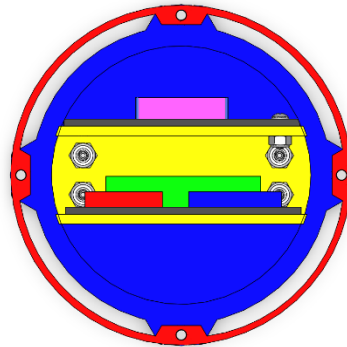
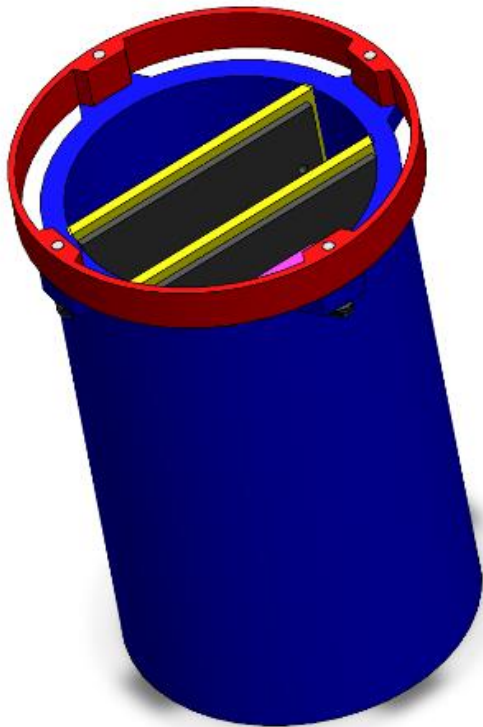
Analytical Hierarchy



Final Selected Concept

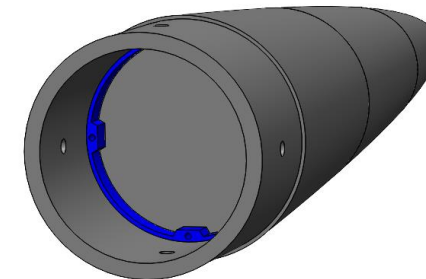
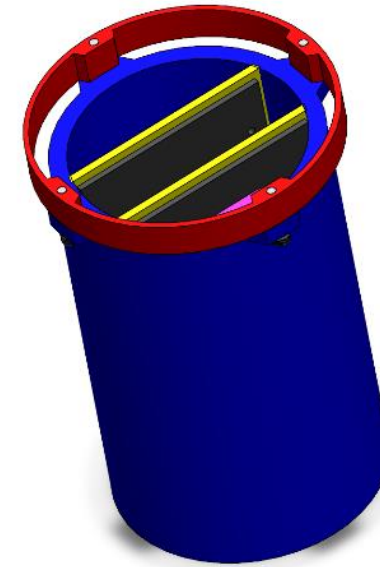
Design Overview

- **Nylon-12 Capsule** - 3D-printed, FSU Innovation Hub (blue)
- **Mounting** - AL6061 bracket, secured in rocket's nosecone with high-strength epoxy
- **Chambers** – Three chambers separated by AL6061 divider (yellow)
- **Electronics** – Stored on trays inside capsule (black)
- **STEMnauts** – Housed in a single chamber of the payload

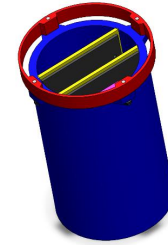


Structural Design

- Mounting System:
 - Payload mounting at base of nosecone
 - AL6061 mounting bracket (red)
 - #8-32 x $\frac{3}{4}$ " mounting fasteners (4x)
- Housing:
 - 3D printed Nylon-12
- Chambers:
 - AL6061 chamber divider (yellow)
 - Three chambers: transmission, data collection, STEMnaut chambers



Payload Housing



Data Transmission Chamber

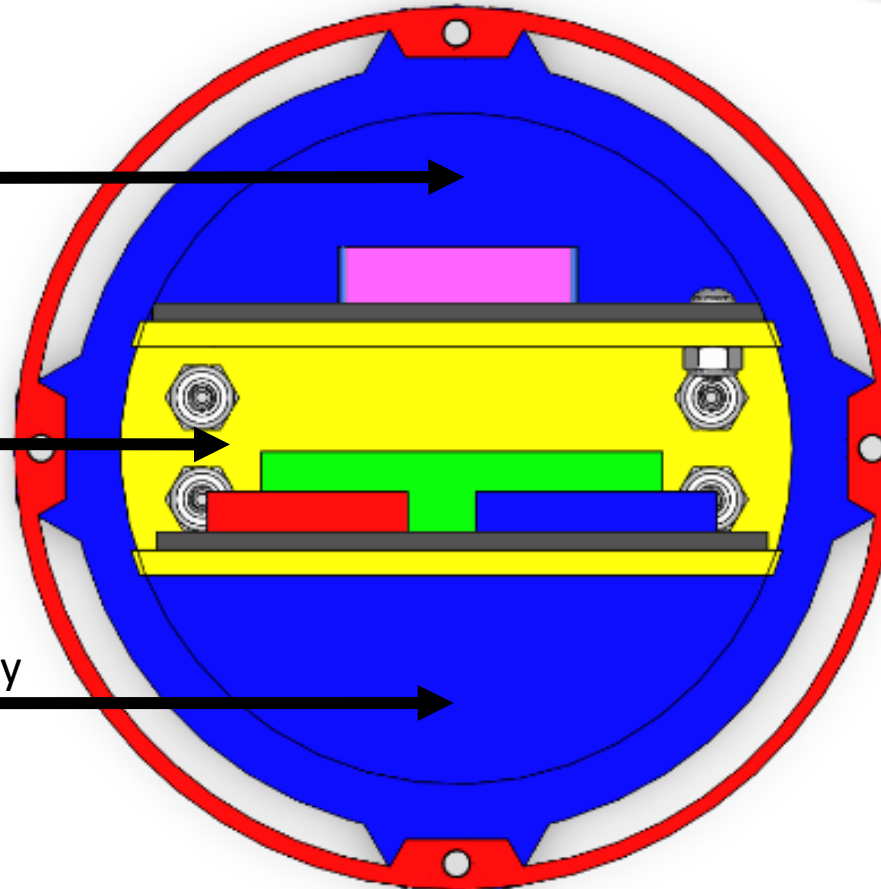
- Contains RF module
- Communicates with radio transceiver

Data Collection Chamber

- Contains sensors and power supply
- Stores and collects data from flight

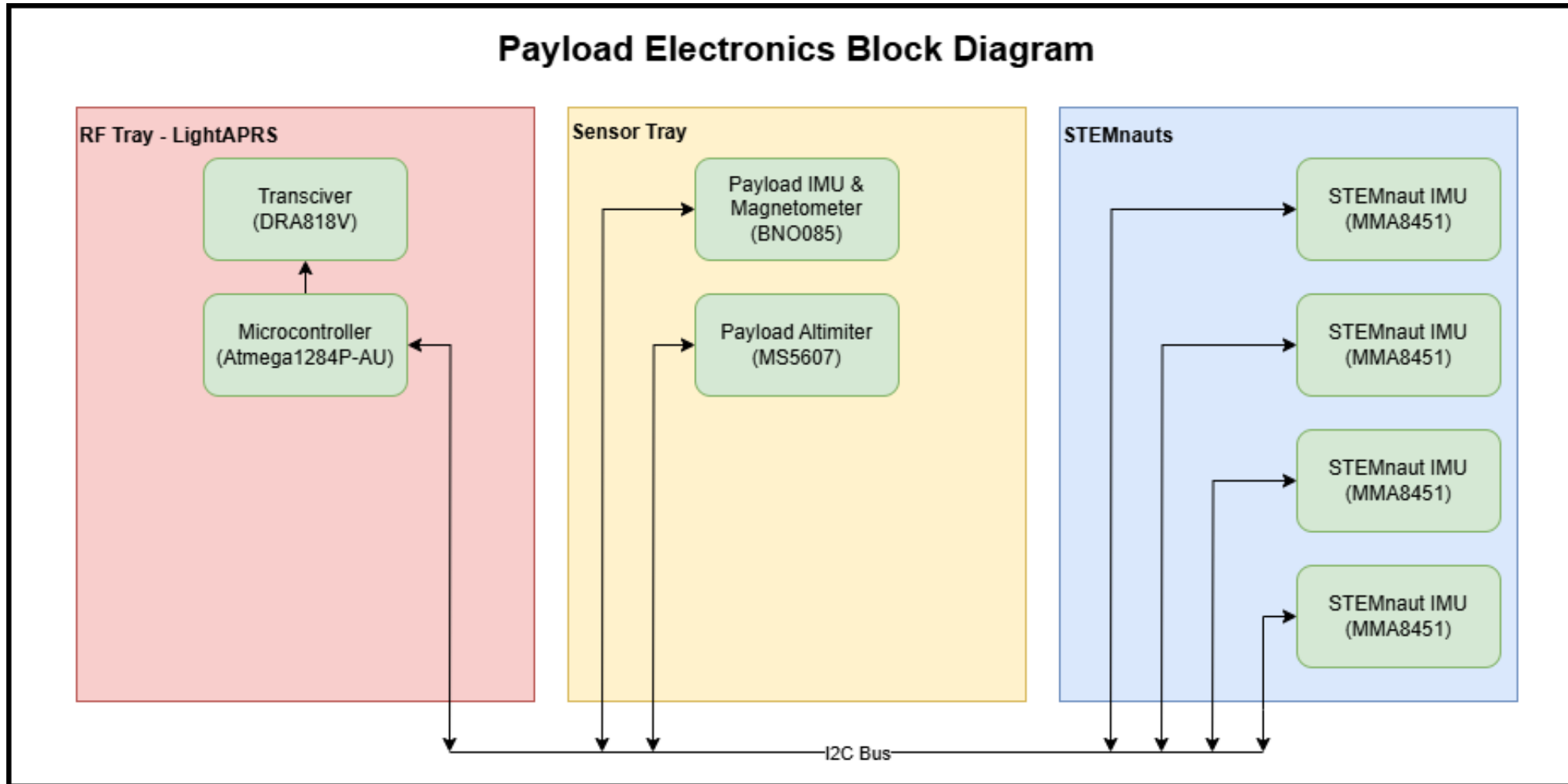
STEMnaut Housing Chamber

- Contains the STEMnauts
- Updates STEMnaut orientation and survivability

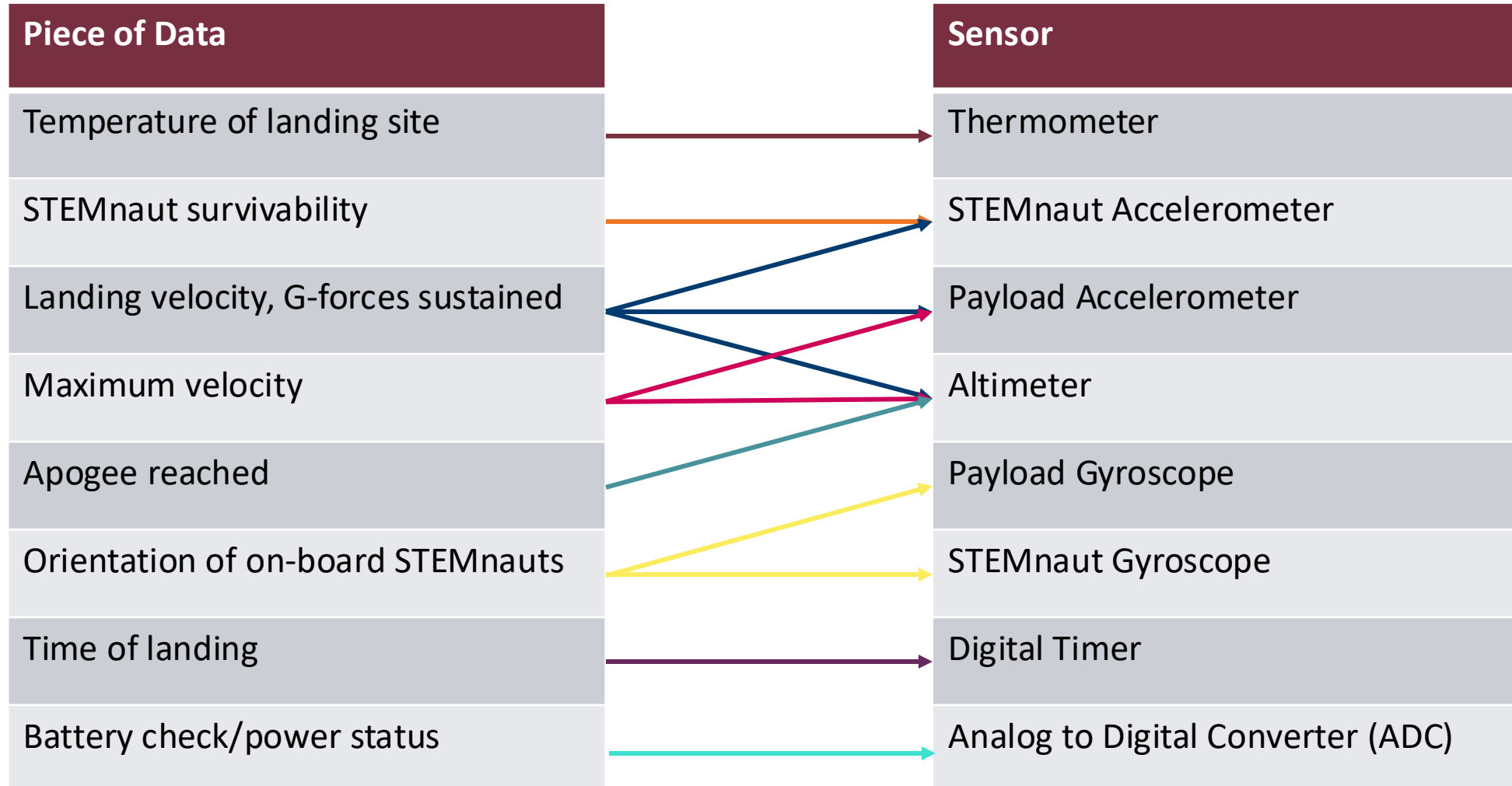


Payload Top View

Electronics Design



Sensor Assignments



Component Selection

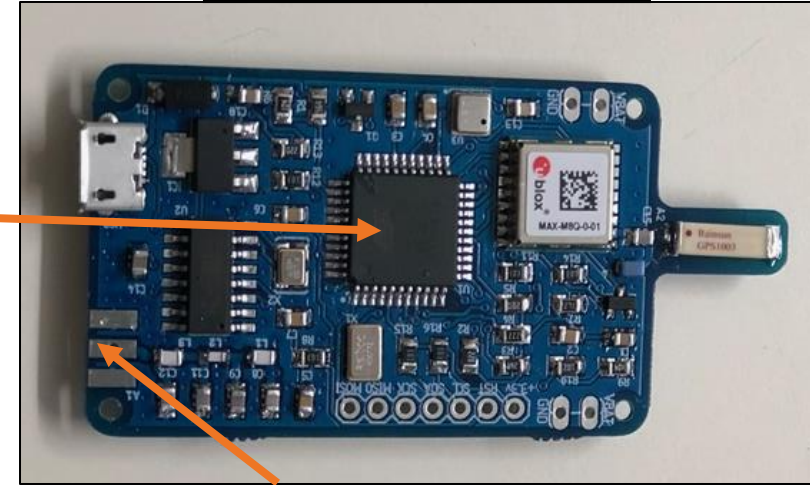
Module	Location	Leading Product	Function
Altimeter Module	Tray 1	MS5607 	Thermometer
			Altimeter
STEMnaut IMU Module	On STEMnaut flight suits (x4)	MMA8451 	STEMnaut Gyroscope
			STEMnaut Accelerometer
Payload IMU Module	Tray 1	BNO085 	Payload Gyroscope
			Payload Accelerometer
RF Transceiver & Microcontroller	Tray 2	LightAPRS 	Digital Timer
			Analog to Digital Converter (ADC)
			Transceiver

Transmitter Design

- Fixed Antenna:
 - 50 cm copper wire
 - Mounted coincident to the inside of the fuselage
 - Connected to RF module
- Projected Attenuation:
 - Must transmit through Nylon-12 and G12 Fiberglass
 - 2.2% loss at worst case orientation
- Transmission Protocol:
 - APRS packets
 - Telemetry format

Atmega1284P
microcontroller

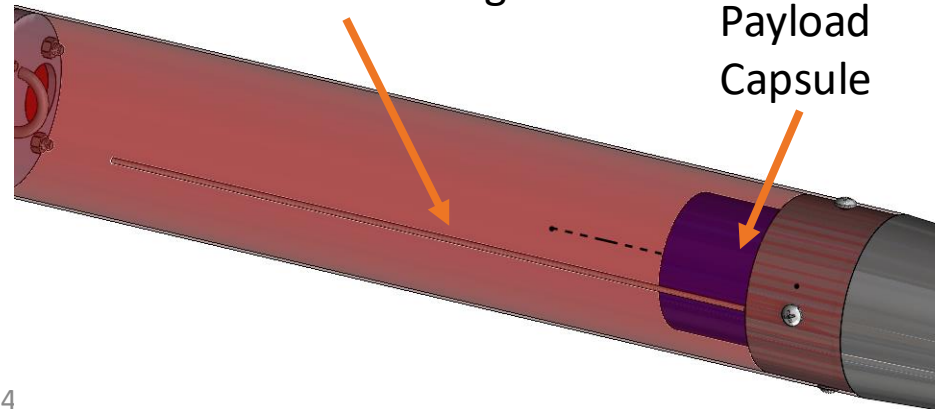
LightAPRS – RF module



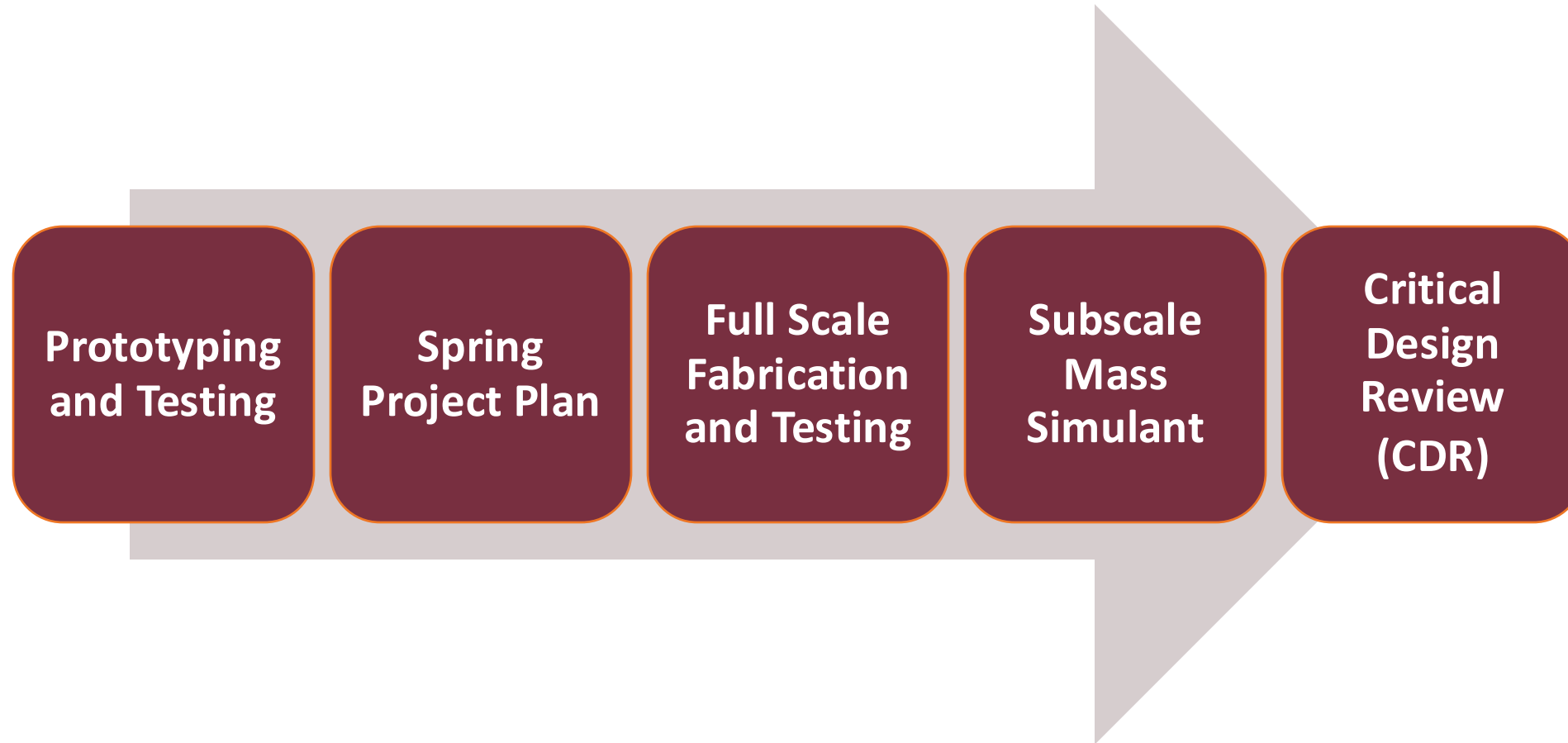
Antenna Port (DRA 818V
transceiver on back)

50 cm antenna
inside the fuselage

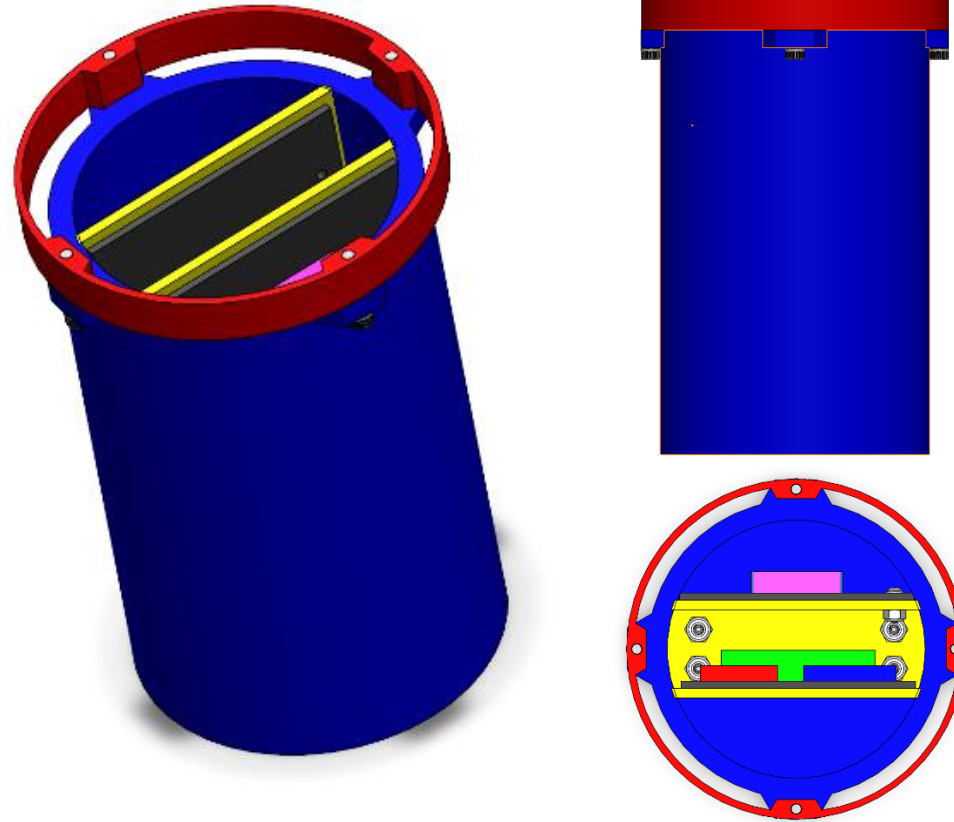
Payload
Capsule



Future Work



Thank you for listening!



References

NASA. (2025). NASA Student Launch Handbook. Retrieved from <https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/2025-nasa-sl-handbook.pdf?emrc=77b9f2?emrc=77b9f2>