



FAMU-FSU  
College of  
Engineering

# Psyche Asteroid Sample Acquisition Team 501

Michael G., Conner H., Claudia I., Jake M., Janna R.,  
Jerry R.

11/18/2025

# Team 501: Introductions



Michael Gregory  
Mechanical Engineer



Jake Marcus  
Design Engineer  
**Presenter**



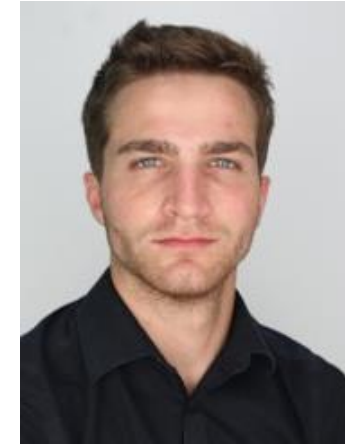
Claudia Irausquin  
Materials Engineer



Janna Rhodes  
Test Engineer  
**Presenter**



Conner Holmes  
Robotics Engineer



Jerry Richardson  
Systems Engineer  
**Presenter**



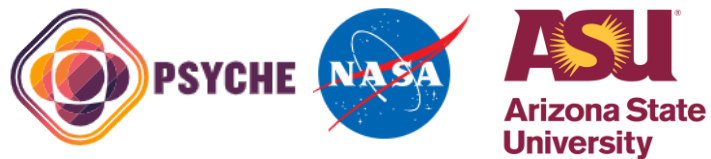
# Sponsor and Advisor

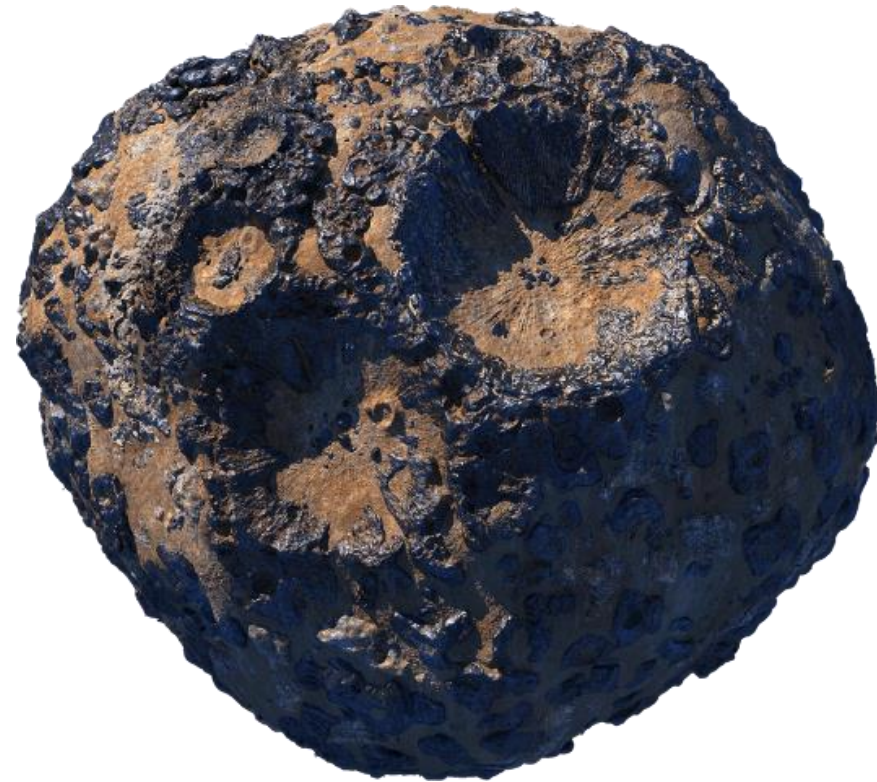


Dr. Cassie Bowman  
Project Sponsor



Dr. Shreyas Balachandran  
Faculty Advisor





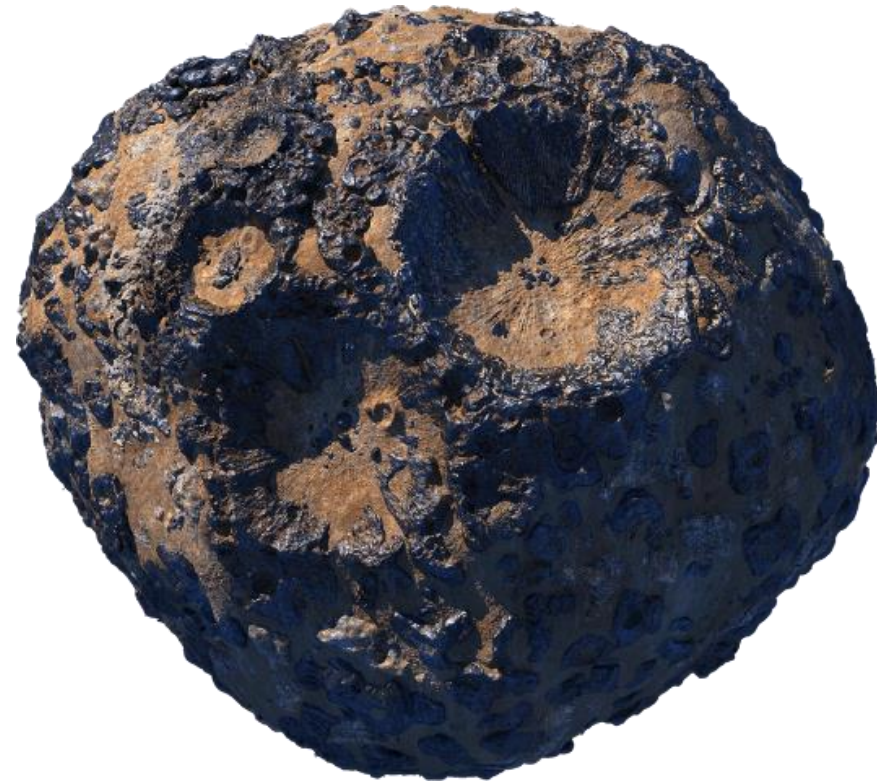
*NASA Rendering of Asteroid (16) Psyche*

# Objective

The objective of this project is to acquire and cache samples across multiple surface types on asteroid (16) Psyche. This effort is coordinated with Team 502, who is focused on sample retrieval.

# Background

- Psyche is believed to be an exposed core of an early planetesimal.
- Hypothesized metal composition of iron-nickel and silicates.
- Located in the asteroid belt.
- Rocky outer layer from collisions occurring billions of years ago.
- Spacecraft sent by NASA in 2023 will arrive in 2029 to observe Psyche's surface.



*NASA Rendering of Asteroid (16) Psyche*

# Project Overview

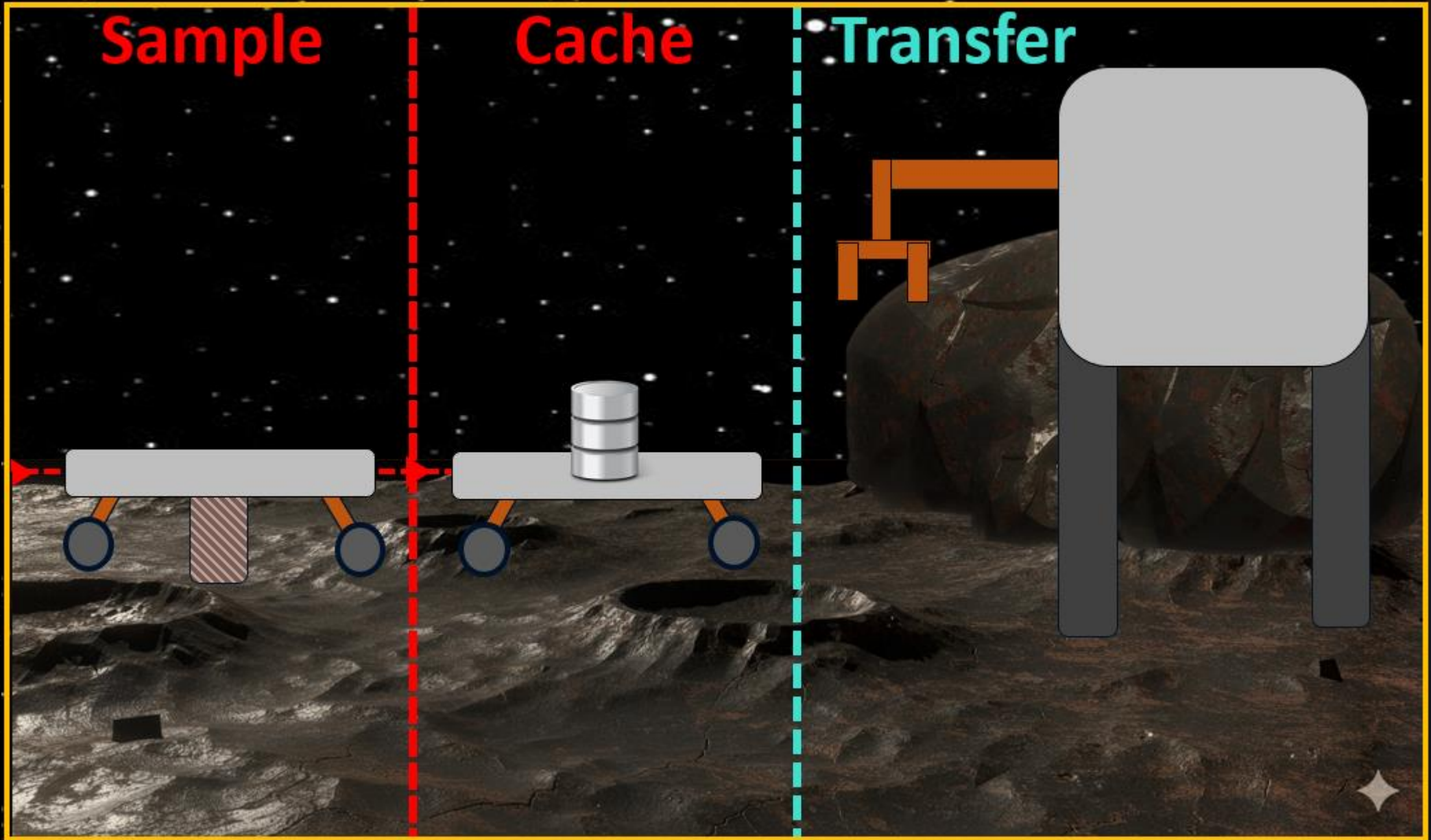
## Assumptions

- Sampling system is on host of our choice
- Host begins on asteroid
- Host safely traverses to extraction points

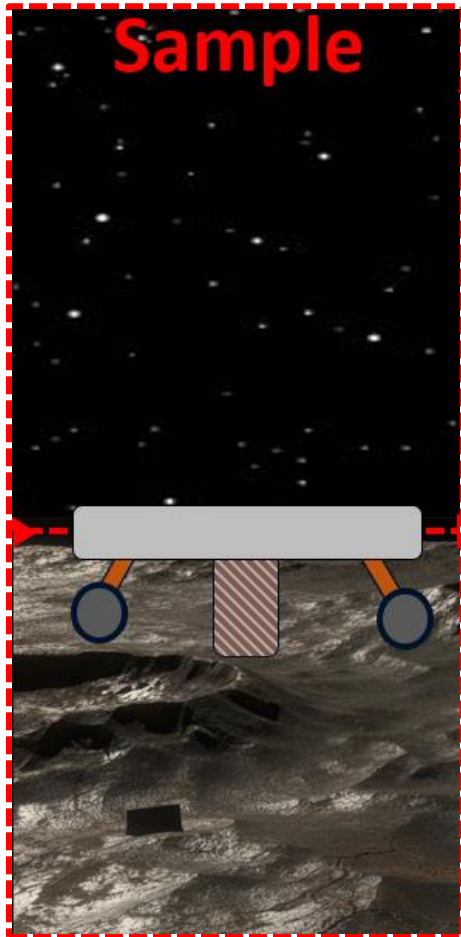
## Customer Needs

- Compatible for a handoff to T502
- Take multiple samples
- Keep the integrity of samples

# Critical Functions:

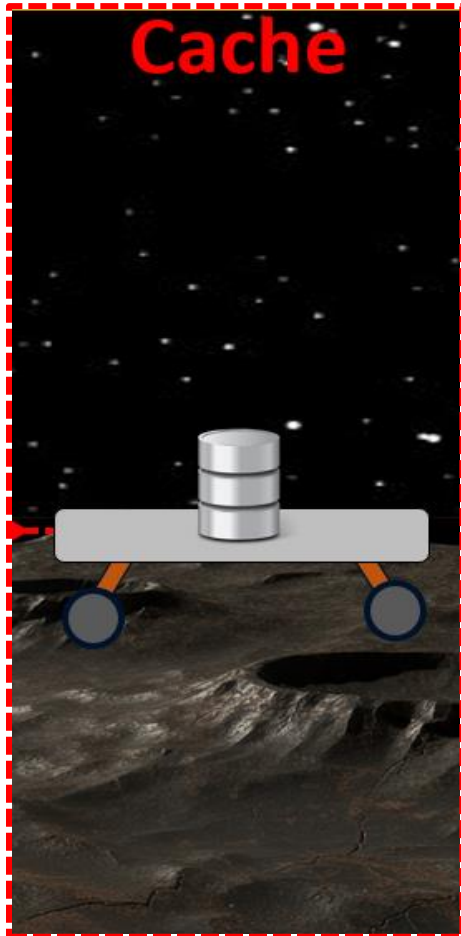


# Critical Targets



Function	Metric	Target
Extract Samples	Quantity (# of samples) Volume (cm <sup>3</sup> )	8 samples 9 cm <sup>3</sup>
Collect Variety of Samples	Quantity	2 samples
Stabilize	Sum of opposing forces	<50N

# Critical Targets



Function	Metric	Target
Store Samples	Quantity	10 samples
Protect Samples	Quantity	9 samples
Measure Amount Extracted	Accuracy percentage (%)	±10.0%

# Critical Targets



Function	Metric	Target
Transfer Contents to T502	Accessibility angle	360°

# Additional Targets

Function	Metric	Target
Automate Process	Steps requiring intervention	$\leq 1$
Prevent Cross Contamination	Carryover percentage(%)	$< 5\%$
Temperature Resistance	Temperature range in Kelvin (K)	100K-200K



# Concept Generation Tactics

Crap Shoot

SCAMPER

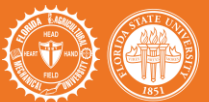
Biomimicry

Anti-Problem

Brainstorming



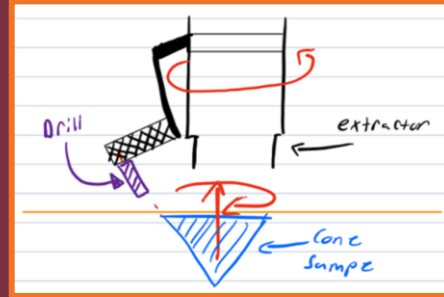
100 Concepts



# Medium Fidelity Concepts



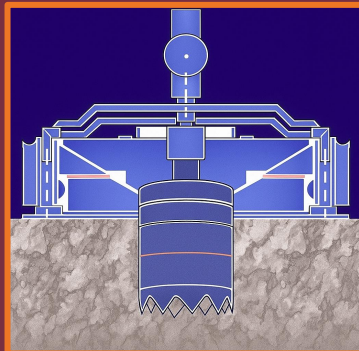
Grinding Capsules



Conically Rotating Drill-Bit



Laser Coring



Corer with Gas Blast



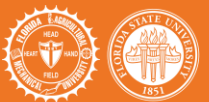
Cone Grinder

# High Fidelity

Auger Corer

Semi-Portable  
Trepanner

Ultrasonic Drill

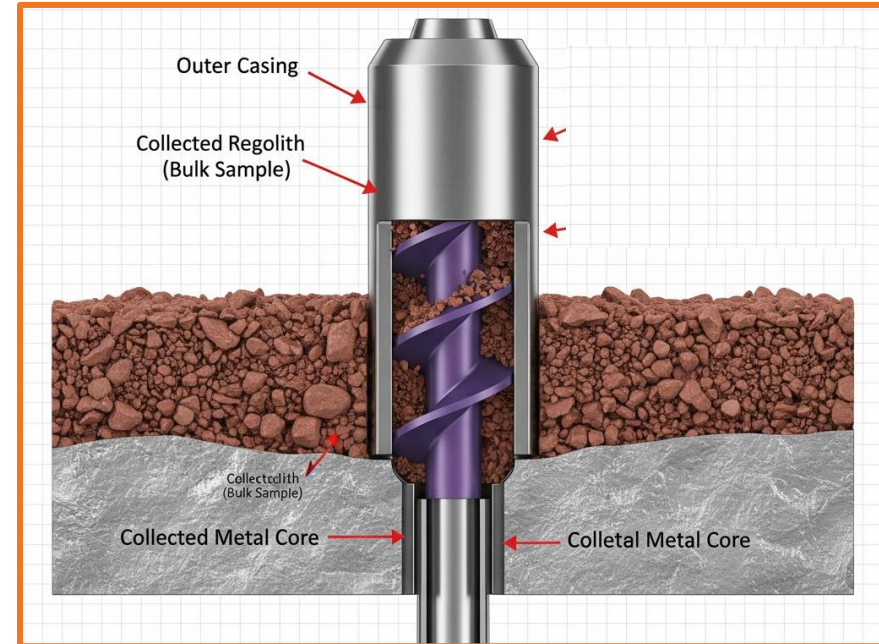
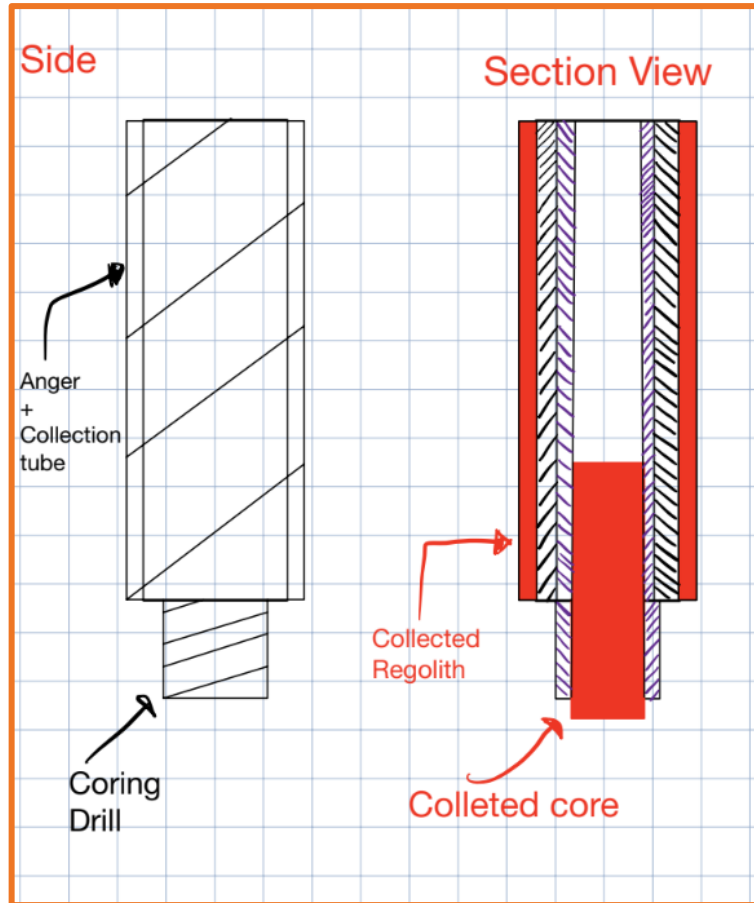


# High Fidelity

Auger Corer

Semi-Portable  
Trepanner

Ultrasonic Drill



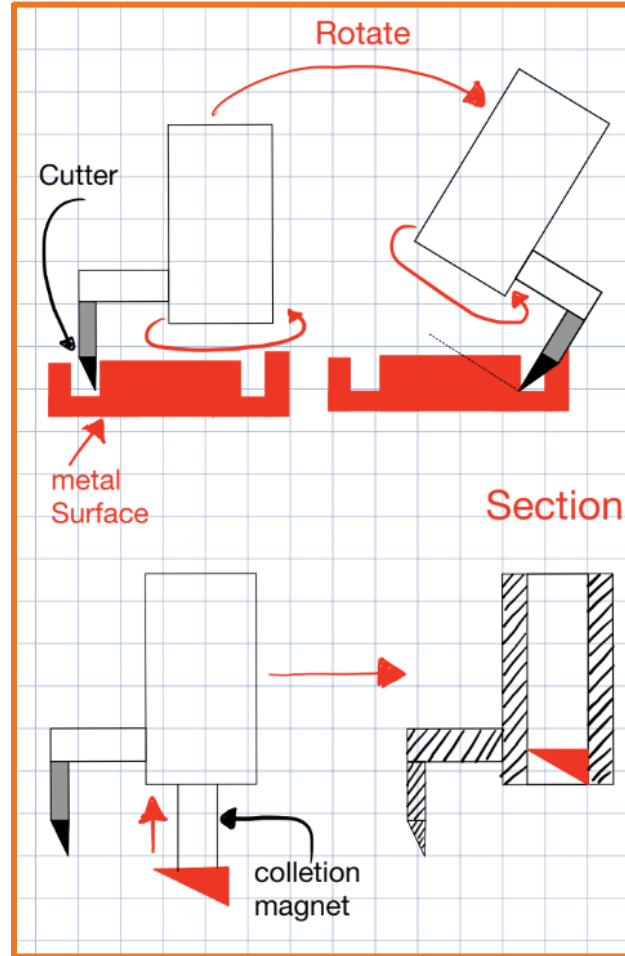
Gemini Generated Image

# High Fidelity

Auger Corer

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Ultrasonic Drill

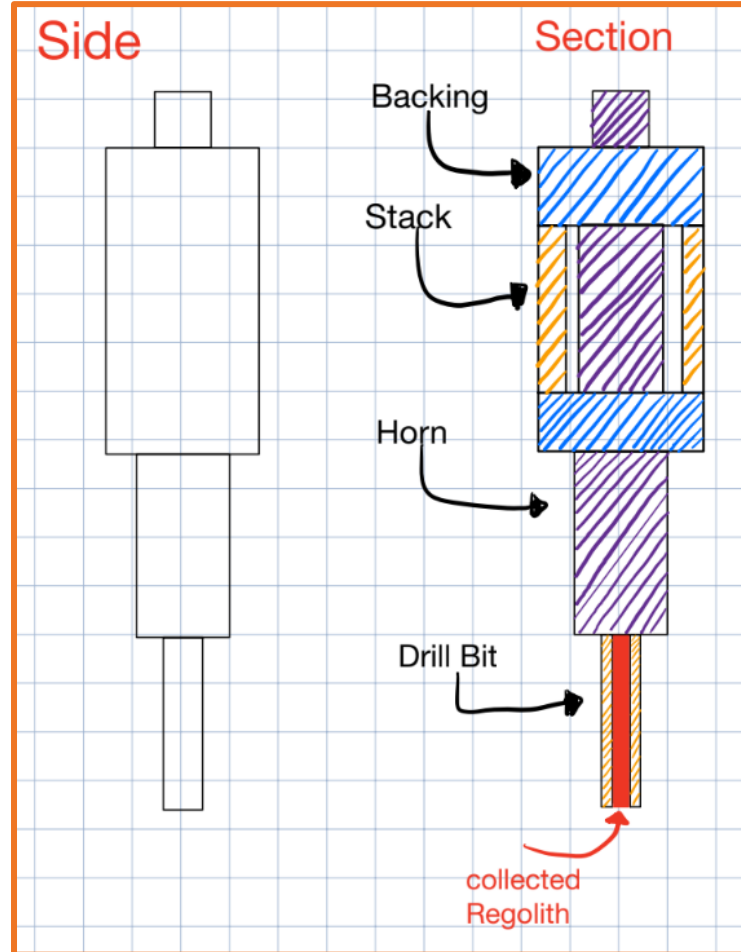


# High Fidelity

Auger Corer

Semi-Portable  
Trepanner

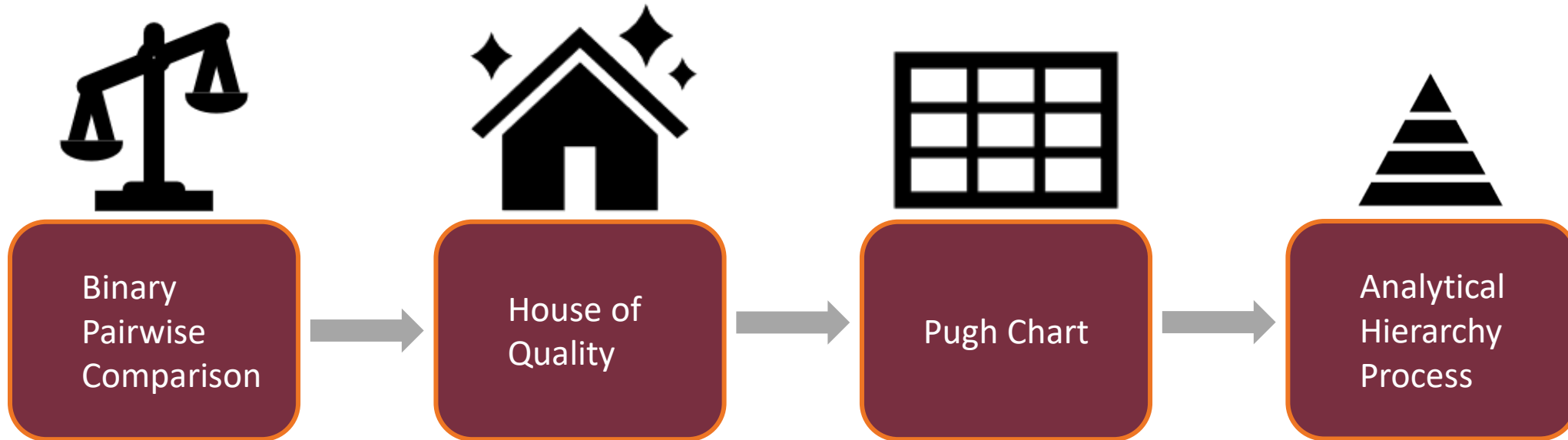
Ultrasonic Drill



Gemini Generated Image



# Concept Selection Process



# Binary Pairwise Comparison

Customer Needs	Score
Cache is compatible for handoff	1
System is automated	1
Sampler obtains surface and subsurface material	4
Cache maintains sample integrity	4
Sampler acquires multiple sample types	4



# House of Quality

Engineering Characteristic	Ranking
Structural Integrity	1
Cache Size	2
Total Steps Required for Process	3
Depth of Sample	4
Quantity of Samples	5
Reliability	6
Time of Process	7
Required Counter Force	8
Degree of Sealing	9
Preserves Layering of Subsurface Material	10



# Pugh Chart – Iteration 1

**Datum:**



Perseverance Rover

**Selection Criteria:**

**Steps Taken to Move Sample into Storage**

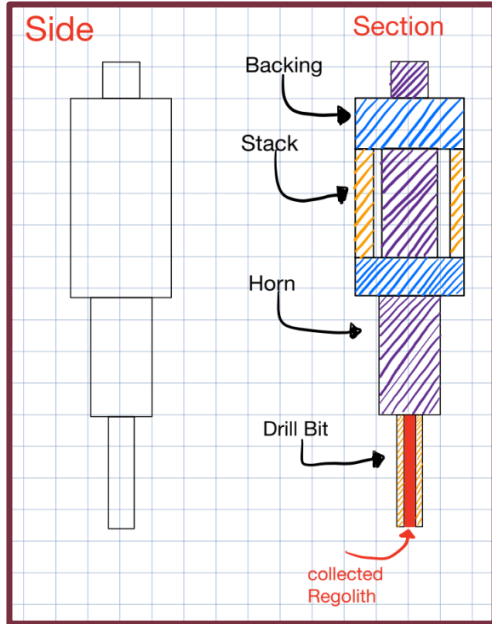
**Sample Stratigraphy**

**Time of Process**

**Depth of Sample**

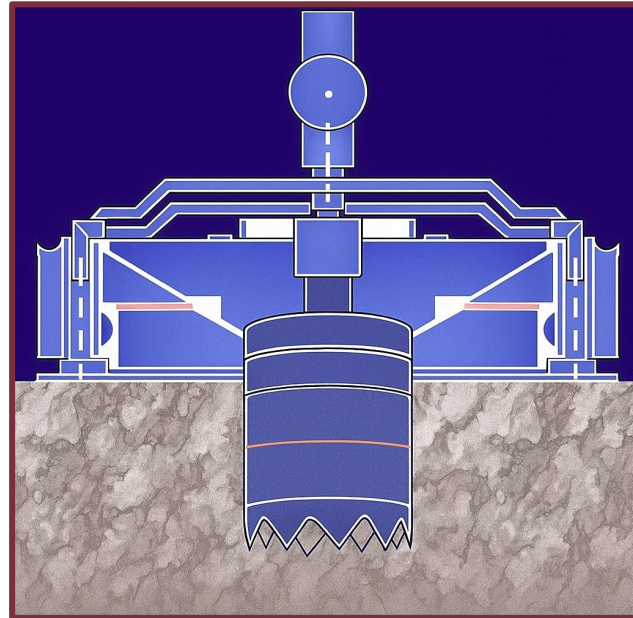
**Counter Force**

# Analytical Hierarchy Chart



**Ultrasonic Drill**

Alternative Value:  
0.180



**Corer with Gas Blast**

Alternative Value:  
0.406

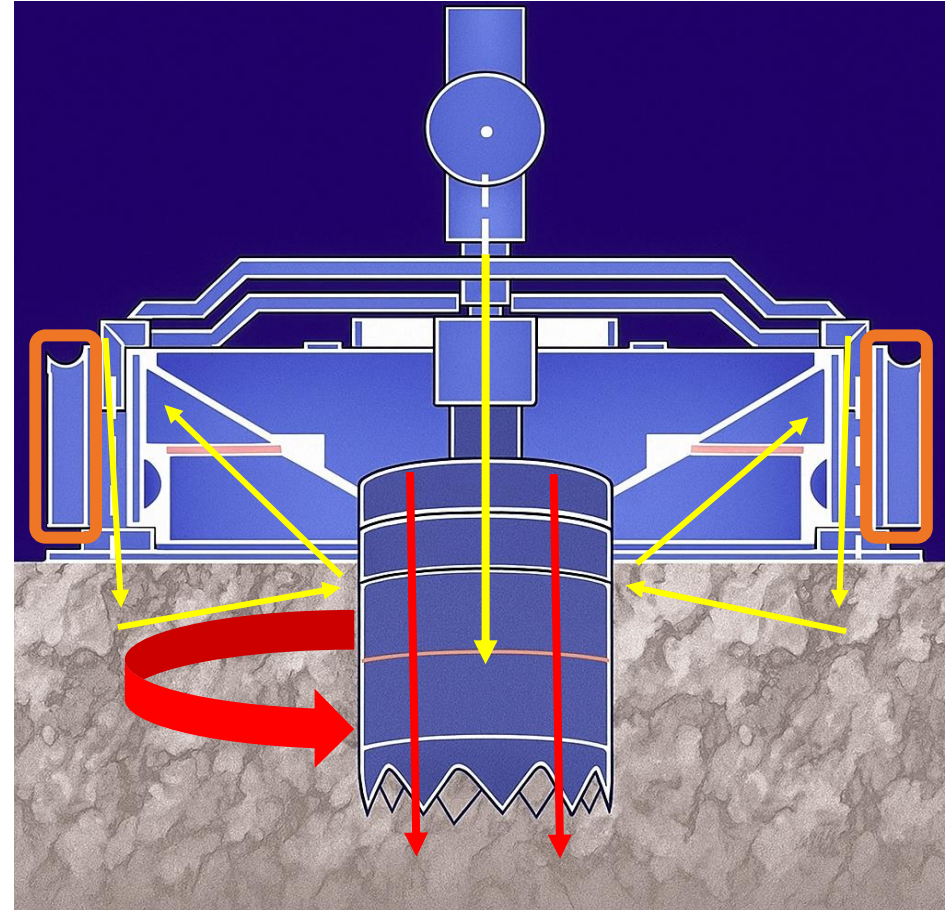


**Grinding Capsules**

Alternative Value:  
0.414

# Final Concept

1. Gas blast pushes regolith into collection chamber
2. Corer works into hard subsurface material.
  - Thrusters provide necessary counter force.
3. Gas blast pushes grinded material into collection chamber



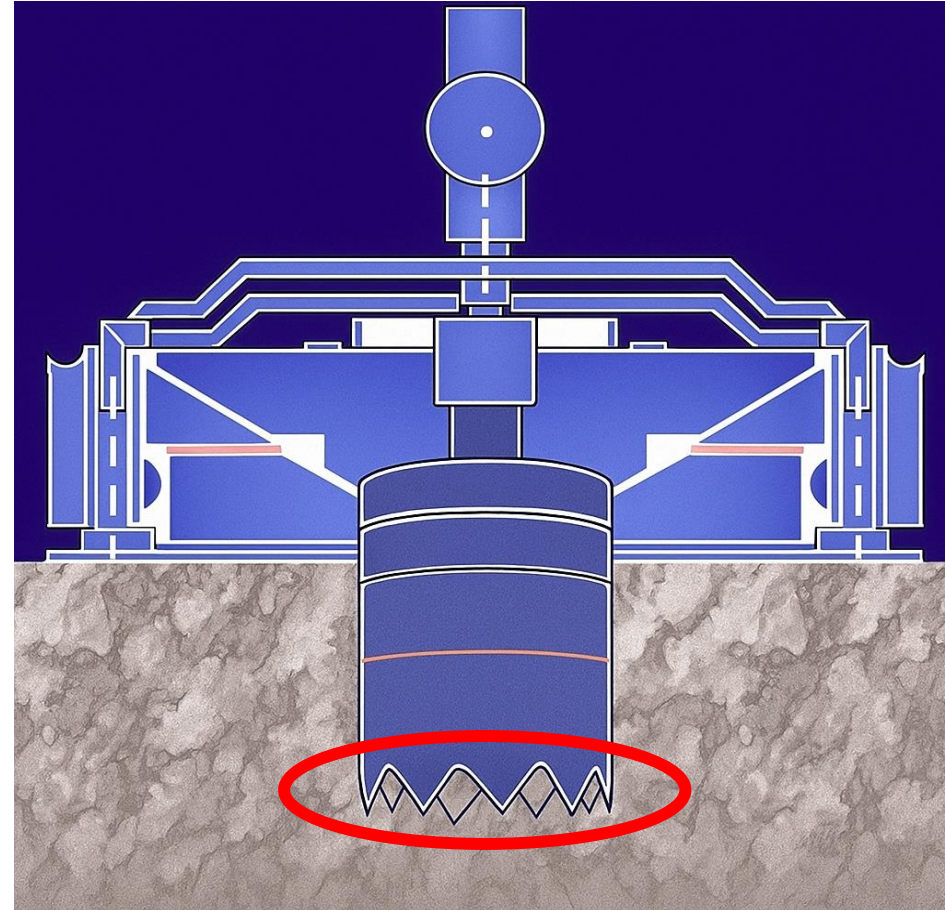
“Final” Concept: Corer with Gas Blast



# Final Concept Feasibility

Coring drill bit determined to be impractical

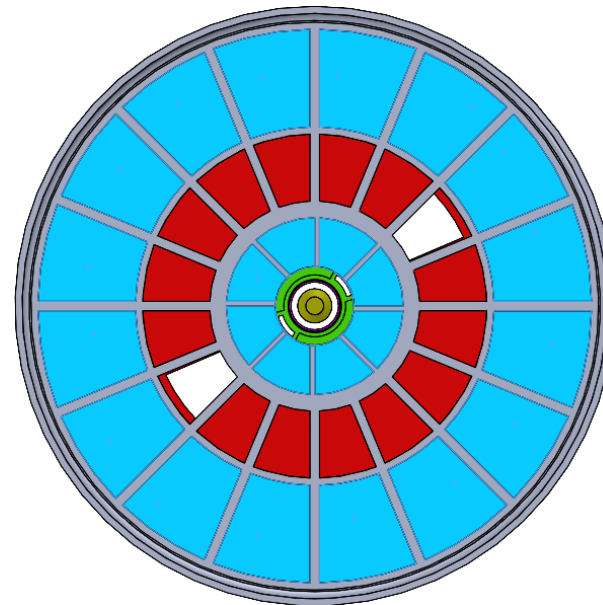
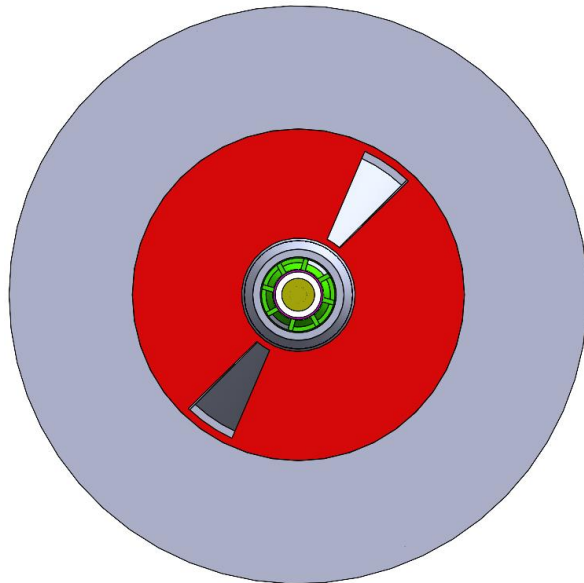
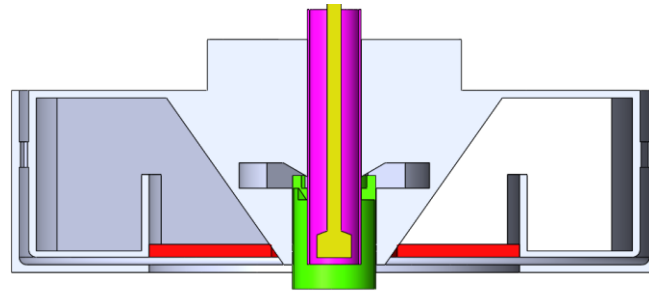
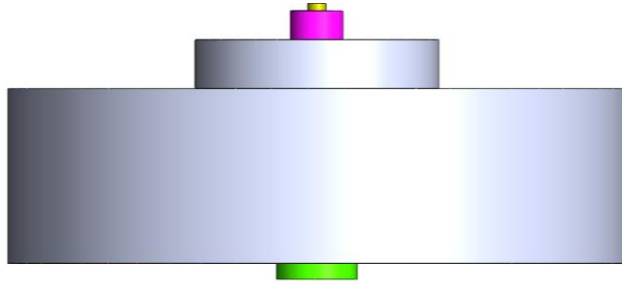
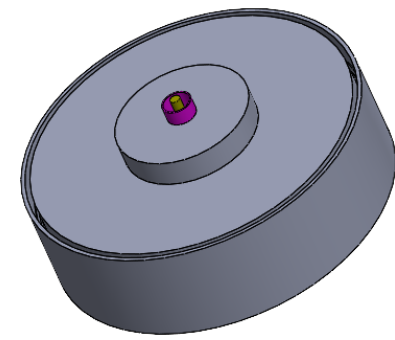
- Issues with core removal
- Adjusted design with a grinding bit to improve project feasibility



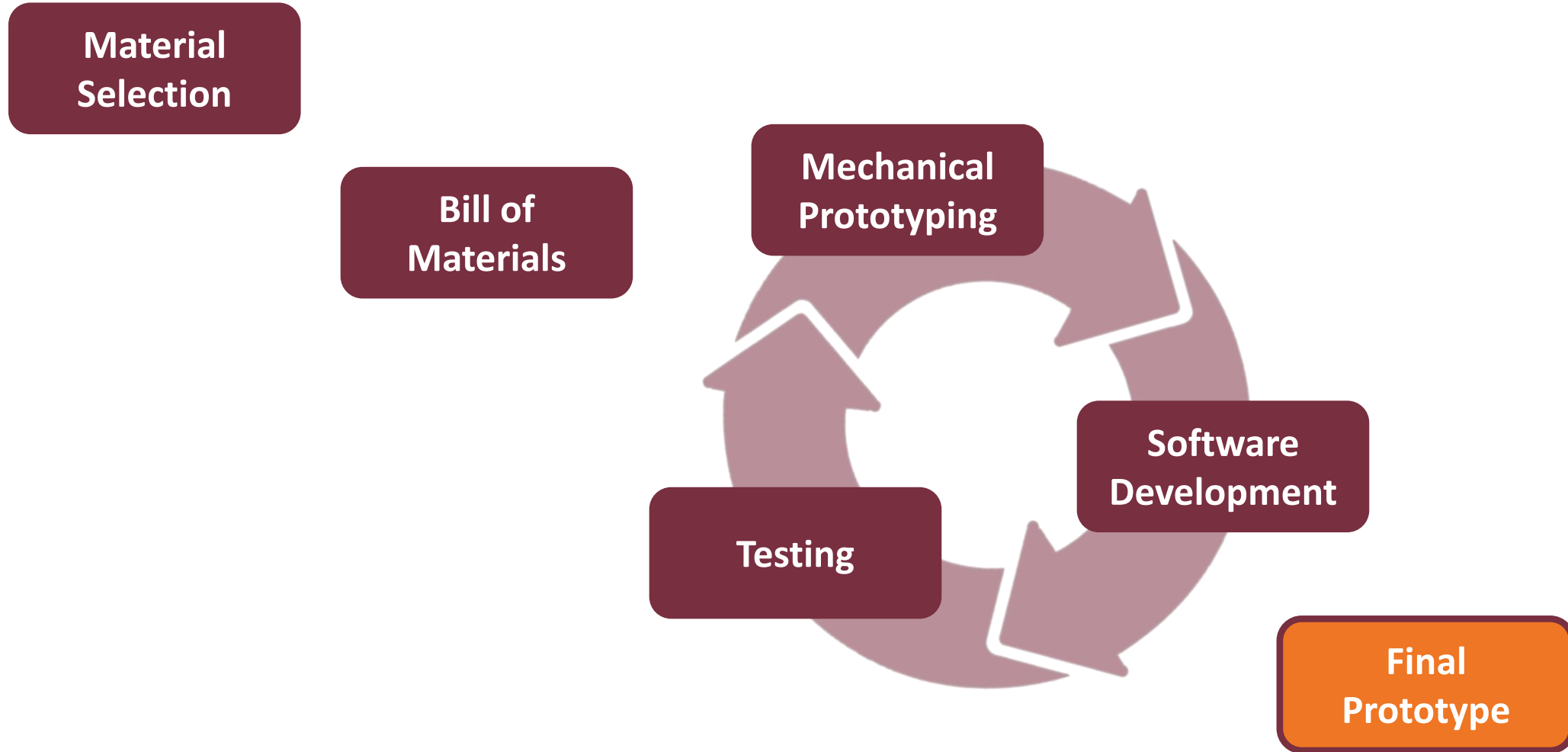
“Final” Concept: Corer with Gas Blast



# Preliminary Design



# Future Work



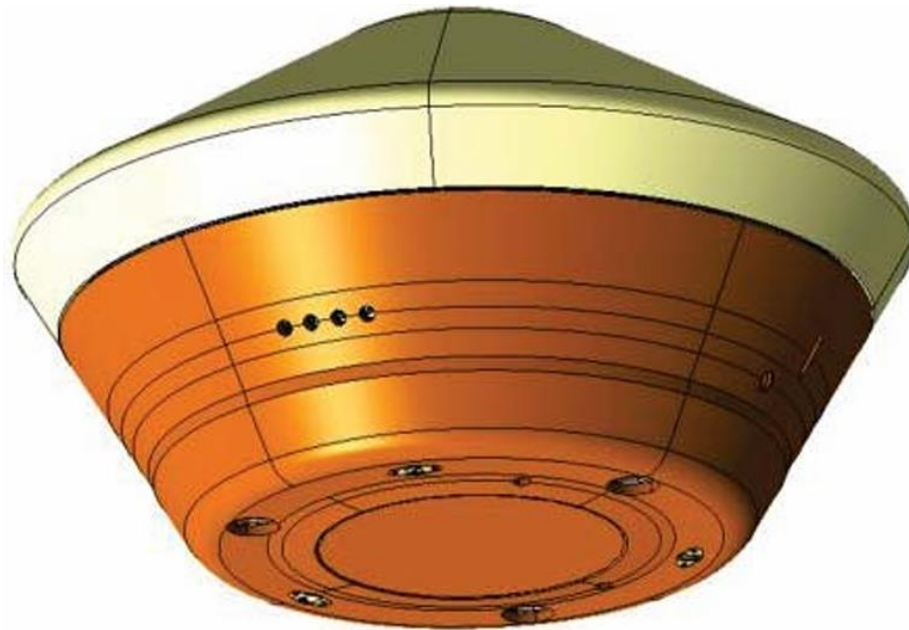
# Questions?



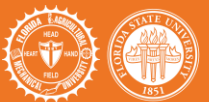
# Back Up Slides



# Integrating With T502



*OSIRIS-REx: Returning the asteroid sample* [PDF]. NASA/Lockheed Martin.





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