

Le competenze e la ricerca tecnologica del Politecnico per il settore dello Spazio

25 Ottobre 2024

Politecnico di Milano – Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Aerospaziali



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Space Engineering Lab

Space Engineering Lab **personnel includes:**

- 3 Full Professors
- 5 associate professors
- 8 assistant professors
- 75 Postdocs+PhDs

20 M EUR in Contracts and studies on space topics within the last 5 years

500 Students Master in Space Engineering

In alphabetical order **4 research groups:**

- ASTRA



- DART



- COMPASS



- SPIRE



Detailed in the followings

COMPASS research group – C.Colombo

- Research group within Space Mission Engineering Lab with research focus on
 - Modelling methodologies and tools for space traffic management, distributed space systems, planetary defence and astrodynamics applications
- Team: 2 associate professors (Camilla Colombo, Gabriella Gaias), 1 RTDa, 2 PostDocs (Giacomo Borelli, Yeerang Lim), 11 PhDs
- Main project funding and partners:



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



AIRBUS



INTELLIGENTIA



Space sustainability



- Space debris long-term evolution modelling
- Space capacity allocation
- Space debris indicators
- Cislunar space situational awareness
- Collision risk analyses

Space traffic management



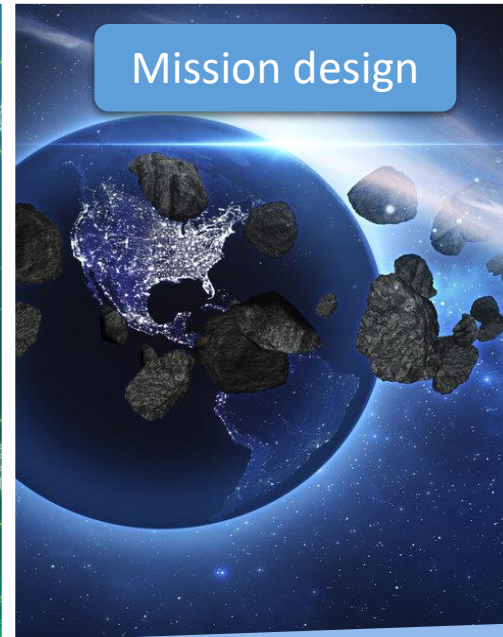
- Collision avoidance manoeuvres
- End-of-life disposal design
- Re-entry modelling
- Fragmentation characterisation and reconstruction
- Active debris removal
- On-orbit inspection and servicing

Planetary protection and defence



- Asteroid deflection
- Planetary protection analysis
- Missions to asteroids
- Astrodynamics

Mission design



- E.Cube mission
- SpEye mission
- Formation flying large aperture synthesis mission
- REMEC mission
- Technology demo mission for deployable surface-based debris

Space services

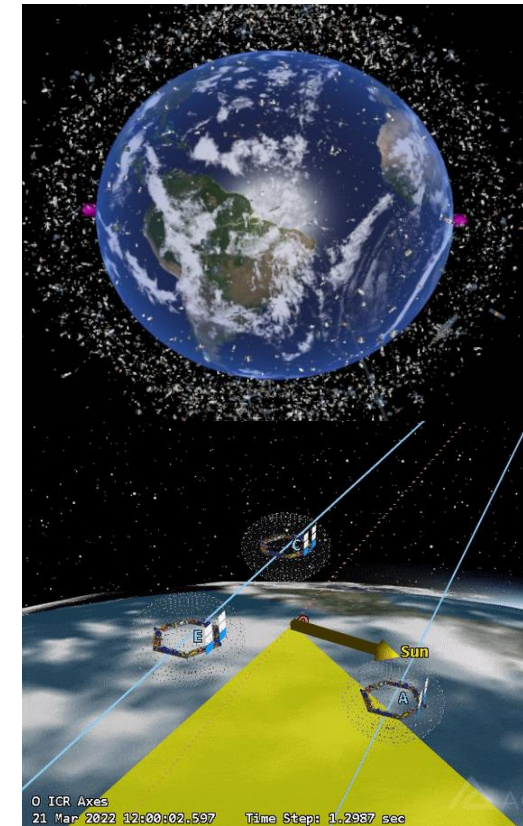
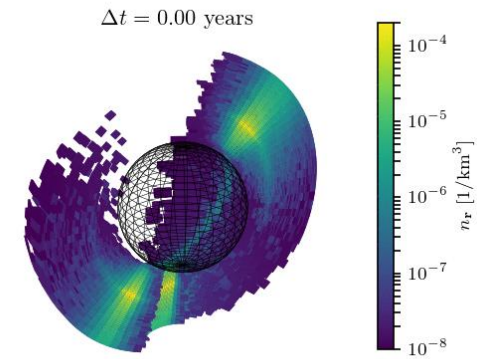


- Formation flying for Earth observation
- Socio-economic impact of space missions
- Satellite constellations
- Guidance navigation and control



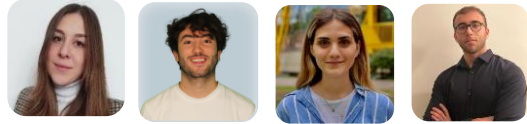
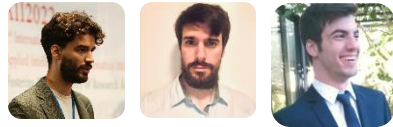
Main current projects

- ERC: GREEN SPECIES: Robust control of the space debris population to define optimal policies and an economic revenue model for sustainable development of space activities. (Prime: PoliMi)
- ASI-IHS: Development of the algorithms for the Italian Space Traffic Management infrastructure. (Prime: Telespazio)
- ESA: THEMIS Development of the ESA operational software for Tracking the Health of the Environment and Missions in Space: software development, debris modelling.
- Mission analysis of debris missions design involving on board software for collision avoidance manoeuvres: ASI e.Cube
- Mission design involving formation flying application and guidance and control schemes for: ASI SpEye (on-orbit inspection), ESA Tri-Hex (formation flying for remote sensing), IO Endurance
- Part of Italian Space agency Delegation at Inter-Agency Debris Coordination Committee (C. Colombo), Un-mandated Space Mission Planning Advisory Group (C. Colombo), ESA Close Proximity Operations Working Group (G. Gaias)



Collaboration interests

- Mission concepts exploiting distributed systems (swarms, formation flying) for Earth observation (e.g., synthetic radar apertures and passive interferometry)
- Products/tools/services to enhance sustainability of the outer space
- Development of on-board software for collision avoidance manoeuvres and other applications
- Development on on-ground software for space traffic management and space sustainability applications
- Circular economy in space Life Cycle Assessment of space missions



02 Associate professors

02 Assistant professors

02 Postdoctoral researchers

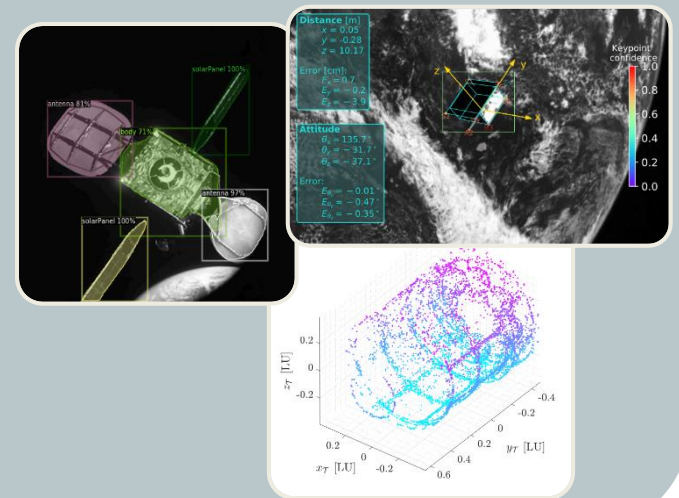
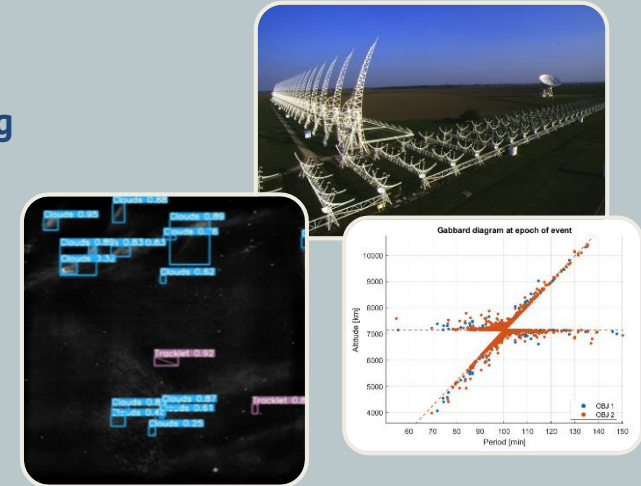
16 PhDs and researchers

Space surveillance

- Ground-based and space-based **object monitoring**
- Sensor network optimization and **sensor tasking**
- **Conjunction, reentry** and **fragmentation** monitoring
- **Maneuver detection** and threat assessment
- **Collision avoidance** maneuver design
- **Uncertainty** propagation, **collision** probability computation, collision avoidance maneuver

Guidance, Navigation and Control

- Autonomous **GNC strategies** for inspection
- AI for **relative pose estimation**
- AI for **feature and satellite capability recognition**
- Rendezvous with **underactuated systems**
- GNC for **free-flying space manipulator** for ADR/OOS





PROJECTS

Ground-based Space Situational Awareness

- Scientific and technical activities in support to C-SSA/ISOC and simulation of sensor architectures for SST (**ASI, ItAF**)
- Development of an infrastructure for space traffic management (**ASI, NextGenerationEU**)
- Dynamic beamforming for multi-receiver radars (**INAF, EUSST**)
- Innovative and iNteroperable Technologies for spacE Global Recognition and Alert, INTEGRAL (**EU**)
- Fragmentation analysis for in orbit breakup (**ESA**)

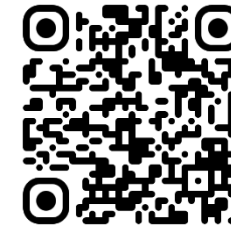
Funding Institutions



Main Partners



SPIRE RESEARCH



Surveillance and Proximity operations
REsearch team of Politecnico di Milano





PROJECTS

Space-based Space Situational Awareness

- ASSAI: Autonomous Space-Based Situational Awareness & Artificial Intelligence (**EDA**)
- AstroTwin: Realization of Satellite digital twin for autonomous SSA activities (**NextGenerationEU, NODES**)
- Study for a constellation of satellites in VLEO for enhanced space-based SSA and Spectrum Monitoring (**EDA**)
- GEORyder: access to GEO orbit through a reusable kick stage vehicle allowing transfer from GTO to GEO (**EU**)
- ACTIVA: design of autonomous collision avoidance maneuvers onboard (**ESA**)

Funding Institutions



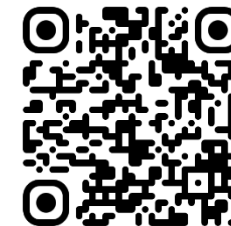
Main Partners



consorzio nazionale interuniversitario per le telecomunicazioni



SPIRE RESEARCH



Surveillance and Proximity operations REsearch team of Politecnico di Milano



DART group – F. Topputo & F. Ferrari

35 Researchers

- 4 Faculty members
- 6 PostDocs
- 23 PhD students
- 2 Research Assistants



Origin and Evolution
Surface Dynamics
Particle Dynamics



Autonomous Guidance
Autonomous Navigation
Verification & Validation



Mission Analysis
Trajectory Optimization
Nonlinear Astrodynamics

Asteroid
Science

Autonomous
GNC



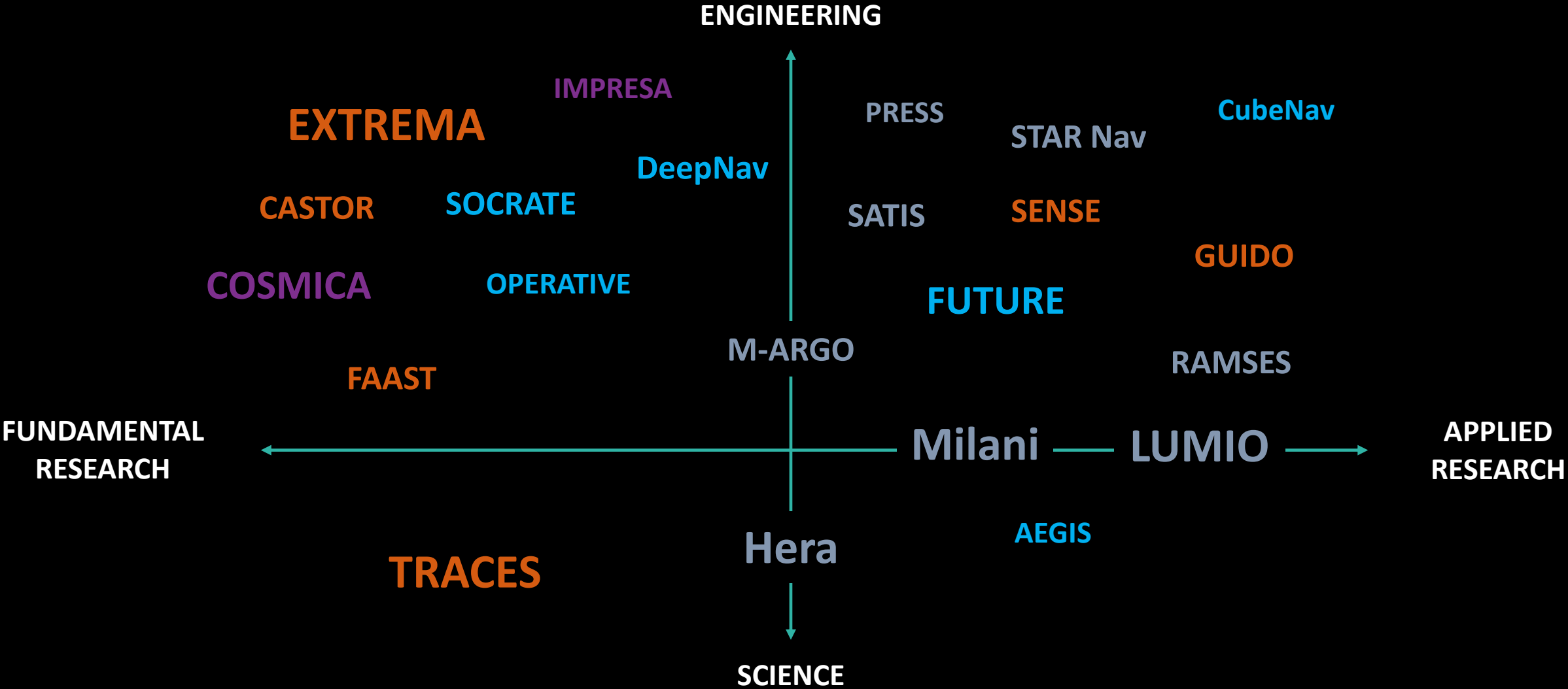
HIL Simulations
Digital Twins
Science Operations

Astrodynamics
and Mission
Design

Digital and
Physical
Twins



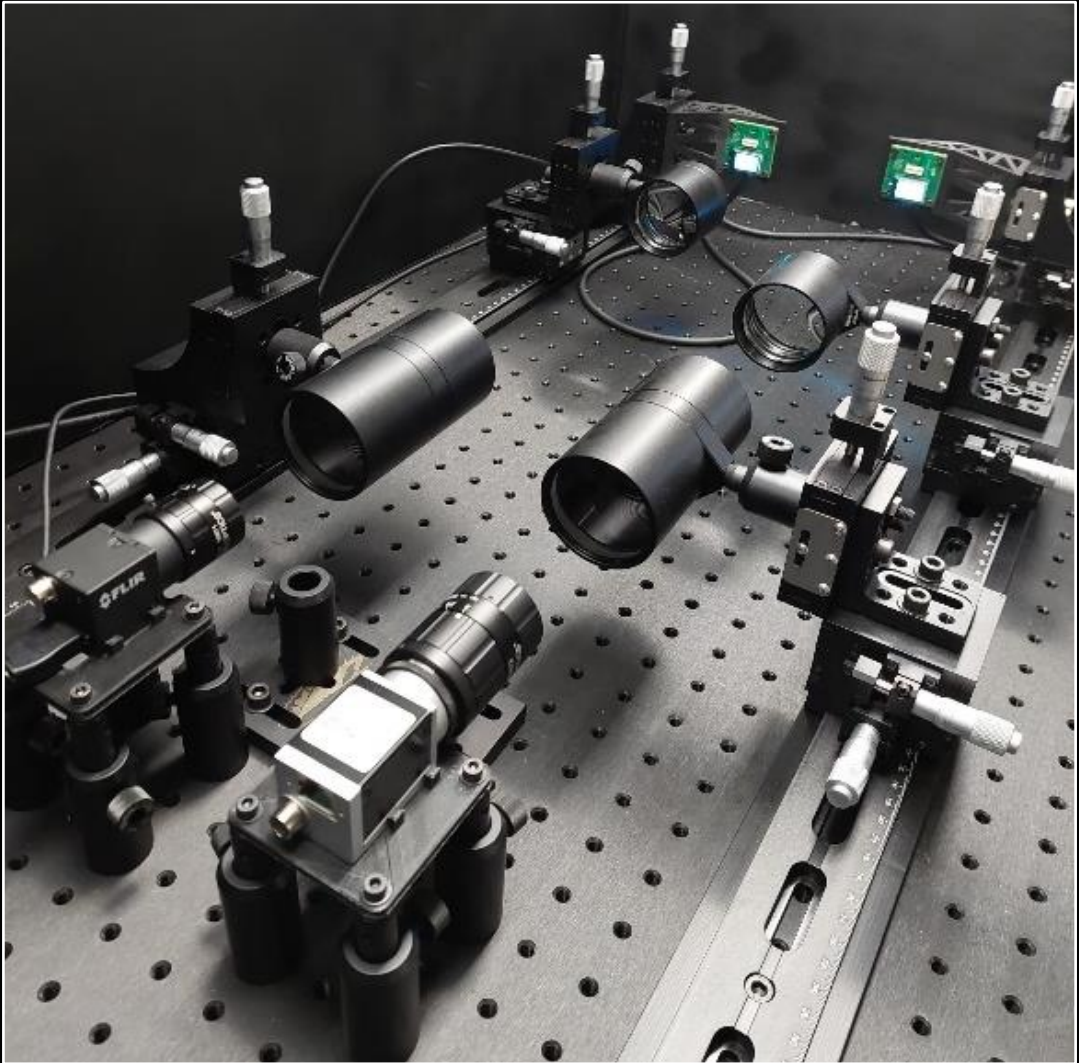
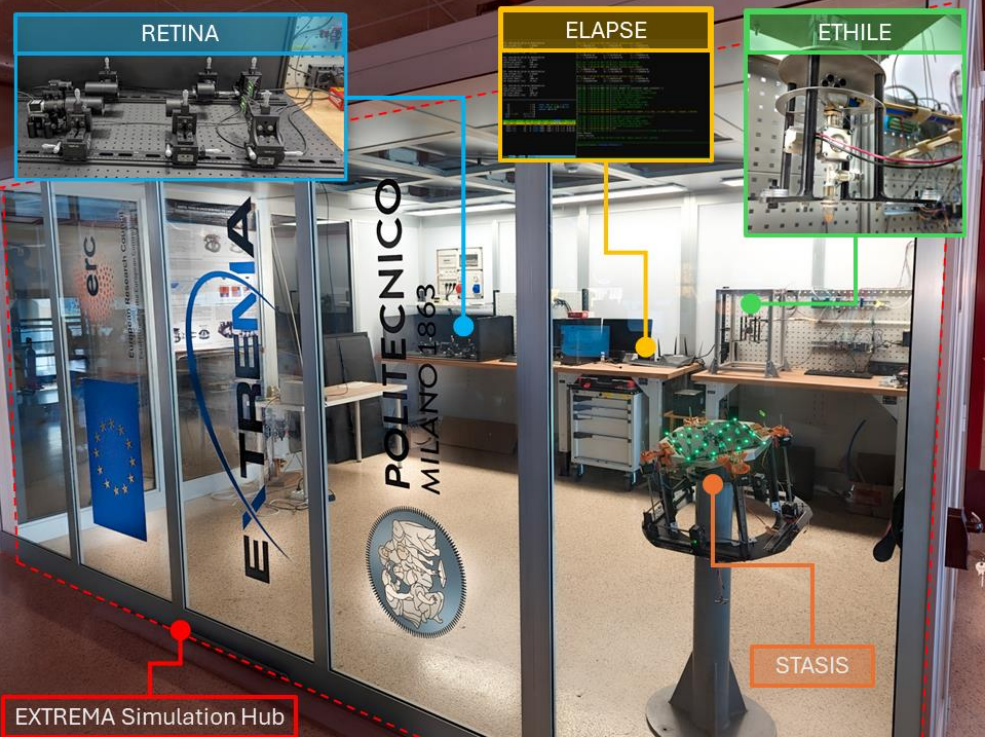
Overview of projects



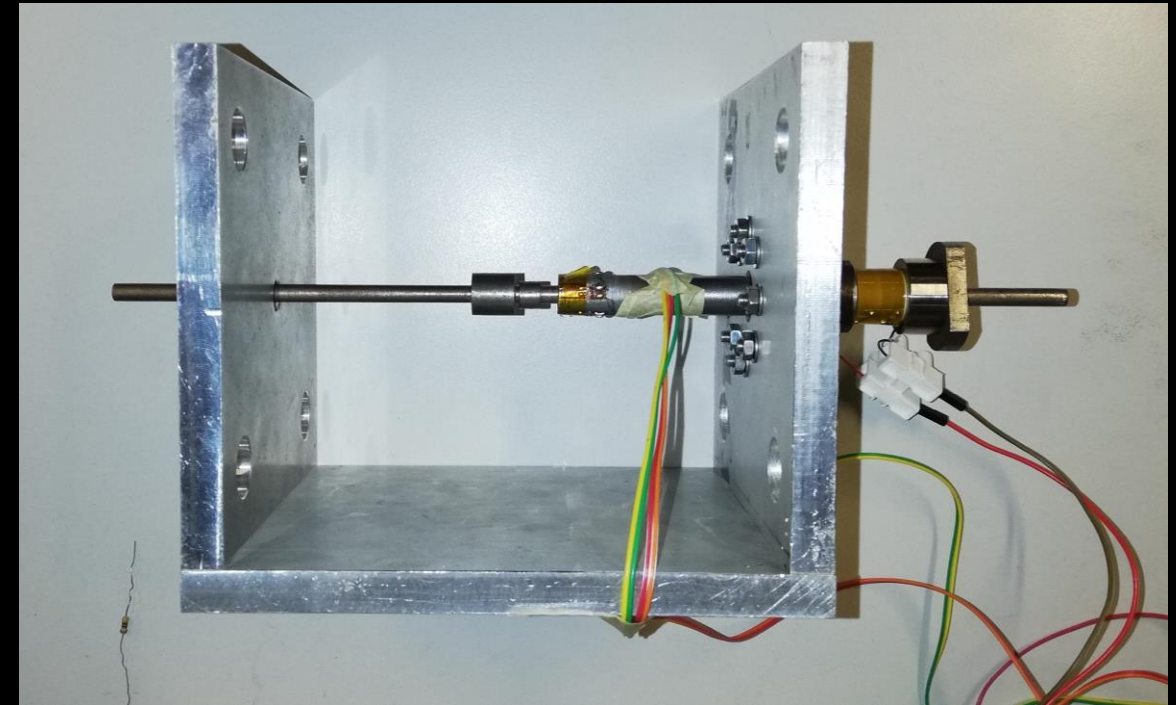
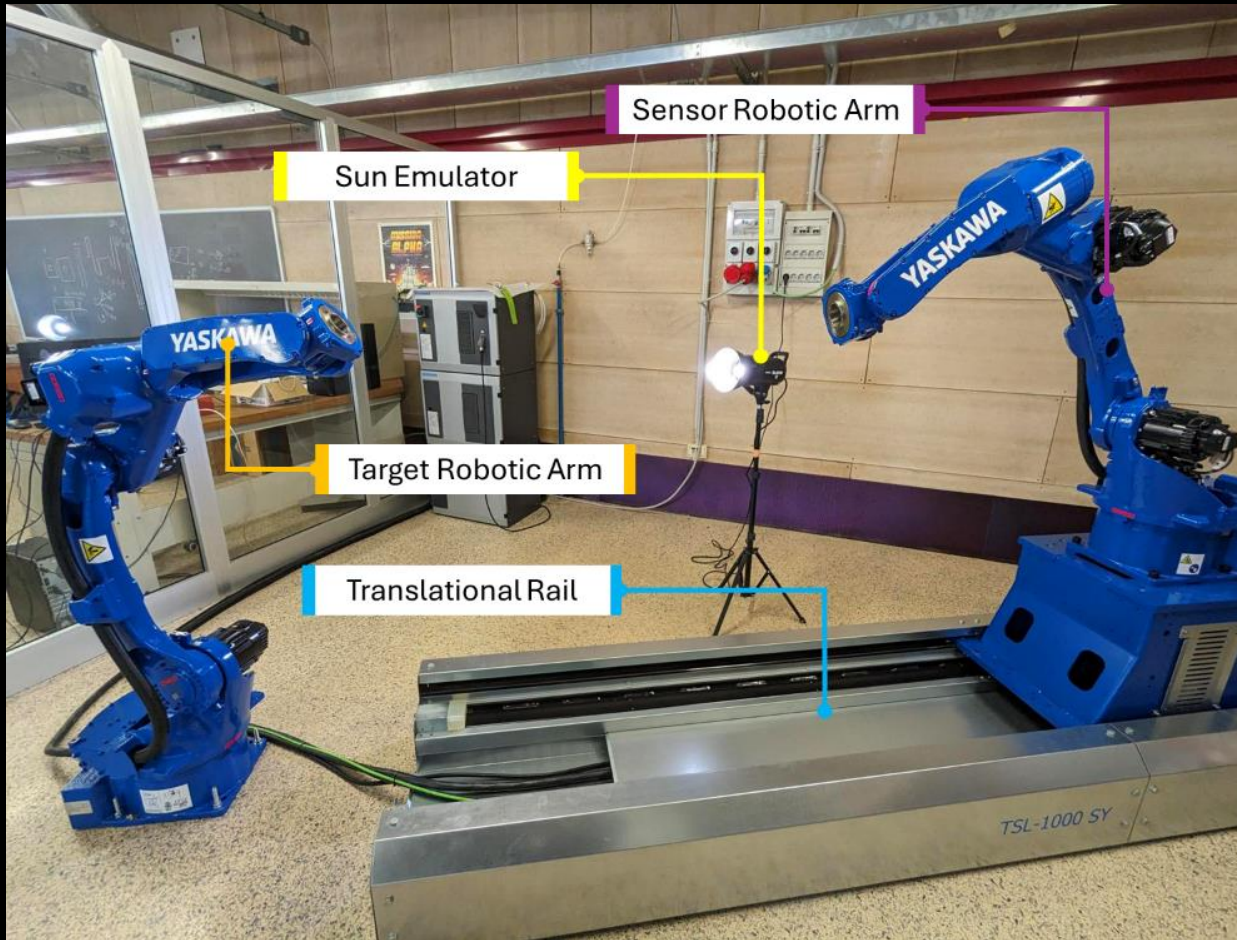
HIL Simulations

Hardware-In-the-Loop facilities

- **TinyV3rse & RETINA**: camera simulation
- **ETHILE**: thruster emulator
- **STASIS**: attitude platform



Facilities & HIL activities



Sample Collection – asteroid drill

Space Economy Observatory – Prof. Franco Bernelli Zazzera

- Joint activity with Dept. of Management, Economics and Industrial Engineering
- Contribution to the specific technical components of the research
- 3 Professors of DAER involved

A couple of examples of contribution to the Observatory

Coverage analysis of IRIDE constellation

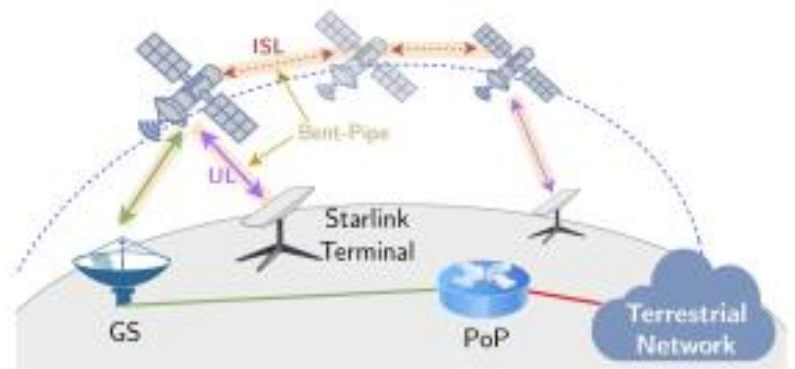
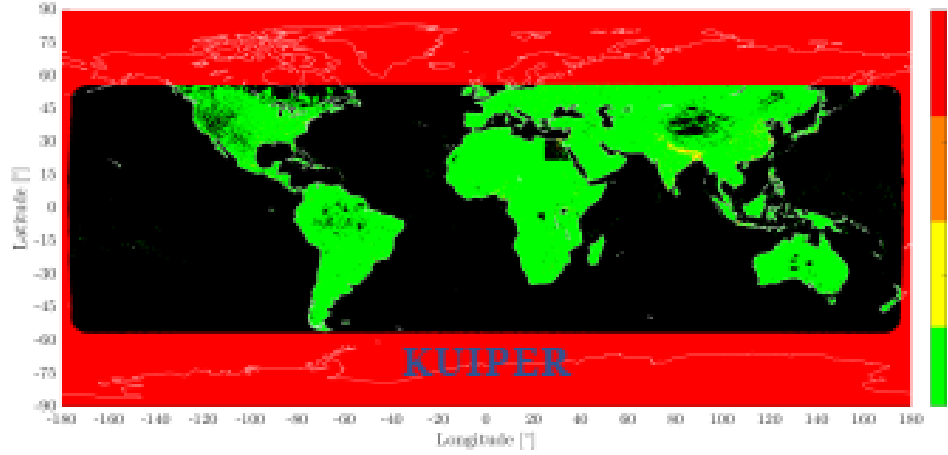
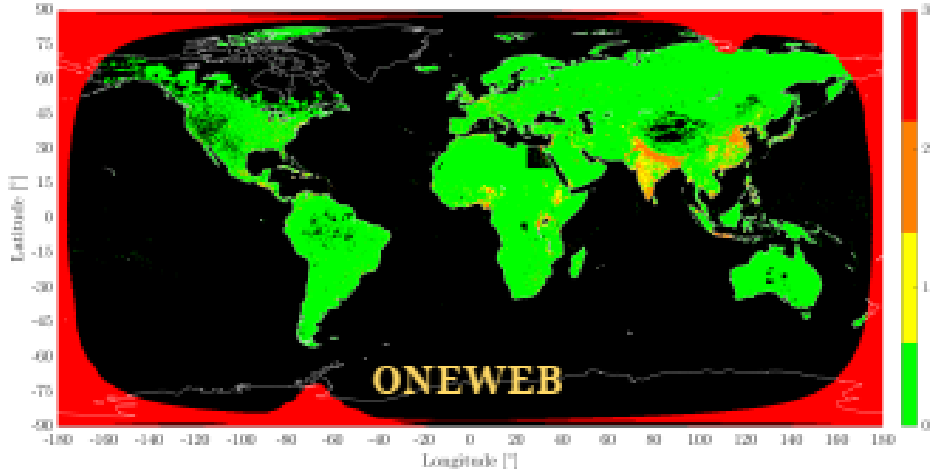
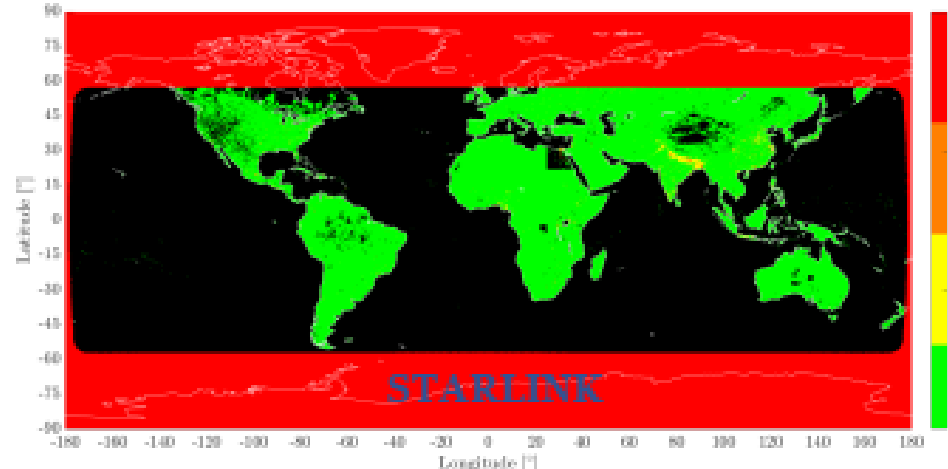
Multi#2 (18 km swath)

Ripetibilità	Milano	Ragusa
Max	156h01min	205h44min
Min	10h56min	12h44min
Average	60h55min	66h38min



Space Economy Observatory – Prof. Franco Bernelli Zazzera

Estimation of the potential of Satellite Internet services





Expertise

MODELING & SIMULATION

System Engineering

BB\PROTOTYPING\V-V

Astrodynamics

- Controlled **trajectory design** in HIFI validated simulators
- Non-keplerian regimes modelling → Cislunar
- Distributed architectures design → constellation, FF
- Proximity maneuvering → landing\IOS

Mission \system Design

- MBSE\CD lifecycle management
- Adaptive multi\single mission planning\scheduling
- In orbit servicing: robotics design and multibody dynamics control synthesis

Artificial intelligence

- Generative AI** for early design stages
- Learning techs** for adaptive control and ops planning

Navigation Guidance and Control in proximity of natural objects\artifacts

- Multi spectral on-board image processing** development and PIL/HIL testing
- RF based** techniques development and PIL/HIL testing
- AI based techniques for adaptive guidance & control** on-board for per fast reconfiguration\pointing – PIL/HIL

Space systems design, prototyping and verification up to flight

- s\ virtual modeling → digital twins
- Component\equipment breadboarding
- Component\systems MIL tests
- Robotics for In Orbit Servicing

Development

- Component\equipment **breadboarding**
- s\ assembly & integration

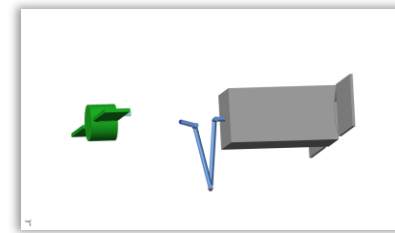
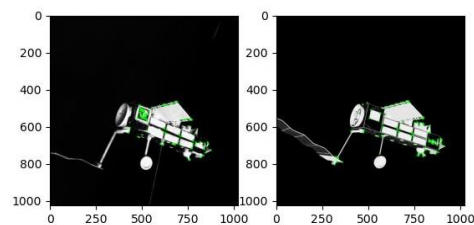
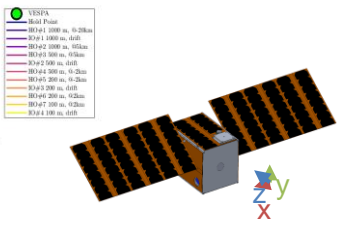
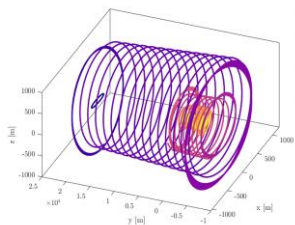
Verification-validation

- Component\systems **PIL\HIL** functional, performance tests
- qualification, acceptance **tests**
- ECSS Environmental tests**

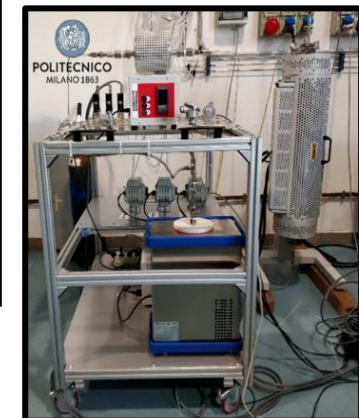
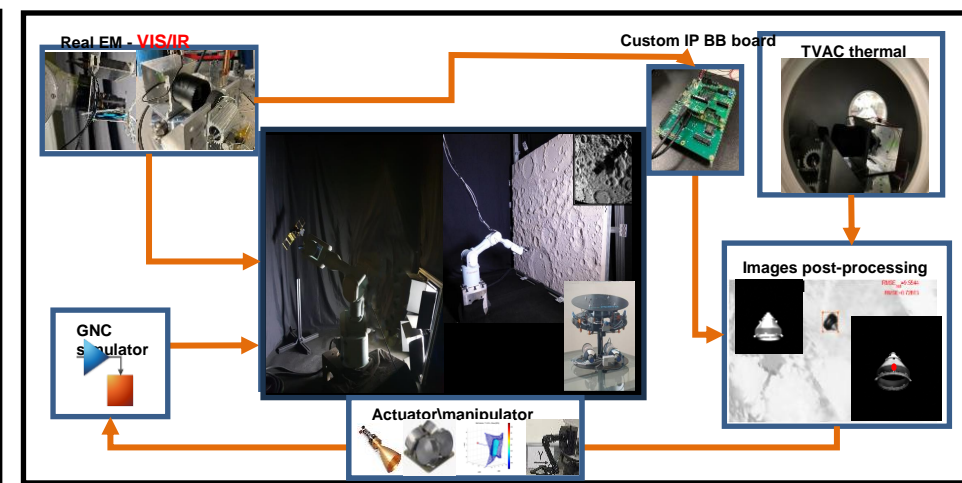
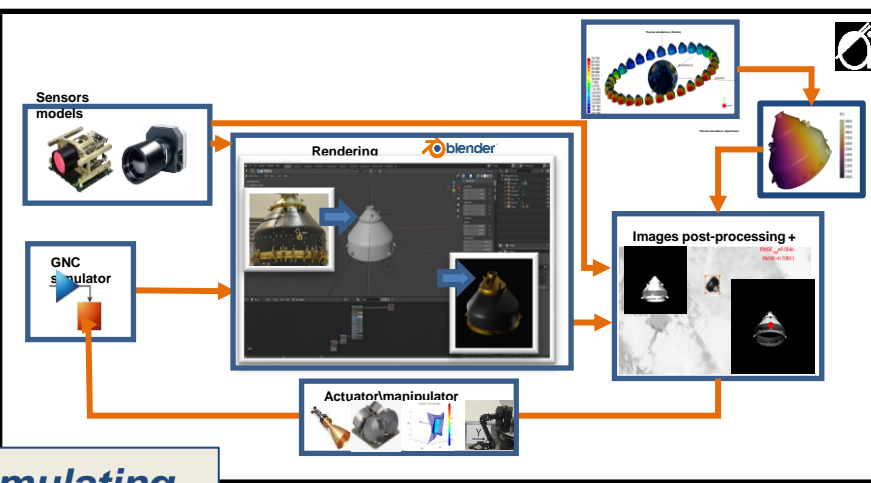


Main PROJECTS

- **HERMES TP\SP** design development and implementation up to operations of a **fleet of 6 smallsats** for multimessenger astrophysics
- **HERMES OPS** design development and implementation of the ground segment for operations of the HERMES fleet of 6 smallsats for multimessenger astrophysics
- **e.INSPECTOR** design and development of a In Orbit Servicing mission for close proximity debris **multispectral inspection and IP based navigation demonstration**
- **VULCAIN** Design and development of a EO **VLEO formation flying** for vulcanoes VIS-IR monitoring and **RF based ISL** demonstration for **autonomous navigation**
- **TASTE** Design and prototyping of a smallsat interplanetary mission with **miniaturized robotics for planetary soil sampling** and surface mobility
- **CHIPS** design of a **high stability, fast repointing attitude** system for smallsat
- **Moonlight_Lunar** Navigation & Communication **constellation design and development**
- **LICIACube** small bodies\smallsat **proximity maneuvering** design, implementation operations and **multibody\multiregime dynamic reconstruction** and modeling
- **AIVIONIC** **AI based image processing** algorithms assessment on **new generation avionic boards-PIL-HIL for landing**
- **A3** **AI based image processing** algorithms for **On Orbit Servicing on new generation boards** low power\high speed
- **ORACLE** Design and prototyping of **payload to fly on the Moon** in 2028 for \water\oxygen extraction



Facilities



Modelling\simulating

Reqs\data management and traceability

ReqID	ReqText	ReqType	ReqStatus	ReqPriority
R001	Power consumption < 10W	Functional	Open	High
R002	Operational life > 1000h	Performance	Open	High
R003	Temperature range -10 to 40C	Environmental	Open	High

Logical tree generation

```

graph TD
    Root[Root] --> A[A]
    Root --> B[B]
    A --> C[C]
    A --> D[D]
    B --> E[E]
    B --> F[F]
    
```

Phase & modes generation

Phase	Mode	Start	End	Priority
Phase 1	Mode 1	00:00	01:00	High
Phase 1	Mode 2	01:00	02:00	High
Phase 2	Mode 1	02:00	03:00	High

Budget

Item	Value	Unit
Item 1	1000	€
Item 2	2000	€
Item 3	3000	€

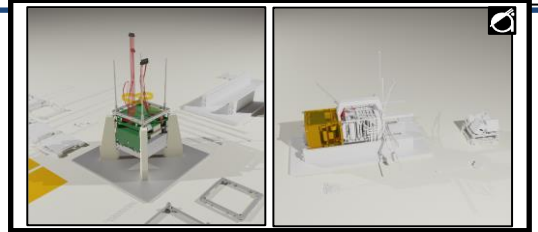
PT generation

PT	Value	Unit
PT 1	1000	h
PT 2	2000	h
PT 3	3000	h

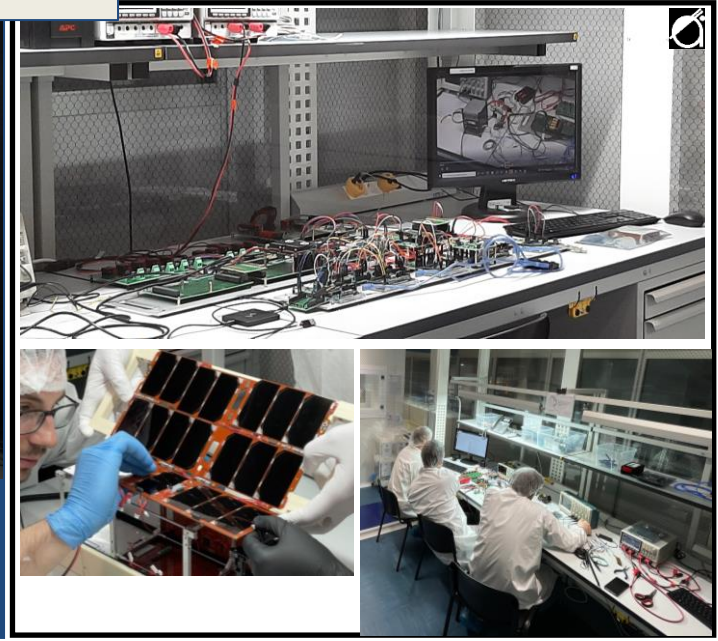
AIV s/s planning generation

```

graph TD
    A[A] --> B[B]
    A --> C[C]
    B --> D[D]
    C --> D[D]
    D --> E[E]
    
```



BB\testing



Collaboration interests

- IP based navigation development
- Mission design development with interest in In Orbit Servicing\distributed architectures (i.e. Const\FF)
- OBSW development and V\V
- IP based facility exploitation availability
- Avionic bench for PIL\HIL test campaign availability
- AI related activities
- System Engineering process modeling\automation → MBSE\DT
- Component\system for planetary exploration modeling development and testing
- ...

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