



**SENER Aeroespacial - Antennas for Space Missions**  
María Angeles González

# Leading innovation through technological differentiation

With the strength of a global leader, SENER Group looks to the future by leveraging innovation and reinventing excellence, adapting it to new demands.

Our passion for technological challenge drives us to systematically consider how to offer a differential value in the realization of projects through new and better technologies.



# SENER

## 2020 Facts and figures

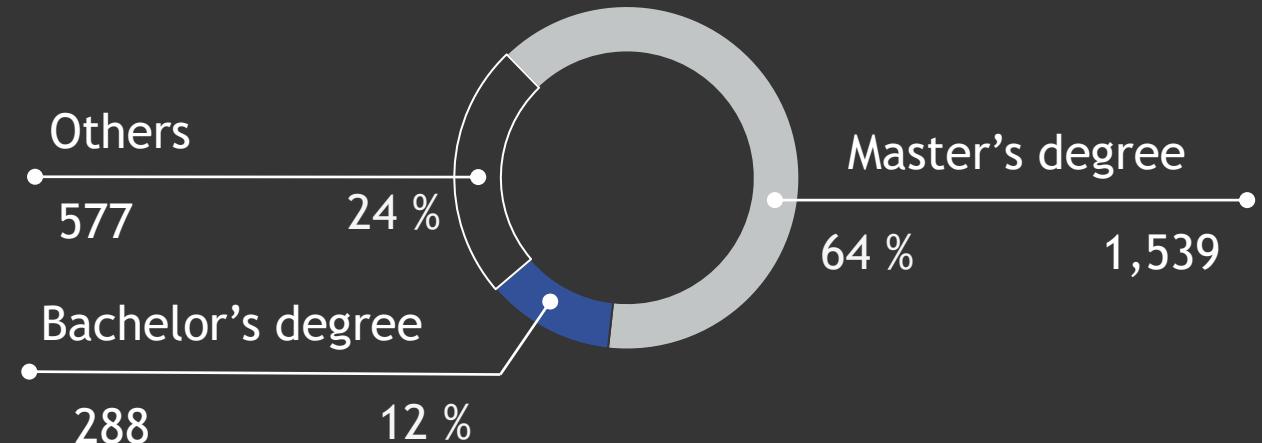
Founded in 1956, SENER ranks as the largest privately owned engineering company in Spain.

### DISTINCTIVE VALUES

- Innovation
- Quality
- Independence

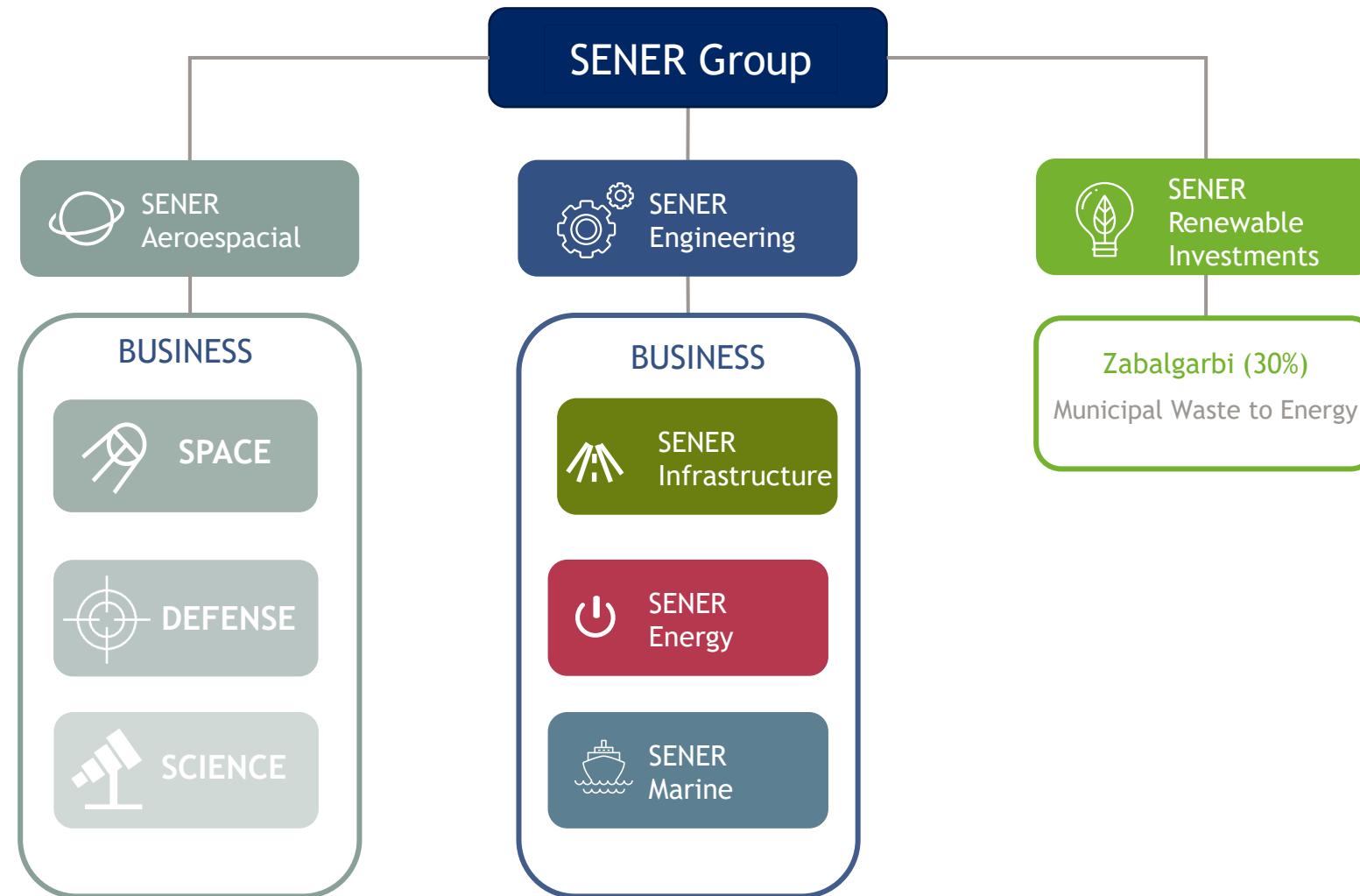


### PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES IN ENGINEERING (2020)



# SENER Group Organization chart

SENER is a privately owned engineering and technology group.





# SENER AEROESPACIAL

Leading innovation.

In SENER we create innovative Aerospace solutions.



SPACE



DEFENSE



SCIENCE



# SENER Aeroespacial

## Resulting figures





SPACE

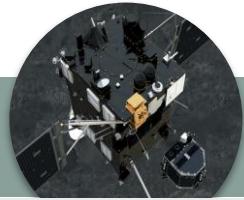


DEFENSE





## Activities per sector



### SPACE

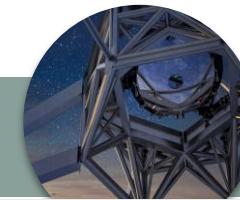
- Mechanical ground support equipment (MGSE)
- Rotary actuators
- Mechanisms for platforms & Payloads



### DEFENSE

#### ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

- Fin control and actuation systems (CAS)
- Stabilization systems



### SCIENCE

- Ground telescopes mechanical systems
- Mechanisms for RIs

### POSITION, NAVIGATION & TIME SYSTEMS (PNT)

- Attitude control
- Guidance, navigation and control
- Test equipments
- Hybrid navigation equipment

- Autonomous Navigation

- Antennae pointing sub-systems
- RF active, passive and antenna products

### RF & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Communications intelligence (COMINT)
- Data Link Systems

- Waveguides and cavities for accelerators and other research institutes



# SENER Aeroespacial

## Offices & locations



Las Arenas-Vizcaya  
7,969 m<sup>2</sup>  
SEM Electromechanical Systems



Tres Cantos-Madrid  
13,659 m<sup>2</sup>  
ASA Avionics & Advanced Systems  
SEM Electromechanical Systems



Arganda del Rey-Madrid  
COM Communications. Antennas  
and RF Passives  
TCOM (SENER RYMSA)



Cerdanyola del Vallès-Barcelona  
5,700 m<sup>2</sup>  
SEM Electromechanical Systems.  
COM Communications. RF Actives



Brussels  
75 m<sup>2</sup>  
Belgium  
EU and NATO Programmes



Warsaw  
457 m<sup>2</sup>  
POL  
SENER Polska



# SENER Aeroespacial

## Space Heritage

### SENER Aeroespacial Space Heritage

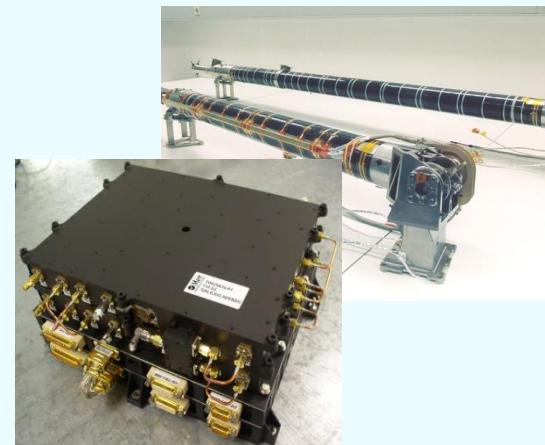
10,000 +  
Hardware  
Units



For 1400+  
Telecom  
Satellites



Present in 100+  
Scientific & EO  
Satellites



Providing  
1200+ Eq. &  
Subsystems

# SENER Aeroespacial

## Customer map



289 sats. 2138 units



35 sats. 75 units



22 sats. 78 units



4 sats. 7 units



3 sats. 13 units



143 sats. 1782 units



78 sats. 2934 units



47 sats. 727 units



37 sats. 74 units



26 launchers 56 units



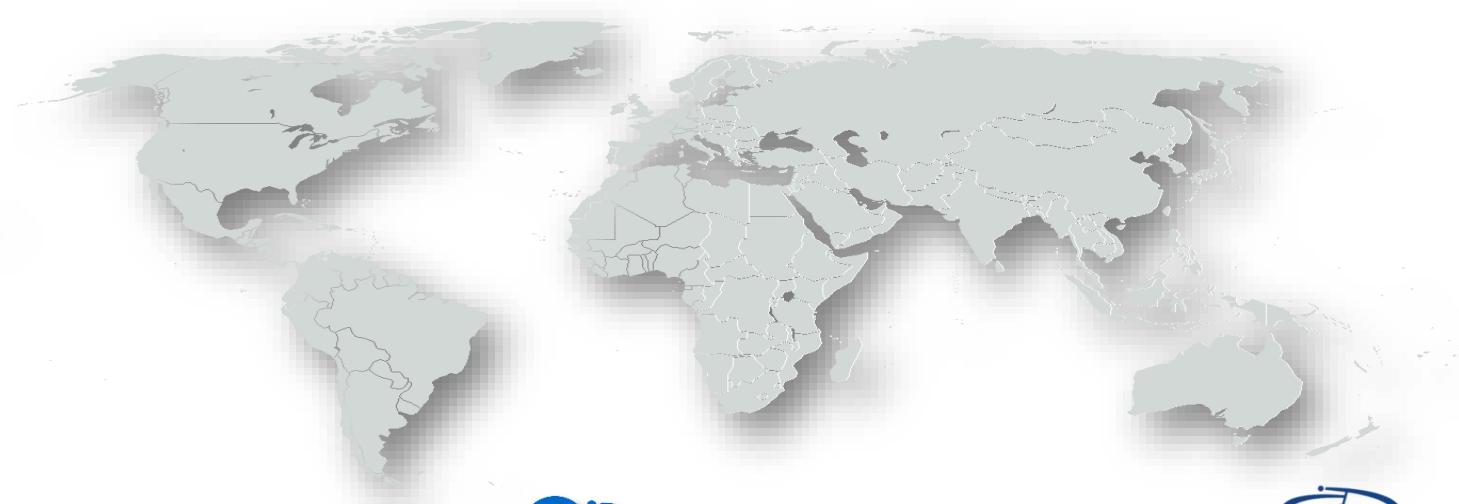
7 sats. 118 units



3 sats. 14 units



R&D developments



3 sats. 13 units



2 launchers 7 units



Ball Aerospace  
& Technologies Corp.

2 sats. 3 units



1 sats. 10 units

Supplier of 7952 units of hardware for 622 satellites and 28 launchers  
6855 units delivered / 5815 units successfully launched



OneWeb Satellites  
704 sats. 2816 units



# SPACE

- Electro-mechanical systems
- Navigation systems
- Communication systems
- Opto-mechanical systems





# SPACE

- Electro-mechanical systems
- Navigation systems
- **Communication systems**
  - [Antennas](#)
  - [Passive equipment](#)
  - [Active equipment](#)
  - [Baseband modulators](#)
  - [Software Defined Radio \(SDR\)](#)
  - [Electromechanical pointing](#)
- Opto-mechanical systems





# What is a satellite?

---

"Repeater" in space or a privileged "observer"



# Antennas for space missions

## Classification

Huge variety of antenna types for space missions (satellites and vehicles)

- Applications:

- Scientific
- Military
- Commercial

- Orbits:

- LEO (200km)
- MEO (1,000km)
- GEO (36,000km)
- Polar orbit and Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO)
- Transfer orbits and geostationary transfer orbit (GTO)
- Lagrange points (L-points)

- Missions

- Telecommunications
- Scientific
- Earth Observation
- Human Exploration
- Navigation

- Purpose

- Telemetry and Telecommand (TTC)
- Telecommunication Services
- RF Instrument

- Gain

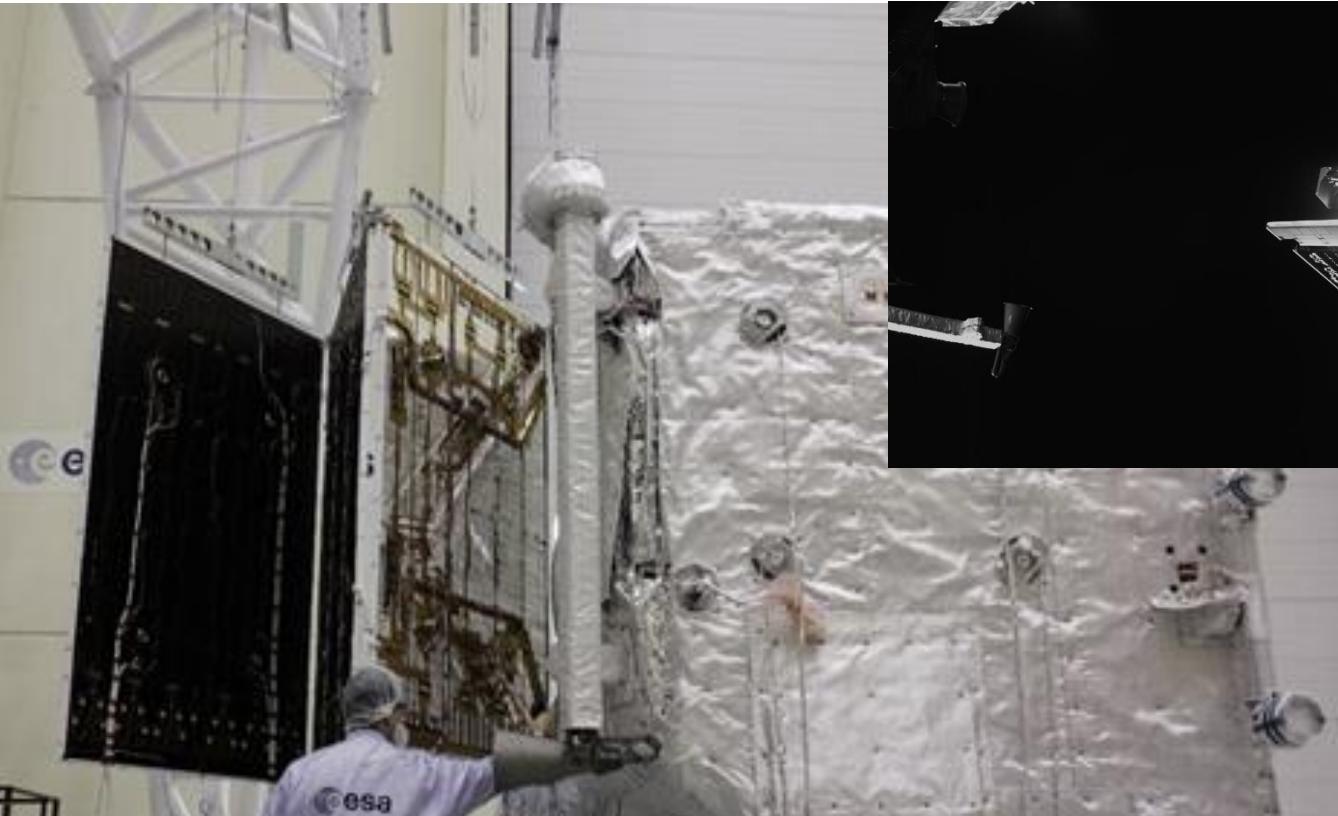
- High Gain
- Medium Gain
- Low Gain
- Shaped Pattern

- Frequency ....



# Scientific missions

## MGAMA & HGA-APA antenna for Bepi Colombo satellite



SENER's responsibilities entail the design, manufacturing, integration, and test of the low-gain antenna (LGA) medium-gain antenna (MGAMA) and high-gain antenna pointing mechanism (HGA-APA) of the mercury planetary orbiter (MPO) communications system.

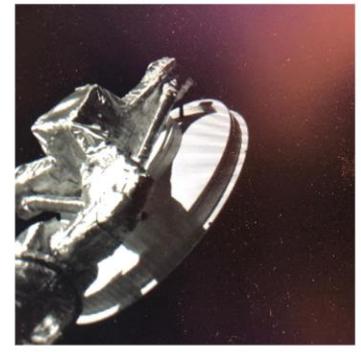
Both antenna and mechanism are crucial to guarantee satellite-Earth communications and also to support the Radio-Science experiment aboard the spacecraft.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtJOQFykV\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtJOQFykV_U)



# Scientific missions

## SOLar Orbiter antenna sub-system

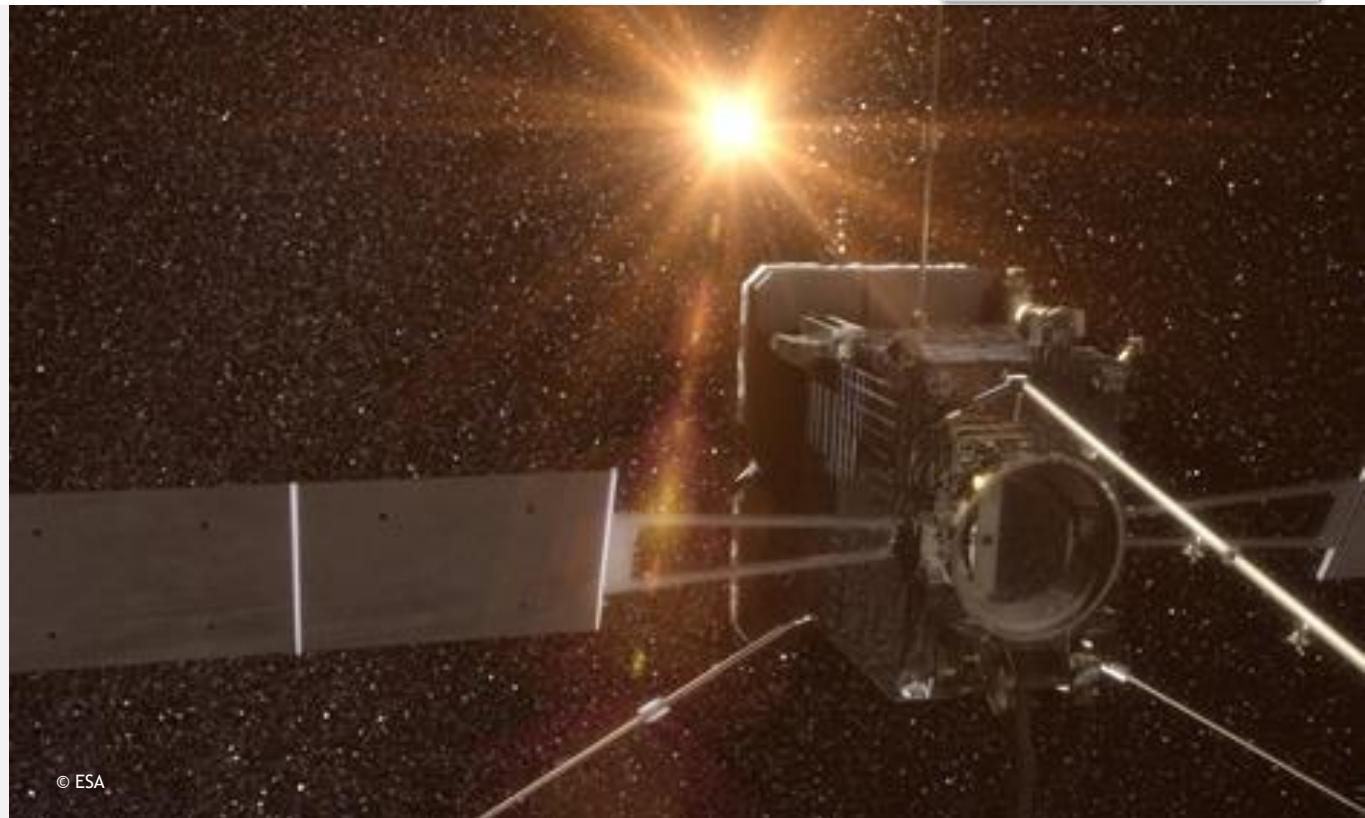


SENER designs, manufactures, integrates, tests, and delivers the complete antenna sub-system of the SOLar Orbiter satellite.

The sub-system is comprised of the following elements:

- High-gain antenna (HGAMA),
- Medium-gain antenna (MGAMA), and
- Low-gain antenna (LGAs).

All capable of operating under extreme thermal conditions due to the nature of the mission.



© ESA

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y1\\_Hq59MeM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y1_Hq59MeM)



# Scientific missions

## SOLar Orbiter antenna sub-system

Complete X-band TT&C antenna S/S

- Titanium based antennas
- Stringent thermal environment with gradients higher than 500 °C. Simulation software to predict RF performance in temp. Silver plating over titanium qualification needed.



LGA



MGAMA



HGAMA

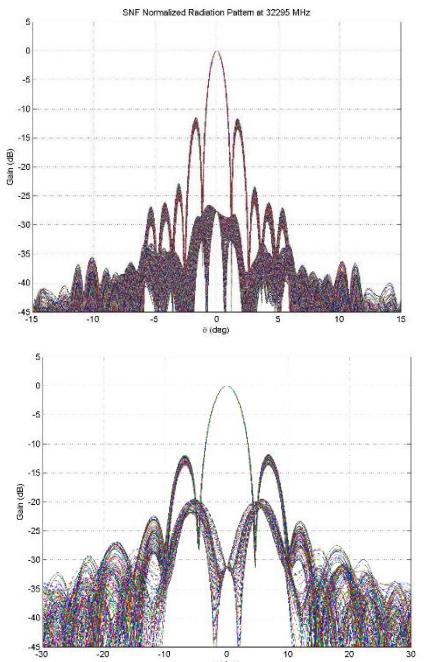
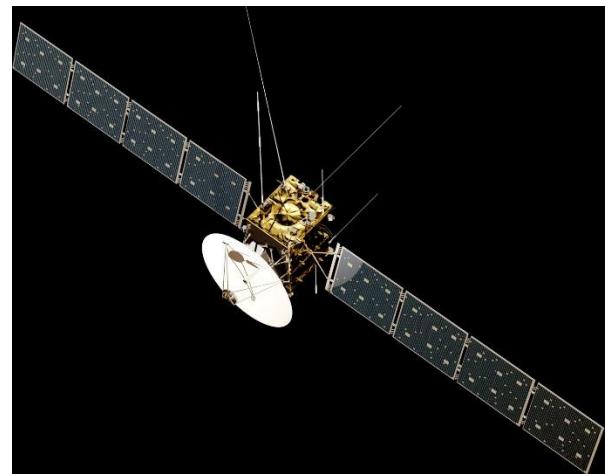
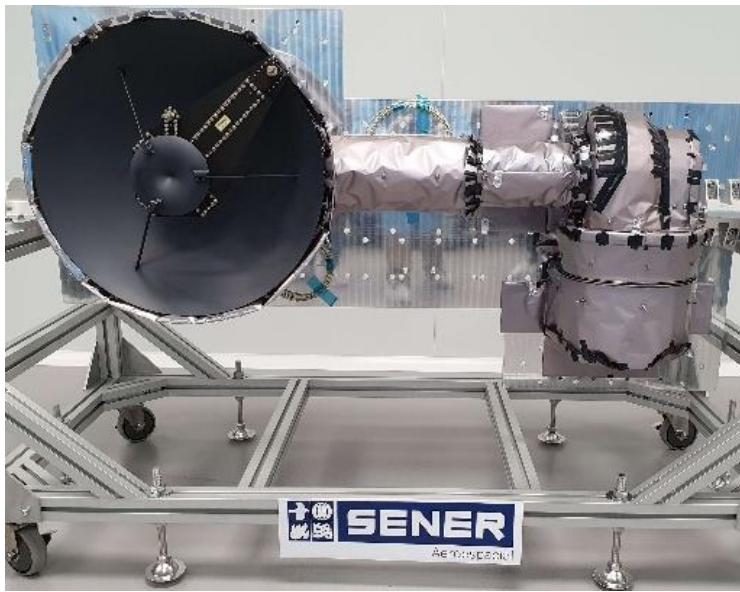
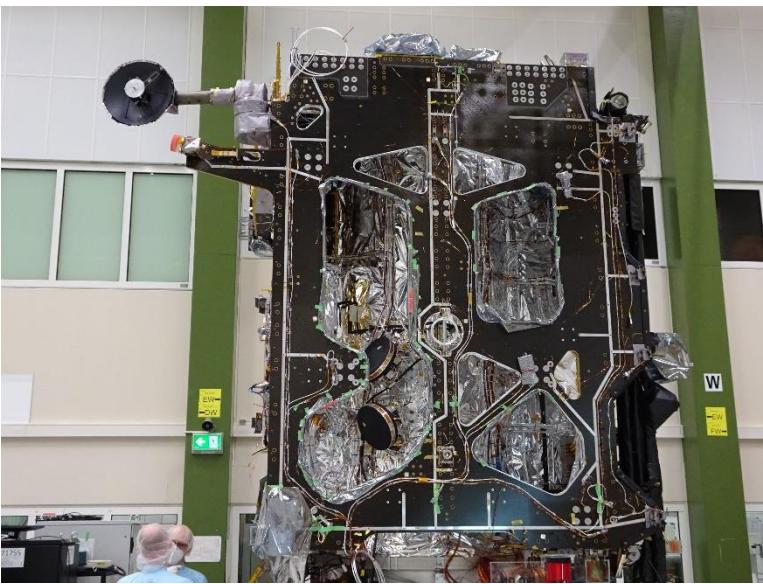




# Scientific Missions

## JUICE X/Ka MGAMA

- **X/Ka Band Medium Gain antenna**
  - Antenna reflector assembly (ARA), dual band feed, two rotary joints, boom, waveguides, hold down and release mechanisms (HDRM), antenna pointing mechanism (APM) and antenna pointing mechanism electronics (APME)
  - Steerable in two axes with pointing enhanced performances
  - Novel and compact X/Ka dual band feed
  - Optimized size/performance ratio
  - Gain 31.1 dBi @ X-band and 43.2 dBi @ Ka-band



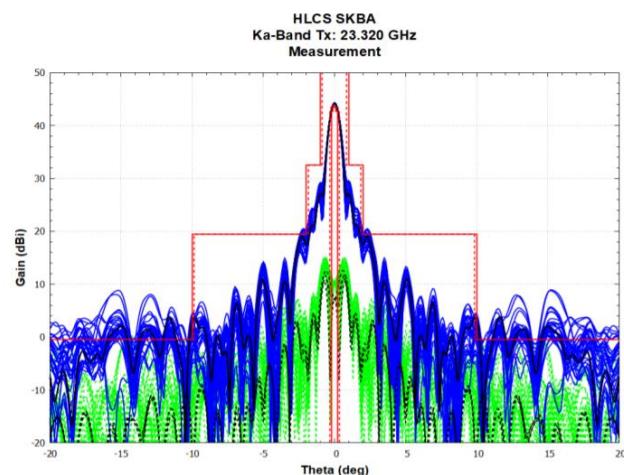
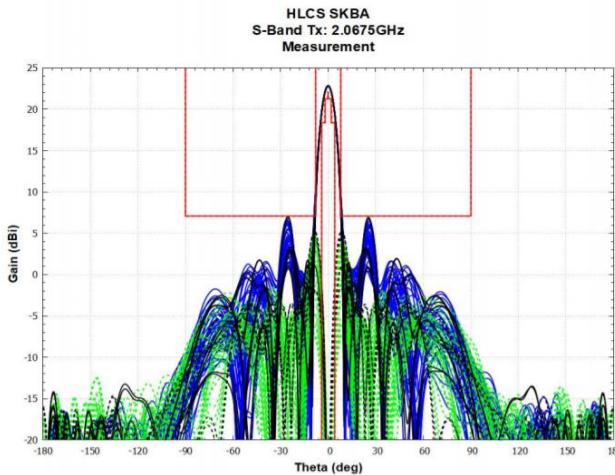


# Human Exploration missions

## HALO - Lunar Deep Space Gateway

### Dual S/K band reflector antenna

- Cassegrain 1250mm aluminum reflector with dual S/K-Band feed.
- Elevation pointing mechanism [0° 180°] and azimuth pointing mechanism [-90° +90°]. S and Ka band signals go through coaxial and waveguide rotary joints, respectively.
- Structural boom: Which provides proper structural support to the antenna and hosts the RF harness formed by WR-34 waveguides and an S-band coaxial cable.
- Deployment actuator. This actuator provides 90° [0° +90°] pointing capability.
- Hold Down Release Mechanisms (HDRM).
- EM model successfully validated.



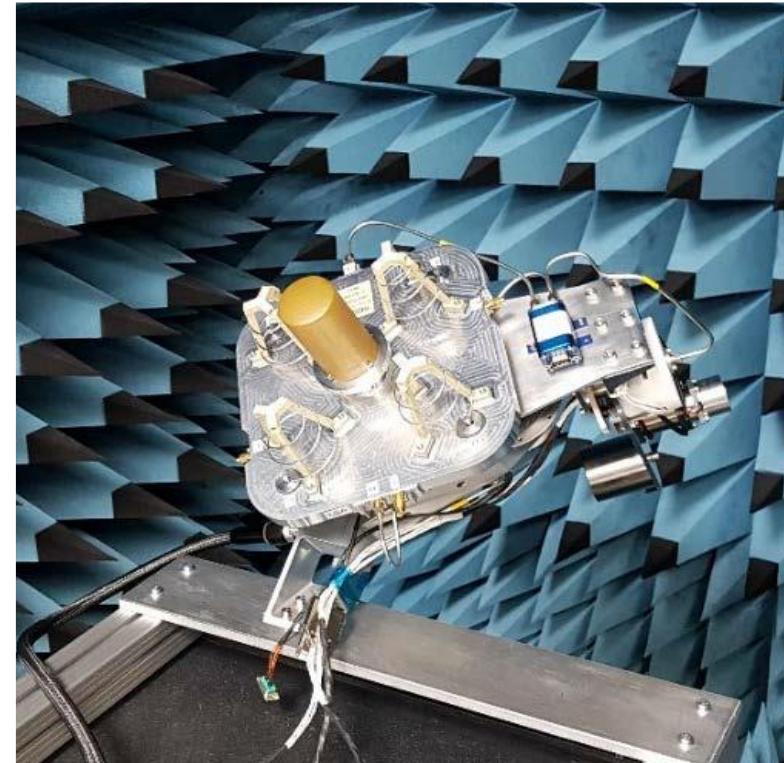
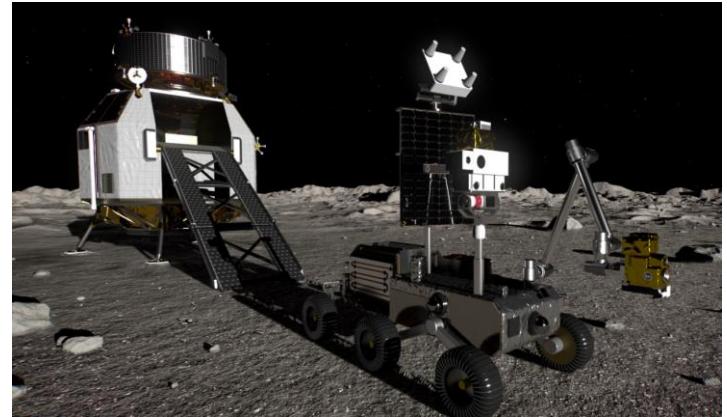


# Human Exploration Missions

## Antennas for Lunar Rovers and Landers

### S-band dual gain (LGA/MGA)

- Antenna for Lunar Ascent/descent module.
- Dual-axis mechanically steerable
- Two different modes of operation:
  - Medium gain beam: Array of monofilar helices,
  - Low gain beam: Quadrifilar helix located at the center of the array.
- Gain selectable through an electromechanical coaxial switch
- Breadboard model has been manufactured





# Antennas

- TT&C
  - Low Gain
  - Medium Gain
  - High Gain
- Payload Data downlink
- Global coverage
- Shaped beam
- Feed Horn assemblies
- Custom designs

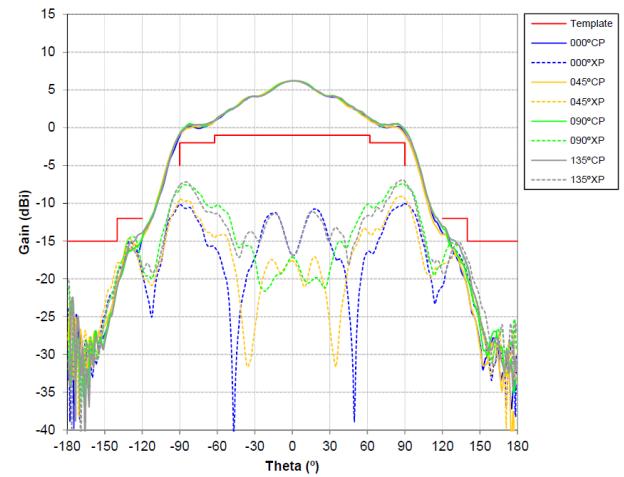
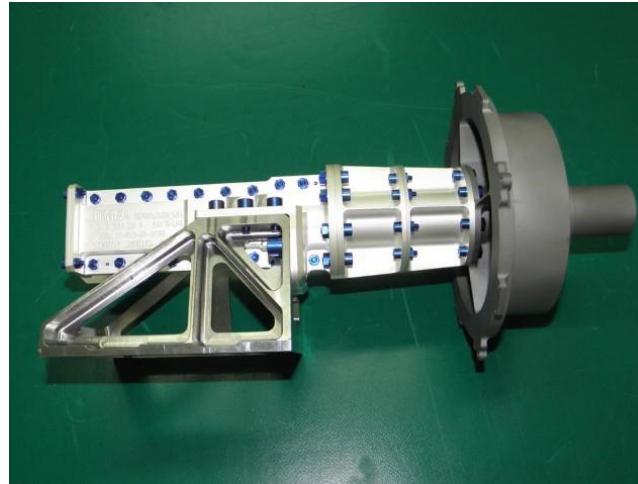




# Antennas

## TT&C Antennas (hemis and wide coverage)

- Very extensive presence in the TTC subsystems of the main platforms of GEO telecom satellites all over the world
- On board Low Earth and Medium Earth Orbit constellation of satellites  
Globalstar-2, O3B, Iridium NEXT, OneWeb
- Used in X Band for TTC subsystems in scientific missions  
Herschel, Planck, Rocsat, BepiColombo, Lisat Pathfinder, Gaia, Exomars, Solar Orbiter
- Customizable in all aspects  
Hemispherical or wide angle pattern; wide band performance; different mechanical attachment options; any type of interfaces; test caps supplied when required



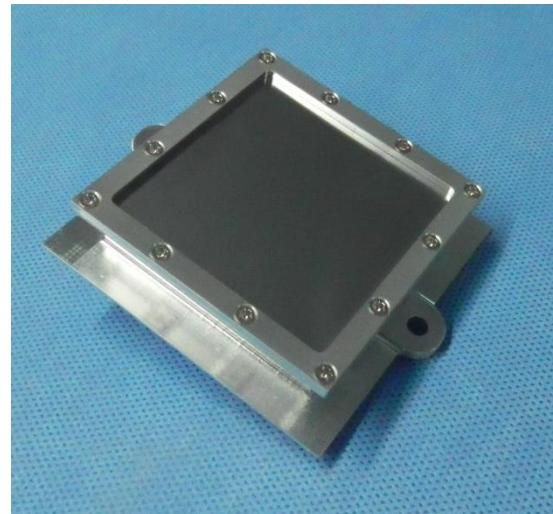
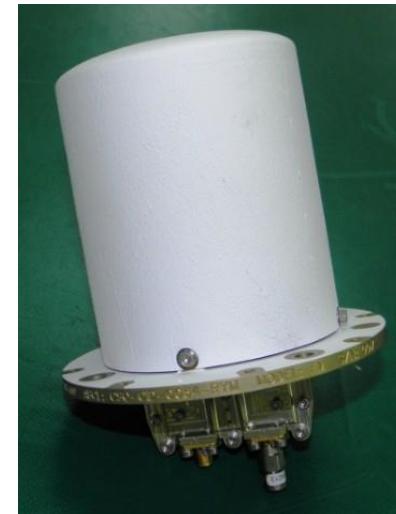
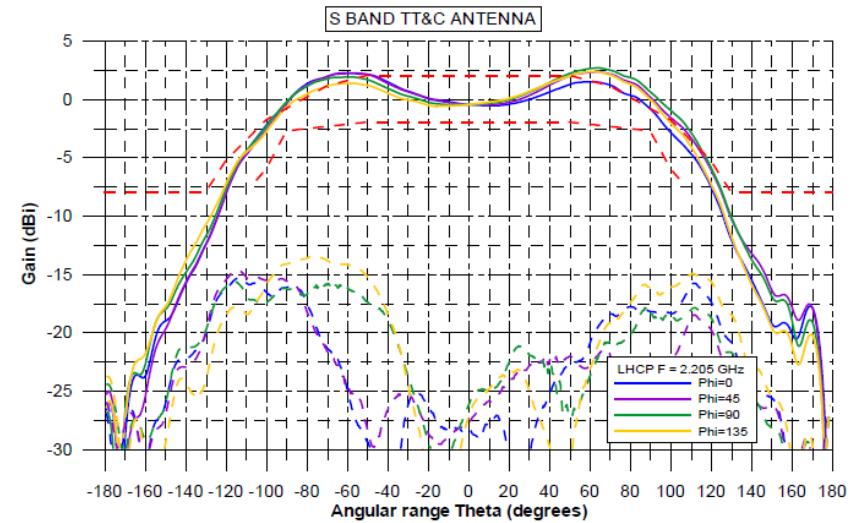


# Antennas

## Helix and patch antennas

- Typically used for GPS applications or TTC subsystems due to its wide angle coverage:

Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellites  
Geostationary Communication Satellites  
ATV Supply Vehicle for International Space Station  
Europe's global navigation satellite system: Galileo (IOV and FOC Phases)  
Exomars Descend Module  
VEGA ESA's series of small launchers  
Intermediate eXperimental Vehicle, IXV



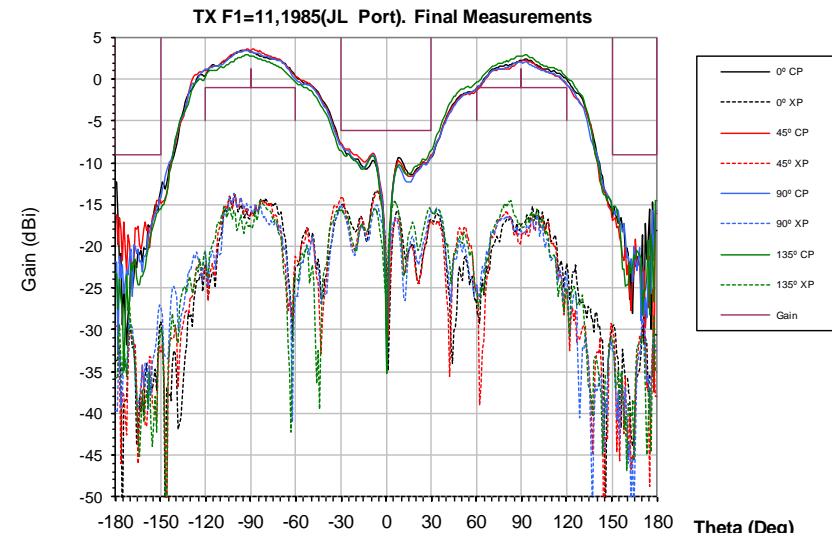
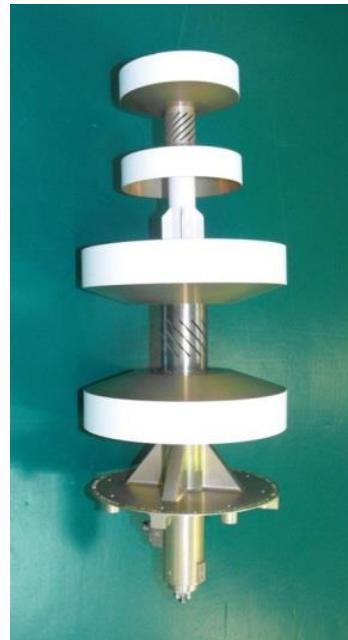


# Antennas

## TT&C Antennas (toroidal)

- Widely present in the TTC subsystems of US satellite platforms
- Different design options are available

Dual band (transmit / receive) operation in a single antenna  
Wide band designs with either circular or linear polarization  
Toroidal or semi-toroidal patterns  
Designs available in all bands from S Band to Ka Band

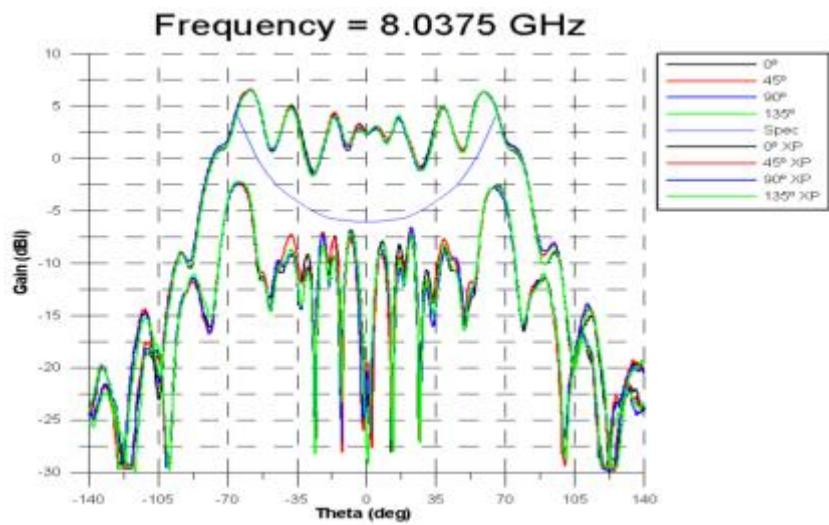
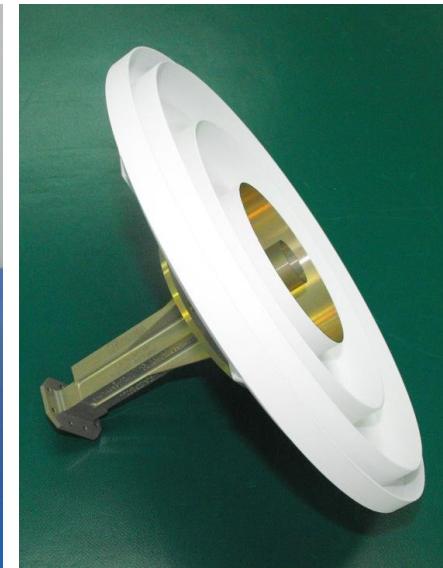
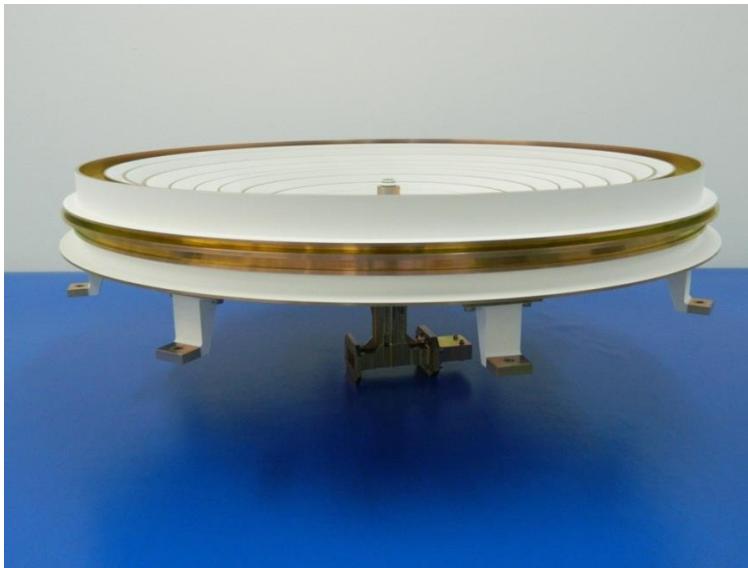




# Antennas

## X Band isoflux antennas

- Used for data downlink from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites in Earth Observation missions
- Isoflux Gain Pattern with gain figure up to 6.75 dBi at 63° from boresight
- Qualified design on board wide amount of Earth Observation missions
- Support structure is customizable for the mission requirement





# Antennas

## Conical horn antennas

- Transmit and Receive Horn Antennas in all bands

L Band, S Band, C Band, X Band, Ku Band, K Band, Ka Band

- Custom Feed Network

Linear / Circular Polarization (OMT, Septum polarizer, ...)

Custom designed filters, diplexers or triplexers

Test Couplers

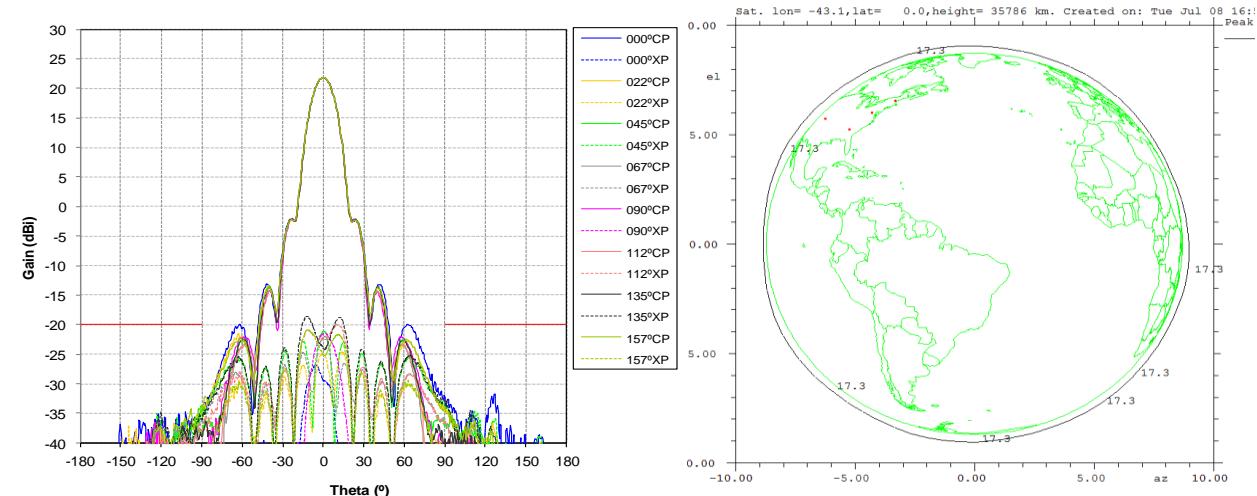
Waveguide/Coaxial Interfaces/Internal waveguide loads

- Mechanical design for mass optimization

Intermediate flange, lateral bracket or vertical support

Implementation of desired pointing angle

CFRP combined with Aluminium Alloy when convenient

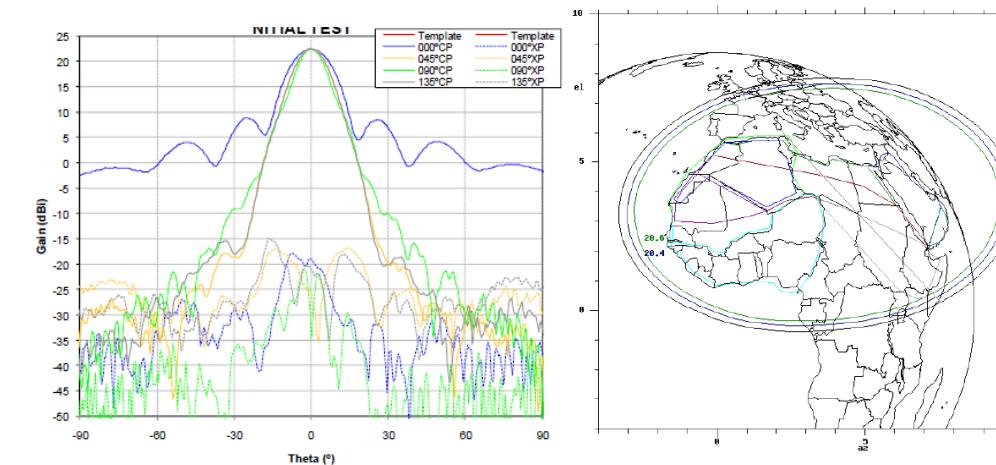
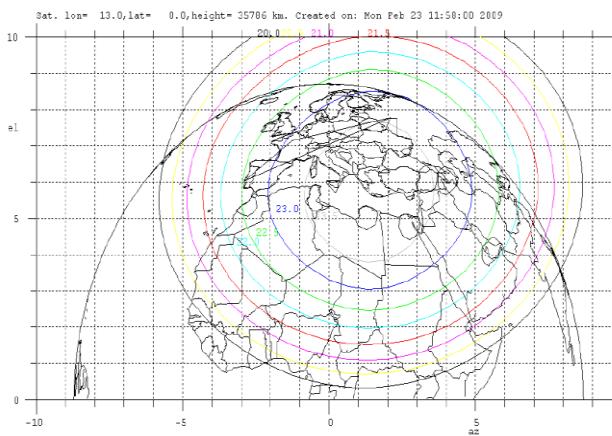
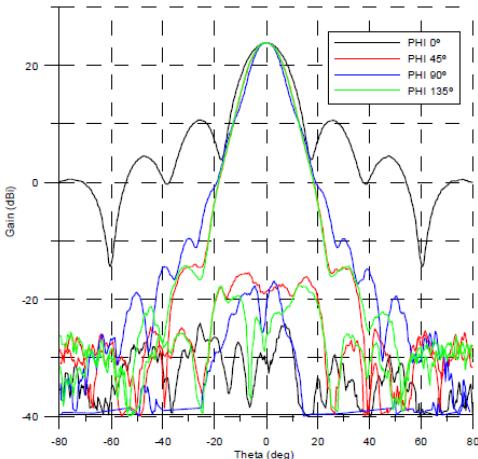




# Antennas

## Pyramidal horn antennas

- Typically used in Ku Band and Ka Band TTC subsystems for On-Station TCR, providing shaped coverage with minimum gain values assured for particular Earth regions
  - The Feed Network may include Diplexers or Triplexers for band discrimination (Transmit, Receive, Beacon) or Ortho-Mode Transducers for polarization discrimination
  - Support Bracket design is specific to the mission requirements and desired pointing angle

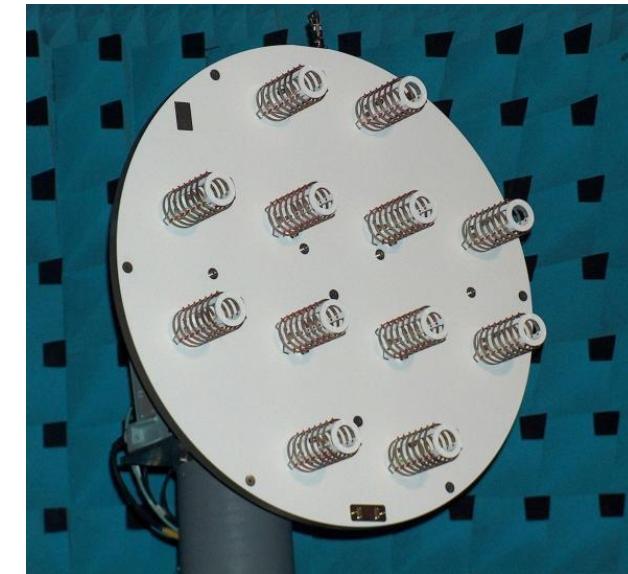
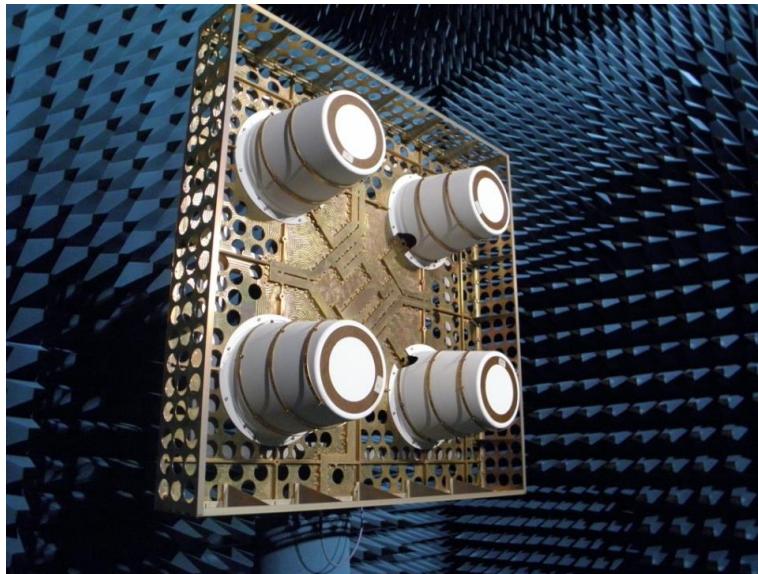




# Antennas

## Array antennas

- Global coverage in low bands (UHF, L and S Bands), where conical horns become too big
- Gain pattern performance can be optimized in response to particular requirements
- Standard Gain performance is  $G > 17 \text{ dBi}$  or  $G > 13 \text{ dBi}$  for EoC  $|\theta| < 9^\circ$
- Low Axial Ratio within EoC ( $\text{AR} < 1 \text{ dB}$ )
- Novel concept of compact C-band feed cluster for multibeam reflectors

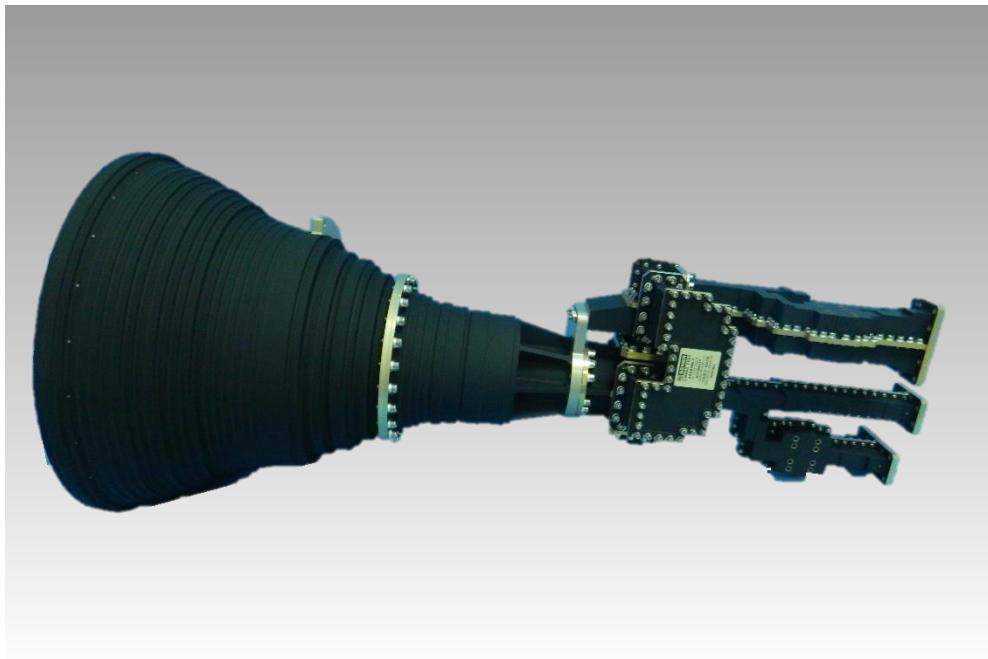
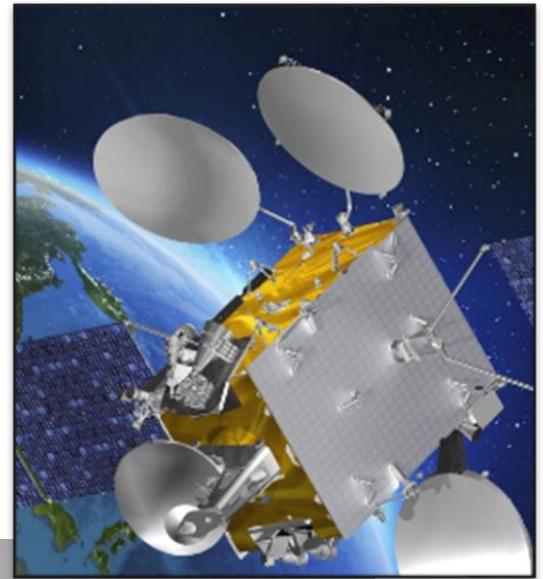




# Antennas

## C band feed horn assemblies

- Lightweight machined corrugated feed horn antenna  
RF internal profile may be furnished by the Customer or optimized to meet specific requirements
- Wide Dual Band Operation Compact 4-Port Linear or Circular Polarization Ortho-mode Transducer
- Thermo-mechanical design of the complete assembly and support brackets designed in response to specific mission requirements



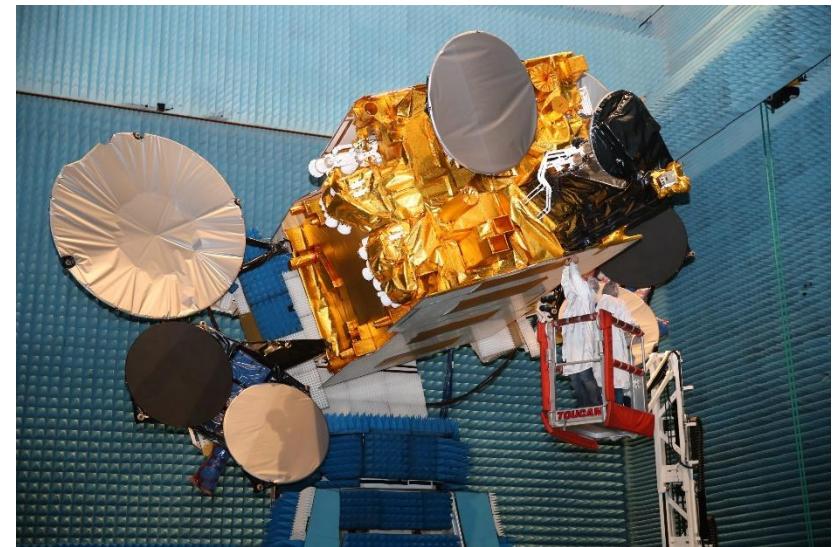


# Antennas

## Ku band feed horn assemblies

- Lightweight machined corrugated feed horn antenna

RF internal profile may be furnished by the Customer or optimized to meet specific requirements
- Very compact wide band asymmetrical LP OMT covering both Ku-Band TX and RX bands (11 to 14.5 GHz)
- Wide band symmetrical LP OMT also available, covering both Ku-Band Fixed Satellite Service (FSS) and Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) TX and RX bands (10.7 to 18.1 GHz)
- Thermo-mechanical design of the complete assembly and support brackets designed in response to specific mission requirements



SES-14





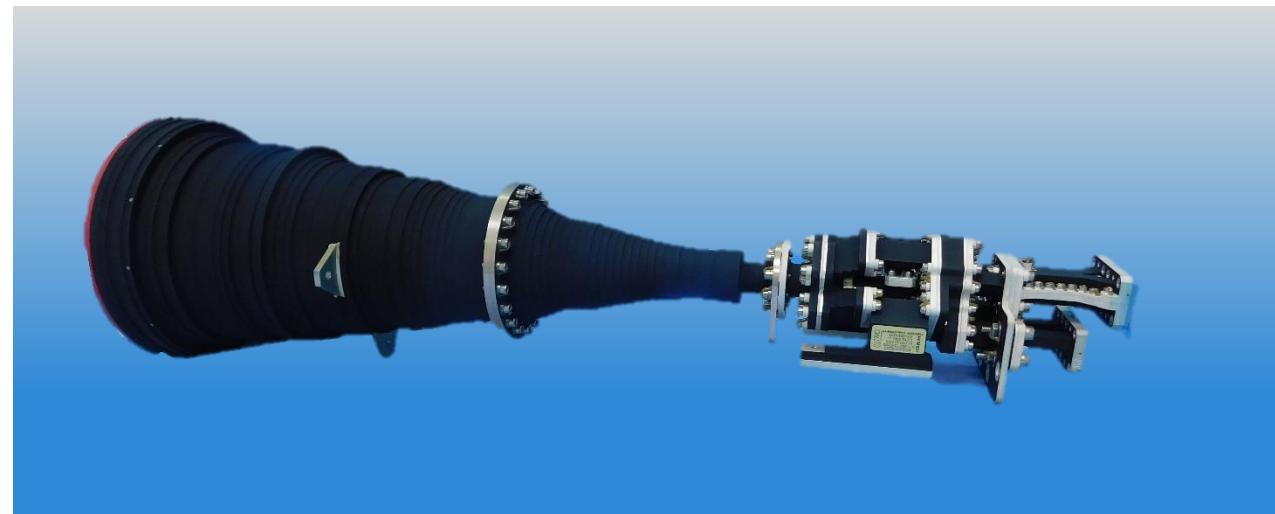
# Antennas

## Ka band feed horn assemblies

- Lightweight machined corrugated feed horn antenna  
RF internal profile may be furnished by the Customer or optimized to meet specific requirements
- Compact 4 Port CP OMT covering Transmit (17.7 to 20.7 GHz) and Receive (27 to 30 GHz) bands specifically designed for gateway beams in multibeam / feed cluster applications.
- Compact 2 Port CP OMT (<90g) covering 1GHz bandwidth suitable for user beams in for next generation satellites in multibeam / feed cluster applications.
- Thermo-mechanical design of the complete assembly and support brackets designed in response to specific mission requirements



HISPASAT 1F





# Antennas

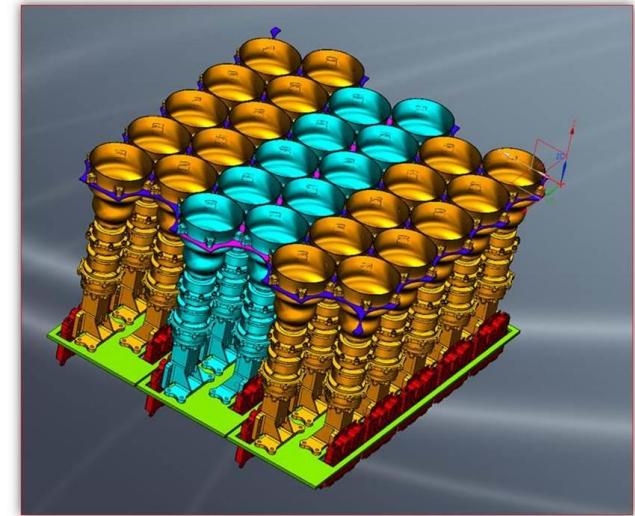
## Direct Radiating Arrays

- Feed horn assemblies for X-band phased arrays, designed for a cluster assembly
- Transmit radiation chains include dual SSPAs
- Receive radiation chains include LNA

Parameter	Value
Frequency band	7.9-8.4 GHz
Gain	>39.5dB
Input power	-49dBm
OIP3	>14.5 dBm
Input Return Loss	15
Output Return Loss	18
Noise figure (25°C)	<1.5dB
Mass	<71 g
Size	81x 67.8 x 18 mm



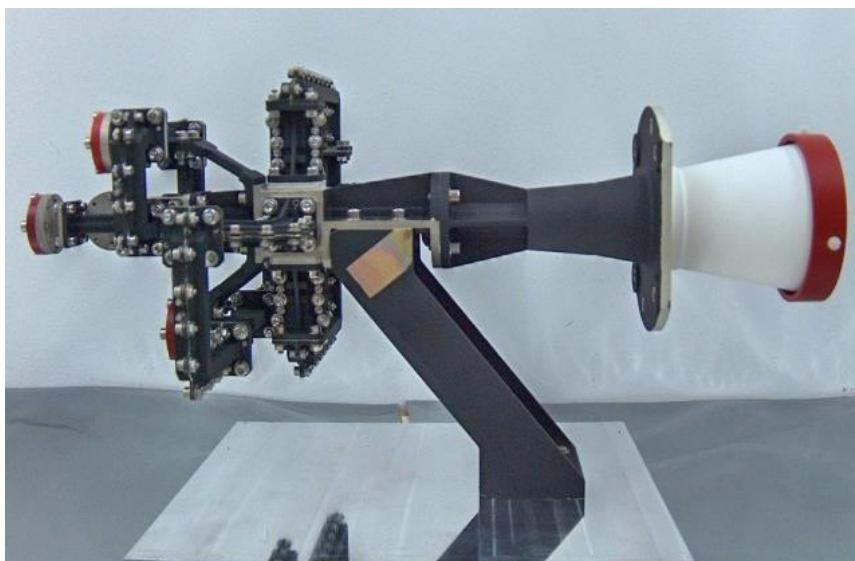
Parameter	Value
Frequency band	7.25-7.75 GHz
Gain	>49dB
Output power	>39.4dBm
PAE	>36% SCS
Output Return Loss	18
Noise figure (25°C)	<14dB
Mass	<111 g
Size	81x 81 x 16 mm





# Antennas

## Specific purpose antennas



- Dual Antenna for Search & Rescue payload on board all satellites in Galileo constellation
- Receive mission through UHF Band Array Antenna with helix unitary elements; transmit mission through L Band Short Back Fire Antenna
- K/Ka Feed Horn for MADRAS payload on board MEGHATROPIQUES Earth Observation mission (CNES / ISRO joint satellite).
- Three LP OMTs operating at 36, 24 & 18 GHz



## Antennas Development

- TRL
- Design and analysis
- Machining
- WG manufacturing
- Assembly and integration
- RF and environmental testing

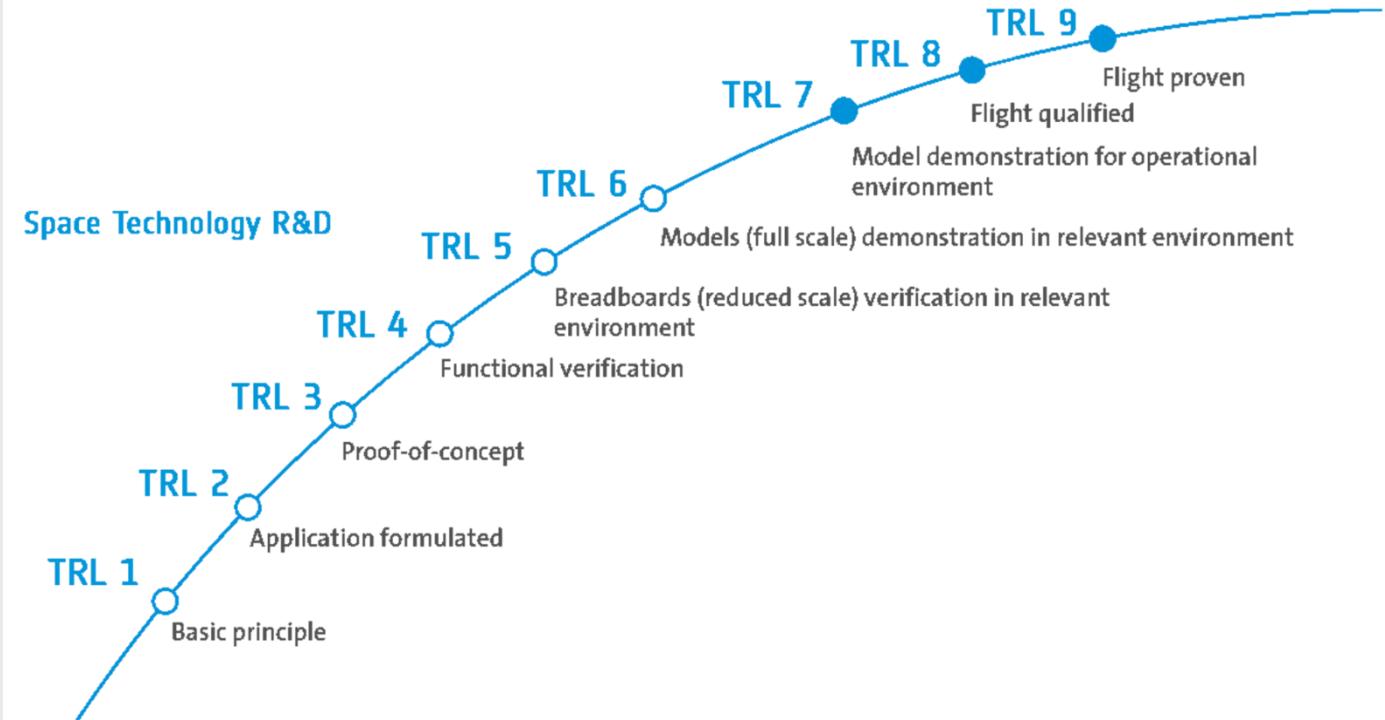




# Space Antennas Development

## Technology Readiness Level (TRL)

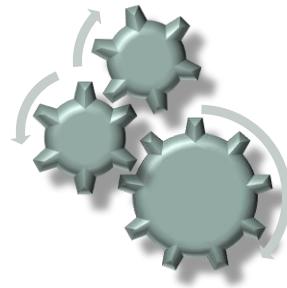
- Scale used to measure the progress or maturity level of a technology.
- The scale ranges from 1 to 9, where TRL 1 is the lowest and TRL 9 is the highest.
- TRL 1: scientific research is beginning and those results are being translated into future research and development,
- TRL 9: the technology has already been proven to work during a flight mission in space.





# Space Antennas Development

## Product flow



### PROPOSAL PHASE

**Engineering Support**  
**Elaboration of Preliminary Designs**  
Response Customer's requirements during proposal phase

### DESIGN

### PRODUCTION

### TEST

### PROGRAM PHASE

#### Wide heritage

Low Non Recurring Effort

#### Custom designs

Optimized assemblies including Passive/Active equipment and Antennas

Specialty in power handling and custom MMIC design

#### Design-to-cost approach

Highly integrated supply chain

#### Fluid communication with Customer:

Design shaped to requirements

Mass production capacity

Full control of schedule thanks to in-house machine shop, MHIC production capabilities, surface treatment and test facilities



# Space Antennas Development

## Design and analysis

- Engineering capabilities in all areas  
RF, Electronics, Radiation, Software, Thermal, Mechanical, Product Assurance, Purchasing, CAD, Management, Testing, Commercial...
- Solid experience in Power Handling and custom MMIC design
- Advanced software tools (including commercial applications and proprietary SW)  
RF & Electronics: ADS, CHAMP, CST, FEST3D, GRASP, HFSS, MICIAN, MOMENTUM, SPARK3D, etc.  
Thermo-Mechanical: I-deas, FEMAP, NX NASTRAN, TMG  
CAD: SIEMENS NX exportable to IGES, STEP, Solid-Edge, CATIA, etc.



RF DESIGN & ANALYSIS	MECHANICAL DESIGN & ANALYSIS	THERMAL DESIGN & ANALYSIS	CAD / CAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RF Team organized by product type for better knowledge-sharing and R&amp;D</li><li>• Custom MMIC design capabilities</li><li>• Dedicated expert group for High Power Handling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modal analysis</li><li>• Strength design: quasi-static, sine, random and shock</li><li>• Fatigue analysis</li><li>• Condensed mechanical models</li><li>• Thermo-elastic analysis</li><li>• Venting analysis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed and reduced FEMs</li><li>• Steady state (on-orbit) and transient cases (on-orbit &amp; launch): temperature maps and heat fluxes</li><li>• Thermo-elastic models</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CAD Models directly accessible from CAM Office</li><li>• CAD Office with wide experience within the Company owning working experience in CAM and machining</li></ul>



# Space Antennas Development

## Machining & surface treatment

- Machine workshop for high precision & mass production machining
  - 11 CNCs (3- & 5-axis), 2 Wire & 3 Mould EDM Centers, 3 Turning Lathes, drilling, cutting, sanding machines...
- Automatic line of galvanic baths:
  - Including ESA-qualified standards for high conductivity plating applied by electro-chemical or chemical deposition.
- Space qualified black & white painting facilities





# Space Antennas Development

## Assembly and integration

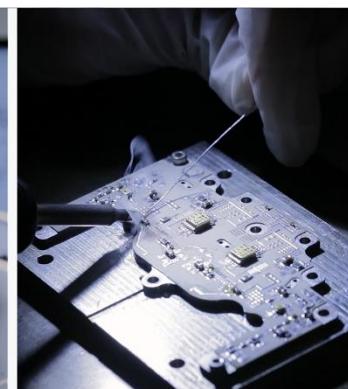
- Clean areas for assembly and integration

600 m<sup>2</sup> (6,400 ft<sup>2</sup>) Class 100.000 for Antennas & Passive Units

500 m<sup>2</sup> (5,300 ft<sup>2</sup>) Class 100.000 ESD-protected for Active Equipment & Subsystems

Specific room enclosed for MHIC (100 m<sup>2</sup> Class 10.000)

Each of the above includes one Class 100 laminar flow hood



- Semiautomatic assembly of STM components

From CAD to PCB soldering paste dispensing for active equipment

Ovens for vapor phase soldering, curing and bake-out

PCB cleaning machine and contaminometer

- Manual soldering benches

ESA qualified instructors and technicians for Assembly, Rework and Inspection



# Space Antennas Development

## Electrical and environmental testing

- RF performance, Antenna Pattern and Power testing

- Microwave test laboratory for measurement up to 70 GHz

- Two (2) Anechoic chambers, One (1) Semi-anechoic chamber

- Two (2) EMC Chambers + Conducted EMC testing facilities

- Power test benches from L to Ka Band for CW power handling, corona, multipaction and/or PIM

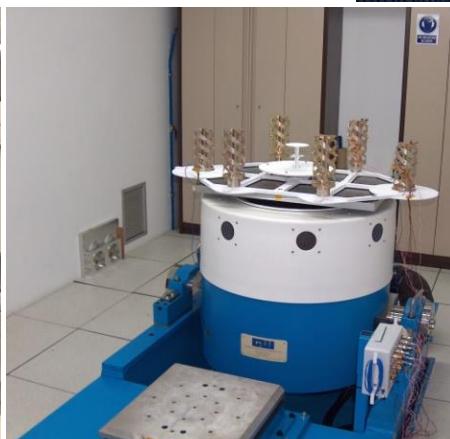
- Electron seeding source for multipaction tests

- Environmental testing

- Vibration test shaker

- Four (4) Thermal vacuum chambers

- Six (6) Climatic chambers for thermal cycling, burn-in and life testing



# THANK YOU

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