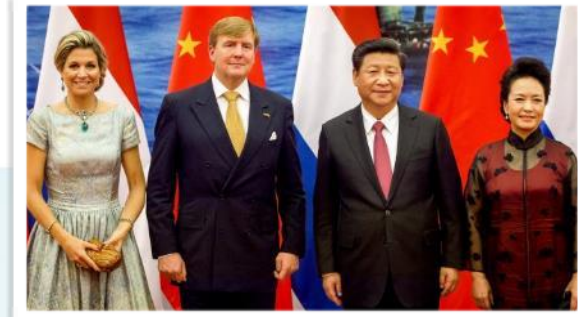
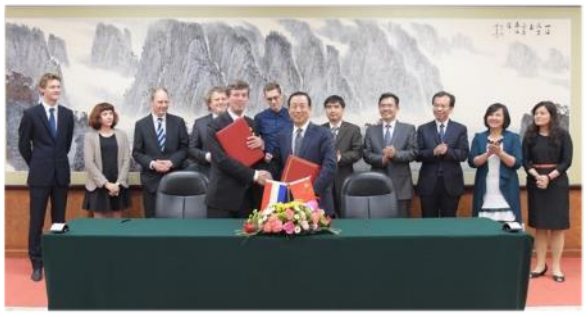




## UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs

# South Africa's contribution to the Netherlands China Low-Frequency Explorer

**Presented by** : Dr Francois Malan  
**Date** : 12 December 2017  
Stellenbosch, South Africa



Netherlands  
**Space**  
Office



# the Netherlands China Low Frequency Explorer NCLE



# NCLE: Part of Chang'e 4

- Chang'e is part of the Chinese Lunar Exploration Program – CLEP
- “Chang'e” = Chinese Moon Goddess
  - a series of robotic lunar missions from the Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA)
  - Chang'e 1-6, all to be launched with Long March Rockets



Chang'e - Chinese Moon Goddess

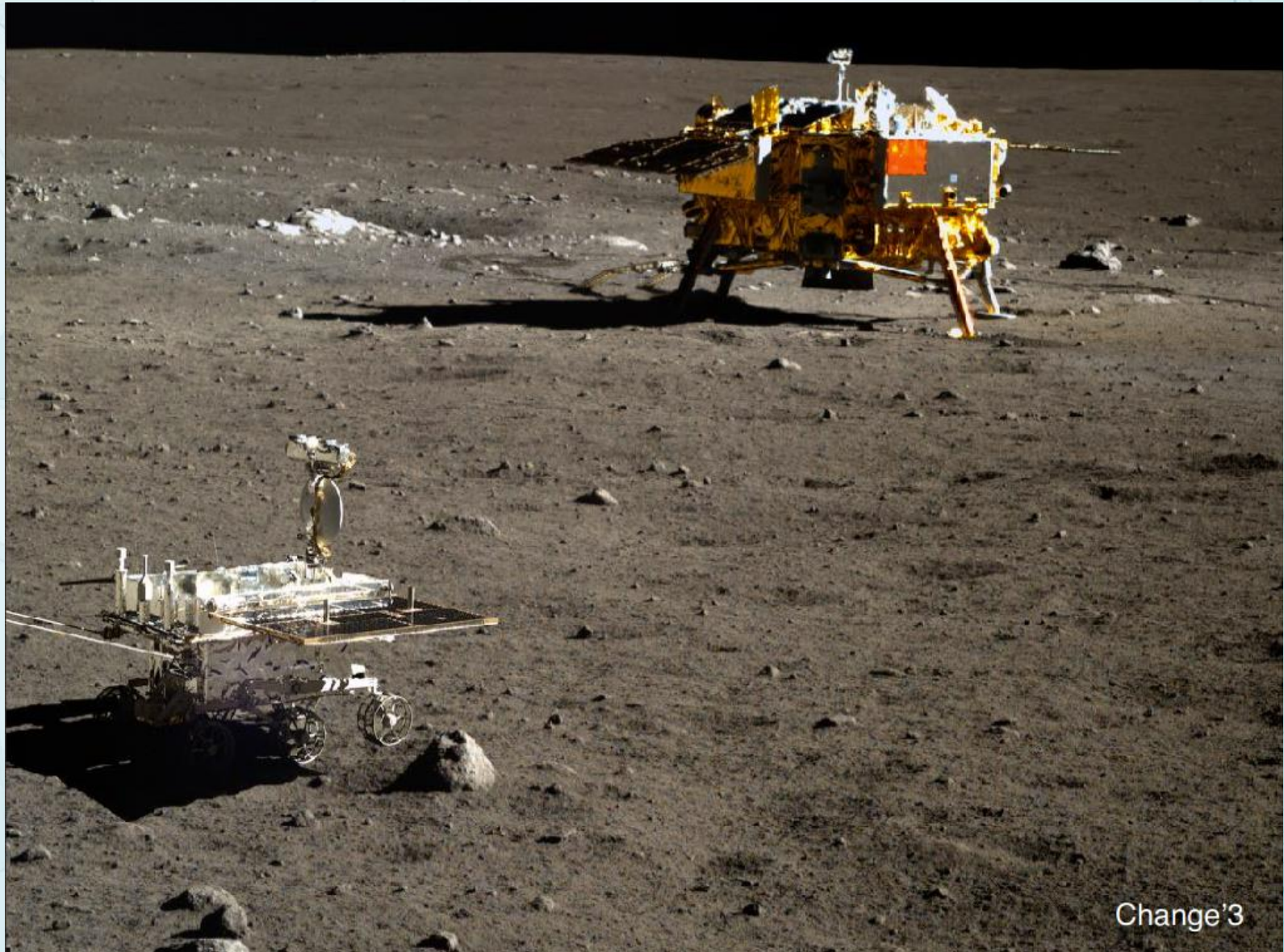
# Chang'e Missions

- 1 : Lunar Orbiter (2007)
- 2 : Lunar Orbiter (2010)
- 3 : Lander + Rover (2013)
- 4 : Orbiter + Lander + Rover (2018)
- 5 : Lander + Sample Return (2019)
- 6 : Follow-up of Chang'e 5 (2020?)



Long March 5 Rocket

# Chang'e 3 (2013) – success

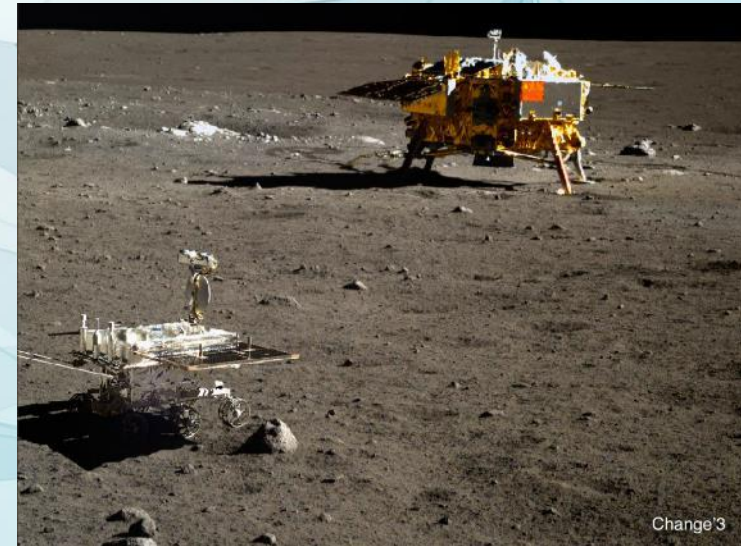


Change'3

Image: CNSA

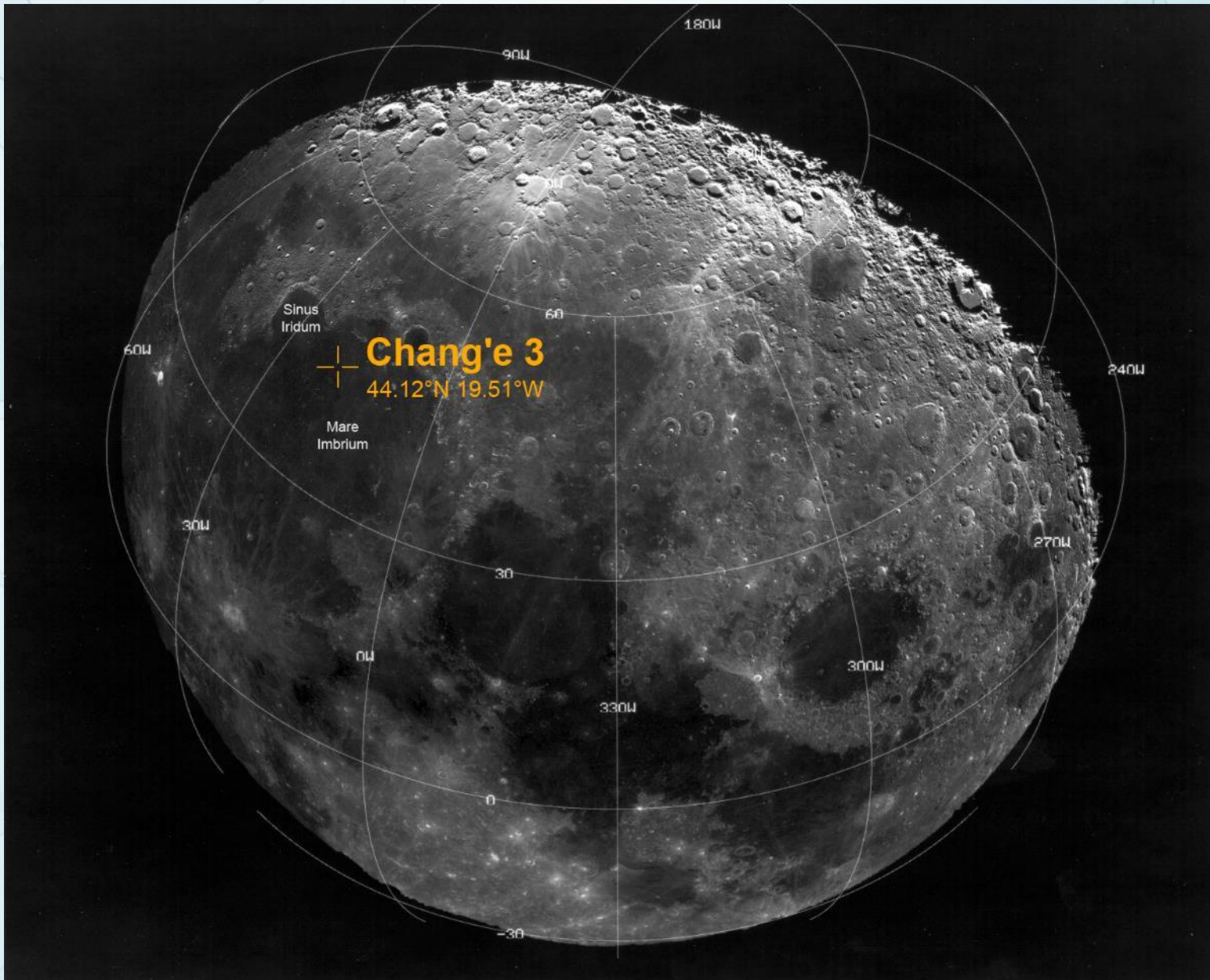
# Chang'e 4

- Originally: a backup for Chang'e 3
  - i.e. Lunar lander + Rover
- Chang'e 3 was a success
  - Chang'e 4 mission expanded
  - Different landing site
  - More science

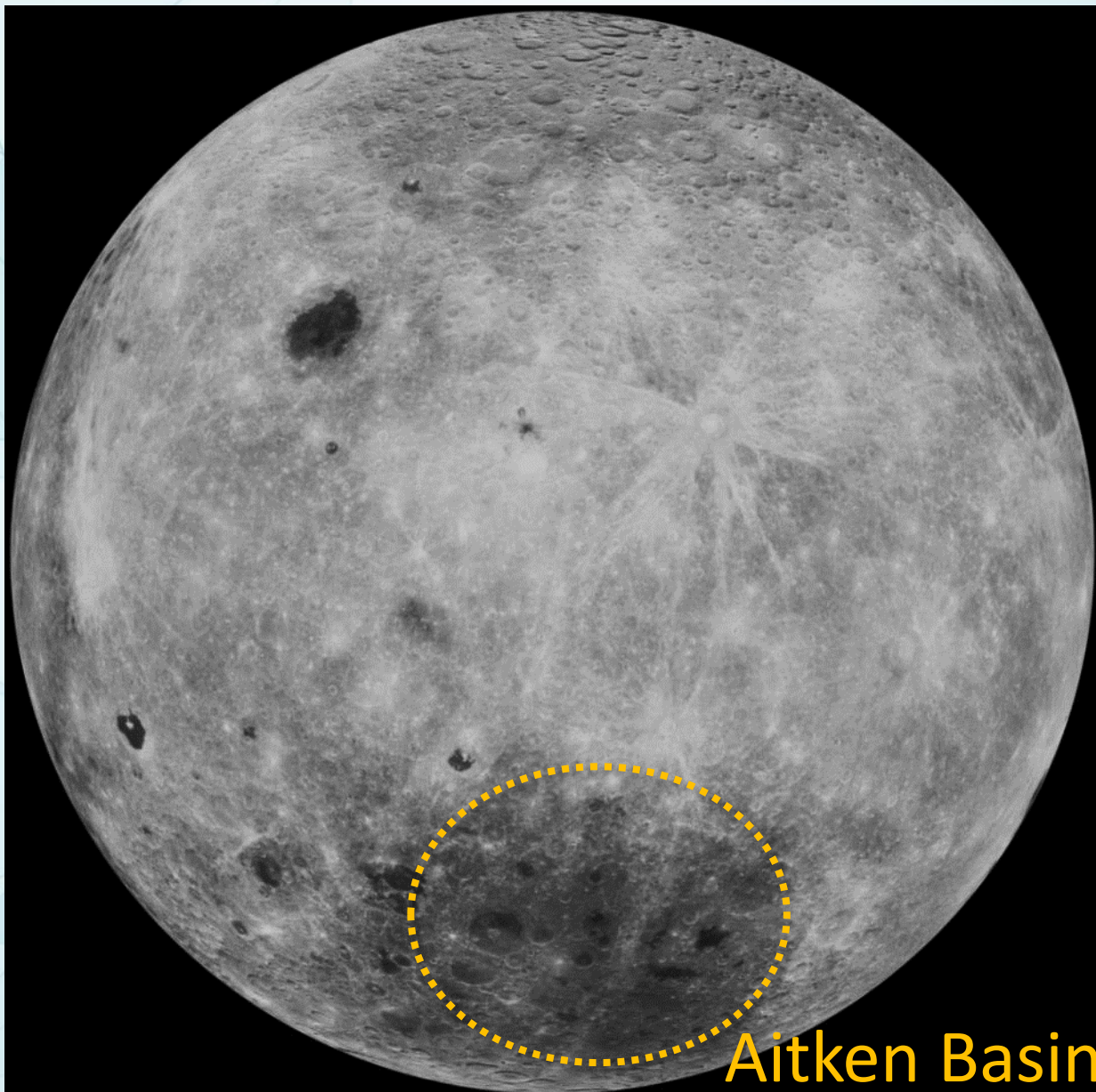


Chang'e 3

# Chang'e 3 Landing Site



# Chang'e 4 Landing Site (far side of Moon)



Aitken Basin

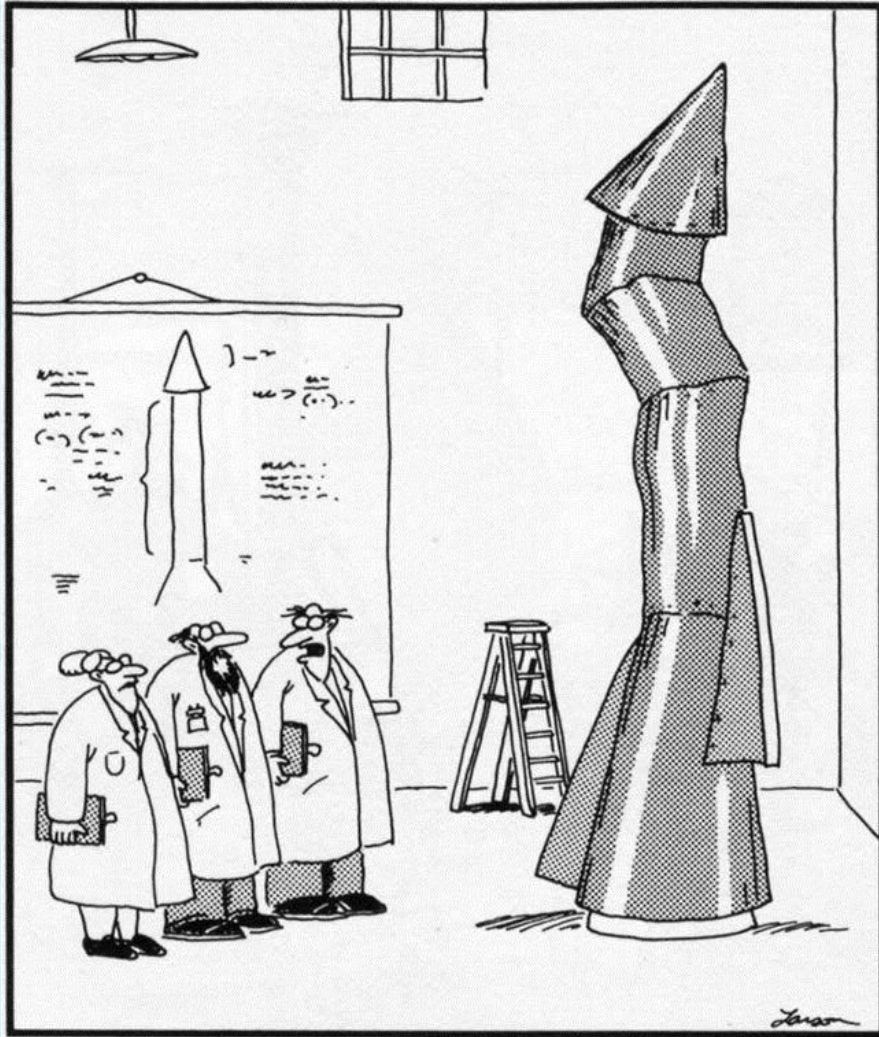


# The Dark Side of the Moon

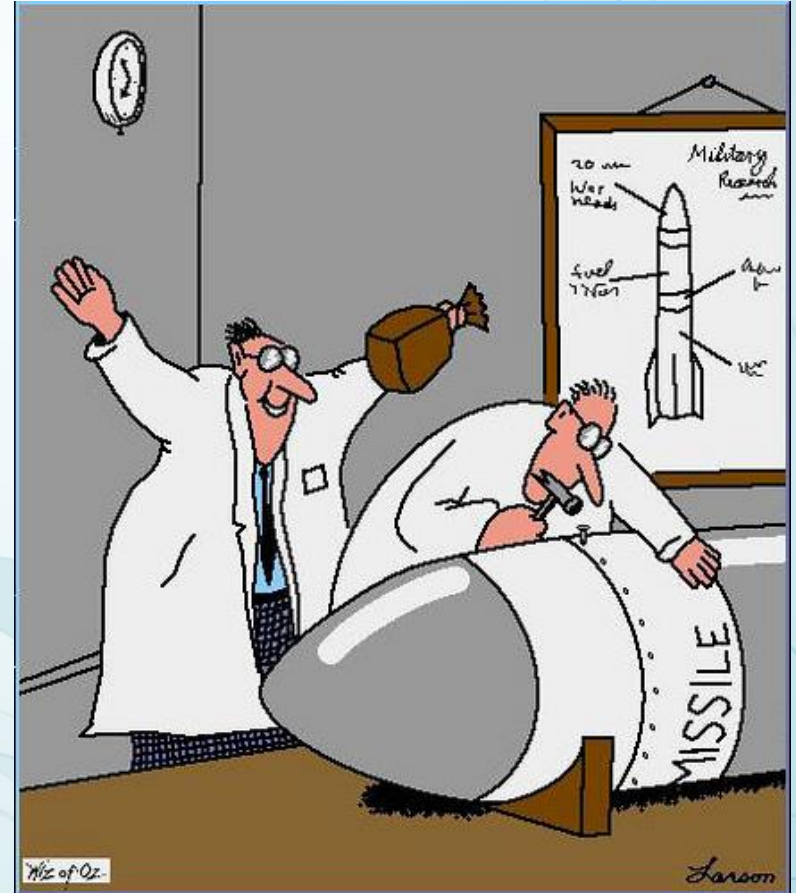


Pink Floyd,  
1973

# “Dark Side”? No, actually “Far Side”



“It’s time we face reality, my friend. ... We’re not exactly rocket scientists.”



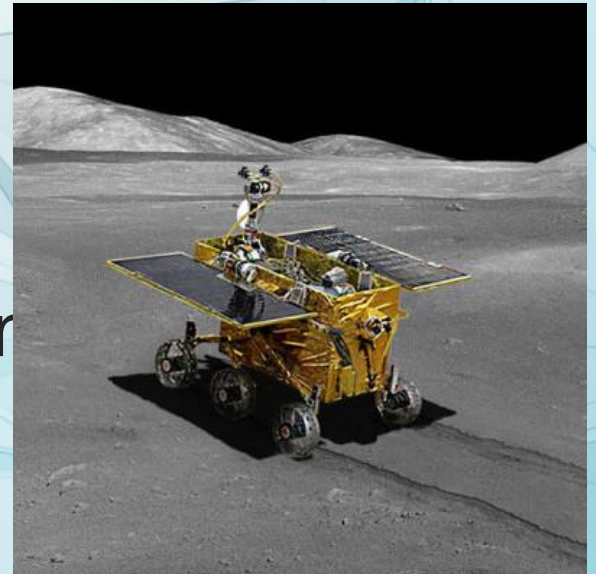
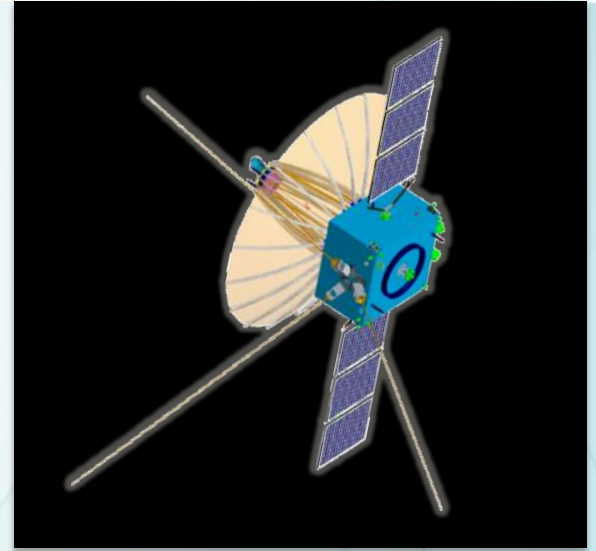
Gary Larson, “The Far Side”

# Far Side of the Moon always faces away



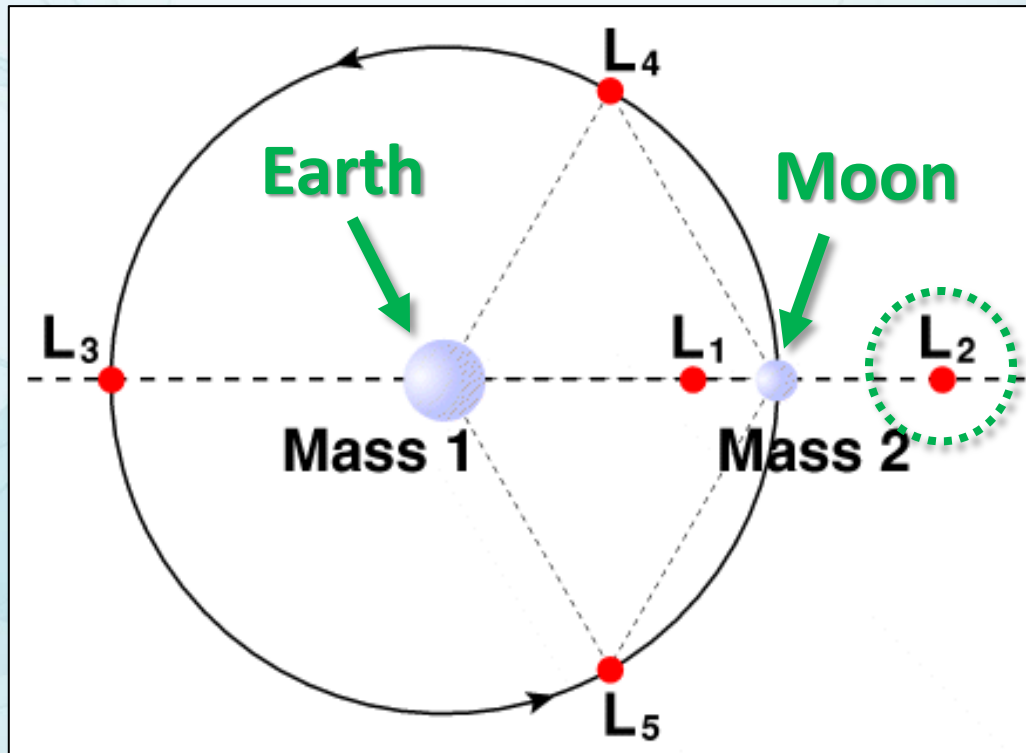
# Chang'e 4 : two components

- Two parts:
  - “Mother Ship Satellite” – at Earth-Moon L2 point
  - Lunar Rover – on the far side of the Moon (e.g. Aitken Basin)
- Launch of the Chang'e 4 satellite expected June 2018, the Lander and Rover follow half a year later.

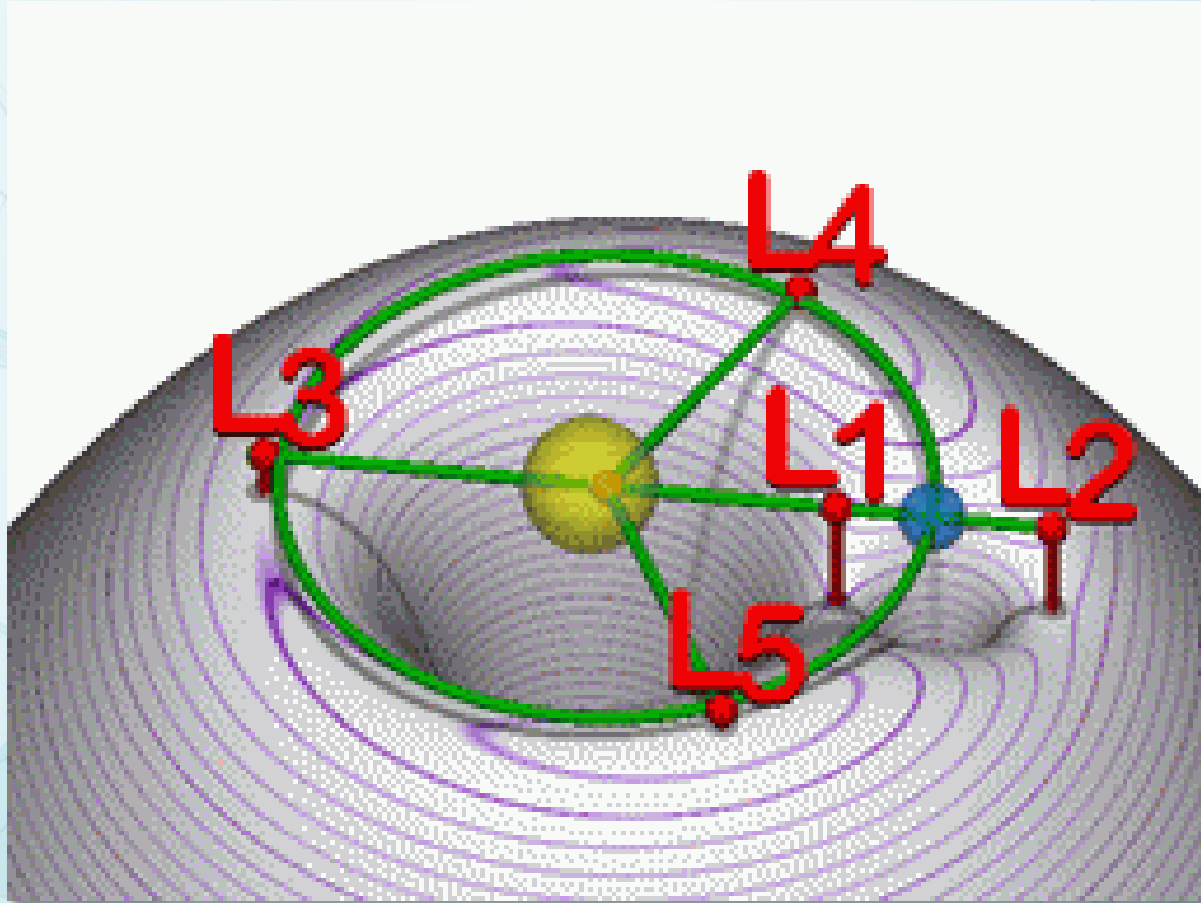


# L2 = second Lagrange Point

- Smaller mass orbiting larger mass, e.g.
  - Sun and Earth
  - Earth and Moon
- Gravity in equilibrium

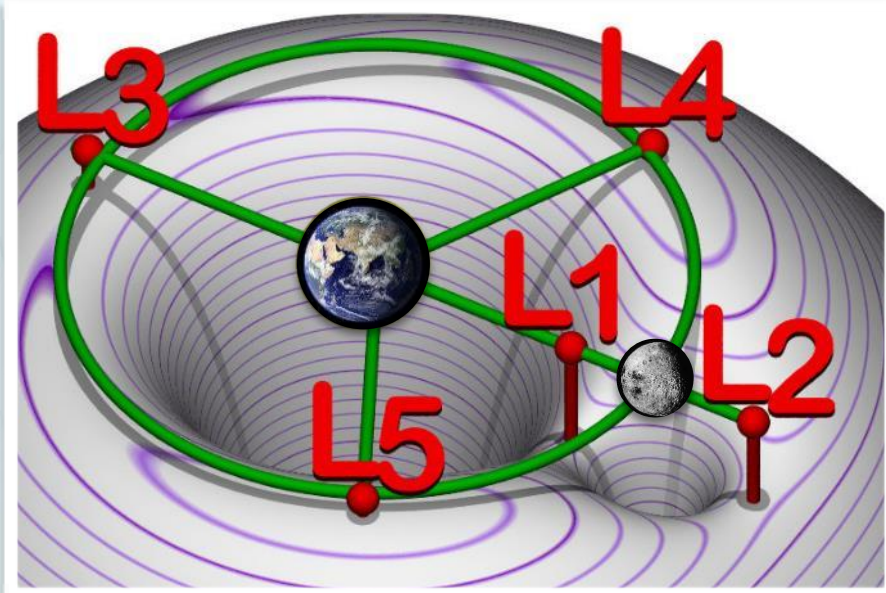


# Lagrangian Points : animation

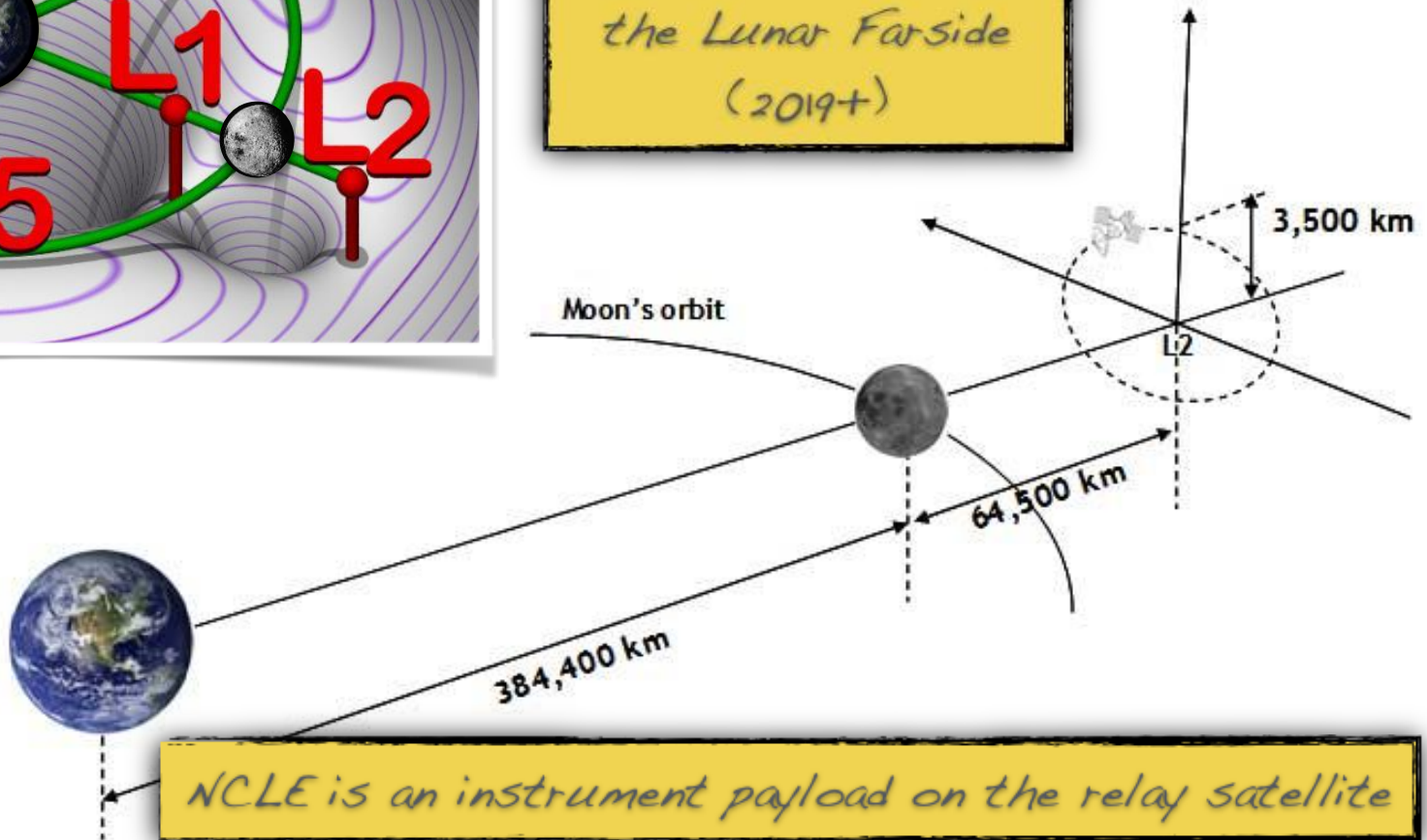


# CHANG'E 4 MISSION

Dr. Marc Klein-Wolt : RRL / NCLE Consortium



*Relay satellite in Earth-Moon L2 (2018) and Rover on the Lunar Farside (2019+)*

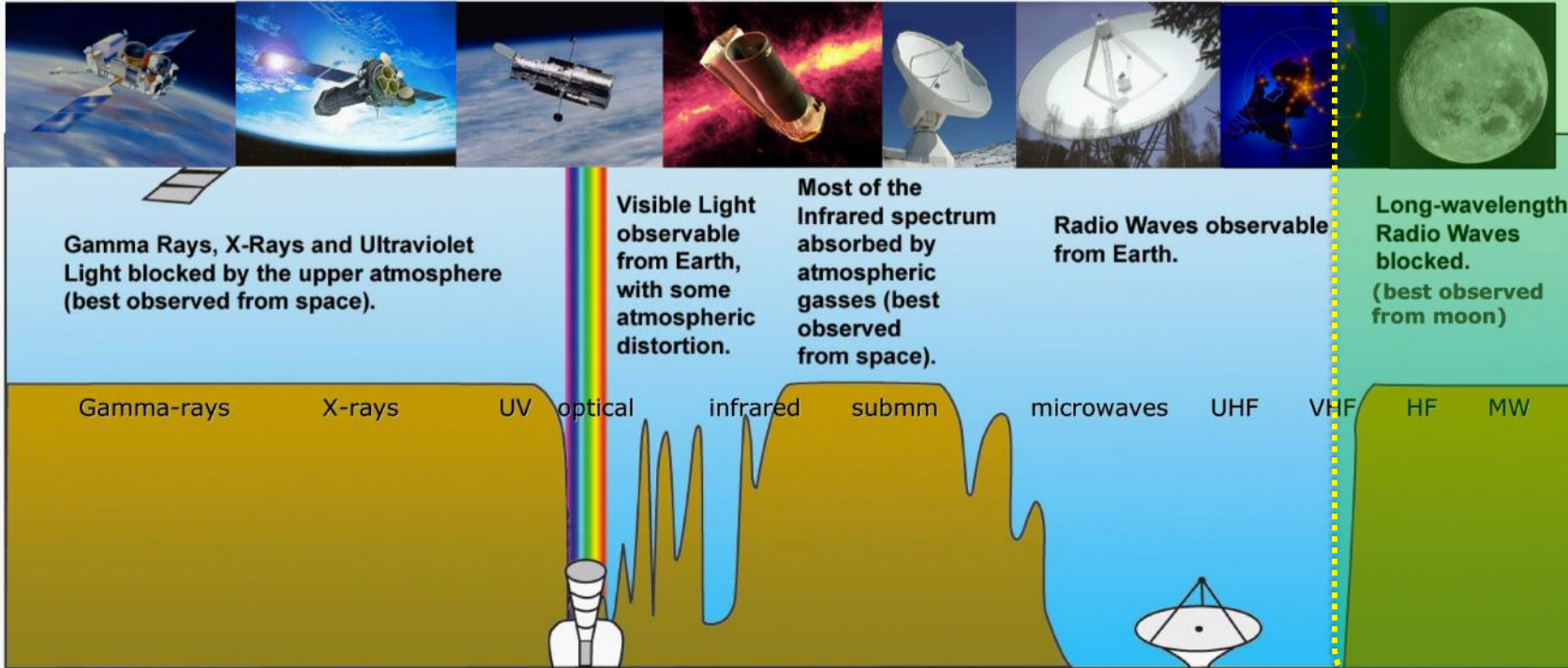
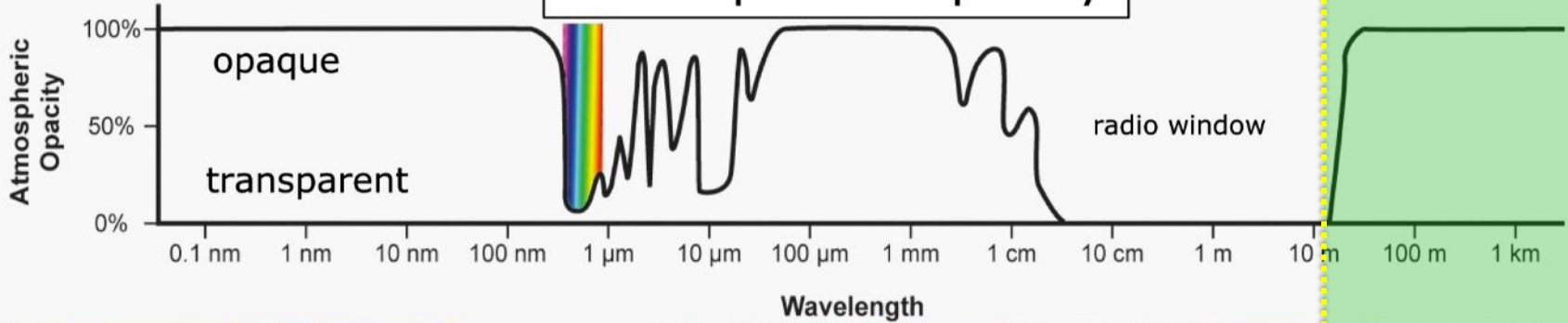


*NCLE is an instrument payload on the relay satellite*

# Science : Unexplored Frequency Domain

Funded through ESA PRODEX program

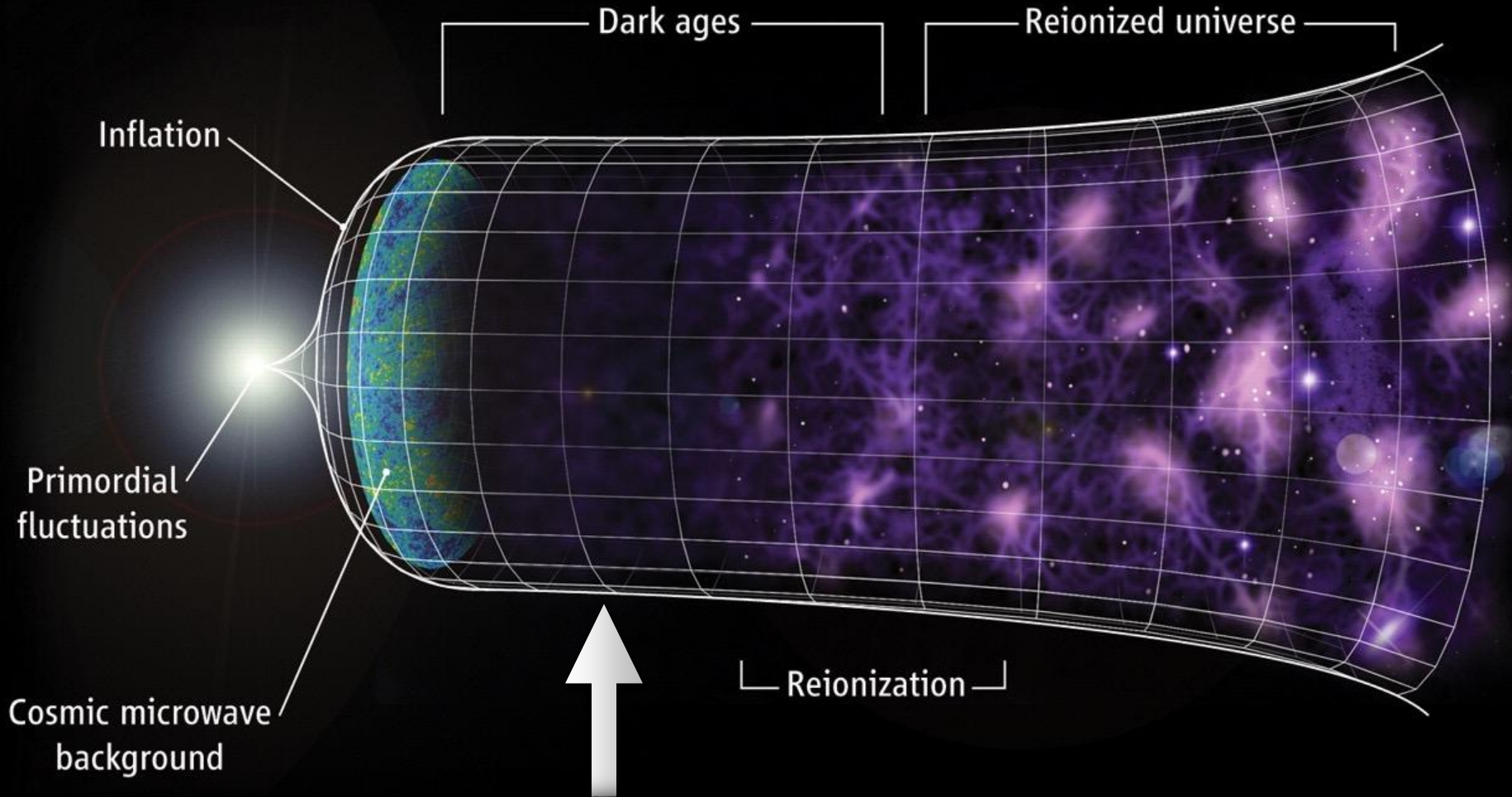
## Atmospheric Opacity





# Detect the history of the Universe

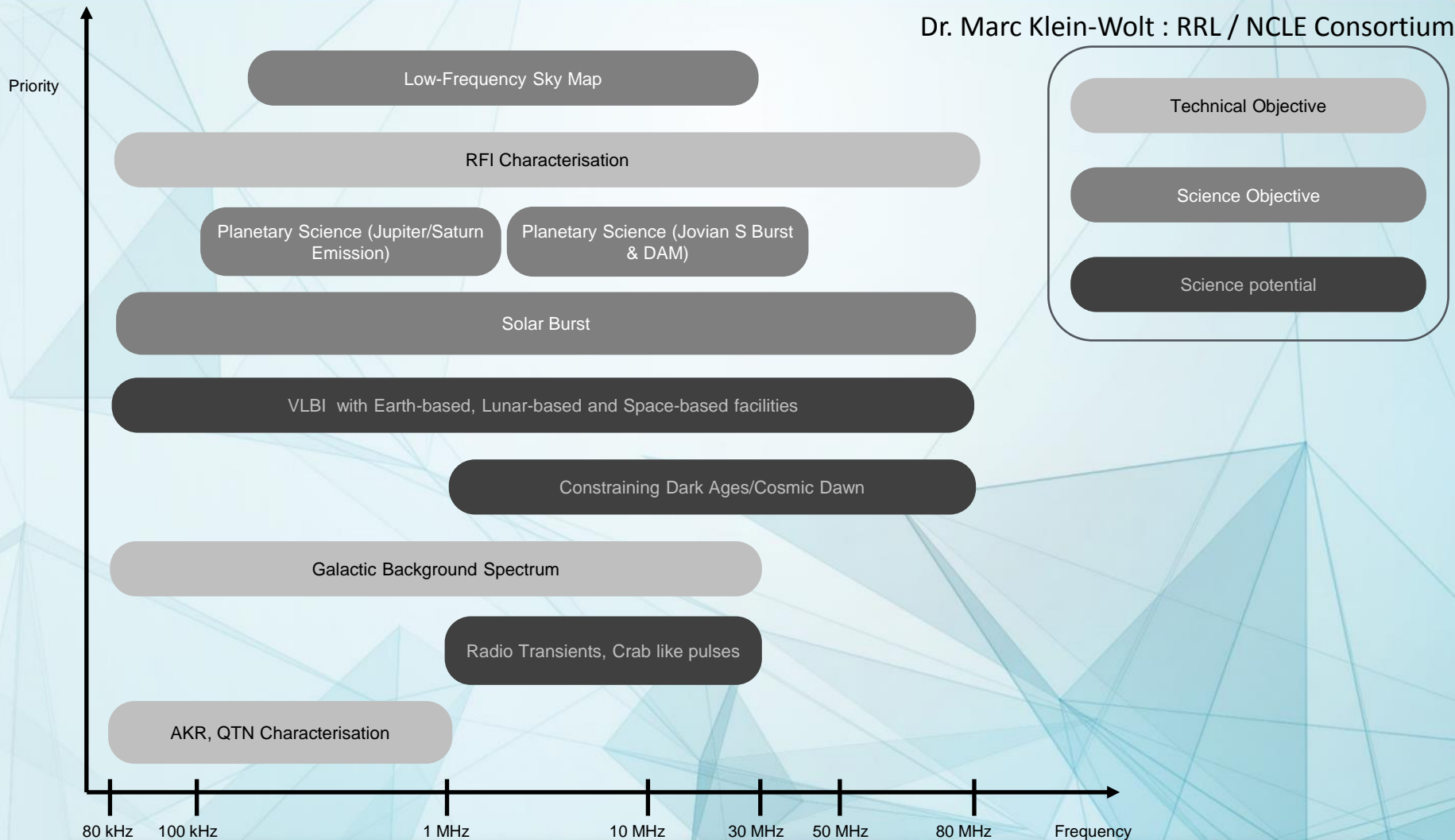
Atomic hydrogen emission = 21cm (1.4 GHz) microwave



Global 21 cm H-I line emission can be seen between 1 and 200 MHz (redshifted)

# NCLE Science Objectives

Dr. Marc Klein-Wolt : RRL / NCLE Consortium



**To perform astrophysical studies in the unexplored radio regime of 80 kHz to 80 MHz from translunar locations as a precursor to future space based missions**

# NCLE on Chang'e 4

The first in many ways..

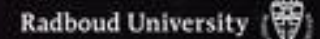
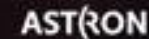
Dr. Marc Klein-Wolt : RRL / NCLE Consortium

*chang'e4  
perspective*

Launch in May 2018

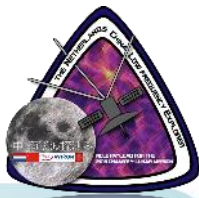
Payload delivery:

QM in October 2017, FM in April 2018

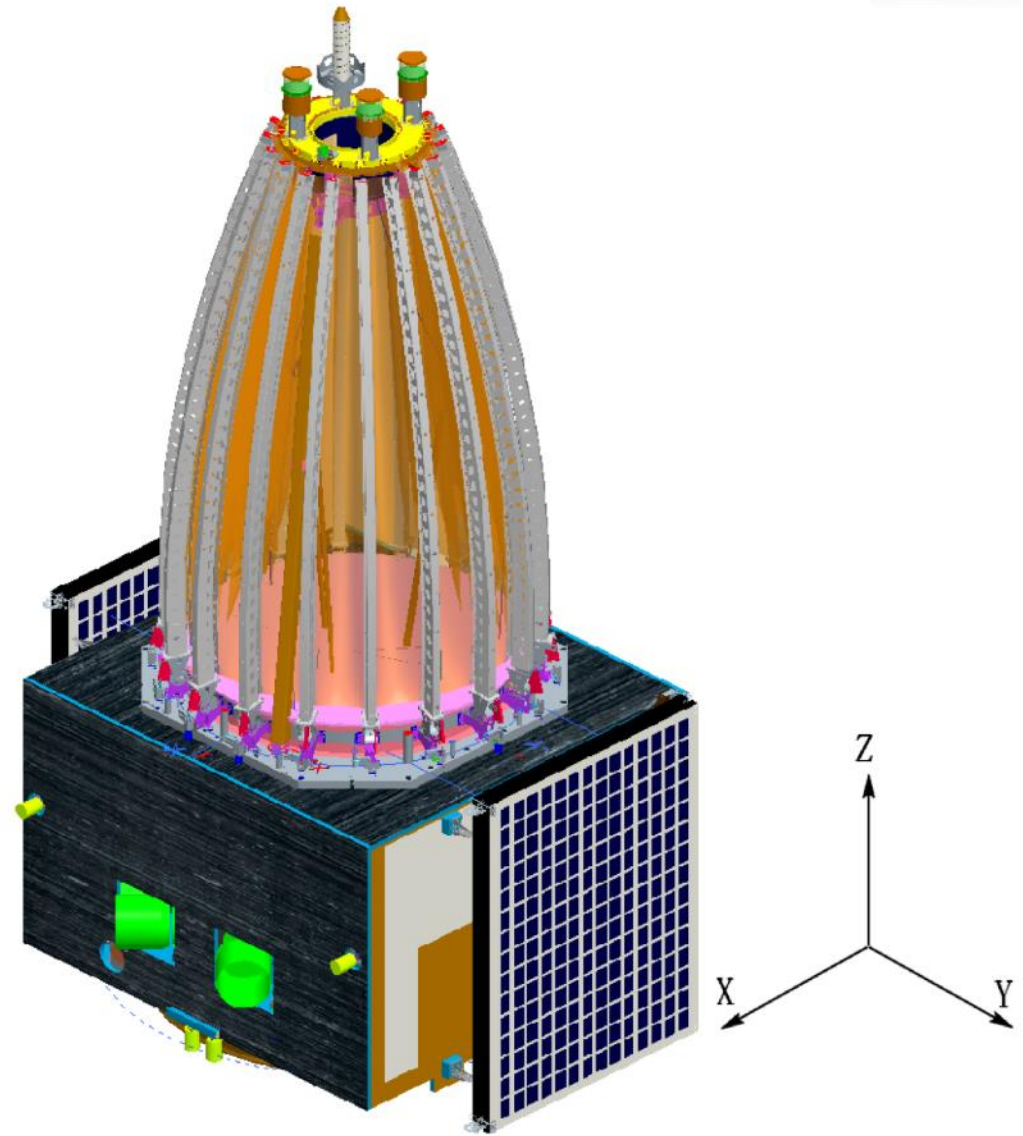


The first international payload on a Chinese mission, the first Dutch instrument to the Moon and the first serious LF radio mission attempting to detect the redshifted 21 cm line emission from the Hydrogen in the very Early Universe

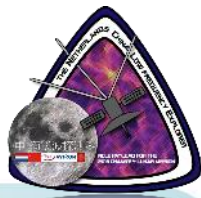
# Chang'e 4 spacecraft



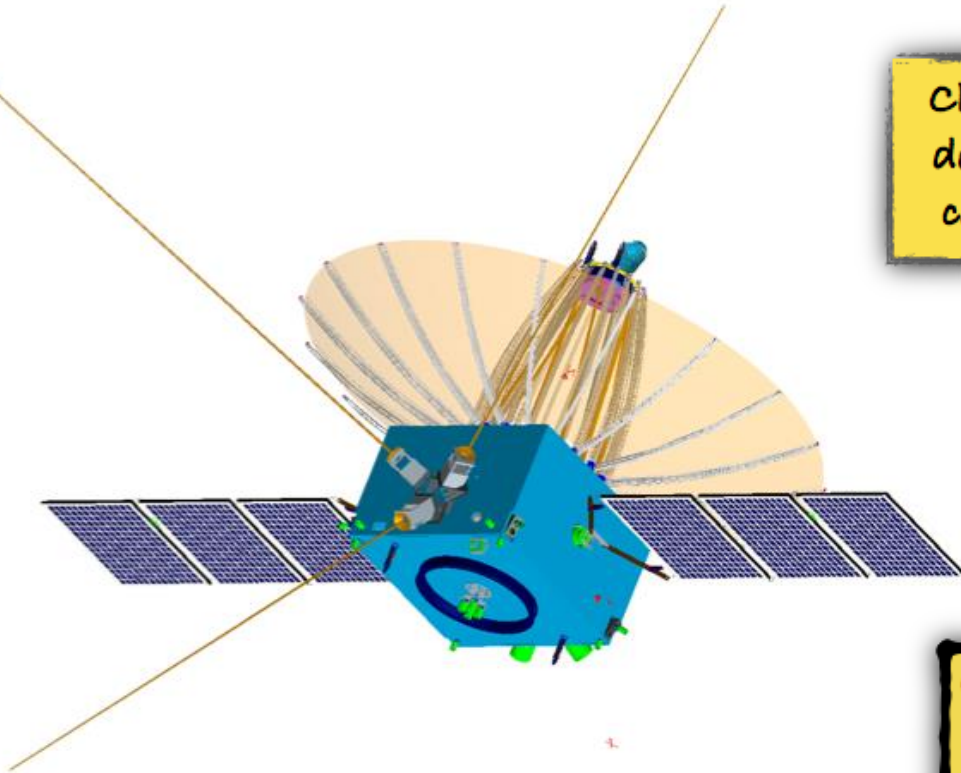
Space craft in  
stowed  
configuration



# Chang'e 4 spacecraft



Chinese space craft design, including concept antennas



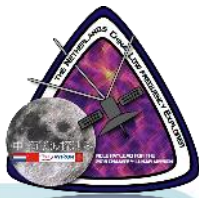
## Design philosophy:

- space-proven concepts
- COTS components
- Technology Demonstration mission
- 3 year mission lifetime

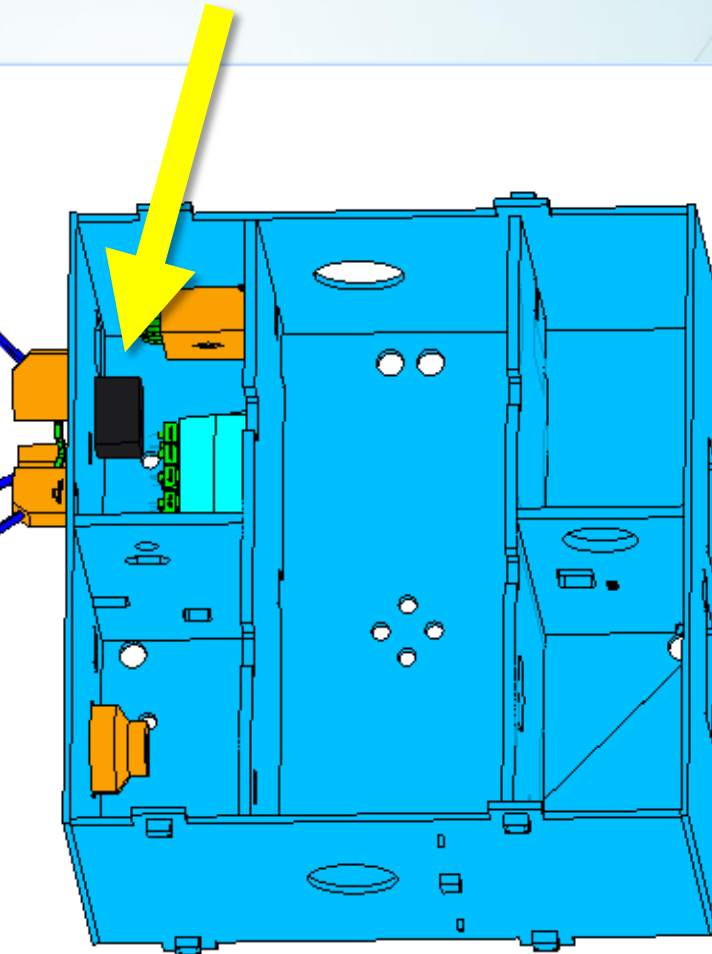
## Challenges:

- EMC noise Space Craft
- SDR with 3 year lifetime
- Thermal control analogue frontend (LNA)
- short lead time!
- Information sharing with Chinese teams

# NCLE Science Payload

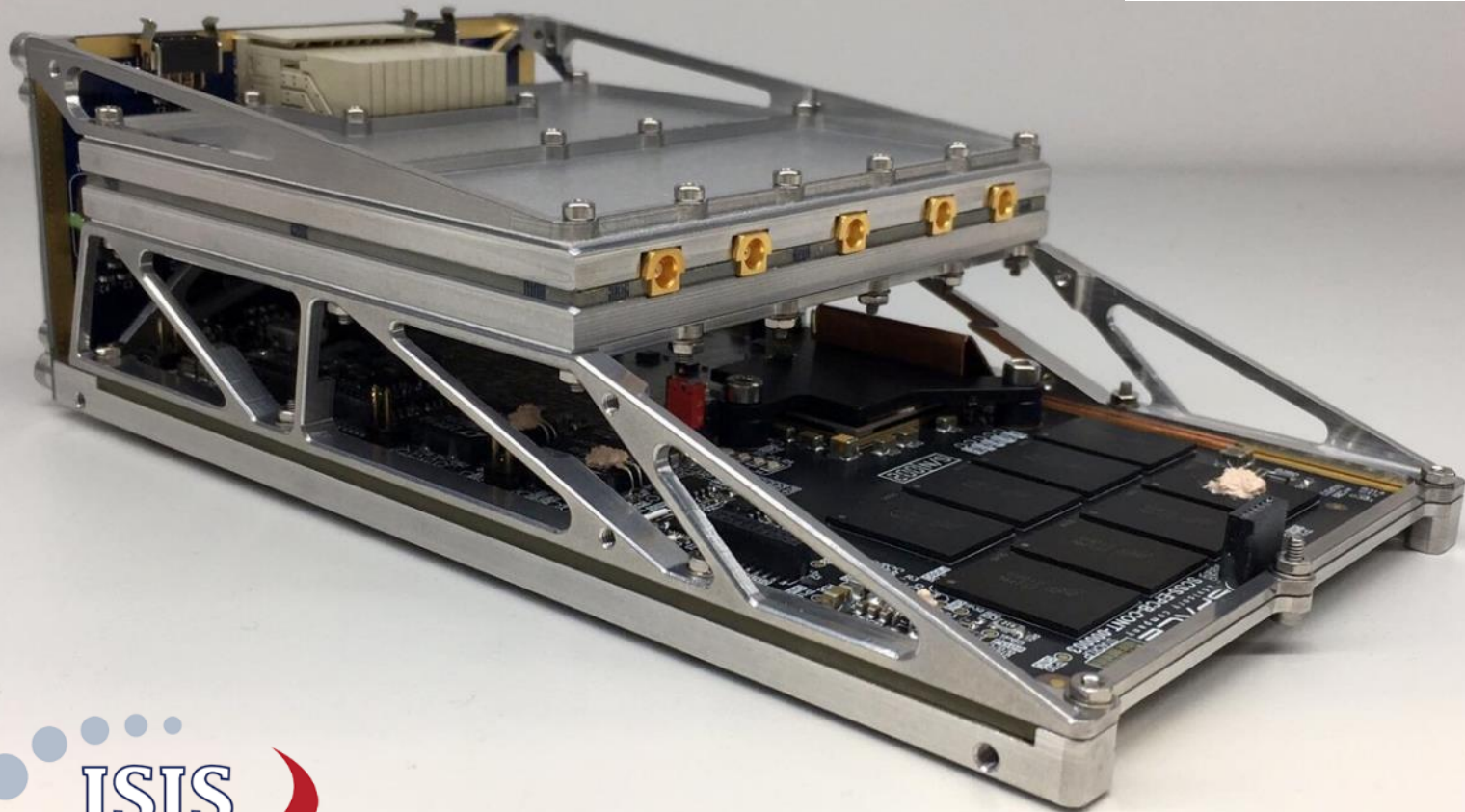


Location of the  
antenna elements  
on and electronics  
in the space craft



# NCLE receiver & data processing unit

**SPACE**  
advisory company

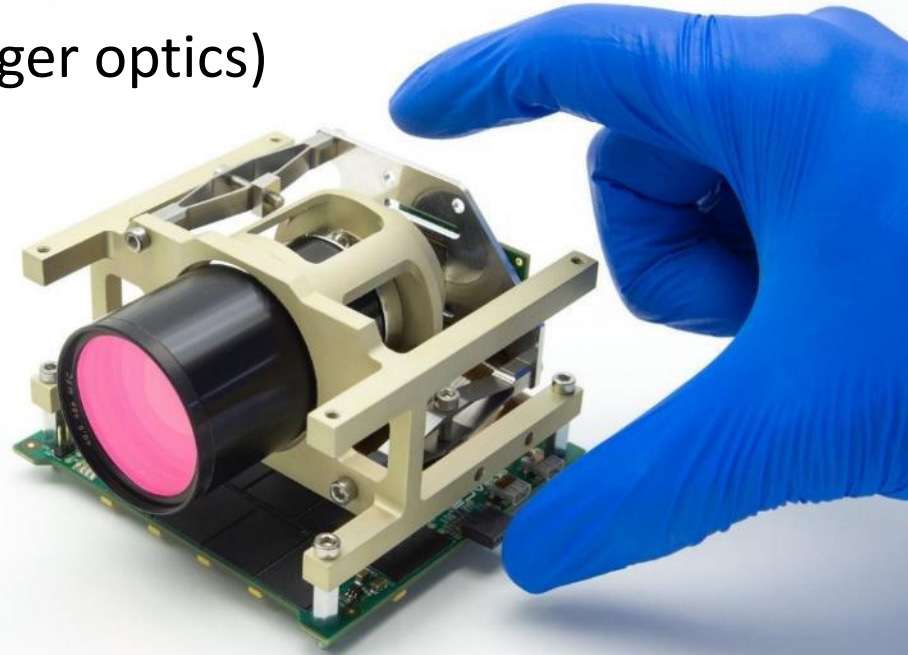


# Origin: SCS Gecko Imager

- Modular design
- Compatible with CubeSats
- High-speed high-capacity mass data storage
- FPGA processor for real-time image processing
- High frame rate capability (for larger optics)

## Characteristics

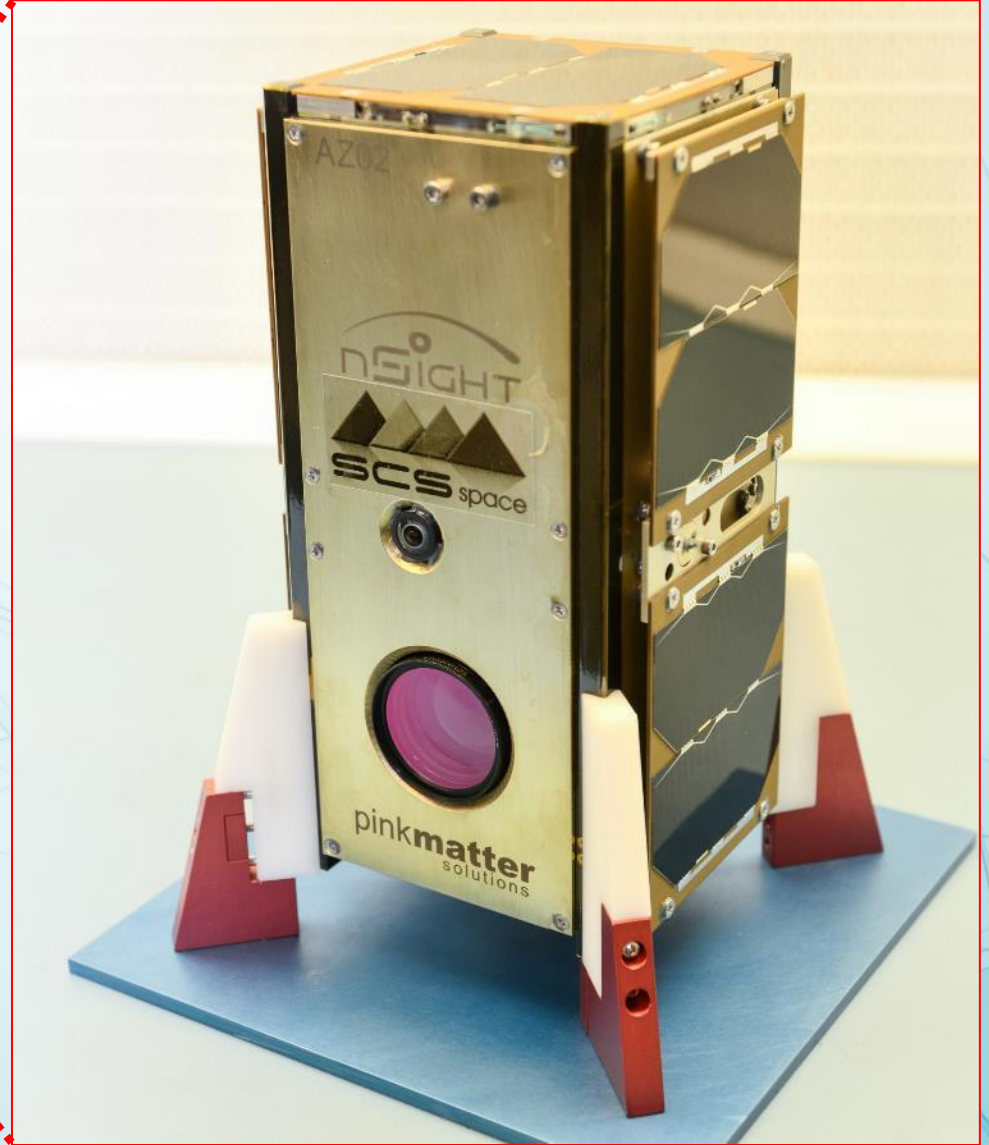
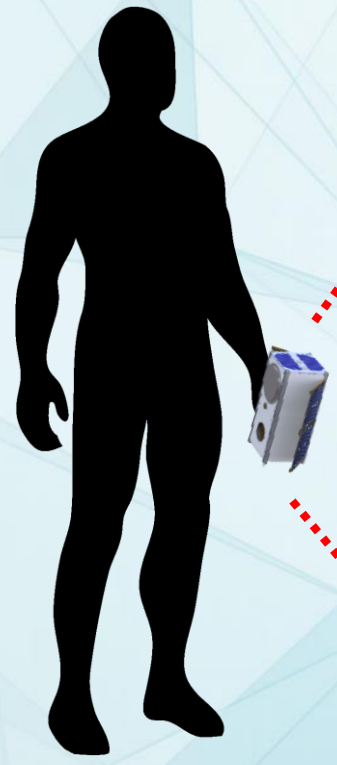
Form factor	< 1U
Mass	< 480 g
GSD	31 m from ISS orbit
Image Sensor	2.2 Megapixel RGB
Storage	128 GB
Rad. tolerance	Tested to 30 krad TID
Space heritage	2017 !





# Successfully Flown in nSIGHT-1

SPACE ADVISORY  
COMPANY (PTY) LTD  
[SAC]





Deployed  
from the ISS

25 May 2017

51.6°, 400km orbit.  
Expected lifetime: 12-18 months.

# Commercialized (CubeSatShop.com)

SPACE ADVISORY  
COMPANY (PTY) LTD  
[SAC]

SCS Gecko imager - CubeSatShop.com

https://www.cubesatshop.com/product/scs-gecko-imager/

SEARCH

CubeSatShop

PRODUCTS ▾ VENDOR INFORMATION ▾ HOW IT WORKS FAQ INQUIRY LIST (0)

Home » Products » Cameras & payloads » SCS Gecko imager


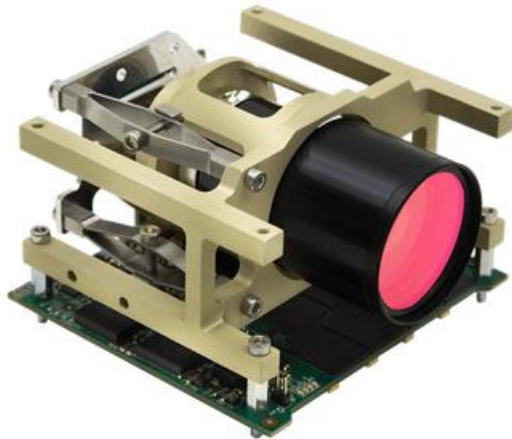
PRODUCT SEARCH

Search products...

Search

PRODUCT CATEGORIES

- Antenna systems
- Attitude actuators
- Attitude sensors
- Cameras & payloads
- Command & data handling
- Communication systems
- CubeSat kits & buses
- CubeSat Structures
- Ground stations
- Ground support equipment
- Integrated ADCS
- Launch adapters



## SCS Gecko imager

€18,000

The Gecko imager is an easy-to-integrate imaging solution for your CubeSat mission. A customizable high performance mass storage unit is integrated into the compact design. The Gecko imager offers mechanical compatibility with standard frames.

RGB images are captured at up to 5 frames per second† using a matrix sensor in snapshot (global shutter) mode. Image data is captured directly to the integrated mass storage. Data may be streamed out to an on-board computer and downlinked a lower data rate, as required. Reliable operation achieved by using a combination of proprietary hardware and space-proven ruggedized optics.

**Availability: 12 – 16 weeks**

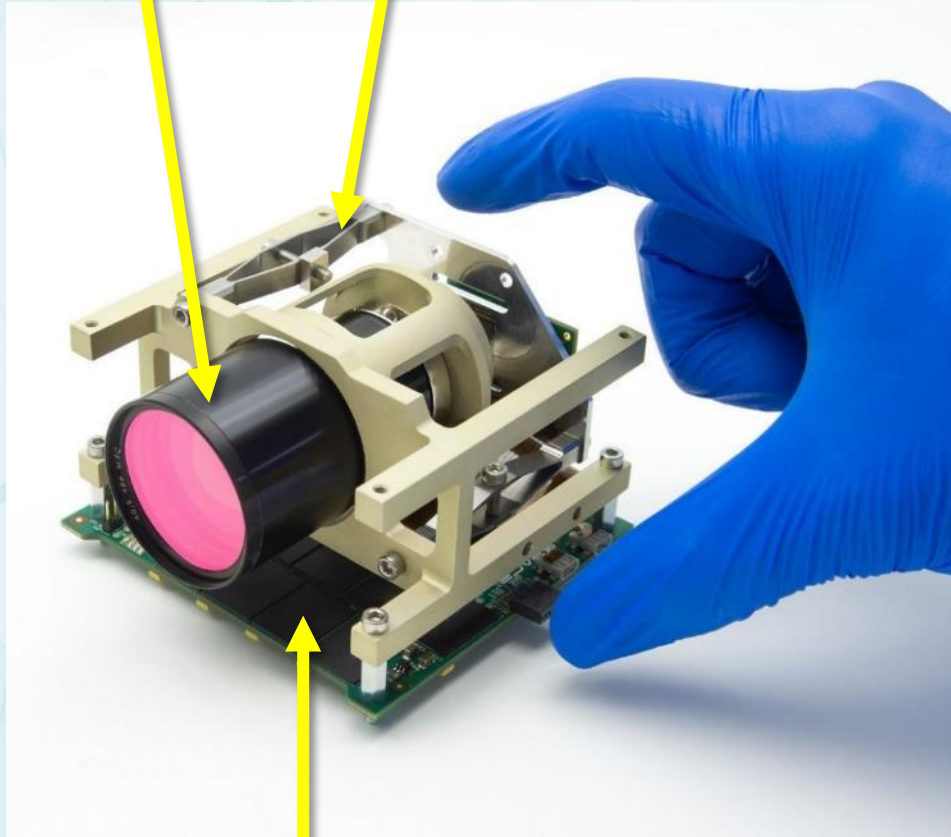
Quantity

Request more info

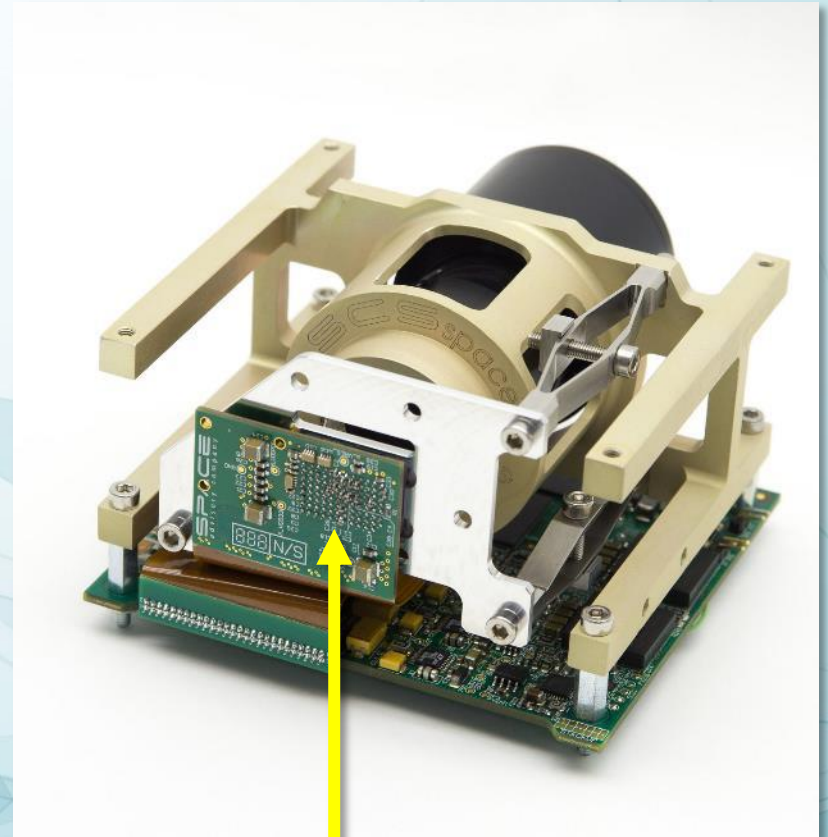
# Modular design

Optics

Mechanics



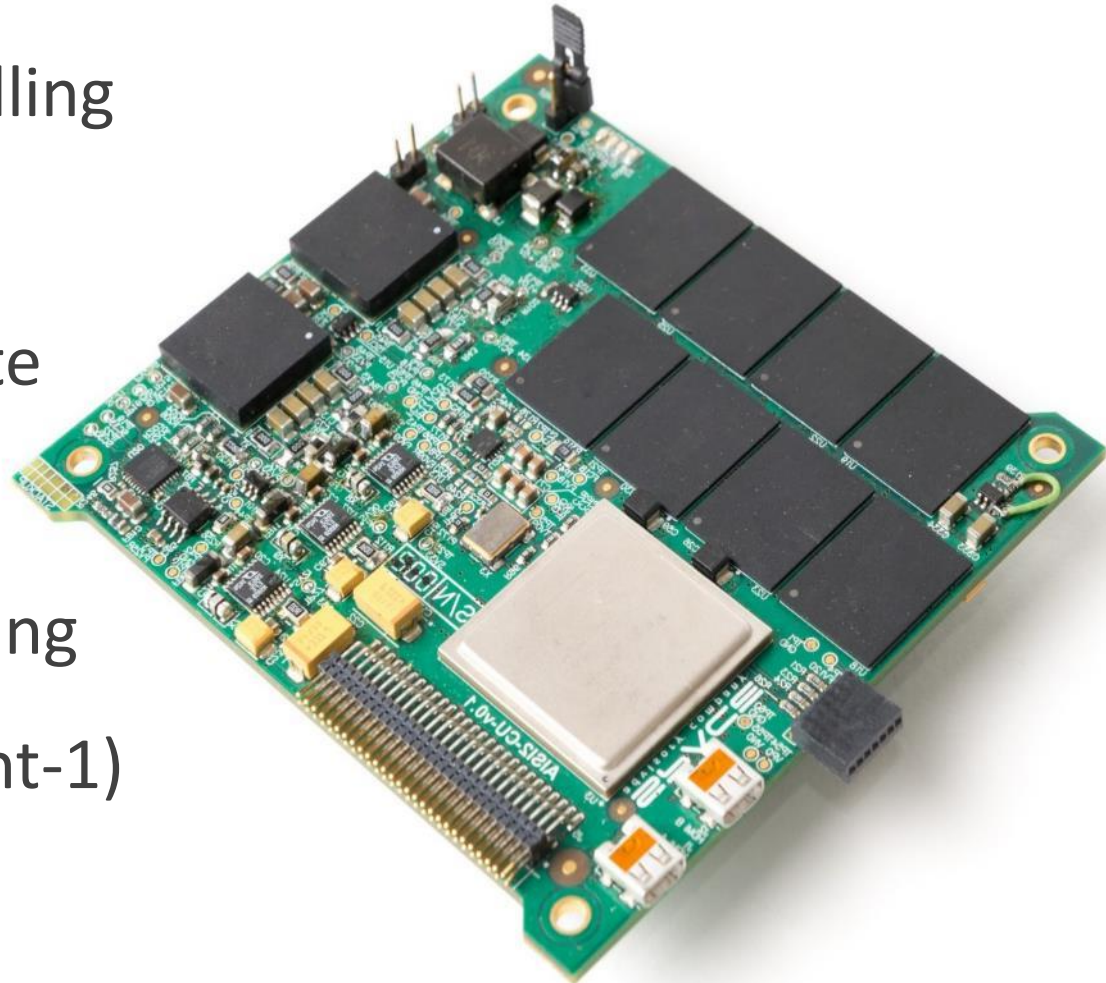
Control Unit



Sensor Unit

# Versatile “Control Unit”

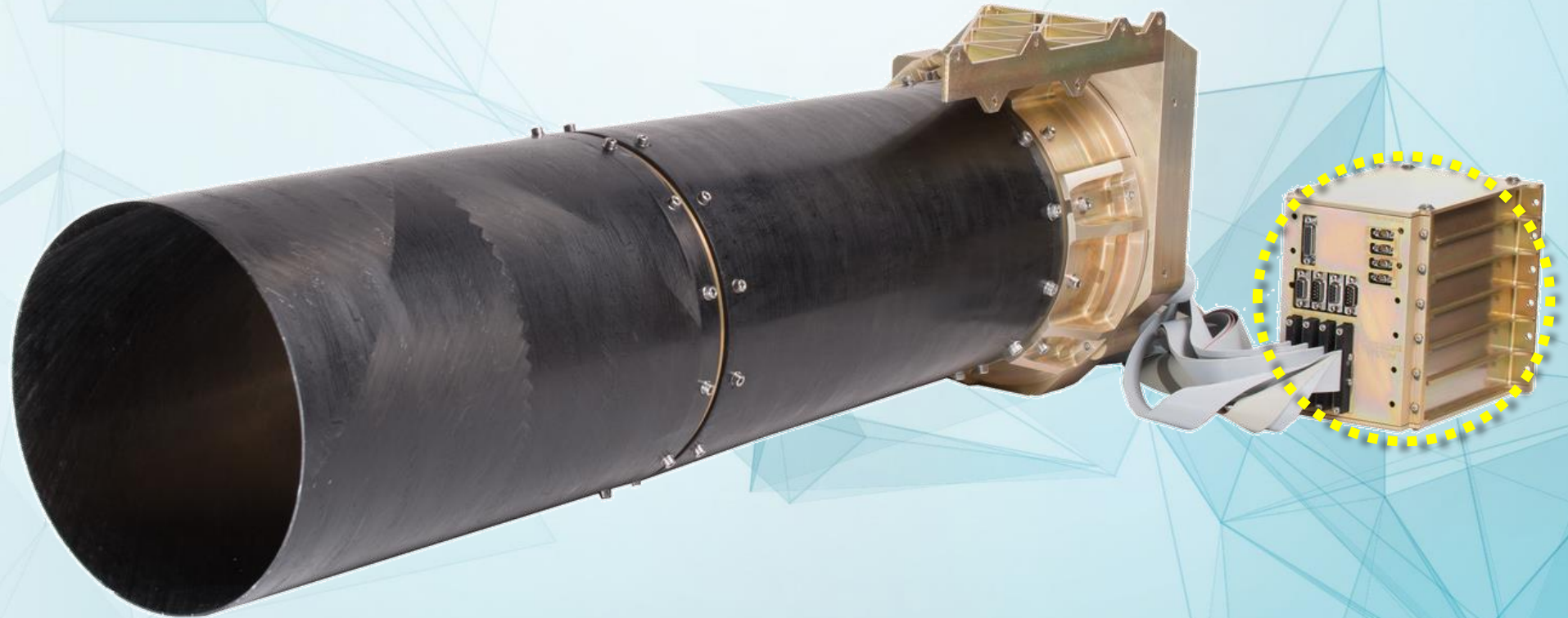
- Mass data storage (128 GB or more)
- Automatic wear levelling
- Error-correction
- High data capture rate
- Thumbnails
- RGB Bayer demosaicing
- JPEG2000 (post nSight-1)



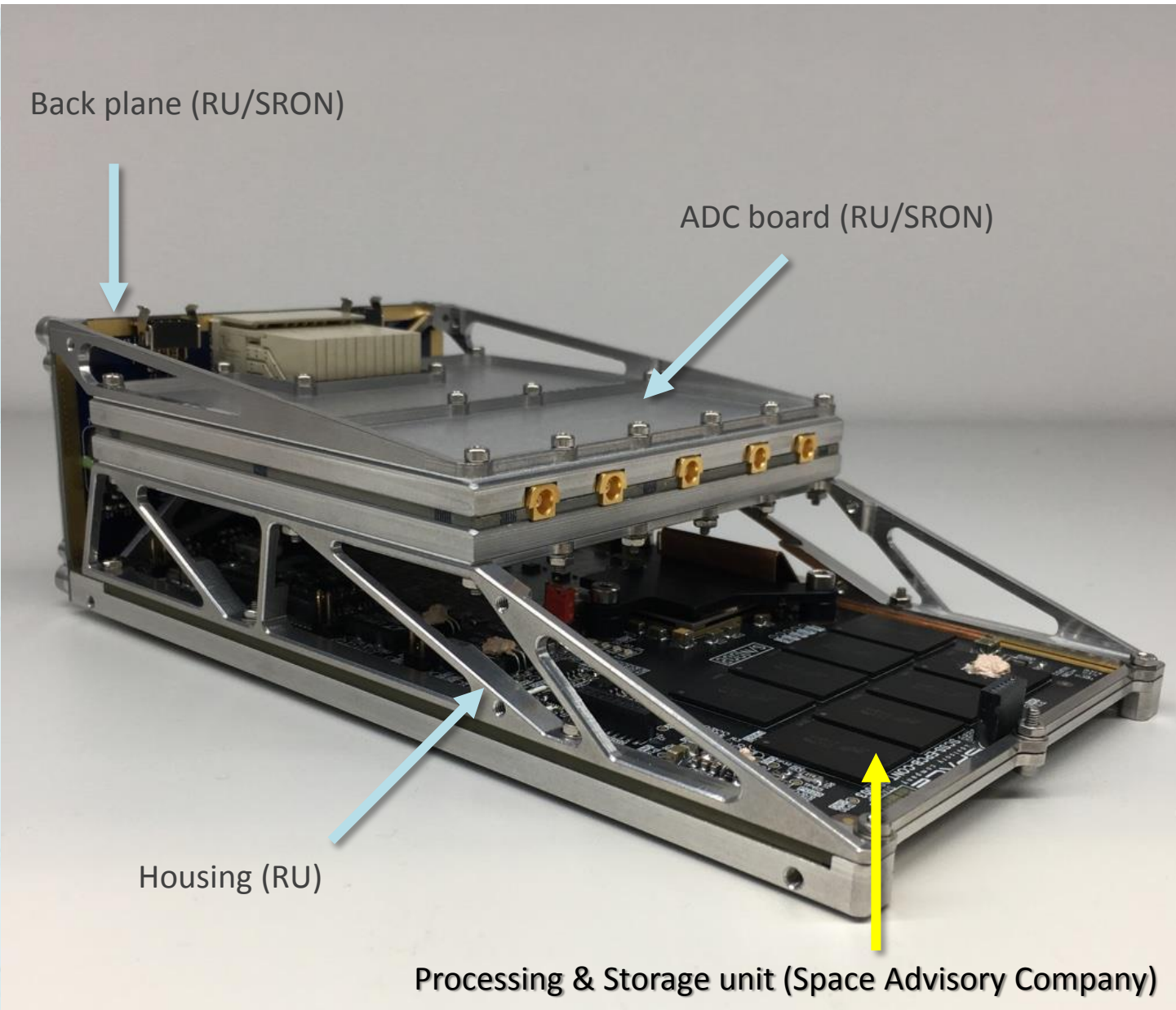
PC/104 form-factor (~100 mm x 100 mm x 15 mm)

# SCS Tegu EO-1 shares heritage

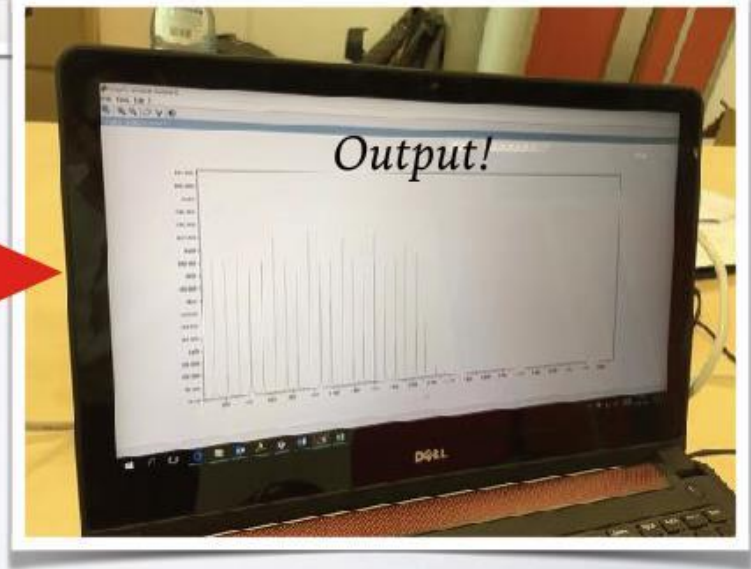
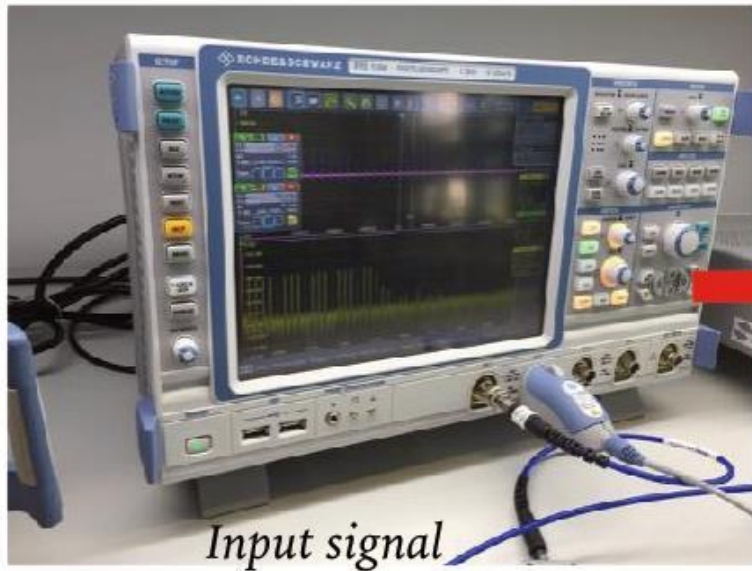
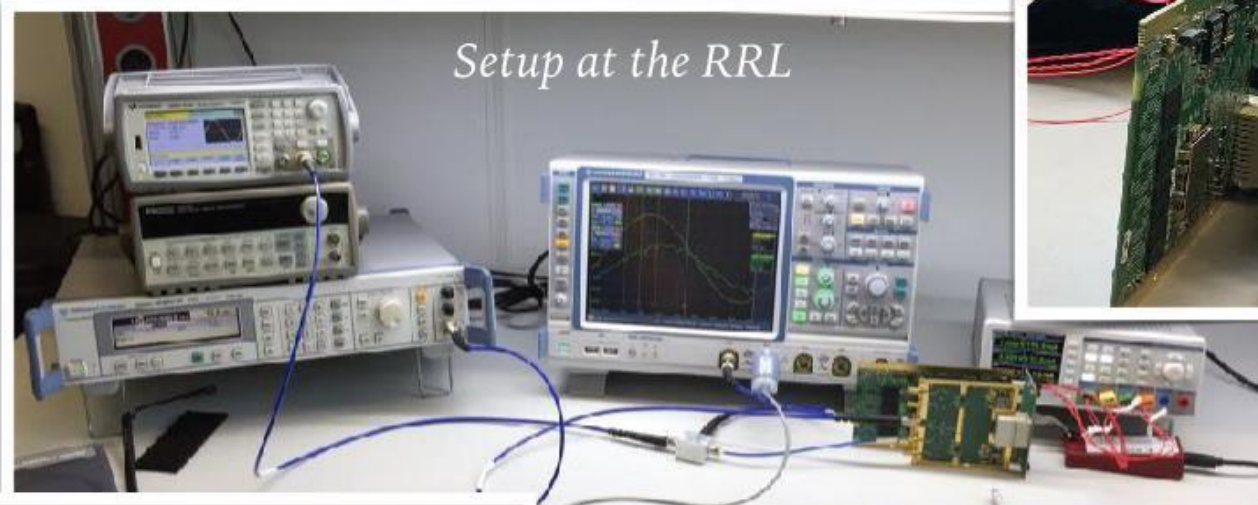
- 2m PAN, 10m multispectral GSD
- 24 km swath
- VIS-NIR coverage in 11 bands
- 1 Terabyte on-board storage
- JPEG2000 compression



# NCLE receiver & data processing unit

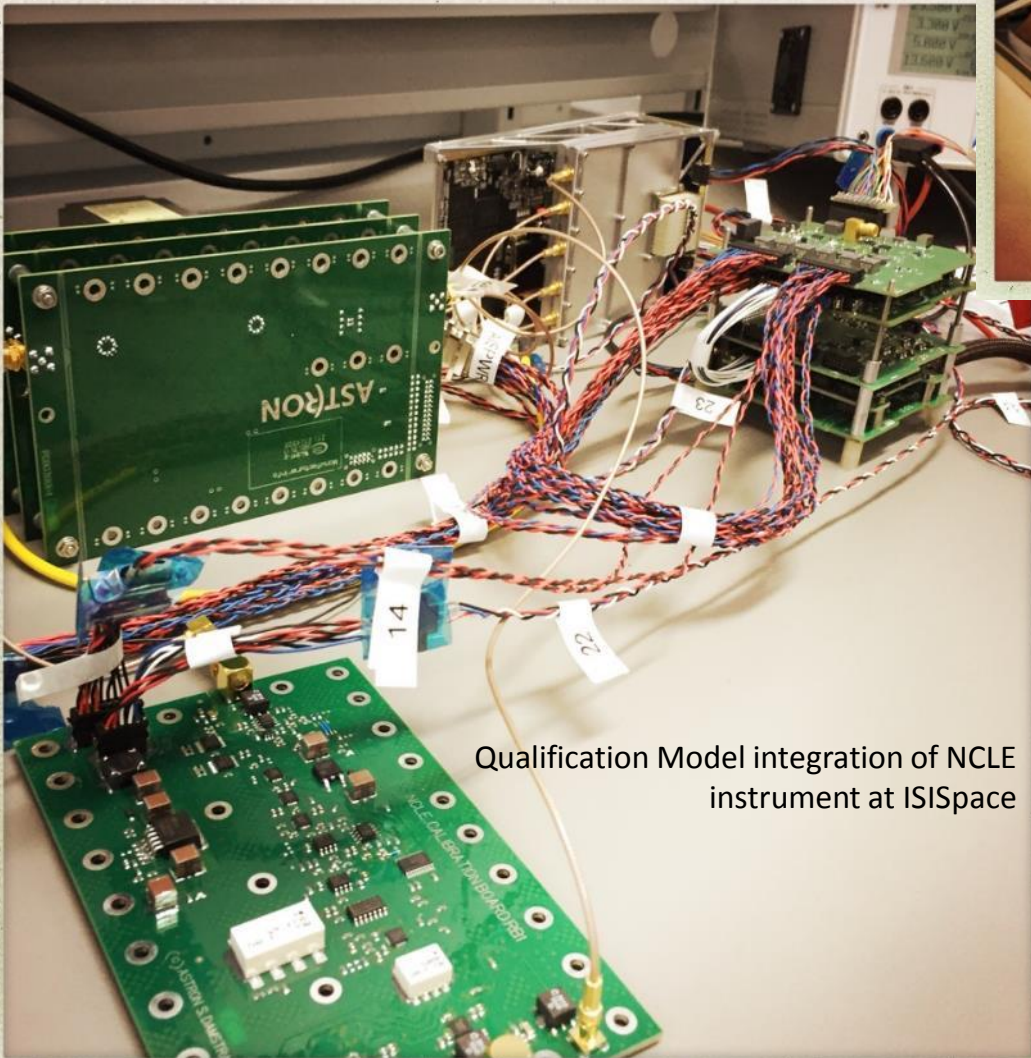


# Engineering Model

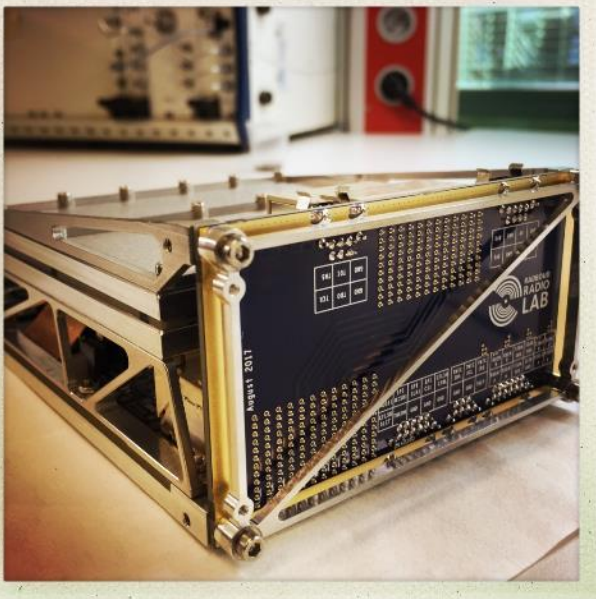




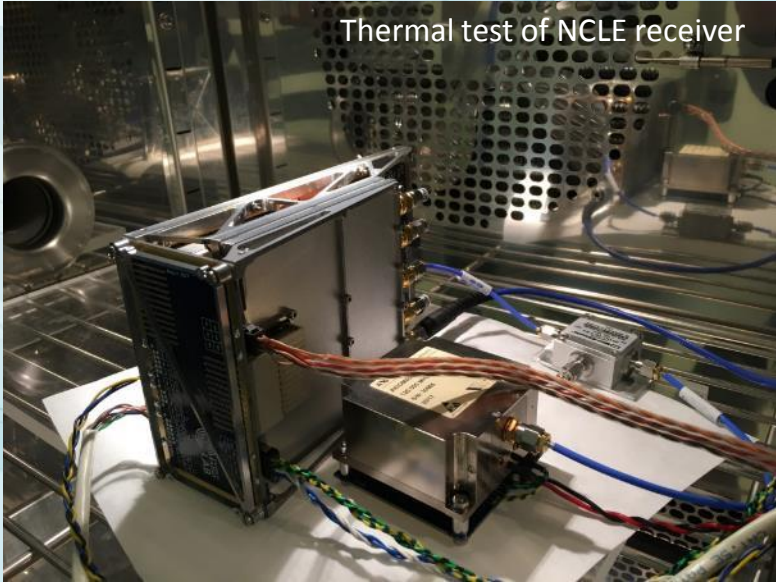
# NLCE Development



Qualification Model integration of NLCE instrument at ISISpace



NLCE Receiver at Radboud Radio Lab



# The (first) FM Board : delivered!



# Looking towards success in 2018

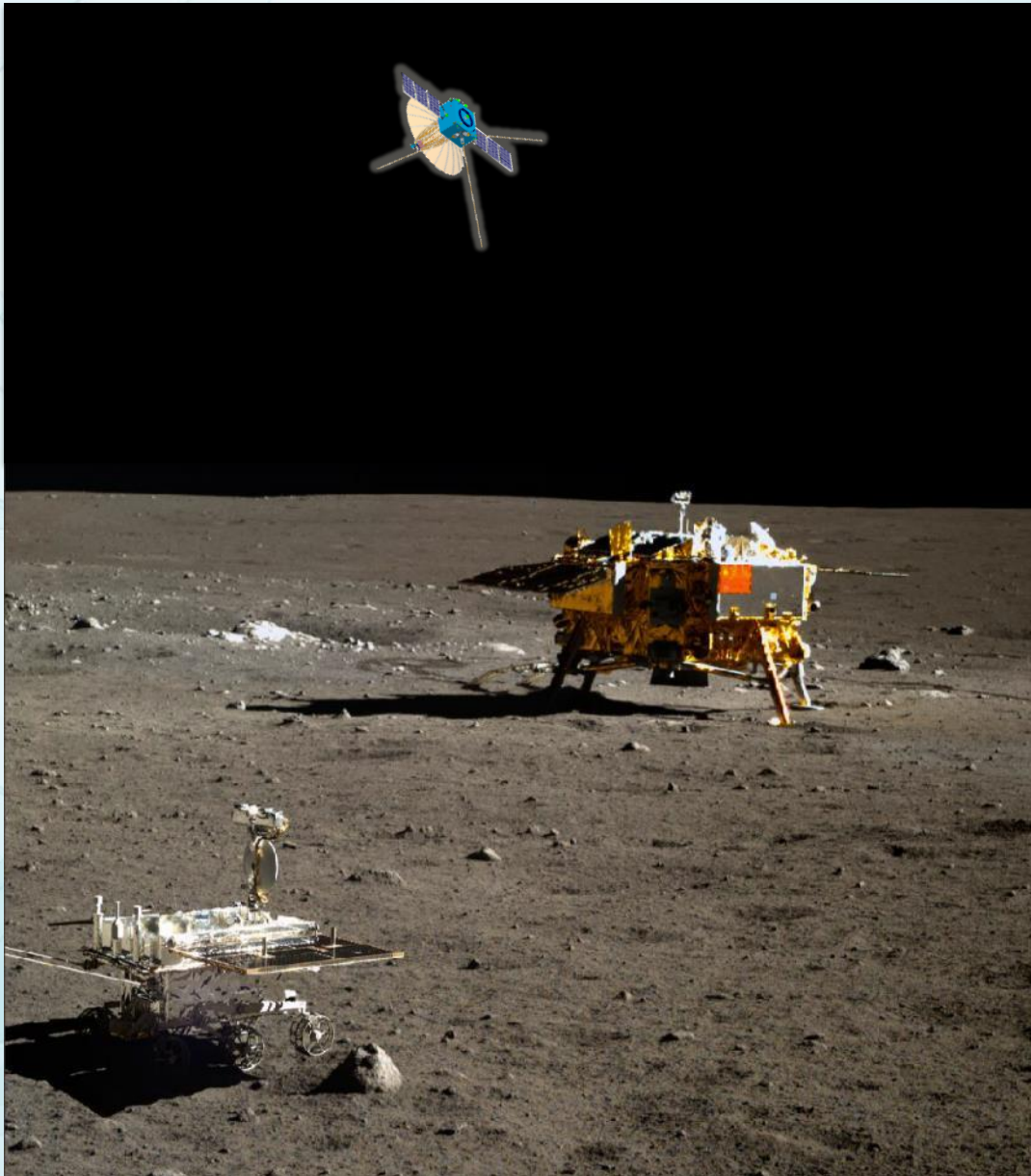
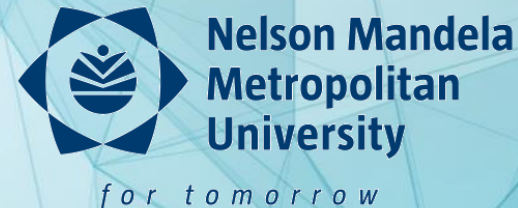


Image: CNSA

# Some of our partners and customers



UNIVERSITEIT  
STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY



**Dr. Francois Malan**  
[francois@spaceadvisory.com](mailto:francois@spaceadvisory.com)



Tel : +27 (0)21 300 0060

<http://www.spaceadvisorycompany.com>