

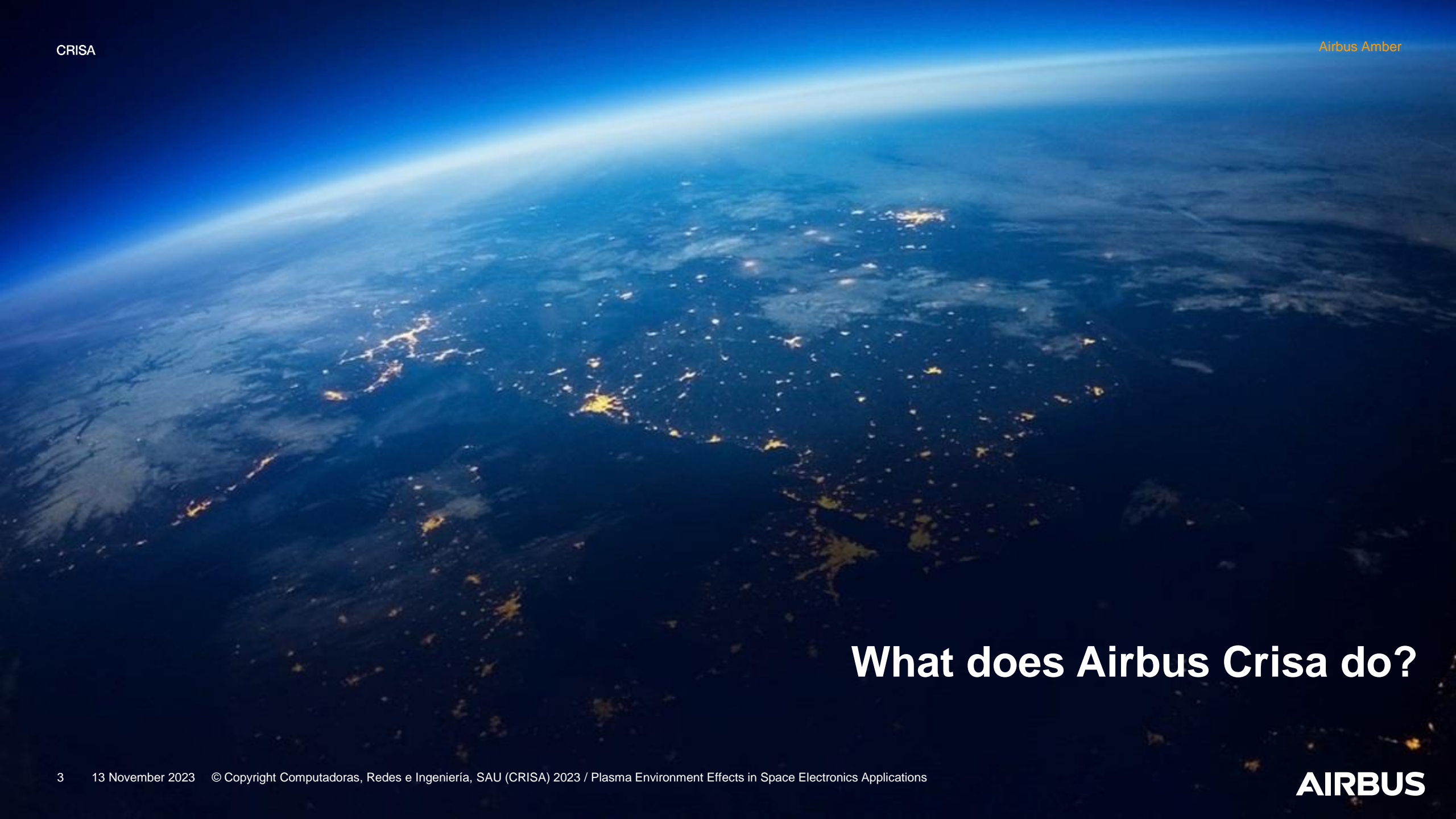
# Plasma Environment Effects in Space Electronics Applications

Airbus Amber  
Expert Control: Not Listed



# Plasma Environment Effects in Space Electronics Applications : Conclusions

- ❑ **Electronic for space** applications is an special case within electronics domain subject to specific and **unique environmental conditions**
- ❑ **Radiation** can cause spacecraft systems and electronics **units malfunctions** via different mechanism like parts parameters drifting or undesired transients
- ❑ **Plasma** leads to **spacecraft charging** that could potentially damage electronics.
- ❑ **Electric Propulsion** is a source of **plasma** that need to be correctly managed



# What does Airbus Crisa do?



# Airbus Crisa - Airbus Defence and Space affiliate located in Tres Cantos (Madrid)



- Recognised leading position worldwide in **power, electric propulsion and launcher electronics**
- Positioned as **key national player**
- **Pioneering the Next Space trend: state of the art products** supported by our industrial capacity → Next Space production line in operation since 2021
- **Full E2E engineering and production capabilities and skills** available in-house.
- **Products Quality and Reliability** widely acknowledged by customers
- **Sustainable growth story** since its creation

# A solid background to build upon

CRISA

Airbus Amber



**Over 300**  
accomplished missions

**>2000**  
flight units launched

**8.700**  
kg launched

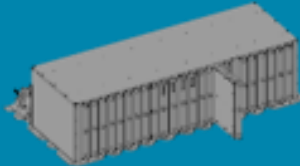
**60** missions in progress



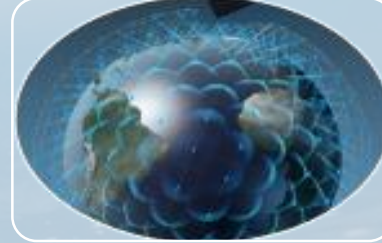
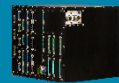
# Diversified portfolio of products and applications



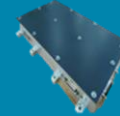
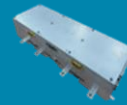
### Human Exploration



### Launchers



### Constellations



### Telecom (NEXT Space & NEO)



### Earth Observation & Science



- **Technological innovation** is our guiding principle: we leverage innovation to anticipate the evolving needs and expectations of the space market.
- We have demonstrated our ability to meet requirements for **all mission types**: from large **telecommunication** satellites to **new space constellations**, **Earth observation** platforms to **scientific** and **deep space exploration** probes.

# Programa Nacional de Observación de la Tierra por Satélite

## SEOSAT Ingenio



## PAZ





# JUICE Power Conditioning and Distribution Unit (PCDU)

## JUJupiter ICy moons Explorer (JUICE) – investigating the Jovian system

1<sup>st</sup> European mission to Jupiter.  
Focusing on its icy moons and evaluating  
the potential for habitable worlds

Launch in  
**April 2023**

Callisto



Europa



Ganymede

Approximately **8** year journey close to  
**5 billion** km: **4** gravity assists to reach cruise velocity

More than **4** years touring the Jovian system,  
incl. **9** months around Ganymede

**85** m<sup>2</sup> solar array – the largest ever built  
for an interplanetary mission

**6.2** ton launch mass

**10** instruments covering a wide range  
of measurement techniques

**1** Tb mass memory for new science data

**AIRBUS**



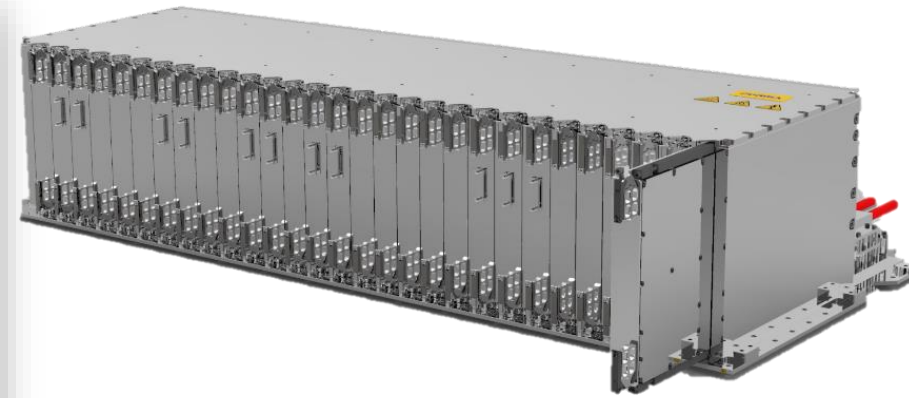
PCDU (Airbus Crisa)

JUICE misión (Airbus)

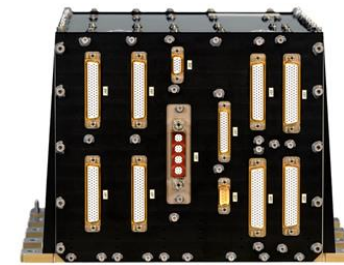
# Lunar Gateway Electrical Power Subsystem (EPS)



Imagen virtual de la estación espacial Gateway en órbita en torno a la Luna (NASA)



GHPS (Airbus Crisa)



TCU (Airbus Crisa)

# Launch and Space Environment



ESA - Ariane 6

## Launch

- Shock
- Vibration
- Radiated Emissions

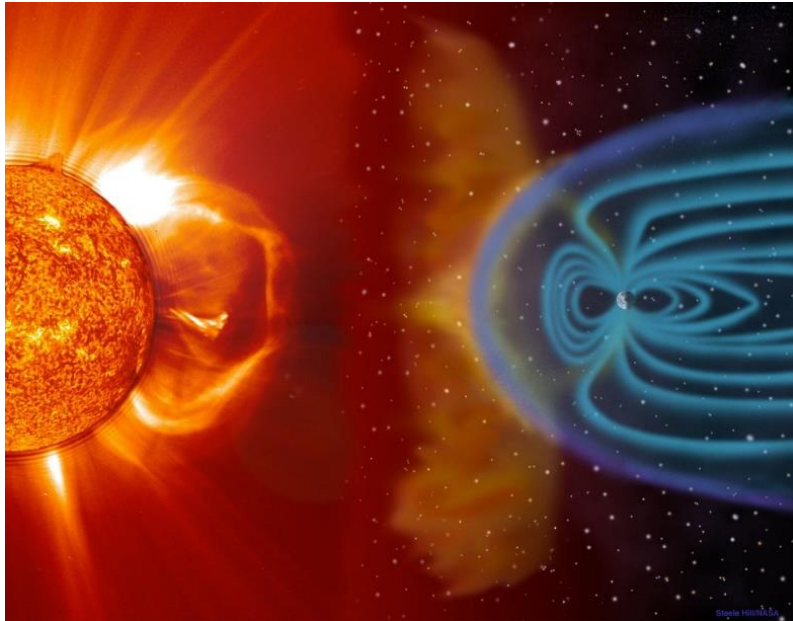
## Space Environment

- Thermal : Solar radiation, albedo
- Meteoroids and debris
- Plasma : Ionospheric, Auroral, Magnetospheric
- Solar environment
- Ionizing radiation
- Magnetic field

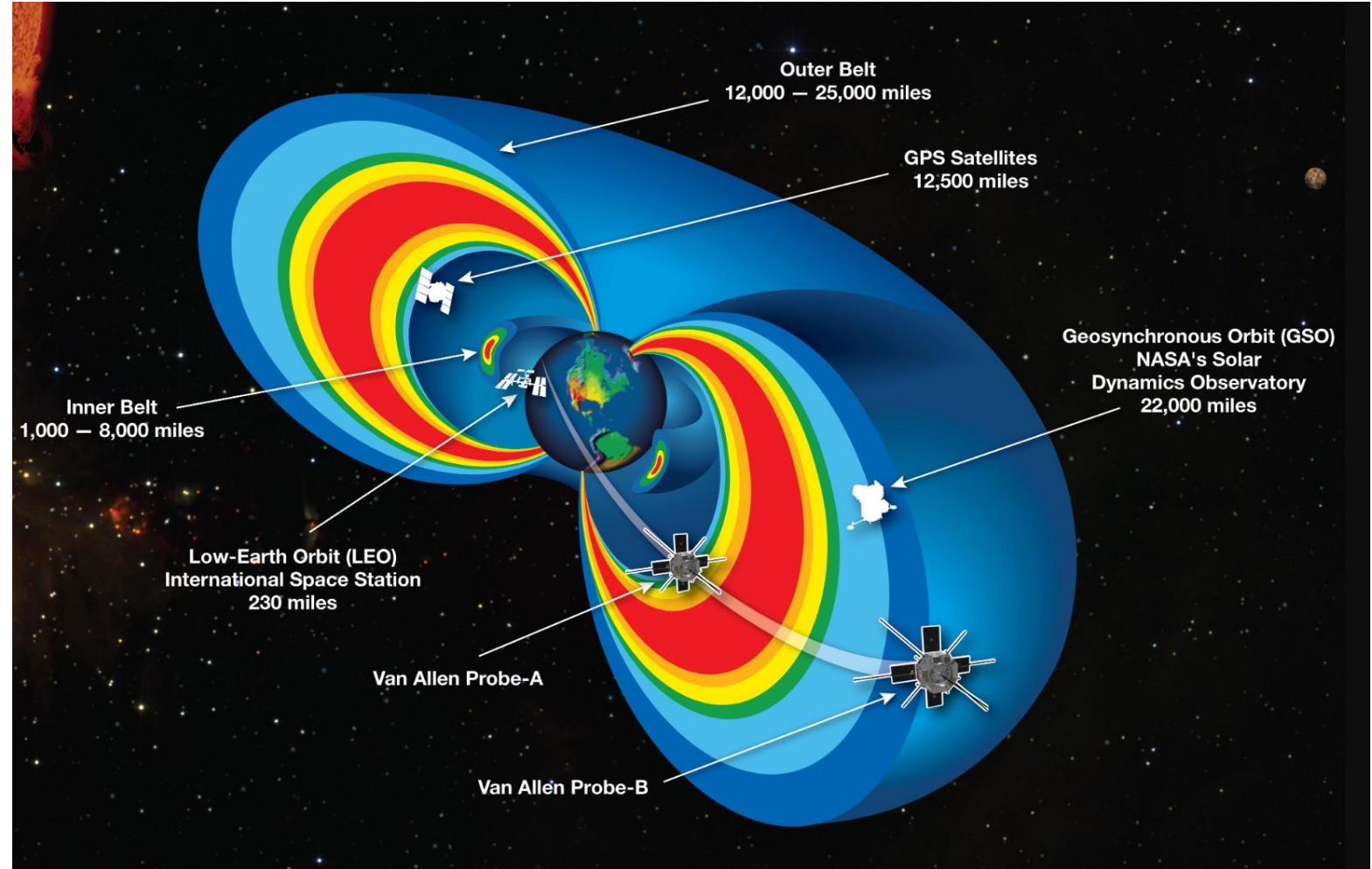


# Space Environment : EEE components Radiation effects

# Solar, Plasma, Magnetic and Radiation Environment



[https://www.esa.int/Science\\_Exploration/Space\\_Science/Solar\\_Orbiter/Living\\_with\\_a\\_star](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Solar_Orbiter/Living_with_a_star)



<https://www.radiation-dosimetry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/van-Allen-radiation-belts-satellites-min.png>

**Table 1: Radiation effects versus orbit**

Radiation effect	Orbit			
	GEO	LEO polar	LEO non-polar	MEO
Trapped electrons	+++	+	+	+
Trapped protons	-	++	++	++++
Total dose	+++	++	+	+++++
Heavy ions	+++	++	+	++
Solar flare protons	+++	+	-	++
- no effect	+ little effect		+++++	high effect

# Total Dose

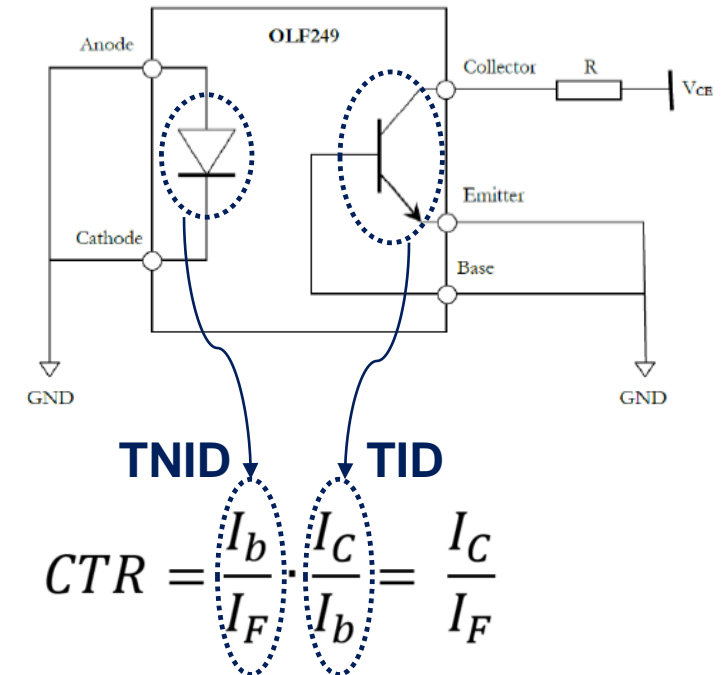
## □ Total Ionizing Dose (TID):

- Parameters degradation due to cumulated charge on the device die
- Absorbed dose [rad(Si)]: 1 rad = 0.01 J/kg

## □ Total Non-Ionizing Dose (TNID):

- Parameters degradation due to defects on the device crystal lattice
- Fluence (Number of particles per unit area) [particles/cm<sup>2</sup>]

Family	Sub-Family	TNIDL
CCD, CMOS APS, opto discrete devices	all	all
Integrated circuits	Silicon monolithic bipolar or BiCMOS	> 2x10 <sup>11</sup> p/cm <sup>2</sup> 50 MeV equivalent proton fluence
Diodes	Zener Low leakage Voltage reference	> 2x10 <sup>11</sup> p/cm <sup>2</sup> 50 MeV equivalent proton fluence
Transistor	Low power NPN Low power PNP High power NPN High power PNP	> 2x10 <sup>11</sup> p/cm <sup>2</sup> 50 MeV equivalent proton fluence

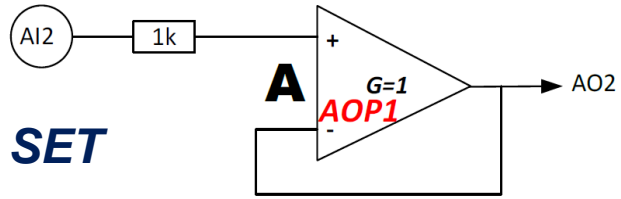


# Single Events

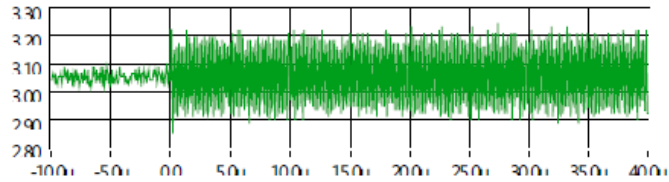
## □ Single Event Effects (SEE):

- Average amount of energy that is lost per unit path-length as a charged particle travels through a given material [MeV·cm<sup>2</sup>/mg]
  
- *SET/SEU: Single event transient/upset*
- *MBU: Multiple bit upset*
- *SHE: Single Hard Error (Stuck Bits)*
- *SEFI: Single event functional interrupts*
- *SEL: Single event latch-up*
- *SEB/SEGR: Single event burnt out/gate rupture*

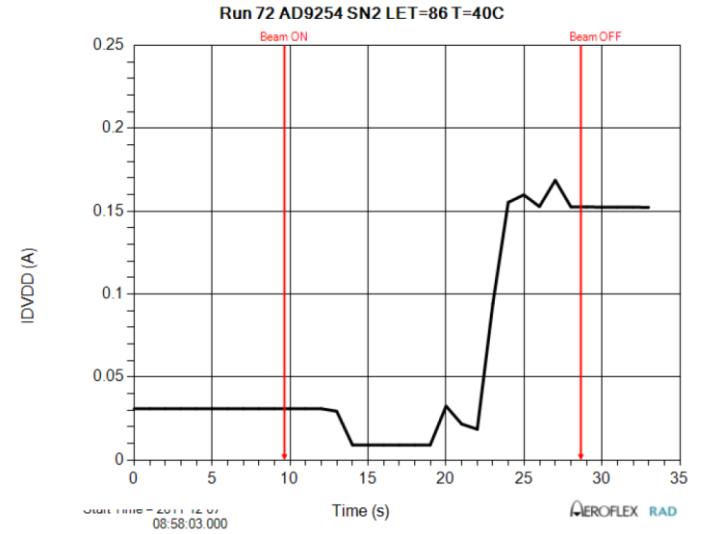
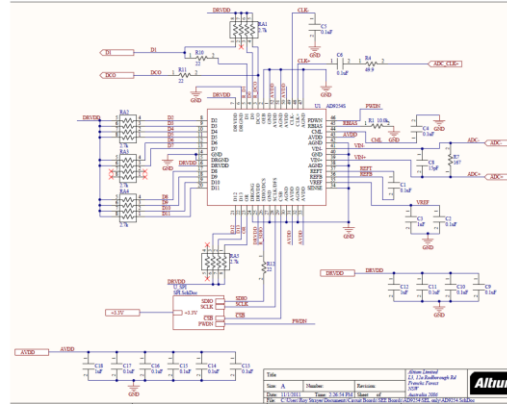
# Single Events



**SET**



## SEL



**MBU**



1	0	0	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	0	0	1
1	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	1

$t = t_0$

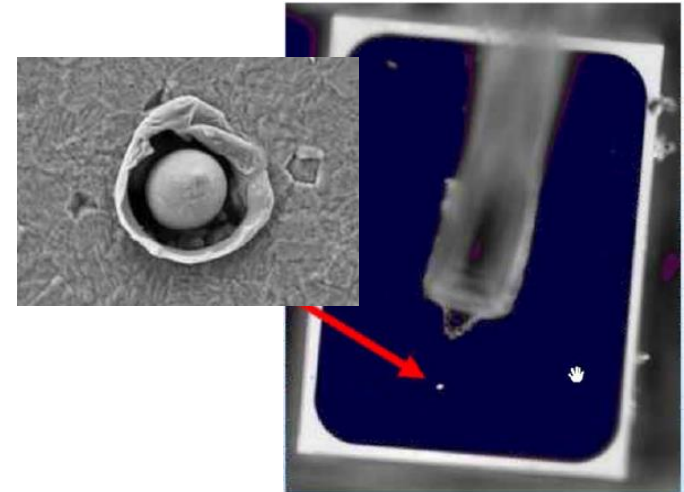
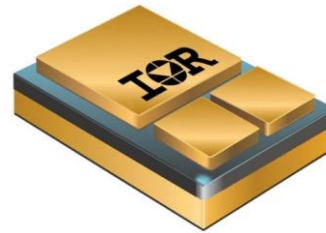
1	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	0	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	0	0	1	0	1

$t = t_1$

0	0	1	0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0	1	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	1	1	1

$t = t_n$

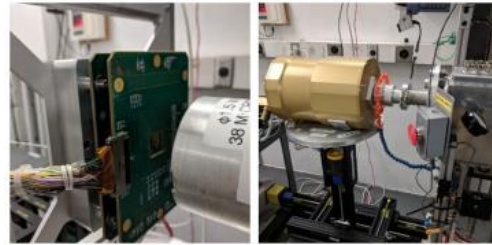
**SEB**



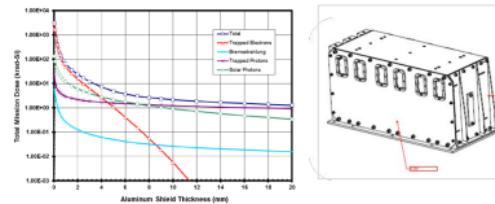


# Radiation Effects Countermeasures

- Testing
  - ✓ Drifts
  - ✓ Transients



- Analysis
  - ✓ Ray-analysis
  - ✓ Total dose



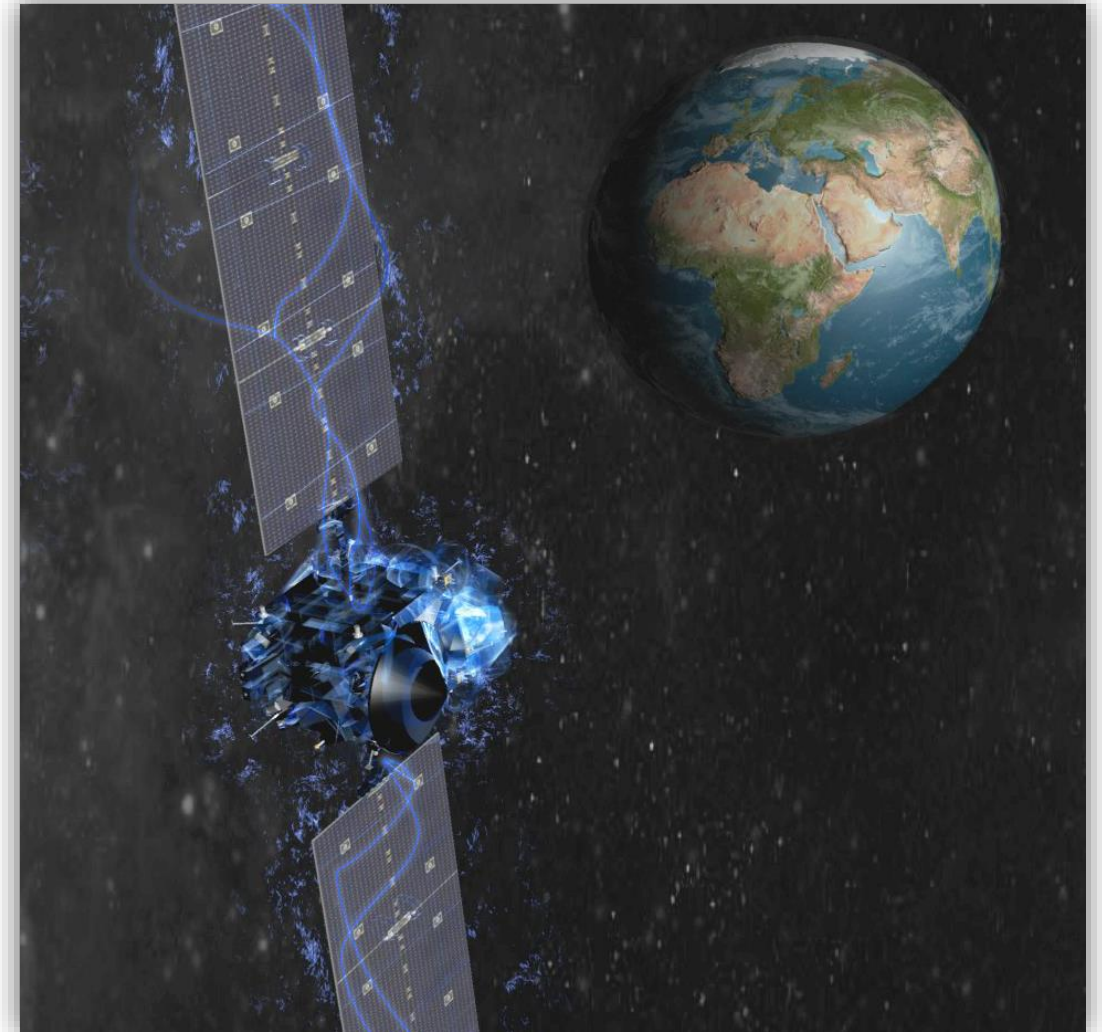
- ✓ Current Limiters
- ✓ Transient filters
- ✓ Redundancies
- ✓ Error Detections And Correction (EDAC)
- ✓ Scrubbing
- ✓ Etc...



# Space Environment : Spacecraft charging

# Spacecraft Charging

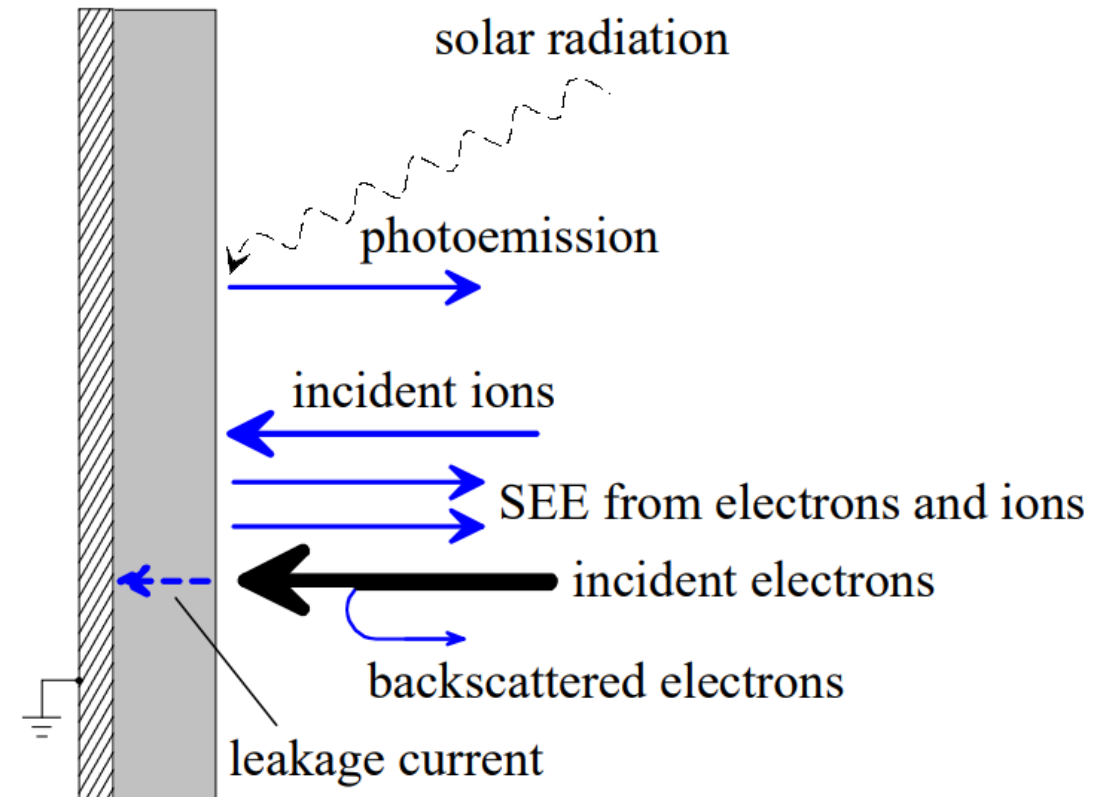
- ❑ Spacecraft **charging** occurs due to the **deposition of charge** on spacecraft surfaces or in internal materials **due to charged particles** from the environment resulting **high voltages** and **high electric fields** cause electrostatic discharges which are a hazard to many spacecraft systems.
  - **Surface**: caused by plasma particles with energy up to several 10s of keV.
  - **Internal** : caused by trapped radiation electrons with energy around 0,2 MeV and above.
- ❑ Both surface and internal charging have been associated with **malfunctions and damage** to spacecraft systems over many years



*ESA opens an ITT: Electrostatic Discharge Characterization for In-Orbit Servicing – The Clean Space blog*

# Spacecraft Charging

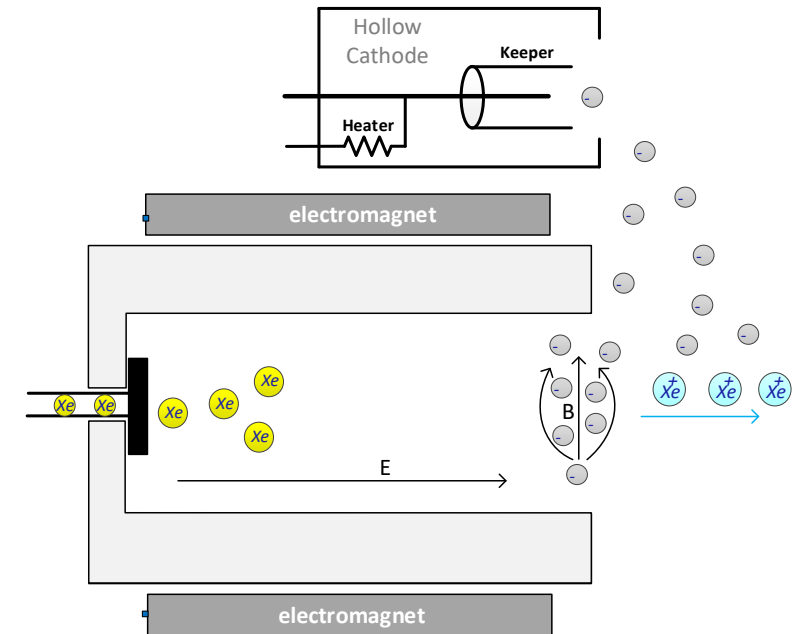
- ❑ Deposition of charge by:
  - Incident electrons
  - Incident ions
  - Photoemission
  - Leakage current
  
- ❑ The charging process continues until black and the blue currents are balanced
  
- ❑ Assessment of space worst case charging handbook (ECSS-E-HB-20-06A)



*ESA opens an ITT: Electrostatic Discharge Characterization for In-Orbit Servicing – The Clean Space blog*

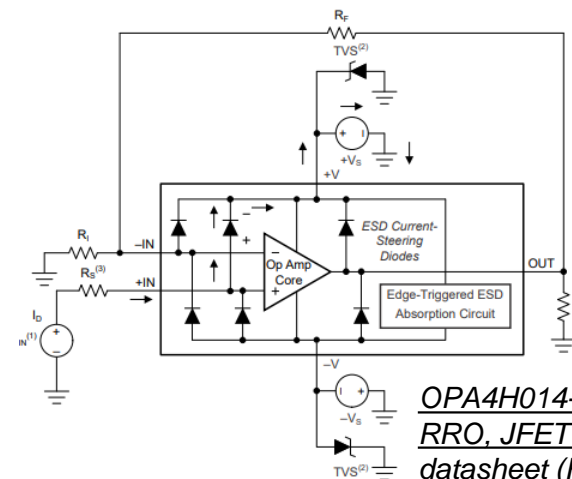
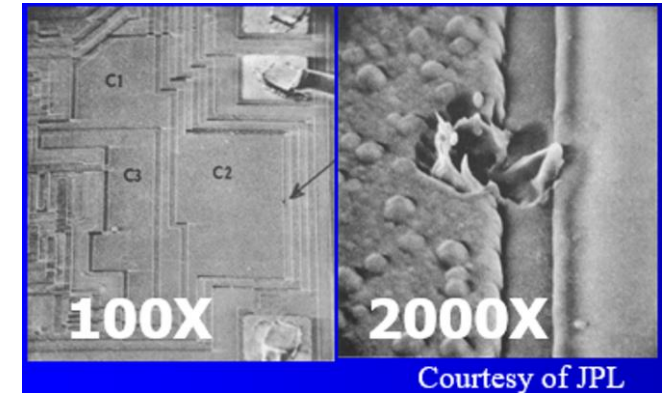
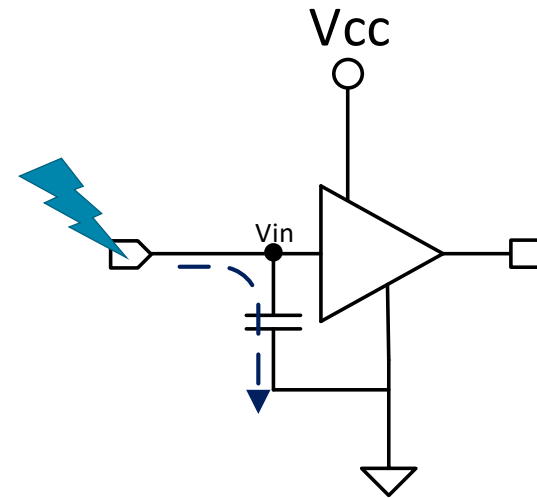
# Spacecraft Charging special case: Electric Propulsion Systems

- ❑ Electric propulsion (EP) is prone, by nature, to emit charged particles to create thrust.
- ❑ The neutralizer expels an equal amount of electrons to make the total charge of the exhaust beam neutral.
- ❑ Without a neutralizer, the spacecraft would build up a negative charge and eventually ions would be drawn back to the spacecraft, reducing thrust and causing spacecraft erosion and interference with other systems and possible spacecraft damage.



# Spacecraft Charging : Review of the process, effects and countermeasures

1. When the potential becomes critical electrostatic discharges can occur either into space by electronic blow-off (expansion of electronic space charge), or differentially between several parts of the satellite.
2. Large current is produced into electronic circuits:
  - a) By direct injection
  - b) By indirect production of transient currents through electromagnetic coupling



*OPA4H014-SEP 11-MHz, Precision, Low-Noise, RRO, JFET Op Amp in Space-Enhanced Plastic datasheet (Rev. A)*

- Countermeasures:
- ✓ ESD diodes
  - ✓ TVS
  - ✓ Grounding
  - ✓ Etc...



# Conclusions

# Plasma Environment Effects in Space Electronics Applications : Conclusions

- ❑ **Electronic for space** applications is an special case within electronics domain subject to specific and **unique environmental conditions**
- ❑ **Radiation** can cause spacecraft systems and electronics **units malfunctions** via different mechanism like parts parameters drifting or undesired transients
- ❑ **Plasma** leads to **spacecraft charging** that could potentially damage electronics.
- ❑ **Electric Propulsion** is a source of **plasma** that need to be correctly managed



# Thank you

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