

# Space Passive Components: News, Activities and Trends

Dr. Denis Lacombe & Dr. Léo Farhat



QUALIFICATION

TRENDS

NEW SPACE

A space-themed background featuring a dark starry sky. In the upper left, a portion of a satellite with solar panels is visible. In the lower center, a small, cratered planet or moon is shown. On the right side, a large, curved portion of a planet with swirling cloud patterns is visible.

# NEW SPACE

NEW ERA

COTS

# Space Passive Components Days

3<sup>rd</sup> SPCD edition

## Space Passive components: Activities, News and Trends

**Dr. Denis Lacombe & Dr. Léo Farhat**  
Passive Component Engineers

ESA/ESTEC – 10/10/2018

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European Space Agency

# New Commercial Era



## New era in the space market



! We are living in **an important milestone era** in the space industry !  
For the first time, private actors are taking leading role in for shaping space industry community.

The first step is launchers, either in US or in Europe, launchers will be designed and manufactured by independent private companies.



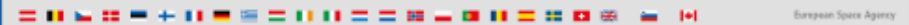
European Space Agency

## New era in the space market



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The second one is the arrival of new private actors, profit-oriented, that would like to challenge the current space market and want to drastically reduce the cost of satellites for mega-constellation.



European Space Agency



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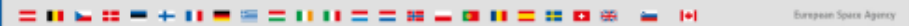
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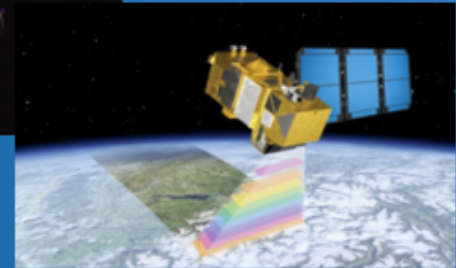
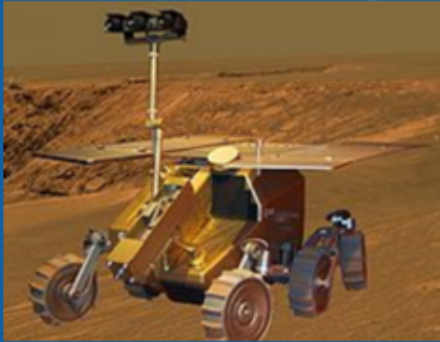
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European Space Agency

Telecommunication ecosystem is evolving...

# New Commercial Era



The space market is opening up for new commercial era  
called...

# COTS



WHAT is a  
commercial  
part?

WHEN shall  
we use them  
in space?

WHERE are  
they used  
today ?

WHY we use  
commercial  
parts?

# What is a commercial part?

How is defined a commercial part in EEE Parts Assurance space standards:

## NASA-STD-8739.10

A classification for an assembly, part, or design for which the item manufacturer or vendor establishes performance, configuration and reliability, including design, materials, processes, and testing pursuant to market forces rather than by enforceable compliance to a government or industry standard.

## ESA ECSS-Q-ST-60C

Parts neither designed, nor manufactured with reference to military or space standards defined in this document.



DataSheet



Standard



# What is a commercial part?

Each project specify which class shall be used:

## ESA ECSS-Q-ST-60C

Class	Summary
<b>1</b>	Highest assurance and lowest risk
<b>2</b>	High assurance and low risk
<b>3</b>	Low assurance and High risk

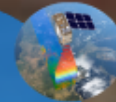
## ESA ECSS-Q-ST-60-13

Commercial electrical, electronic and electromechanical (EEE) components standard:

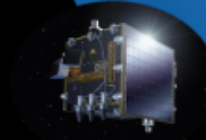
Standard covering active components only and it is not applicable to passive components **YET!**

**WHEN shall we use them  
in space?**

**Class 1&2**



**Class 3**



# CLASS 1&2 Missions

No available Qualified Parts (QPL) for the required performance.

Greatest amount of evaluation, traceability, testing and procurement is provided.  
But it is expensive then rarely used for commercial parts.

Up-screening of commercial parts is mandatory.



# CLASS 3 Missions

Low cost budget



Component Type	Quality Level	Total Cost per Board [EUR]
PCB	ESCC	152
Integrated Circuits	QML-V	1 914
MOSFETs	JANS	872
Bipolar Transistors	ESCC Level B	1 028
Diodes	JANS	1 784
Capacitors	ESCC Level C + MIL FR R/S	725
Resistors	MIL FR R/S + standard	206
EUR		6 678

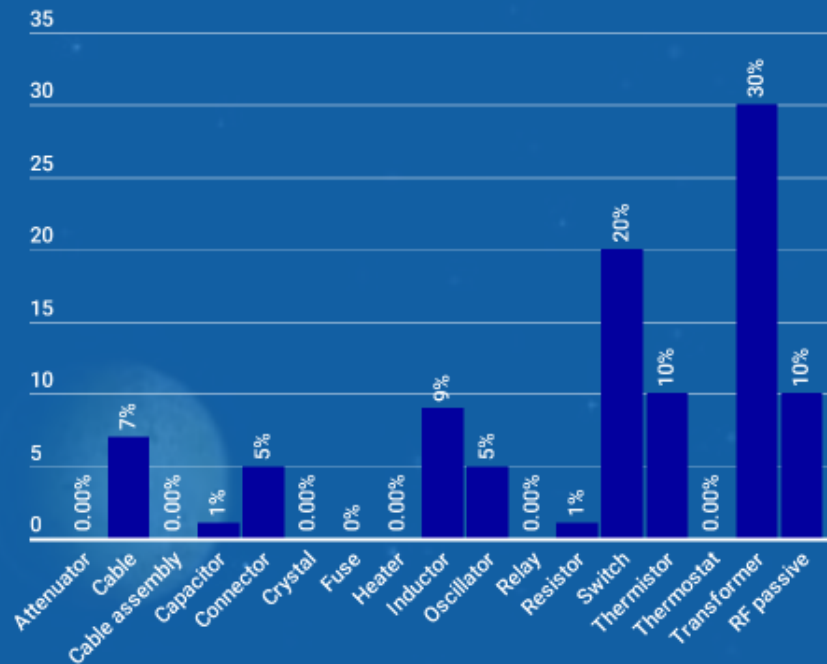
Component Type	Quality Level	Total Cost per Board [EUR]
PCB	IPC-3	71
Integrated Circuits	QML-Q	458
MOSFETs	AEC-Q101 + standard	213
Bipolar Transistors	AEC-Q101	276
Diodes	AEC-Q101 + standard	245
Capacitors	MIL FR R/S + AEC-Q200 + standard	230
Resistors	MIL FR R/S + standard	204
EUR		1 695

Commercial parts are used in low cost project but feedback on reliability (good or bad) are uncommon and investigation is kept at a minimum.



# Where are they used today in space?

Class 1: commercial parts <5% up-screened 100%



Unavailable Qualified parts with the required performances:

Most of High voltage and flexible cable assemblies.

High capacitance values for capacitors (BME capacitors from Murata)

Low or high ohmic values for resistors

In-house transformer for low voltage

Non critical applications/equipment (monitoring, observation, etc.):

Special design of connectors (e.g. Pressfit, etc.)

Thermistors for monitoring

Mechanical switch

Reed switch



# Why we use commercial parts ?

Commercial space-ready to use components bring the following benefits:



Lead time efficiency



Lower cost



Reliability level



Availability



Faster qualification



Required performance

Nevertheless there is a high risk of:



Procurement/  
Traceability  
errors!



Reliability



Maverick lots  
or parts



Infant failures

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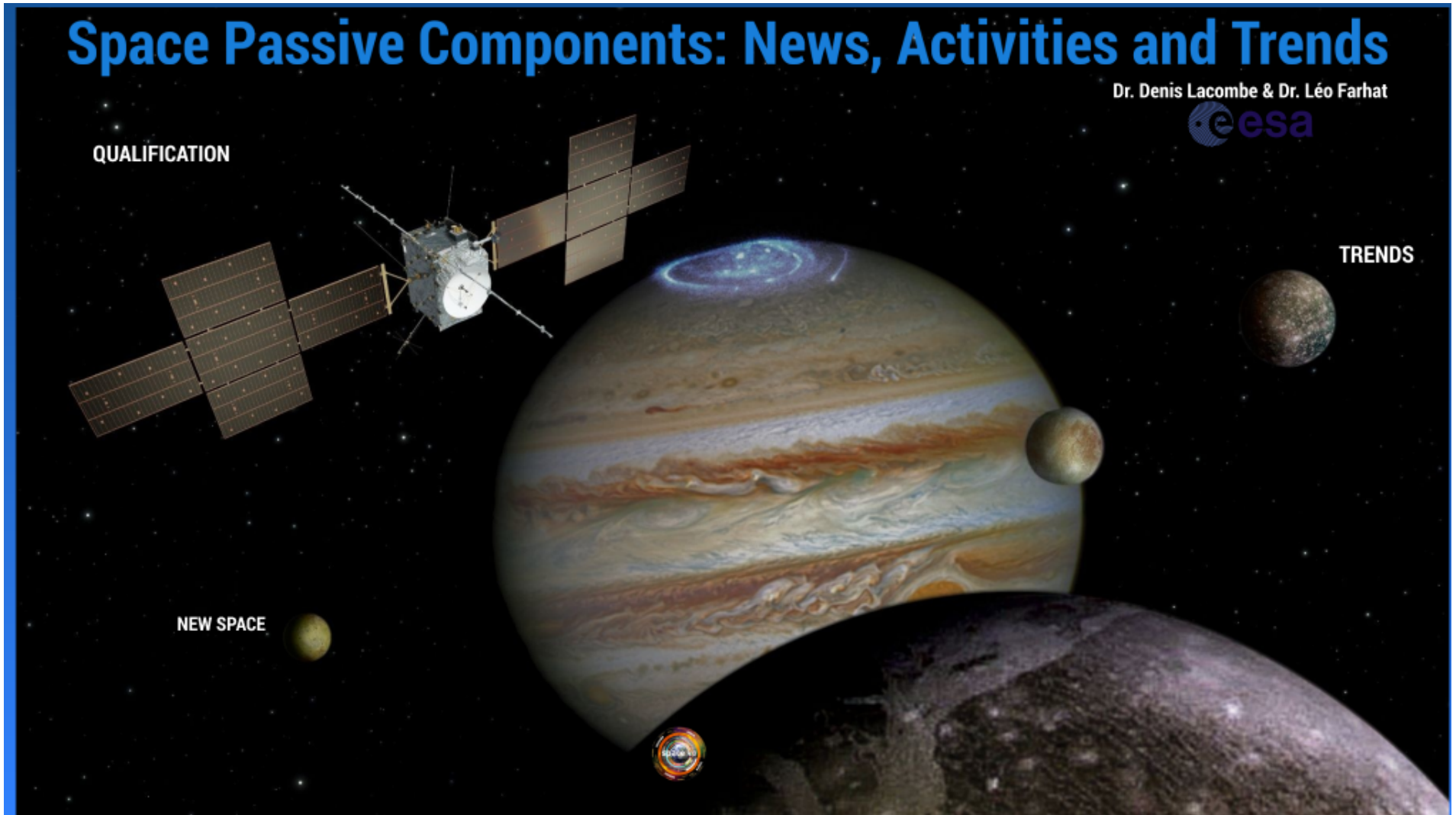
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QUALIFICATION

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# QUALIFICATION

- Qualification remains as the best way to ensure the reliability of components!

PROJECT  
QUALIFICATION



Janus:  
the two faces

GENERIC  
(ESCC, MIL)  
QUALIFICATION

PROCUREMENT  
APPROACH

CONCLUSION



# Procurement Approach

For ESA class 1 missions, the order of preference according to ECSS-Q-ST-60 is:

EPPL (European Preferred Parts List) : The EPPL is a list of preferred and suitable components to be used by European manufacturers of spacecraft hardware and associated equipment.

## Part I:

Components included in the QPL and QML issued by ESCC  
MIL QPLs/QMLs

## Part II

Relevant and up to date information on the manufacturing, assembly and test facilities  
A component detail specification (ESCC format content)  
Constructional analysis report + Electrical characterisation data + Endurance test results.

Components having passed an ESCC Evaluation are candidates to the EPPL.

# Project Qualification

An Approval, on a case by case basis, which is an individual and limited authorization for one specific application.

The component meets the specific project needs:

- Orbit / Environment (e.g. cryogenic temp., very long term storage, etc.)
- Mission Class (from Microsats to Telecom Sats)
- Lifetime (from hours to decades)
- Performances (qualified parts may not be available)

But it is impacted by the project constraints:

- Project schedule
- Cost

# Project Qualification

What are the constraints for the procurement at equipment level ?

The project approved components are NOT space-qualified in the ECSS-Q-ST-60C sense.

- Lot acceptance (LAT) are systematically required

The LAT content is based on an ESCC Generic Specification (also known as Chart "F4") or comparable QCI (US)

- in addition, a possible Component Evaluation may be required
- A Part Approval Document (PAD) is systematically necessary

The notion of heritage is to be considered carefully:

- Heritage does not mean necessarily relevant heritage
- Waiver / Deviation in the previous applications ?

# Project Qualification

To sum-up:

- The cost is not necessarily reduced
- Shortcuts mean less confidence
- What is acceptable for one project's application may not be necessarily acceptable for another application



# ESCC QUALIFICATION

A systematic approach that provides an established, stable and common set of  
“rules of the game”

ESCC qualification approval is a status given to components that are manufactured  
**under controlled conditions.**

Unlike the US MIL System, ESCC is based on 2 steps :  
Evaluation + Qualification



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- Failure / Failure Mechanisms oriented
- Evaluation of the Product AND of the Manufacturer
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## 3. Maintenance of the Qual. Status:

The components/technologies are re-assessed every 2 years

# ESCC QUALIFICATION

## Improvements:



### ESCC Qualification : Improvements to be done (1/2)

#### What ?

Time to market shall be faster.

#### Why?

Theoretically, an ESCC qualification may be done in 2 years. In reality, it takes 3 to 6 years.

ESCC evaluation is the reason (modification of design or process, test flow in series, own resources, etc.)

#### How?

Reducing the evaluation flow duration by doing tests in parallel.

// Evaluation and Qualification in one shot!

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Evaluation and Qualification tests can now be performed in parallel **under certain conditions:**

## Single Phase Qualification

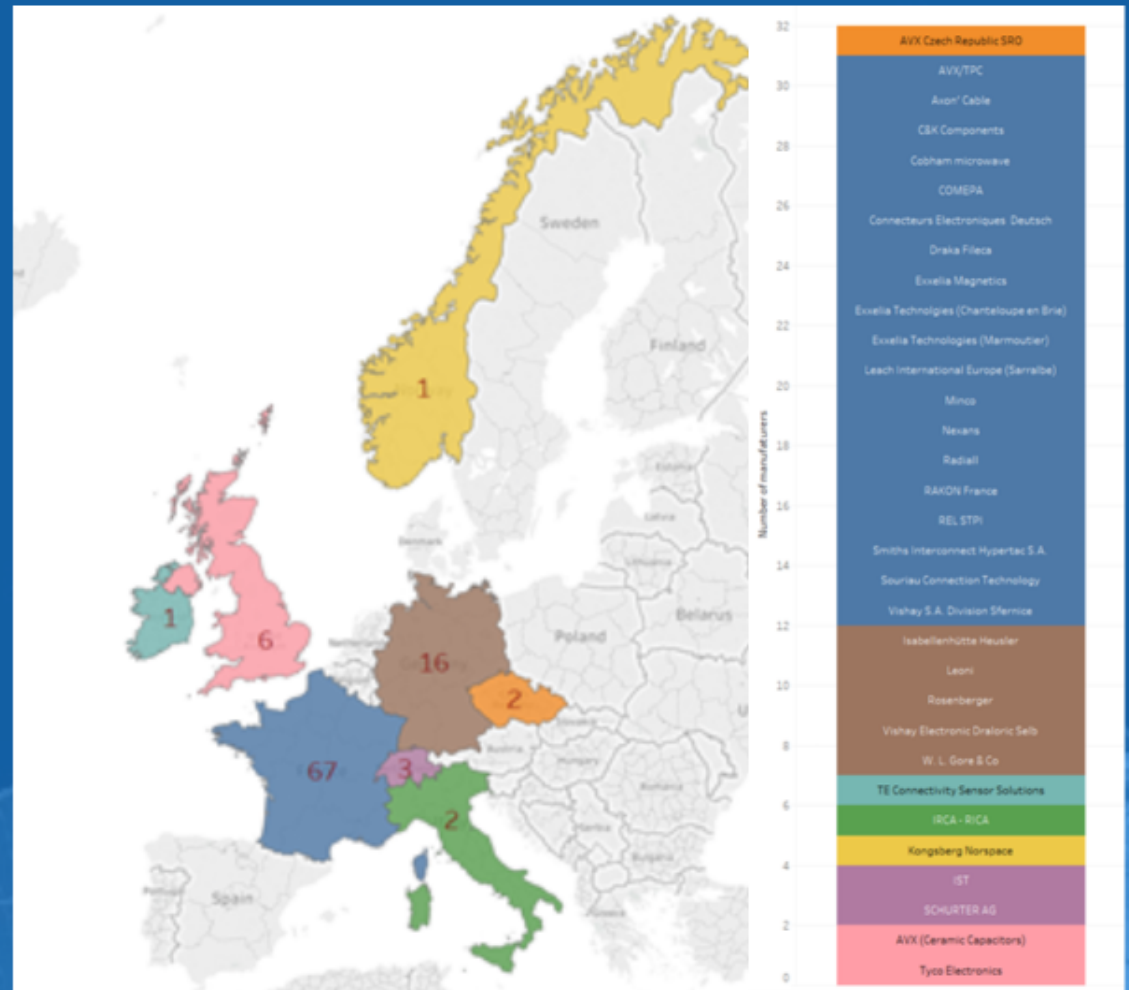
1st experience: successful with the qualification of thin-film based series of platinum temperature sensors manufactured by IST (CH).



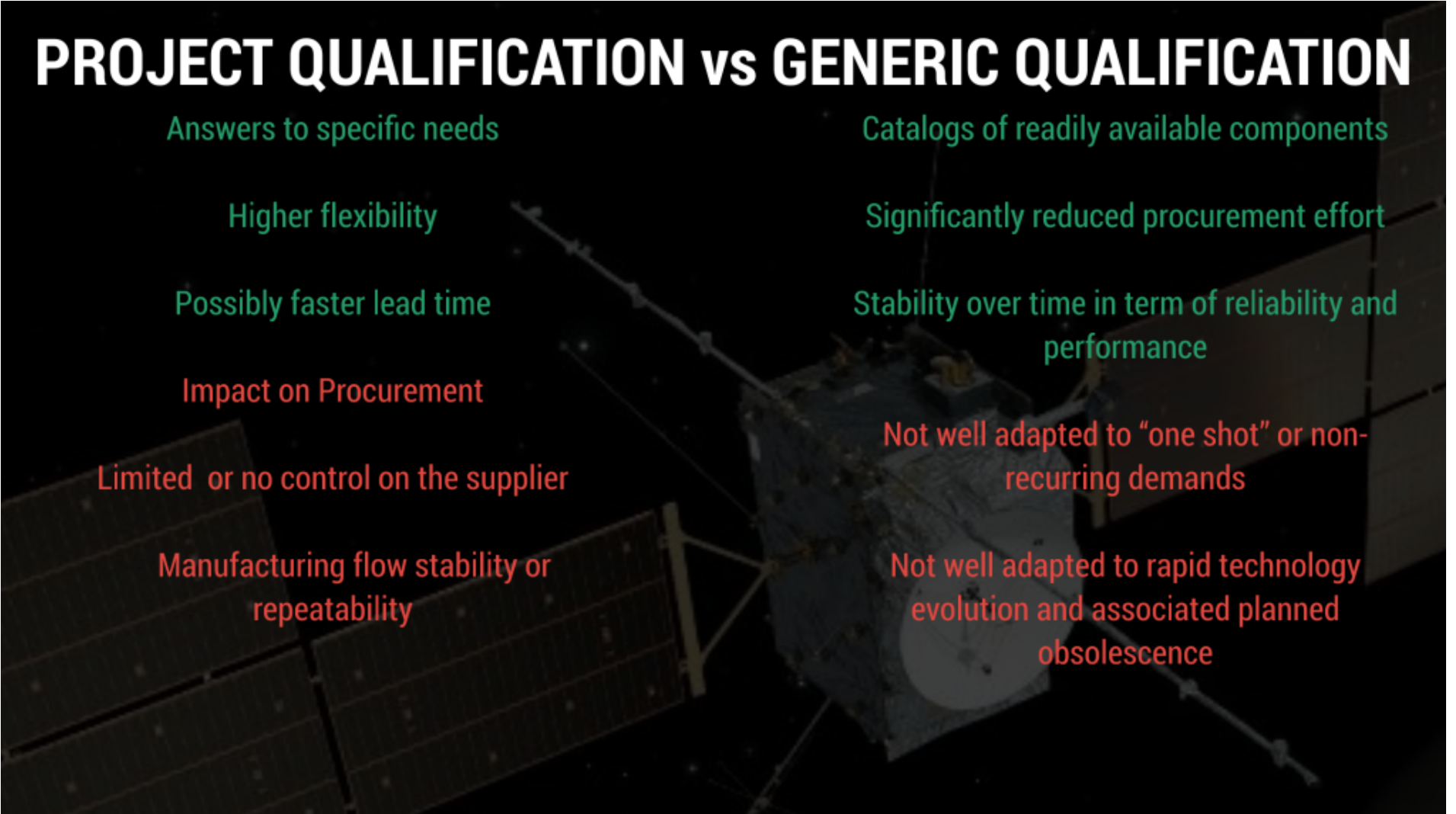
“Recent developments in ESCC Qualification Methodology. Experience in Implementation with passive components”

*Fernando Martinez, ESCC Executive, ESA*

Number of certificates : 98  
 Number of part Types : 135  
 Manufacturers : 32



# PROJECT QUALIFICATION vs GENERIC QUALIFICATION



Answers to specific needs

Higher flexibility

Possibly faster lead time

Impact on Procurement

Limited or no control on the supplier

Manufacturing flow stability or repeatability

Catalogs of readily available components

Significantly reduced procurement effort

Stability over time in term of reliability and performance

Not well adapted to "one shot" or non-recurring demands

Not well adapted to rapid technology evolution and associated planned obsolescence

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What technology should we qualify ?

Generic Qualification might not be what you need!

It's the need that brings the necessity of a Generic qualification

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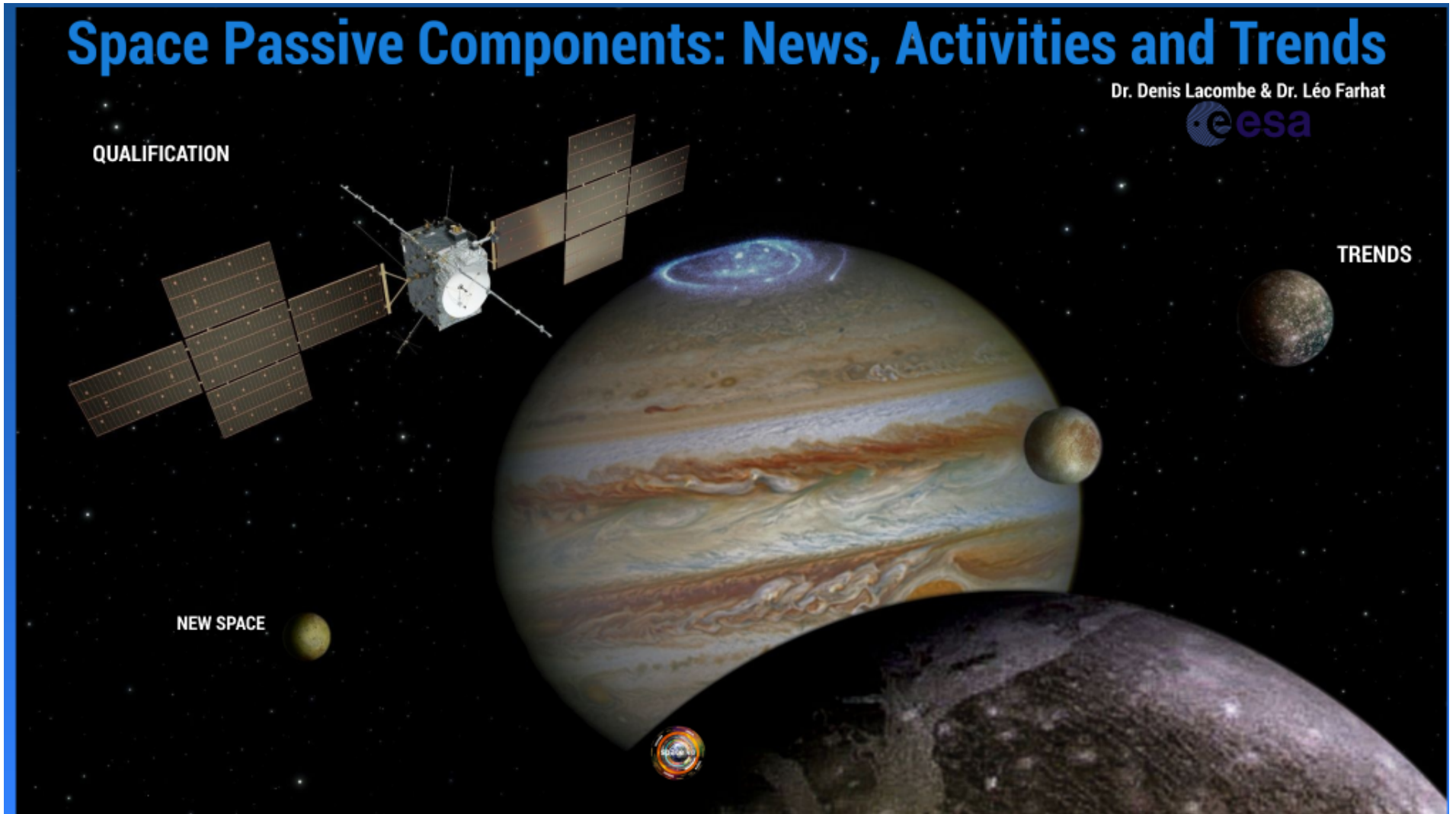
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QUALIFICATION

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**DIGITALISATION**

**space 4.0**

**IMPACT ON  
PASSIVE  
COMPONENTS**

# DIGITALISATION

Digitalisation is NOT Digitization.

Digitization is creating a digital (bits and bytes) version of analog/physical things such as scanning a letter document (analog) into a pdf file (digital).

Digitalisation is the use of digital technologies to change a business model. It refers to enabling, improving or transforming business operations, functions, models and processes by exploiting digital technologies.

# DIGITALISATION

Digitalisation means that Satellite Business will now use digital technology.

Digitalisation is NOT Digitization.

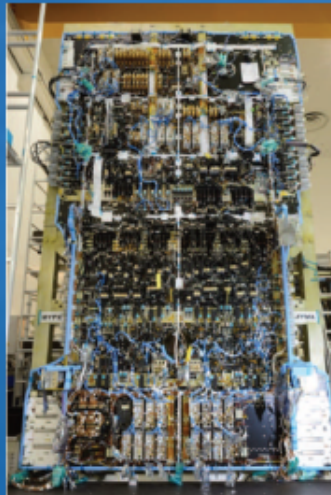
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# DIGITALISATION

## Traditional payloads architecture:

- Several hundred low noise amplifiers and converters
- Hundreds of input/output RF passive devices (filters, RF switches, isolators,...)
- Complex and costly production process
- Thousands of cabling and switches



VS



## Digitalised Satellite Payload

- Software defined Payloads
- Real Time Resource management
- Flexible bandwidth, frequency and Power
- Dynamic coverage allocation
- Cost and mass reduction

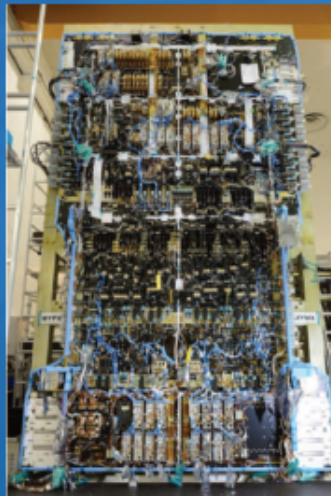


# DIGITALISATION

Fundamental changes in the way of building telecommunications satellites.

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VS



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# DIGITALISATION



QUANTUM is presented as the first software driven telecom satellite.

Unlike the custom-made production of traditional satellites, which are configured during construction, Digitalised Satellites built according to a standard specification and configured in orbit could be mass produced.

Flexibility, not only in terms of coverage, but also in terms of power, frequency and bandwidth.





# DIGITALISATION



Modifying the Satellite in Orbit is fantastic!

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# IMPACT on PASSIVE COMPONENTS?

The digitalisation of electronics and data exchange between electronics is an important factor of evolution or obsolescence of passive components.

## **Decentralized thermal management:**

Smart passive components as wireless thermistor or self control heaters or integrated sensors.

## **Wireless technologies and Optical Links:**

Wires, cables (DC, Power?) will be replaced by optical fibers.

The field of the harness is about to change...

Is it the case for the other types of passive components?

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Panel Discussion: "Impact of on-board Digitalisation on Passive components"

Thursday 11th October @17h

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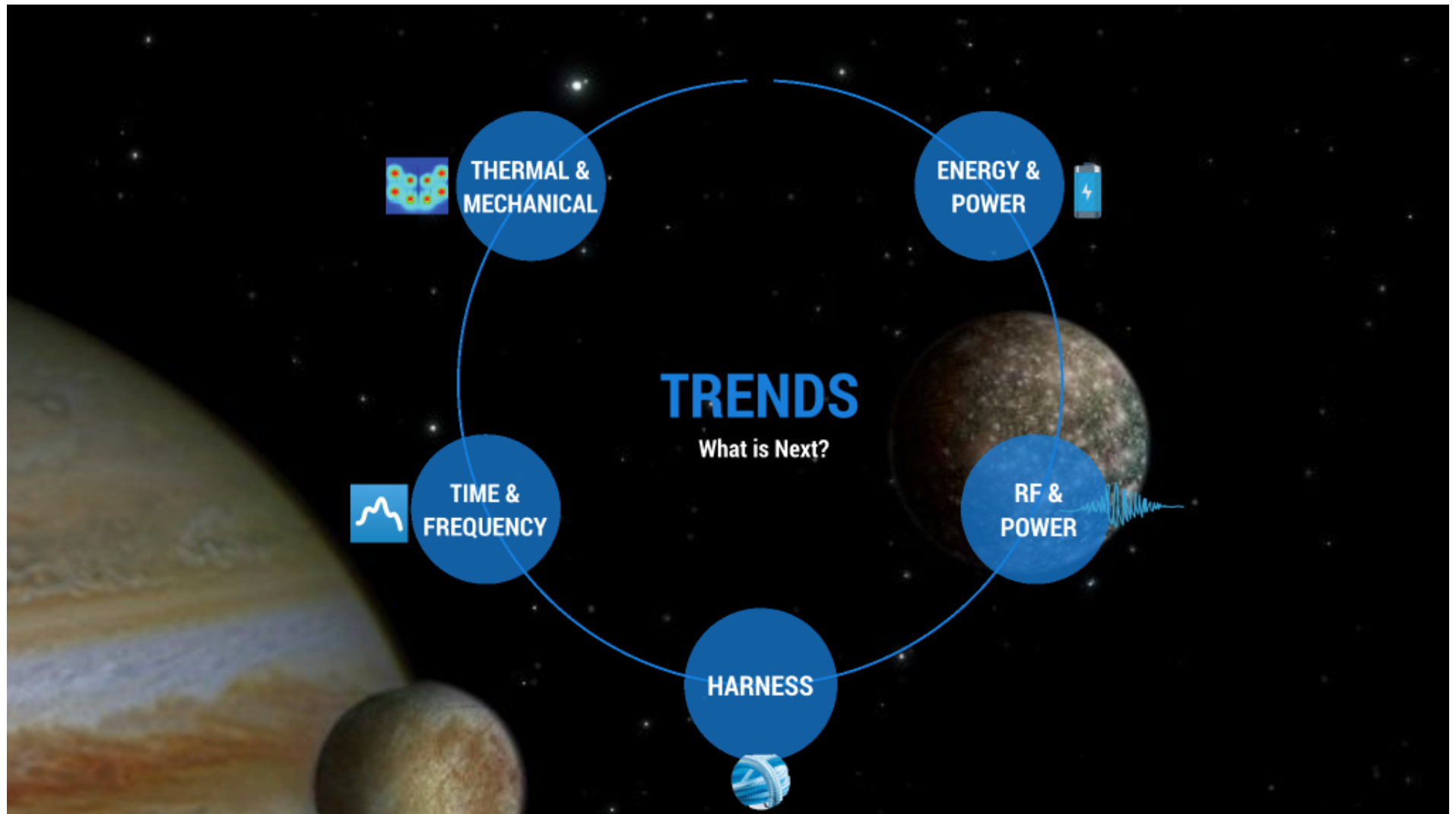
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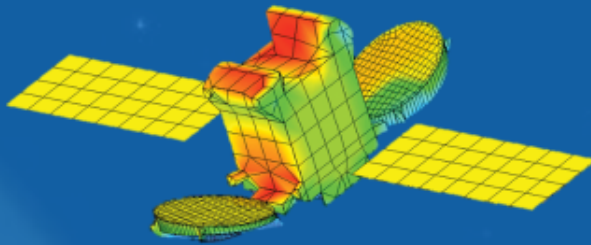




## THERMAL & MECHANICAL

More complex architecture management (including cross-strap), are being built.

Peltier module (Thermoelectric cooling devices) are only COTS



RELAYS

HEATERS





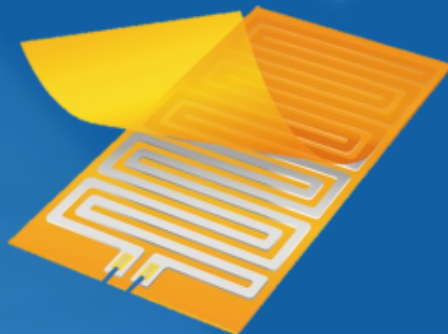
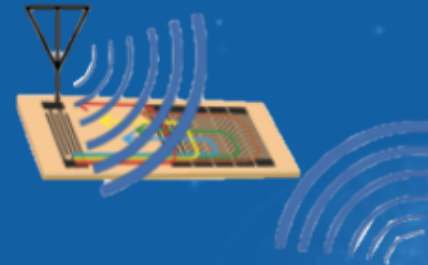


# HEATERS & SENSORS

Recently qualified Platinum Sensors

Integrated heaters into flex PCB Harness

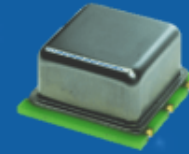
Wireless solutions for sensors and heaters



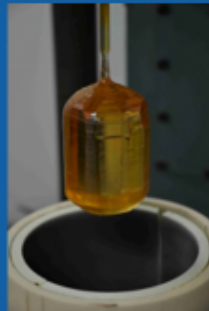
## New Rule for derating of Heaters

Currently, the power density is derated for heaters in still air. This is not applicable for **glued** heaters. Proposal is to derate the maximum temperature (glue/PSA + heater):  
-> Higher Power densities values are expected

# TIME & FREQUENCY

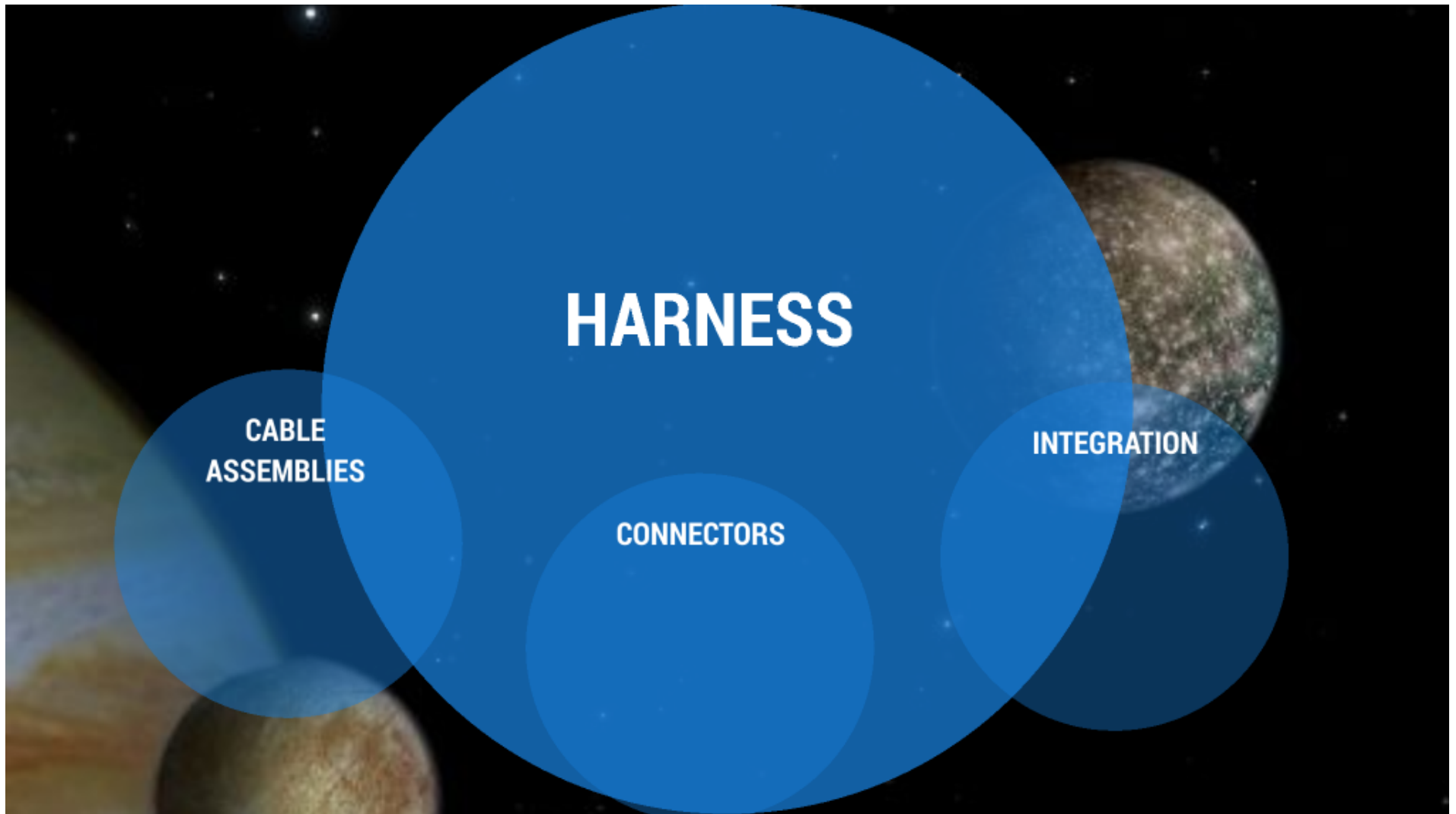


Low cost and rad hard quartz oscillators are critical items for LEO missions like PNT (Positioning, Navigation and Timing), commercial telecommunication and any application requiring high spectral purity (e.g. Radar).



Quartz sweeping or pre-radiation are considered costly and time consuming processes. Those manufacturing processes are not compatible with low cost devices.

- Cost effective technologies for crystal growing and/or resonator process for reducing the sensitivity to radiation.



# CABLE ASSEMBLIES



RF Cable Assembly  
ESCC 3408



Optical  
ESCC 3420



High Data Rate  
ESCC 3409



High Voltage



# RF Cable Assemblies

Today:  
TNC Very High Power

What is next?  
Development, Evaluation and/or Qualification of

- RF cable assemblies including SMA (up to 18GHz) , 2.4 (up to 50GHz) and 1.85 connectors (up to 65GHz)
- SMP-Lock connectors (DC – 32GHz)
- Super High power connectors ( L, S & >300W C band )





The background of the slide is a deep blue space scene. A large, solid blue circle is centered on the slide. To the right of the circle, a large, detailed moon is visible. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a planet with a brown and orange surface is visible. The text is white and centered within the blue circle.

# **Optical Cable Assemblies**

Solutions based on Fiber optic CA for very high speed flow of data

# High Data Rate Cable Assemblies

Today:

ESCC Generic specification has been *just* published .

What is next?

Evaluation and Qualification for Wizardlink, SpaceWire and SpaceFibre (data rates of up to 5 Gbps)

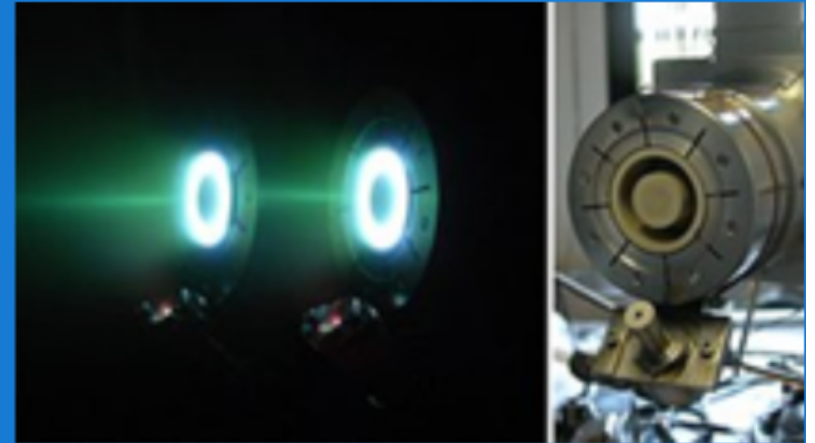
New solutions shall help by improving the data rate (by a factor of 10) and reducing the cable mass.



# High Voltage Cable Assemblies

Electrical Propulsion High Voltage cables for thrusters

- Operating voltage up to 15 kV DC
- Radiation resistance up to 200 Mrad.
- Resistant to high temperatures:  
from min -55°C to max +125°C for dynamic applications



# CONNECTORS

- Versatile and Modular: Power + Signal + RF

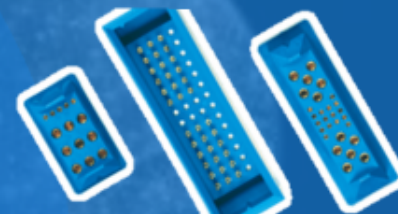
- Solderless solutions:  
Pressfit Connectors

Spring Probe Connectors and Board to board mating plug & receptacle Connectors

RF Interposer (up to ka band) & Ka band RF probes

- Fast locking  
SMA fast-locking compatible with standard jack Connectors

Latching and locking mechanism Micro-D



# BETTER INTEGRATION & ROUTING

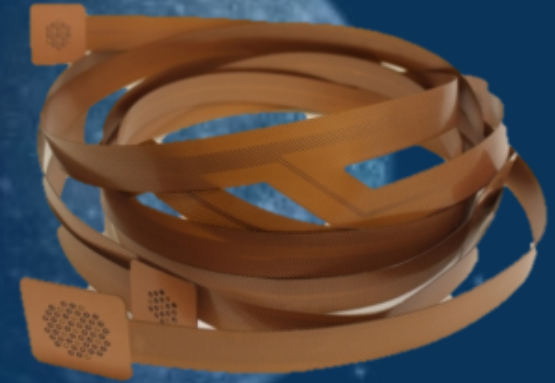
## Flexible / Semi rigid PCB Harness

Mass savings target up to 30%

Reduction of cost by reduction of the number of devices

Better shielding and impedance characteristics

Drastic reduction of AIT integration time



## New Rules for the derating of wires and cables

Upgrade of the rating and derating rules for wires and cables in ECSS-Q-ST-30-11

Mass savings are expected from 20% up to 50%

# RF & POWER

RF applications are leaded by the increase of:

POWER

FREQUENCY

INTEGRATION



## High Power Levels

Very High power coaxial Circulators and Isolators

400W @ L band

360W @ S band

300W @ C band

New Materials & Process (e.g loads, gluing, etc.) are needed for better dissipation at higher frequencies (Ku, Ka, Q, V & W bands)



# Higher Frequencies



Higher frequencies are needed for Telecom Satellite: Q, V and W bands.

New technologies for Circualtors and Isolators based on:

- Substrate Integrated Waveguide (SIW)
- Microstrip LTCC/Hexaferrite

New technologies for SAW devices based on GaN/Si substrates at S & C bands

## Faster & Better Integration

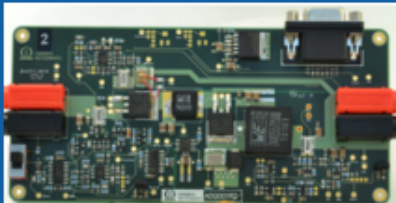
- RF Passive components with fast locking connectors
- Microstrip technologies for mega-constellations
- Power dividers with integrated Isolators / high isolation 2-way dividers at Ka band
- Circulators and Isolators based on SMT and SIW at Ka- band
- Development of iso-dividers with N-ways ( $N > 8$ ) at higher frequencies



# ENERGY & POWER

## Global Trends: Higher Power density & Better Integration

- High Power resistors with smaller designs (>1 Watt in 1206)
- 0201 chip resistors for digital designs
- Multi-anode polymer tantalum capacitor (330/470 microF, 6,3V in smallest package)



### Point of Load:

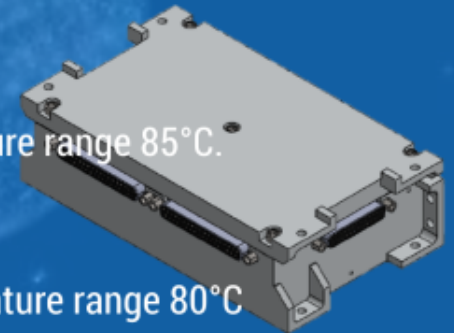
- Development of high voltage planar transformer
- High current chip inductors

## High power actuators, high power Lidar, High power radar :

- Supercapacitors with small capacitance (tens of F) and High operational temperature range 85°C.  
Number of cycling (> 3 millions) and Lifetime (15 years)

## Launchers (pyro, EMTVAS, telemetry) :

- Supercapacitors with high specific Energy (>10WJ/Kg) & High operational temperature range 80°C



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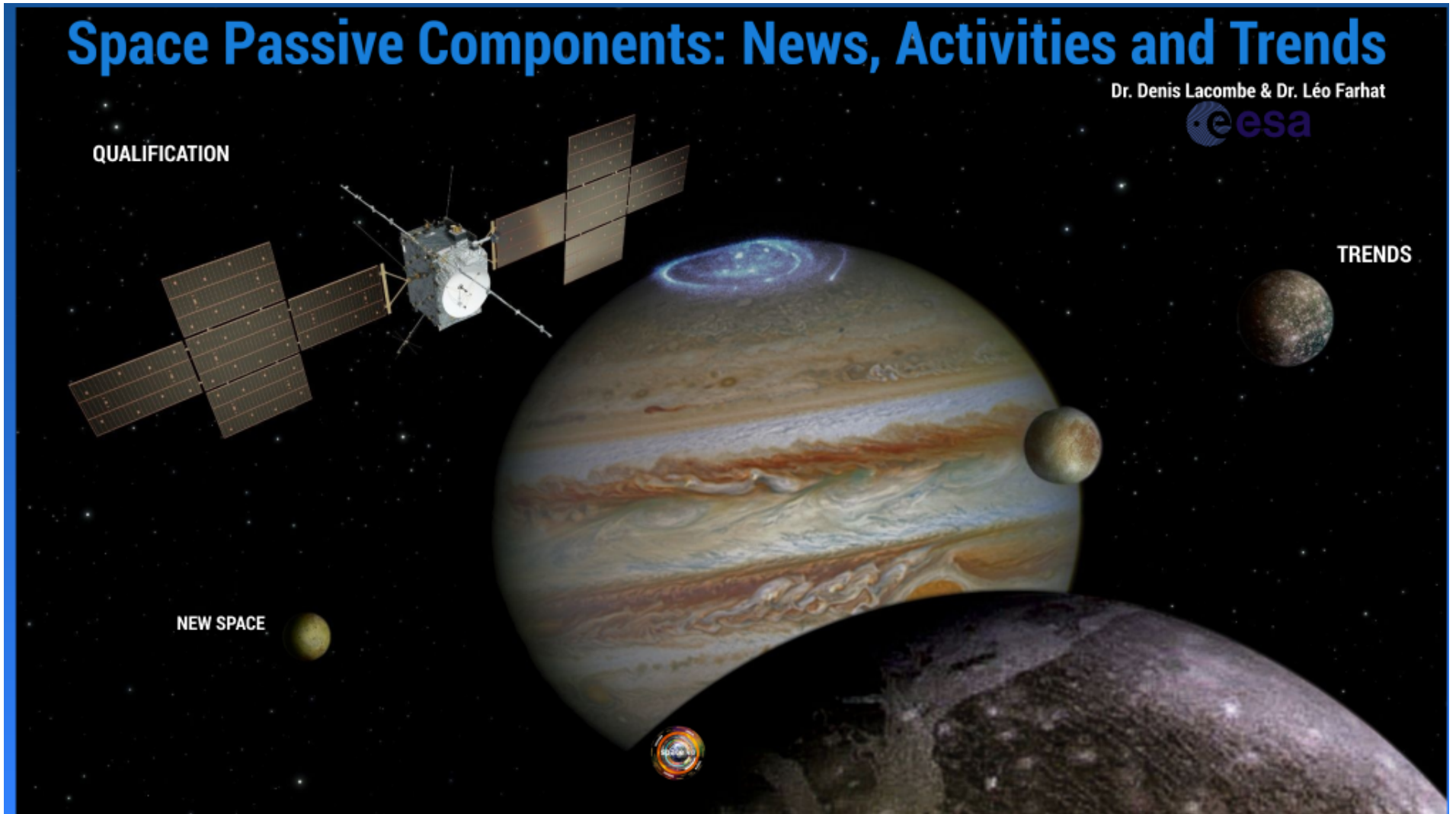
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# ACTIVITIES

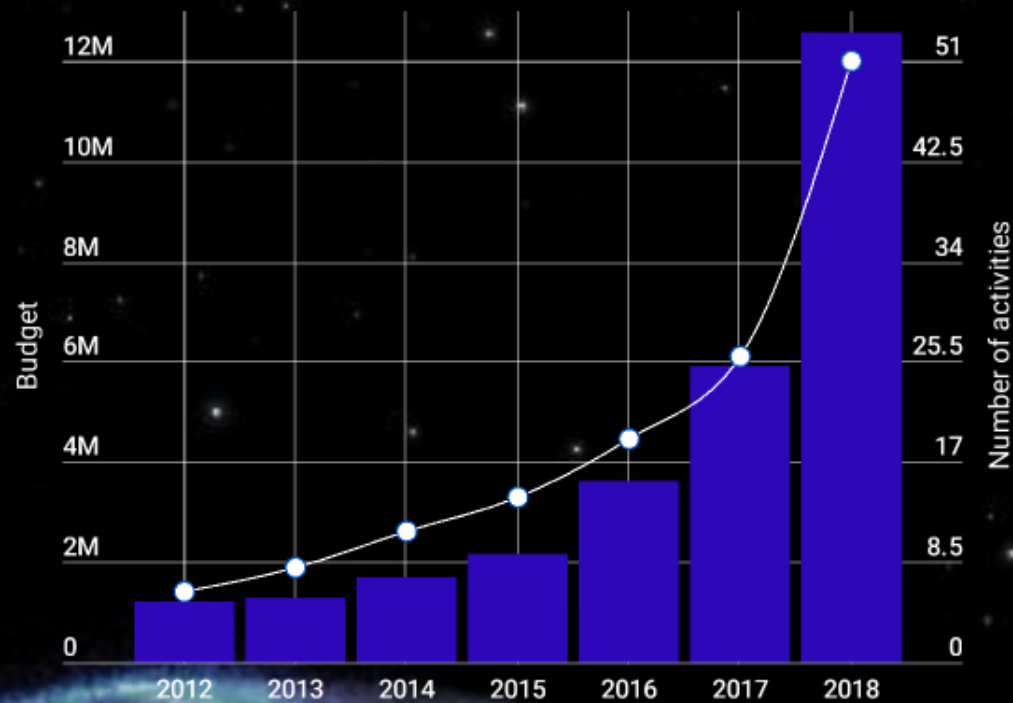
ESA has funded 51 activities (including CCNs) involving Passive components since 2012.

Total Budget : 12.55 M€.

~270K€ per activity

~7 new activities per year

2018: 15~on-going activities



● Budget ● Number of activities



● TRP ● ECI ● GSTP ● NMS ● ARTES ● CCN

# Space Passive Components: News, Activities and Trends

Dr. Denis Lacombe & Dr. Léo Farhat



QUALIFICATION

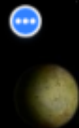


TRENDS



# THANK YOU

NEW SPACE



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QUALIFICATION

TRENDS

NEW SPACE

