

Orbital Debris Assessment Report

For Umbra Satellite Constellation

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Configuration Control

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1.0 Summary of Report Findings

Umbra Lab Inc. ("Umbra") provides an orbital debris assessment report ("ODAR") of its satellite constellation. The analysis uses the Debris Assessment Software, DAS 3.1.2, provided by the NASA Orbital Debris Program Office (ODPO).

An orbital debris assessment of the Umbra constellation shows the mission complies with the applicable requirements for spacecraft end-of-life disposal and risk to human casualty as specified in NASA's Process for Limiting Orbital Debris, NASA-STD-8719.14B.

The Umbra satellite constellation will operate at a nominal altitude of 583 km and a nominal inclination of 97.4° . The satellites will be deployed from the launch vehicle between 500-575 km in altitude and 97.5 ± 2 degrees inclination. In the worst-case scenario, an Umbra satellite is deployed Dead-On-Arrival (DOA) at 575 km, while fully stowed, and it will re-enter in at most 19.4 years.

Spacecraft disposal is accomplished through atmospheric reentry. In the nominal case, each spacecraft is expected to reenter roughly 0.263 years after mission completion with a planned Post Mission Disposal (PMD) maneuver described herein. Umbra will budget sufficient reserves to ensure the capability to conduct the PMD maneuver and take any expected, necessary collision avoidance maneuvers during the lifetime of the mission.

1.1 Self-assessment of the ODAR

A self-assessment is provided in Table 1 in accordance with the assessment format provided in Appendix A.2 of NASA-STD-8719.14.

¹ In the associated application, Umbra seeks authority to launch and operate five new satellites and to include a previously authorized experimental satellite as part of that six-satellite commercial constellation. This ODAR applies to each of those six satellites.



Table 1. Orbital Debris Assessment Report Evaluation: UMBRA SAR System

Reqmt		Launcl	n Vehicle	,	S	Spacecraft		
#	Compliant	Not Compliant	Incomplete	Standard Non Compliant	Compliant or N/A	Not Compliant	Incomplete	Comments
4.3-1.a			X		X			No debris released in LEO
4.3-1.b			X		X			No debris released in LEO
4.3-2			X		X			No debris released in GEO
4.4-1			X		X			Limit risk of explosion
4.4-2			X		X			Design for passivation
4.4-3			X		X			No planned breakups
4.4-4			X		X			No planned breakups
4.5-1			X		X			Limit debris by collision
4.5-2			X		X			Complies with Streamlined requirements.
4.6- 1(a)			X		X			Atmospheric reentry option
4.6- 1(b)			X		X			NA - storage orbit option
4.6-1(c)			X		X			NA - direct retrieval option
4.6-2			X		X			Not Applicable (GEO)
4.6-3			X		X			Not applicable (MEO)
4.6-4			X		X			Not required to meet 25 yr.
4.7-1			X		X			Reliability of disposal option
4.8-1					X			No tethers used

^{1.} This ODAR is for the UMBRA satellite constellation only. No launch vehicle was assessed.

^{2.} This Assessment was performed using DAS v3.1.2



1.2 Assessment Report Format

ODAR Technical Sections Format Requirements:

This ODAR follows the format recommended in NASA-STD-8719.14, Appendix A.1 and includes the content indicated at a minimum in each Section 2 through 8 below for the Umbra satellites. Sections 9 through 14 apply to the launch platform and are not addressed herein.

2.0 Program Management and Mission Overview

2.1 Project Manager

Michael Francis Director of Spacecraft Umbra Lab, Inc.

2.2 Foreign Government or Space Agency Participation

None

2.3 Mission Design and Development Milestones

Launch: Q2 2021-Q4 2022 Launch and orbit insertion
Phase 1: <2 months Checkout and orbit transfer

Operations: 58 months Radar remote sensing

End of Mission: 3 months End of mission maneuvering

2.4 Mission Overview

The UMBRA SAR system is a space based commercial remote sensing system. It features an experimental synthetic aperture radar that can produce highly resolved synthetic aperture radar imagery (<0.25-m). The space segment will be inserted via a ride share on a third-party launch vehicle. The ground segment will include a mission operations center and one or more ground stations.



2.5 Launch Vehicle Description

Table 2 lists current best estimates for launch parameters associated with Umbra's constellation:²

Table 2. Launch Parameters for Umbra Constellation

Orbital Vehicle	Launch Vehicle	Launch Site	Launch Date
2001	Falcon 9	Cape Canaveral	Q2 2021
02	Falcon 9	Cape Canaveral or	Q4 2021
		Vandenberg AFB	
03/04	Falcon 9	Cape Canaveral or	Q2 2022
		Vandenberg AFB	
05/06	Falcon 9	Cape Canaveral or	Q4 2022
		Vandenberg AFB	

2.6 Launch and Deployment Profile

Our orbital altitude of separation ranges between 500 km and 575 km.

The nominal operational orbit for the space vehicle is circular sun-synchronous with an altitude of 583 km. The space vehicle will maneuver from the orbital altitude of separation to the desired nominal operational orbit via a series of Hohmann transfers and minor inclination change maneuvers (if required).

Table 3. Orbital Envelope

	Apogee	Perigee	Inclination
High Insertion Orbit	575 km	575 km	$97.5 \pm 2 \text{ deg}$
Low Insertion Orbit	500 km	500 km	$97.5 \pm 2 \text{ deg}$
Target Operational Orbit	583 km	583 km	$97.5 \pm 2 \deg$
Post Mission Disposal Orbit	515 km	380 km	97.5 ± 2 deg

² Umbra's authorized experimental satellite, ELS File No. 0424-EXCN-2020, is scheduled to launch in June 2021.



2.7 Orbit Selection Rationale

The nominal operational orbit is the result of an optimization between the remote sensing payload resolution, the desire to achieve a 3-5 year mission duration, and the availability of launch services.

The 500-575 km range of altitudes for orbit insertion reflects the uncertainty associated with rideshare services.

2.8 Interaction with Other Operational Spacecraft

Interaction and potential physical interference with other operational spacecraft are not planned nor anticipated as part of the UMBRA SAR mission. Umbra is aware that other operators operate in the 500-610 km orbital range and intends to coordinate physical operations of its satellites with all such operators, as necessary.

3.0 Spacecraft Description

3.1 Physical Description of the Spacecraft

Each UMBRA SAR satellite fits within the standard ESPA envelope when stowed for launch. The bus structure consists of an aluminum frame with machined aluminum panels and has dimensions of approximately 58 cm x 58 cm x 22 cm, not including the solar arrays which reside in a stowed condition on either side of the bus. The payload is approximately 80 cm x 53 cm diameter in the stowed position. When deployed into the operational configuration, the maximum physical dimensions of the space vehicle are approximately 4. m x 4. m x 2. m.

3.2 Spacecraft Illustration

The figure below shows both the stowed and operational configurations of the UMBRA SAR space vehicle. The details of the payload are not shown, but approximate relative dimensions are captured.



STOWED DEPLOYED CONFIGURATION CONFIGURATION S-Band Antenna Payload Deployed Payload Stowed **SC Bus Solar Arrays** SC Bus **Solar Arrays** Trackers **MLB SC Bus** Thrust S-Band Nozzle Antenna **Primary** Antenna

Figure 1. UMBRA SAR Space Vehicle External Views

Table 4. Area-to-Mass Ratios Used in Analysis

Stowed Area-to-Mass Ratio (wet)	6.03×10^{-3}	m ² /kg
Deployed Area-to-Mass Ratio (dry)	17.15x10 ⁻³	m ² /kg
PMD Area-to-Mass Ratio (dry)	45.4x10 ⁻³	m ² /kg

3.3 Space Vehicle Mass

Wet Mass: 65 kg Dry Mass: 60 kg

3.4 Propulsion System

Satellite propulsion is provided by a thermo-electric propulsion system that uses water as its propellant. The system consists of a single thruster, 2 propellant tanks, fill & drain ports, and an electronics enclosure. The water-based propulsion system will be used for station keeping, PMD maneuvers, and collision avoidance, if necessary. Below are some technical details of the capabilities of the propulsion system. A more detailed Collision Avoidance Process is provided below in Section 6.



Table 5. On-Board Propulsion Metrics

$\Delta oldsymbol{V}$	130	m/s
Nominal Acceleration	2.6x10 ⁻⁴	m/s ²
ISP	180	sec

The propulsion system is sufficiently capable of performing station-keeping activities to maintain better than \pm 10-km within our planned orbital altitude over the life of the mission. It can do this while retaining the ability to perform any necessary collision avoidance maneuvers and the planned PMD maneuvers at the conclusion of the spacecraft's operational life.

3.5 Fluids, Fluid Management, Fluid Systems

All fluids are contained within the propulsion system. The system includes a thruster, fill-drain valves for the pressurant and propellant, propellant tanks with elastomeric bladders, and avionics. The qualified propulsion system module will be subject to random vibration, shock and thermal cycling tests.

Table 6. Spacecraft Fluids

Description	Fluid	Mass (kg)	Max Pressure (psi)
Propellant	H ₂ 0	< 5	190
Pressurant	HFC-236	<< 1	190

3.6 Attitude Control Systems

Satellite attitude is controlled by torque rods and reaction wheels integrated into a 3-axis control system that also includes star trackers and sun sensors. The nominal attitude mode places the satellite in a "Nadir Pointing" orientation as shown in Figure 2. Nominal Umbra SAR Attitude. Satellite attitude will be varied among other pointing control modes to orient solar arrays towards the sun, to orient the payload for imaging, and to orient antennas for communication.



Solar Arrays (into plane)
SC Bus

Payload

Payload

Figure 2. Nominal Umbra SAR Attitude

3.7 Range Safety and Pyrotechnic Devices

None.

3.8 Electrical Generation and Storage System

Power storage is provided by a battery consisting of Lithium-Ion cells arranged in an 8S4P configuration in four (4) battery modules. The batteries will be recharged by solar cells mounted on the two (2) deployable solar array wings extending from the bus structure.

3.9 Other Sources of Stored Energy

None.

3.10 Radioactive Materials

None.



4.0 Assessment of Spacecraft Debris Released during Normal Operations

Assessment of spacecraft compliance with Requirements 4.3-1 and 4.3-2

- 4.1 Identification of any Objected Expected to be Released There are no intentional releases of objects.
- 4.2 Rationale for Release of Each Object Not Applicable.
- 4.3 Time of Release for Each Object Relative to Launch Time Not Applicable.
- 4.4 Release Velocity of Each Object with Respect to Spacecraft Not Applicable.
- 4.5 Expected Orbital Parameters of Each Object After Release Not Applicable.
- 4.6 Calculated Orbital Lifetime of Each Object Not Applicable.
- 4.7 Compliance Assessment for Requirements 4.3-1 and 4.3-2

Requirement 4.3-1: Mission Related Debris Passing Through LEO

Compliance Statement (4.3-1):

Compliant. Requirement is not applicable to the mission profile.



Requirement 4.3-2: Mission Related Debris Passing Near GEO

Compliance Statement (4.3-2):

Compliant. Requirement is not applicable to the mission profile.

5.0 Assessment of Spacecraft Intentional Breakups and Potential for Explosions

5.1 Potential Causes of Spacecraft Breakup During Deployment and Mission Operations

There is no credible scenario that would result in spacecraft breakup during normal deployment and operations.

5.2 Summary of Failure Modes and Effects Analyses Which May Lead to an Accidental Explosion

Rupture of a lithium-ion cell leading to explosion or breakup of the space vehicle is not a credible scenario. In-Mission failure of the propulsion system, leading to explosion or breakup of the space vehicle is not a credible scenario. An electrothermal propulsion system employing a liquid water propellant was selected in part to eliminate this hazard.

5.3 Plan for Any Designed Spacecraft Breakup

There are no planned breakups.

5.4 Components Which are Passivated at EOM

5.4.1 Propulsion System:

Residual propellant will be depleted via EOM burns or venting upon demise at the end of mission. The propellant (water) is not energetic and is not toxic, thus its release does not pose any credible hazard. Likewise, the pressurant, Hexafluoropropane (FE-36), does not pose any credible hazard. Per the manufacturer, it is non-corrosive, electrically non-conductive, free of residue and has zero ozone depleting potential. As the propellant used in this case is water, there is no risk from persistent liquids, as any release of propellant evaporates and dissipates. This propellant is unable to persist in droplet form in the space environment.



5.4.2 Batteries

Batteries will not be passivated at EOM due to the low risk and low impact of a cell or cells rupturing and the extremely short lifetime at mission conclusion. The maximum total chemical energy stored in each lithium-ion cell is 15 kJ. If a single cell were to rupture, the debris would be contained within the rugged battery housing, which itself is contained within an aluminum bus structure. These structures would retain any debris that could be ejected by a ruptured cell.

5.4.3 Rationale for Non-Passivation

The battery and solar array configurations were designed in concert to minimize the possibility of overcharging the battery. However, in the unlikely event that a battery cell does rupture, the small size, mass, and potential energy of these batteries is such that, while the spacecraft could be expected to vent gases, debris from the battery rupture would be contained within the vessel due to the lack of penetration energy.

5.5 Compliance Assessment for Requirements 4.4-1 to 4.4-4

Umbra has completed Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA; see Appendix) and concluded that the appropriate steps have been taken to assure that any failure of energetic components (limited to batteries and propulsion system) do not result in fragmentation of the Umbra SAR satellites or do not otherwise generate orbital debris. As described above, energy sources are both safely contained during the mission and/or depleted at the time of post mission disposal.

6.0 Assessment of Spacecraft Potential for On-Orbit Collisions

Umbra has developed a standard course of action for the case that a conjunction data message (CDM) is received. Immediately following the receipt of the CDM, Umbra will evaluate, using the information provided in the message, whether the associated risk falls above or below the predetermined threshold. The preliminary set point for this threshold is 1x10⁻⁵, however this is software configurable and may be subject to change as necessary. Should the risk stated by the 18th Space Control Squadron (18 SPCS) be higher than this threshold, Umbra will contact the other entity (if any) that shares the potential collision risk; this information is provided by 18 SPCS in the CDM. Umbra will then collaborate on how to avoid a collision. The current procedure is temporary and will evolve towards an automated system. Umbra plans to create a process that flags an operator and executes propulsive maneuvers semi-autonomously, thereby minimizing the required time, propellant and tasking deltas required.



6.1 Calculation of Spacecraft Probability of Collision

Assessment of spacecraft compliance with Requirements 4.5-1 and 4.5-2 per NASA-STD-8719.14b was performed using DAS v3.1.2. See Appendix A.1.

6.2 Compliance Assessment for Requirement 4.5-1 and 4.5-2

Requirement 4.5-1: Limiting debris generated by collisions with large objects when operating in Earth orbit:

For each spacecraft and launch vehicle orbital stage in or passing through LEO, the program or project shall demonstrate that, during the orbital lifetime of each spacecraft and orbital stage, the probability of accidental collision with space objects larger than 10 cm in diameter is less than 0.001 (Requirement 56506).

Compliance Statement (4.5-1):

Compliant. The computed probability for Large Object Impact and Debris Generation for each satellite (and the system as a whole) is less than 0.001, excluding the propulsion system; these values are shown in Table 7. The probability of collision for each satellite is equal to zero when accounting for the propulsion system, as deemed by the FCC.

Table 7. Probability of Collision with Large Objects

Orbital Vehicle	Year	Probability
02	2021.95	9.409e-05
03/04	2022.55	1.1163e-04
05/06	2022.95	1.0698e-04

Requirement 4.5-2: Limiting debris generated by collisions with small objects when operating in Earth or lunar orbit:

For each spacecraft, the program or project shall demonstrate that, during the mission of the spacecraft, the probability of accidental collision with orbital debris and meteoroids sufficient to prevent compliance with the applicable post-mission disposal requirements is less than 0.01 (Requirement 56507).

Compliance Statement (4.5-2):

Compliant. As shown in the below Table 8, the probability of collision with small objects resulting in PMD failure for each satellite is less than 1.4x10⁻⁴, well below the 0.01 requirement.



Table 8. Probability of PMD failure due to collision with small objects

Launch Year	Vehicle(s)	Probability of Collision with
		Small Objects
2021.95	02	1.124E-04
2022.55	03/04	1.353E-04
2022.95	05/06	1.148E-04

Table 9. Small Object Damage Analysis for Missions 1 through 6

Critical Surface			
Propulsion Electronics			
Radio			
GNC			
Reaction Wheel			
Battery			

7.0 Assessment of Spacecraft Post-mission Disposal Plans and Procedures

7.1 Description of spacecraft disposal option selected

The satellites will de-orbit by atmospheric re-entry. The combination of the chosen disposal orbit and a high area-to-mass ratio result in rapid orbital decay after station keeping has ceased.

7.2 Systems or Components Required to Accomplish Post-mission Disposal Operations

In a worst-case scenario, for any individual satellite within the Umbra constellation, where the satellite is delivered to a 575 x 575 km orbit and remains in its stowed configuration due to a hardware malfunction (DOA), it will reenter in less than 19.4 years.

7.3 Post-mission Disposal Maneuver Plan

Nominally, to avoid interaction with LEO objects, as well as to accelerate reentry, a Post-mission Disposal (PMD) maneuver to lower the satellite to a disposal orbit of approximately 515 x 380 km will be performed in conjunction with an End-of-mission (EOM) maneuver orienting the Z-Axis with the velocity vector. This orientation is also the most stable equilibrium orientation that the



spacecraft would naturally assume thereby accelerating the deorbit of a non-functional satellite without any external input.

The DAS prediction for orbit lifetime following the described PMD/EOM maneuver is 0.26 years as shown in Figure 3. In the event of a hardware failure or other anomaly during operations at the nominal 583-km circular altitude, an Umbra satellite would naturally deorbit within 4 years.

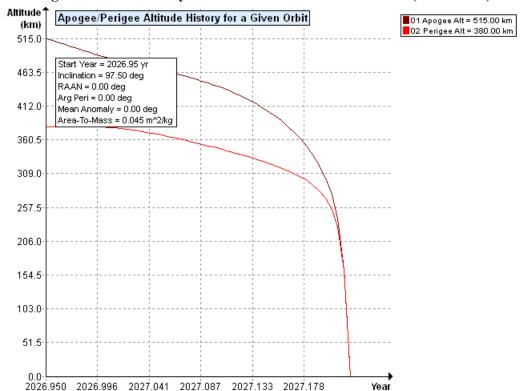


Figure 3. Orbital Decay Profile with PMD/EOM Maneuver (DAS v3.1.2)

7.4 Preliminary Plan for Spacecraft Controlled Reentry Not Applicable.

7.5 Compliance Assessment for Requirement 4.6-1 to 4.6-4

Requirement 4.6-1:

Disposal for space structures passing through LEO.



Compliance Statement (4.6-1):

The UMBRA SAR satellite reentry is COMPLIANT using 4.6.2.1.a(1) described within NASA-STD 8719.14b.

Each UMBRA SAR satellite, after executing a PMD/EOM maneuver, will re-enter the Earth's atmosphere 0.26 years after the completion of mission and 5.26 years after launch.

Requirement 4.6-2:

Disposal for space structures near GEO.

Compliance Statement (4.6-2):

Compliant. The requirement is not applicable. UMBRA SAR satellites will not be located or disposed of near GEO.

Requirement 4.6-3:

Disposal for space structures between LEO and GEO.

Compliance Statement (4.6-3):

Compliant. The requirement is not applicable. UMBRA SAR satellites will not be located or disposed of between LEO and GEO.

Requirement 4.6-4:

Reliability of post-mission disposal operations in Earth Orbit.

Compliance Statement (4.6-4):

Compliant.

An EOM maneuver is not required to ensure deorbit within 25 years per Requirement 4.6-1.

An EOM maneuver is not required to limit the probability of human casualty to 1:10,000 per Requirement 4.7-1 (A).



8.0 Assessment of Spacecraft Reentry Hazards

8.1 Detailed Description of Spacecraft Components

Table 9. Spacecraft Model

Component	Subcomponent	Qty.	Mass (kg)	
Bus Structure		1	9	
	Battery	32	0.05	
	Torque Rods	3	0.4	
	RWs	4	0.84	
	Prop Tanks	2	1	
	Largest Fastener	62	0.01	
MLB		1	0.7	
Solar Array		6	0.3	
SAR Rib		108	0.07	
Base Ring		1	0.14	
Antenna Element		1	0.28	
Canister		1	0.95	
	Amplifier Element	1	1.71	
	Strut Rod	6	0.094	
	Electronics Chassis	3	0.14	

This analysis was done using DAS 3.1.2 to ensure compliance with 4.7-1. The below Table 10 provides the details showing modeling constraints replicated for all spacecraft. The table also shows the DAS-calculated demise altitude for components of an Umbra satellite. The DAS-calculated debris casualty risk was shown to be zero.

Table 10. Spacecraft Component List for Human Casualty Risk Analysis

Name	Quantity	Material	Body Type	Thermal Mass	Status	Risk	Demise Alt	Total DCA	KE
UMBRA 02	1	Aluminum (generic)	Box	60	Compliant	1:100000000		0	
Bus	1	Aluminum 7075-T6	Box	9			71.6	0	0
Battery	32	Aluminum (generic)	Cylinder	0.05			69.1	0	0
Torq Rods	3	Aluminum (generic)	Cylinder	0.3			68	0	0
Amplifier Assembly	1	Aluminum (generic)	Box	1.71			48.4	0	0
Strut Rod	6	Aluminum (generic)	Cylinder	0.094			66.5	0	0
Electronics Chassis	3	Aluminum 7075-T6	Box	0.14			66.7	0	0
MLB	1	Aluminum (generic)	Cylinder	0.7			75.3	0	0
Solar Array	6	Graphite Epoxy 1	Flat Plate	0.3			0	5.13	13.9
Reaction Wheels	4	A356	Cylinder	0.84			62.3	0	0
Prop Tanks	2	Aluminum (generic)	Cylinder	1			68.4	0	0
Largest Fastener	62	Stainless Steel (generic)	Cylinder	0.01			69.7	0	0
SAR Rib	108	Graphite Epoxy 1	Flat Plate	0.07			0	84.55	0.99
Base Ring	1	Aluminum 7075-T6	Cylinder	0.14			77	0	0
Antenna Element	1	Aluminum 6061-T6	Flat Plate	0.28			77.3	0	0
Canister	1	Aluminum 6061-T7	Cylinder	0.95			77.8	0	0



8.2 Summary of Objects Expected to Survive an Uncontrolled Reentry

Per DAS3.1.2, three objects specified in Table 9 are expected to survive an uncontrolled reentry and reach the Earth's surface. In each case, the kinetic energy of the surviving object is calculated to be less than 15 J.

8.3 Calculation of Probability of Human Casualty

DAS v3.1.2 calculated the risk of human casualty to be 1:100,000,000 with a total debris casualty area of 0.0 m². This is the lowest probability DAS output and is considered to be zero.

8.4 Compliance Assessment for Requirement 4.7-1

Limit the risk of human casualty.

Requirement 4.7-1 (A):

The potential for human casualty is assumed for any object with an impacting kinetic energy in excess of 15 joules. For uncontrolled reentry, the risk of human casualty from surviving debris shall not exceed 0.0001 (1:10,000) (Requirement 56626).

Compliance Statement (4.7-1 (A)):

Compliant. The calculated risk of human casualty is 1:100,000,000. This is the lowest probability DAS output and is considered to be zero.

Requirement 4.7-1 (B):

For controlled reentry, the selected trajectory shall ensure that no surviving debris impact with a kinetic energy greater than 15 joules is closer than 370 km from foreign landmasses, or is within 50 km from the continental U.S., territories of the U.S., and the permanent ice pack of Antarctica (Requirement 56627).

Compliance Statement (4.7-1 (B)):

The requirement is not applicable since controlled reentry is not an element of the end of mission disposal plan.

Requirement 4.7-1 (C):

For controlled reentries, the product of the probability of failure of the reentry burn (from Requirement 4.6-4.b) and the risk of human casualty assuming uncontrolled reentry shall not exceed 0.0001 (1:10,000) (Requirement 56628).

Compliance Statement (4.7-1 (C)):



The requirement is not applicable since controlled reentry is not an element of the end of mission disposal plan.

8.5 Hazardous Materials Summary

The UMBRA SAR satellite does not contain any hazardous materials.

9.0 Assessment for Tether Missions

Not applicable. There are no tethers in the UMBRA SAR system.



Appendix A

A.1 Acronyms

DAS Debris Assessment Software

ODPO Orbital Debris Program Office (NASA)

DOA Dead On Arrival
PMD Post Mission Disposal

ODAR Orbital Debris Assessment Report

LEO Low Earth Orbit
GEO Geostationary Orbit
MEO Medium Earth Orbit
SAR Synthetic Aperture Radar

ESPA EELV Secondary Payload Adapter

EOM End-of-mission

FMEA Failure Mode and Effects Analysis

OV Orbital Vehicle

18 SPCS 18th Space Control Squadron C&DH Command & Data-handling

A.2 Failure Modes and Effects Analysis

Requirement 4.4-1: Limiting the risk to other space systems from accidental explosions during deployment and mission operations while in orbit about Earth or the Moon:

For each spacecraft and launch vehicle orbital stage employed for a mission, the program or project shall demonstrate, via failure mode and effects analyses or equivalent analyses, that the integrated probability of explosion for all credible failure modes of each spacecraft and launch vehicle is less than 0.001 (excluding small particle impacts) (Requirement 56449).

Compliance statement (4.4-1):

Required Probability: 0.001. Expected probability: 0.000.

Supporting Rationale and Details:

Propulsion tank explosion:



Effect: All failure modes below might theoretically result in propulsion tank explosion with the possibility of orbital debris generation. However, in the unlikely event that a propellant tank does rupture due to internal pressure, the small size, mass, and potential energy of the tank is such that while the spacecraft could be expected to vent gases without breakup and most debris from the cell tank should be contained within the closed aluminum bus structure due to lack of penetration energy.

Probability: Extremely Low. It is believed to be a much less than 0.1% probability. Tank rupture resulting in the generation of orbital debris is not believed to be credible.

Failure Mode 1: Tank heaters fail closed and the temperature of water in propellant tank rises above the boiling point of water, generating steam and ultimately exceeding the burst pressure of the tank.

Combined faults required for realized failure: Spacecraft thermal design must be incorrect **AND** temperature control circuits must fail to the power on state.

Mitigation 1: Redundant temperature sensors on tank to indicate excessive temperature. Switch off loads to propulsion system heaters if propulsion system avionics fail to limit the maximum temperature.

Mitigation 2: Size tank heaters to preclude maximum tank temperature that is above the boiling point of water.

Battery explosion:

Effect: All failure modes below might theoretically result in a battery cell rupture. However, in the unlikely event that a battery cell does rupture due to internal pressure, the small size, mass, and potential energy, of the selected COTS battery cells is such that the spacecraft can be expected to vent gases without breakup. Debris from the cell rupture will be contained within the aluminum battery housing, which itself is contained within an aluminum bus structure, due to the lack of penetration energy.

Probability: Extremely Low. It is believed to be a much less than 0.1% probability. Battery cell rupture resulting in the generation of orbital debris is not believed to be credible.

Failure Mode 2: Internal short circuit.

Mitigation: Qualification and acceptance shock, vibration, thermal cycling and vacuum tests followed by maximum system rate-limited charge and discharge to prove that no internal short circuit sensitivity exists.

Combined faults required for realized failure: Environmental testing **AND** functional charge/discharge tests must both be ineffective in discovery of the failure mode.



Failure Mode 3: Excessive cell temperature due to high load discharge rate and high initial temperature.

Mitigation: Test cells for high load discharge rates in a variety of flight-like configurations, with a maximum initial temperature, to determine the likelihood and impact of an out of control thermal rise in the cell.

Mitigation: Discharge current limiting to include fusing and simulations show discharge to never exceed 25% of cell capability. Screening of cells to assure minimal capacity and internal resistance mismatch between cells.

Combined faults required for realized failure: Spacecraft thermal design must be incorrect **AND** a fault resulting in excessive discharge current must occur simultaneously **AND** discharge current limiting must fail.

Failure Mode 4: Exceed maximum rated cell voltage

Mitigation: Size solar array strings to limit maximum voltage across battery cell string. Charging circuit and Con-Ops makes it extremely unlikely that Solar cells to continue to charge the battery beyond 100% SOC.

Mitigation: Battery charge controller monitors string voltage and temperature and engages shunts as required OR can be commanded to a non-sun pointing attitude until nominal operations resume.

Combined faults required for realized failure: Spacecraft EPS sizing must be inadequate to limit maximum battery cell voltage <u>AND</u> battery charge controller must fail allowing battery state of charge to exceed nominal maximum <u>AND</u> the Command & Data-handling Systems (C&DH) subsystem must allow the battery state of charge to exceed the nominal maximum without mitigation <u>AND</u> alternative solar array configuration would be required to sustain charging in over-voltage condition.

Failure Mode 5: Excessive charge rate

Mitigation: Power system architecture prevents charge rate from exceeding battery specifications.

Combined faults required for realized failure: No credible scenario could produce a battery over-charge rate condition.

Failure Mode 6: Excessive discharge rate

Mitigation: Short circuit protection on each external circuit.

Mitigation: Battery design to inhibit internal short circuit

Mitigation: Vibration, shock and thermal cycling tests to identify short circuits

Combined faults required for realized failure: An external load must fail in a short circuit state **AND** short circuit protection failures must all occur to enable this failure mode.



Failure Mode 7: Inoperable vents

Mitigation: Inspect machined parts to verify vent features are incorporated. Confirm during battery cell and module screening.

Combined effects required for realized failure: The final assembler fails to adhere to build procedure and limits proper venting **AND** one or more battery cells must rupture or vent into the battery housing. No credible scenario could block module vents sufficiently to cause an issue.

Failure Mode 8: Crushing

Mitigation: This mode is negated by spacecraft design. There are no moving parts in the vicinity of the battery.

Combined faults required for realized failure: A catastrophic failure must occur in an external system <u>AND</u> the failure must cause a collision sufficient to crush the batteries leading to an internal short circuit <u>AND</u> the satellite must be in a naturally sustained orbit at the time the crushing occurs.