

Advancing Technology for Humanity



### Avionics Systems Panel Tutorial: Research, Opportunities and Education Perspectives

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https://ieee-aess.org/tech-ops/avionics-systems-panel-asp

DATE: 2021/10/05

### **Presentation Motivation**

- AESS Avionics Systems Panel Research and Education Perspectives
- Part-I: Avionics Systems Research and Innovation Opportunities
- Part-II: Avionics Systems Educational Needs and Curricular Evolution

This tutorial is being organized and presented on behalf of the IEEE Aerospace Electronic Systems Society (AESS) Avionics Systems Panel (ASP). The panel comprises experts in various areas of Avionics Engineering representing industry, academia, and the government around the globe. The tutorial forms part of efforts undertaken by the panel to propagate expertise in Avionics Systems. The tutorial is configured in two distinct segments, which in turn are interconnected as avionics (1) research and (2) education.

- [1] R. Sabatini, A. Roy, E. Blasch, K. A. Kramer, G. Fasano, I. Majid, O. G. Crespillo, D. A. Brown, R. Ogan, "Avionics Systems Panel Research and Innovation Perspectives," *IEEE Aerospace And Electronics Systems Magazine*, 35(12):58-72, Dec. 2020.
- [2] I. Majid, R. Sabatini, K. A. Kramer, E. Blasch, G. Fasano, G. Andrews, C. Camargo and A. Roy, "Restructuring Avionics Engineering Curricula to Meet Contemporary Requirements and Future Challenges." IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine, 36(4): 46-58, April 2021.

### **Avionics Systems Panel**

• **Members:** Roberto Sabatini (Chair), Giancarmine Fasano (Vice-Chair), Ron Ogan (Secretary), Aloke Roy, Erik Blasch, Irfan Majid, Kathleen Kramer, Christopher Camargo, George Andrew, Omar Garcia Crespillo, Alessandro Gardi, Carlos Insaurralde

#### • Purpose:

- To promote and support collaborative research initiatives in the domain of Avionics;
- To promote and support high-quality IEEE publications in the domain of Avionics;
- To promote and support educational activities in the domain of Avionics;
- To sustain and oversee the programs of the IEEE/AIAA Digital Avionics Systems Conference (DASC), the Integrated Communications Navigation and Surveillance Conference (ICNS); and create new conferences or partnerships;
- To establish a liaison and joint work program with the Cyber Security Panel;
- To establish a liaison and joint work program with the Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) Panel;
- To encourage members in the domain of Avionics;
- To recommend and support new IEEE Standards or revisions of existing IEEE standards pertaining to the domain of Avionics

### **Presentation Outline – Part I – Research**

#### Part-I

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Requirements of Future CNS+A Systems
- 3. UAS Avionics Systems
- 4. Concept of UTM and STM
- 5. HMI<sup>2</sup> for Future Aerospace Vehicles
- 6. Certification of ML/AI in Safety Critical avionics
- 7. Cyber Security for UAS

#### Part-II

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Overview of Existing Avionics Engineering Programs
- 3. Keeping pace with Industry Requirements
- 4. Proposed Undergraduate Curriculum
- 5. Research and Innovation Areas in Avionics Engineering
- 6. Proposed Graduate Programs
- 7. Wrap up

UAS – Unmanned Aerial Systems UTM – UAV Traffic Management STM – Space Traffic Management CNS+A: Communication, Navigation, Surveillance/Avionics ML/AI – machine learning/artificial intelligence HMI2 - Human-Machine Interfaces and Interactions

### **Motivation**

- [1] R. Sabatini, K. A. Kramer, E. Blasch, A. Roy and G. Fasano, "From the Editors of the Special Issue on Avionics Systems: Future Challenges." IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine, 36(4): 5-6, April 2021
- [2] R. Sabatini, A. Roy, E. Blasch, K. A. Kramer, G. Fasano, I. Majid, O. G. Crespillo, D. A. Brown, R. Ogan, "Avionics Systems Panel Research and Innovation Perspectives," *IEEE Aerospace And Electronics Systems Magazine*, 35(12):58-72, Dec. 2020.
- [3] I. Majid, R. Sabatini, K. A. Kramer, E. Blasch, G. Fasano, G. Andrews, C. Camargo and A. Roy, "Restructuring Avionics Engineering Curricula to Meet Contemporary Requirements and Future Challenges." IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine, 36(4): 46-58, April 2021.

#### From the Editors of the Special Issue on Avionics Systems: Future Challenges

Roberto Sabalini, Kathleen Kramer, Aloke Roy, Erik Blasch, Giancarmine Fasano



Avieries systems are coperincing a uppid evolution facility whence in Commutation, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) technologies, and the widespread adeption of Artificial intelligence/Methics Learning (AlML) both on board acrospace vehicles and in great-based decision support systems. These induced prior have the potential to transform the future of aviation and spaceflight, but their necessful development and deptorment need to simultaneously address wides, efficiency, security and soutismility requirements.

Technological advances of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and the maturation of UAS Traffic Management (UTM) and Urban Air Mobility (UAM) concepts offer new premining humans organization, but also present trainest technical and operational challenges, with the next to assess and



Aloks Roy

Roberto Subatio

Kathleen Kramer mission dea

properly manage the emerging social, economic and environmental impacts. The increasing dependency on connectivity, automation and automorry exposes avionics and Air Traffic Matagenant (ATM) systems to new valuershilities, and requires an internated cyber-aware arrivach to achieve cyher-resilience. On the other hand, the new exciting perspectives offered by the space economy have enormous potentials, hat require new multi-disciplinary approaches to space mission design and new cyber-physical architectures surrouting space domain awareness and Sease Traffic Management (STM)



Constituted modulion of walty-disease traffic superconnect.

While large-scale research and innovation initiatives are reducing the faints of the servorace sector, it is now clear that services systems are becoming cyber-physical and pregnosoriely evolving into a variety of autonomous, intelligent and adaptive human-machine systems. Cognizant of the challenges that faints avairate systems are becoming cyber-physical and pregnosoriely evolving into a variety of autonomous, intelligent and adaptive human-machine systems. Cognizant of the challenges for the system system specifically, the losy technical challenges and solutions emerging in the lowlevel ATM content. Including the evolution of OCMS waters actual solutions emerging in the low-of first efficient AI solutions in next generation wireins systems. It also arises to illustrate the current state-of-manner's and cloadational bott practicon by bringing together the different viewpoints of experts in the relevant domains and include discussions on the challenge that must be addressed to support further advances in instator-focusant measures.

The papers published in this Special Issue discuss supports relevent to communications and maripation (Mauren et al.: Phylot Trial Demonstration of Secure OBAS via the L-band Dipplat Aeronautical Communication System), suggesting human pilot avanetues (Frant et al.: Vinaal Cockyti humanetue - Hone Head-Horn Deplays Can Enhance the Obstack Awarmens of Holicopter Piloto), impact of enerstant technologies on resistant alumost (Doutermann et al.: Benefar for Omore Resistant Annoren Through Innovative Approach Technology using an LPV to GLS Converter), and the perspectives and challenges of avienties adsochies (Maiji et al.: Restructuring Avionics Engineering Carrievale to Most Construptory: Requirements and Faure (Douter).

This special insue would not have been possible without the collactive effort of the AESA structures Systems Panel (AES) randoms, and the high-possible submissions produced by the international winners research community. The ASP addresses all areas of axiomics research and innovations supporting communical, unlikely and general aviation operations. In particular, the ASP works to initiatify industry-focused research separations, and socks to result new attentioning forum for discussion, exhaution and dissemination. Descine the challenses caused by COVID-10 the convolution of this special ions has show the success of the parel ion working regulater and covid-primating our efforts. This provide ion captures in the ASP to contribute significantly to the development, dissemination and neglicity prior the ASP to contribute significantly to the development, dissemination and neglicity prior of these technologies, we will as informing the evolutions of having random for their important contributions and rescales to the paration and contributions to fatture paration for their important contributions and rescales the special mass.



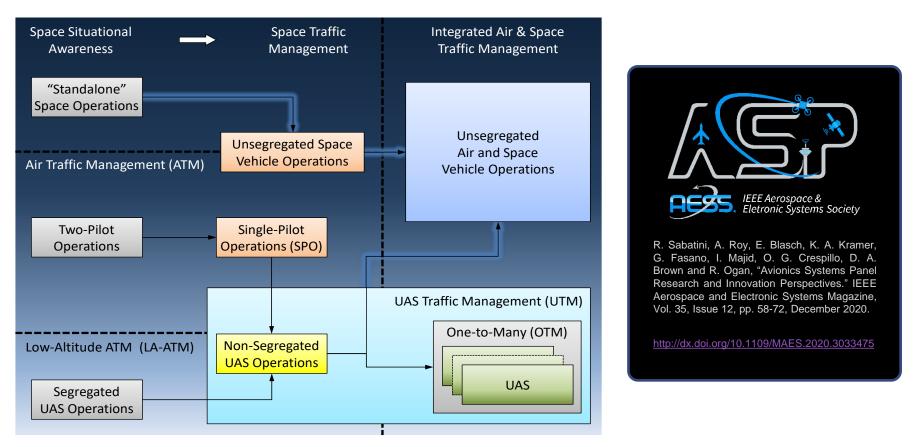
Erik Blaach

Giancarmine Fasano





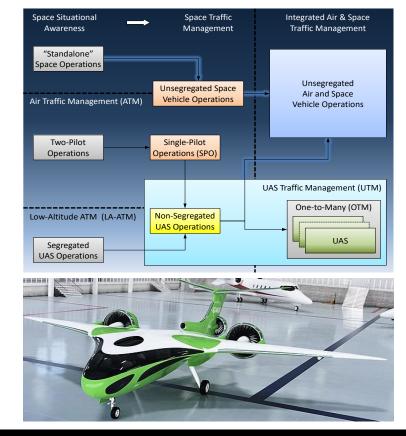
### **Avionics Systems Panel – Future Challenges**



### **Avionics – Future Challenges**

#### Multi-Domain Traffic Management

- ATM Air Traffic Management
- UTM UAV Traffic Management
- STM Space Traffic Management
- Urban Air Mobility
  - UAVs Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
  - EVTOL Electric Vertical Takeoff & Landing
  - Autonomous Cars
- Systems Management
  - CPS Cyber-Physical Systems Security
  - HMT Human Machine Teaming
  - AI/ML Data-Driven Analytics



### **IEEE AESS Magazine Call**

- **Title:** Urban Air Mobility and UAS Airspace Integration Vision, Challenges, and Enabling Avionics Technologies
- Topics:
  - Evolution of CNS/ATM technologies for UAM/AAM and UAS airspace integration
  - Avionics for autonomous systems and contingency management approaches
  - Innovative sensors and sensor fusion for autonomous flight and UAM/AAM
  - Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning within the UAM/AAM context
  - Satellite based augmentation of current CNS systems for improved safety
  - Collision avoidance systems for UAS with interface to UTM/UAM/AAM
  - Development of standards for UAM/AAM certification and regulatory framework evolution
  - Methods of interoperable UAM/AAM and autonomous flight operations (e.g., ontologies)
  - Human-robot interactions and human factors engineering in UAM/AAM
  - Flight testing and technology demonstration activities and plans
  - Societal challenges, ethical aspects, and public perception of UAM/AAM and UAS airspace Integration
- For more information:

http://ieee-aess.org/sites/ieee-aess.org/files/AESMagazineCfP\_SIUAM\_finalfinal.pdf

### **Presentation Outline – Part I: Research**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Requirements of future CNS+A Systems
- 3. Concept of UTM and STM
- 4. Performance Based Operations
- 5. HMI<sup>2</sup> for future aerospace vehicles
- 6. Certification of ML/AI in safety critical Avionics
- 7. Cyber security for UAS

### **Presentation Outline – Part I: Research**

- Determine contemporary and future, industry focused, development and innovation areas in the field of Avionics Engineering.
- The constantly increasing density of air traffic and the growing diversity of aerospace vehicles that will occupy the air space imposes new requirements on Communication, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) and Avionics (CNS+A) technologies. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Urban Air Mobility (UAM), Space Traffic Management (UTM/STM).
- UTM/UAM come further advances in Performance-Based Operations (PBO), which will have profound impacts on aviation equipment mandates and standards.
- Design of Human-Machine Interfaces and Interactions (HMI2) supporting trusted autonomous operations (i.e., human-autonomy teaming).
- Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence (ML/AI) algorithms to enhance the overall CNS+A systems performance and efficiency. Likewise, certification of ML/AI in aviation and especially safety critical avionics is a major focus of current research.
- Proliferation of cyber-physical systems, especially for UTM/UAM operations makes cyber security a critical requirement.

### **Presentation Outline – Part II: Education**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Overview of Existing Avionics Engineering Programs
- 3. Keeping pace with Industry Requirements
- 4. Proposed Undergraduate Curriculum
- 5. Research and Innovation Areas in Avionics Engineering
- 6. Proposed Graduate Programs
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### **Presentation Outline – Part II: Education**

- There is a need for practical approaches for the alignment of educational curricula with that of relevant industry needs and technological advances in avionics engineering.
- A review of existing avionics programs, with their current shortcomings vis-a-vis prevailing industry requirements and future trends covered in part one.
- Building on the fact that most curricula have not been updated since the late 1990s, a new and comprehensive undergraduate curriculum is proposed, along with a curriculum structure suitable for graduate avionics programs focusing on specialist skills aligned with the prevailing research and innovations areas in Avionics Engineering.
- The overall objective of the proposed curricula is to bridge the gaps between higher education, industry practices, government regulators, and public stakeholder needs; towards maximizing educational outcomes and preparedness of the avionics engineering workforce, to prepare students for challenges and opportunities faced by the aerospace sector globally.

### **Other Opportunities**

Roberto Sabatini

Aerospace Cyber-Physical Systems: Avionics, Spaceflight Systems and Unified Traffic Management

• Erik Blasch

Overview of High-Level Information Fusion Theory, Models, and Representations

Kathleen Kramer

Navigation: The Road to GPS and Getting Beyond It

Distinguished Lecturer Program | Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society (ieee-aess.org)

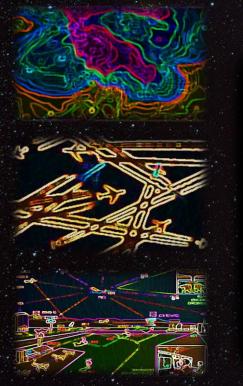








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# Onward

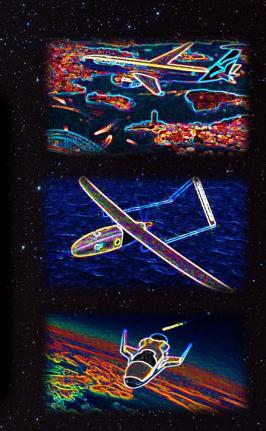


If you wish to discuss how you can contribute to the activities of the AESS Avionics Systems Panel (ASP) please send me an email at: roberto.sabatini@ieee.org

You can find additional information about the ASP at: https://ieee-aess.org/tech-ops/avionics-systems-panel-asp

IEEE/AIAA Digital Avionics Systems Conference: https://2021.dasconline.org/

IEEE/AIAA Integrated Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Conference: <u>https://i-cns.org/about/</u>



**Motivations** 



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### PART 1: Avionics Systems Research and Innovation Opportunities

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### **Introduction - Directions**

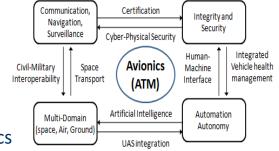
- 1) Communication, Navigation and Surveillance for Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM):
  - Evolution of the certification framework for integrated CNS+Avionics
  - Civil and military airspace integration and CNS+A systems interoperability;
- 2) Avionics Systems Integration and Security:
  - Fault-tolerant avionics design and Integrated Vehicle Health Management (IVHM) systems;
  - Cyber-physical security of avionics and CNS/ATM systems;

#### 3) Multi-Domain Avionics (MDA):

- UAS integration in all classes of airspace and UTM;
- Avionics for space transport, Space Traffic Management (STM) and intelligent satellite systems;

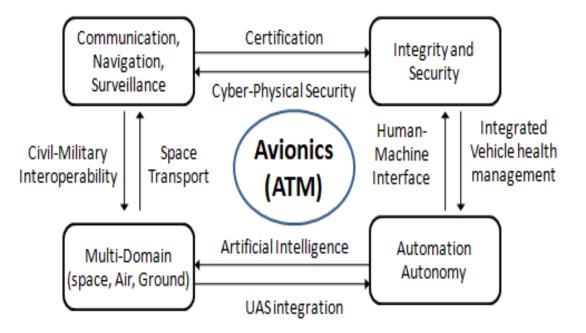
#### 4) Automation and Autonomy:

- Development of Avionics Human-Machine Interfaces and Interactions (HMI<sup>2</sup>); and
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) in avionics systems design and operations (including the challenges of certification and the role of explainable AI).



### **Introduction - Directions**

- 1) Communication, Navigation and Surveillance for Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM)
- 2) Avionics Systems Integration and Security
- 3) Multi-Domain Avionics (MDA)
- 4) Automation and Autonomy



### **Industry Outlook**

#### Growing – but the pandemic ...

Global avionics systems market is projected to exceed USD 94 billion by 2025 Avionics companies are focusing on higher level of automation (e.g., UAVS) Performance based navigation (PBN), operations (PBO), communications (PBC)

#### **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - (2016-2030)**

Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) rely on a progressive introduction of advanced CNS technologies, including digital data links, satellite services and Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast (ADS-B), NextGen, SESAR, GNSS, Global Positioning System (GPS),
Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) – requires certification

#### Trends: AI/ML, HMT, Cyber-resilient systems

Have not diminished with COVID19 – "Air Package Delivery"

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### **Global Research Programs**

- Highlights: NextGen, SESAR, CARATS, ASBU, GANP
  - ATM modernization programs Terminal Maneuvering Area (TMA) operations
- Stages for such evolution within SESAR
  - **Time-based Operations:** Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) actions are aimed at optimal traffic synchronization. The time of arrival of traffic at specific points is the fundamental metric being estimated, managed and monitored by all entities.
  - **Trajectory Based Operations (TBO**): Evolution of predictability, flexibility and environmental sustainability of air traffic resulting in additional capacity invovling legacy flight plans into dynamically managed 4DT, which become the continuously updated and negotiated reference plan for the aircraft mission.
  - **Performance-Based Operations (PBO**): CNS established a high-performance, network-centric, collaborative, integrated and seamless ATM system, supporting high-density air traffic. ATM services are customized enabling a further enhanced exploitation of airspace capacity.

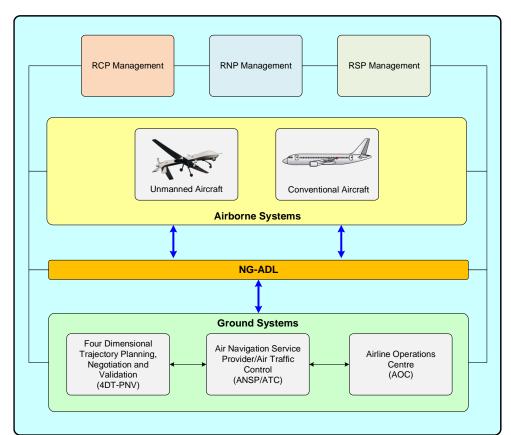
### **Global Research Programs**

- **GANP** Multilayer structure with the following levels:
  - **Global Strategic Level:** providing high-level strategic direction consisting of a common vision, global performance ambitions and a conceptual roadmap.
  - **Global Technical Level**: a Basic Building Blocks (BBB) framework is defined in parallel to the ASBU. The BBB specifies minimum air navigation services for international civil aviation, as opposed to the ASBU that is performance driven [4, 12]. Basic services are aerodrome operations, CNS, air traffic management, meteorology, search and rescue, and aeronautical information. Another technical focus is a performance-based decision making method for defining implementation strategies.
  - **Regional Level:** addressing regional and sub-regional needs aligned with the global objectives.
  - National Level: focusing on national plans and Deployment implementation and coordination

### **Global Research Programs – CNS+A Operations**

#### Next-Gen

- Air Traffic Management
- Flight Management Systems
- Aeronautical Data Link
- Required Management
   Performance
  - RCP Communication
  - RNP Navigation
  - RSP Surveillance



### **Global Research Programs – CNS+A Operations**

- Four Dimensional Trajectory (4DT) based operations;
  - Higher levels of Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) to allow all involved parties to participate in the enhancement of system performance by sharing and accessing more accurate and updated information;
  - Automation: Role shifting of ATM from C2 oriented units to a highly automated, intelligent and collaborative decision-maker in an interoperable network-centric environment;
  - **Dynamic Airspace Management (DAM)** for an optimized exploitation of airspace capacity;
  - Human-Machine Teaming (HMT) with Improved avionics and ATM systems HMI<sup>2</sup> design, interoperability and higher levels of automation; and
  - **Performance-Based CNS**, enabling PBO. ATM digital communication between the airspace controller and the aircraft pilot for improved safety avoiding cockpit overload and misinformation errors.

### **Global Research Programs – CNS+A Technologies**

#### Innovative Concepts

- Avionics and ATM Decision Support Systems (DSS) featuring automation-assisted 4DT planning and negotiation/validation functionalities;
- Enhanced Visual Line-of-Sight (VLOS) and Beyond VLOS (BVLOS) communications, including a substantial exploitation of ground-based and satellite-based aeronautical datalink technology;
- Enhanced navigation accuracy and integrity by means of Ground-, Aircraft- and Satellite-Based Augmentation Systems (GBAS/ABAS/SBAS), promoting Dual-Frequency/Multi-Constellation Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) as primary means of navigation; as well as Alternative Position Navigation and Timing (APNT) systems as backup for GNSS.
- Enhanced ground-based and satellite-based surveillance, including ADS-B, Multilateration (MLAT) and other self-separation services;
- Advanced sensor systems with data fusion, real-time analytics and learning to enable autonomy; and
- A System Wide Information Management (SWIM) network.

### **Cyber-Physical Systems Evolutions**

**Digital – Industry 4.0** 

ASN (avionics sensor networks) – Larger networks, more data and optimization

**HMT** – Information overload  $\rightarrow$  autonomy and automation

CPS – sensing, processing, and networking at the edge

.... Environmental concerns

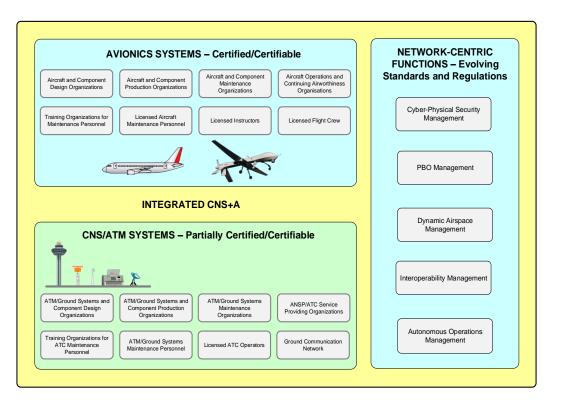
Cyber-Physical-Human (CPH) systems Multi-Domain: space, air, ground (space domain awareness)

**Trends: Intent-Based Operations (IBO)** 

### **Future Directions – Certifiable**

Certifiable Over ATM UTM STM

Integrated Vehicle Health Management (IVHM) systems are primarily responsible for diagnostics, prognostics, and risk mitigation across both air and space platforms



### **Future Directions – Integrated Vehicle Health Management**

**Intelligent IVHM** systems include finding suitable methods and techniques for:

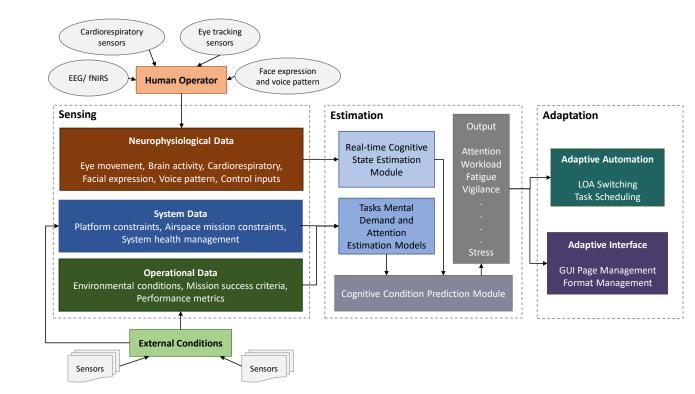
- performing real-time health monitoring functions to support accurate diagnosis of subsystem faults and anomalies;
- providing vital subsystem health and performance information with sufficient time to make real-time decisions in response to detected failures; and
- addressing the complete integration and management of all vehicle functions and subsystems by considering their interactions and fault causal relationships.

### **Future Directions – HMT**

#### Human AI/ML

Explainable Interpretable Accountable

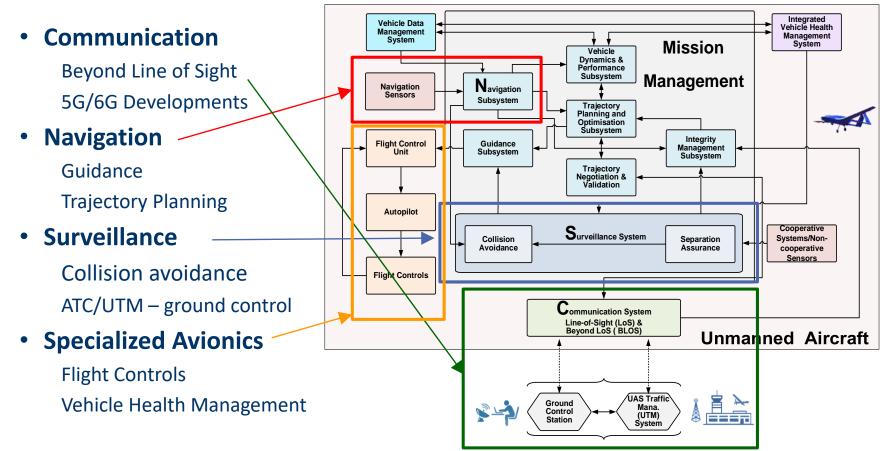
#### **Situation awareness**



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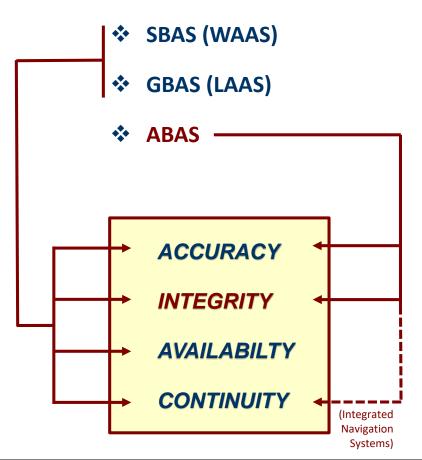
### **UAS Avionics Systems**



### **GNSS Augmentation Benefits**

GNSS augmentation benefits include:

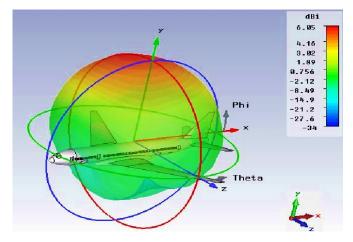
- Precision approach and landing autonomous ops
- Operations in urban environments (e.g., UAM)
- Interference and jamming resistance/avoidance
- Reduced and simplified equipment on board aircraft
- Predictive integrity for optimal AI/ML data fusion
- In addition to SBAS and GBAS, GNSS augmentation may take the form of additional information being provided by other avionics systems
- A system such as this is referred to as an Aircraft (or Avionics) Based Augmentation System (ABAS)

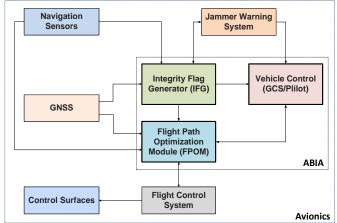


## **GNSS Integrity Augmentation**

#### Avionics Based Integrity Augmentation

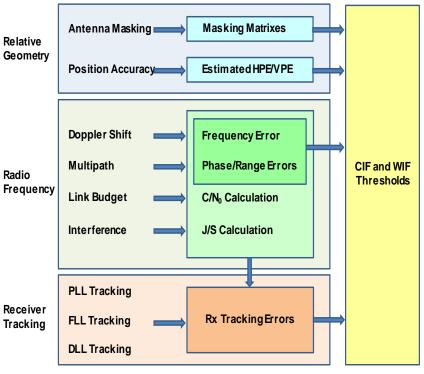
- The avionics systems used in ABAS operate via separate principles than the GNSS and, therefore, are **not subject to the same sources of error or interference**
- Focus is on Integrity (in addition to accuracy and continuity) augmentation obtained by system/software redundancy and suitable analytic approaches
- Using suitable data link and data processing technologies, a certified Avionics Based Integrity Augmentation (ABIA) system can be a core element of a future GNSS Space-Ground-Avionics Augmentation Network (SGAAN)
- Developing ABAS for mission-essential and safetycritical GNSS applications (operations with jamming/spoofing, aircraft precision approach/landing, UAS sense-and-avoid, etc.)



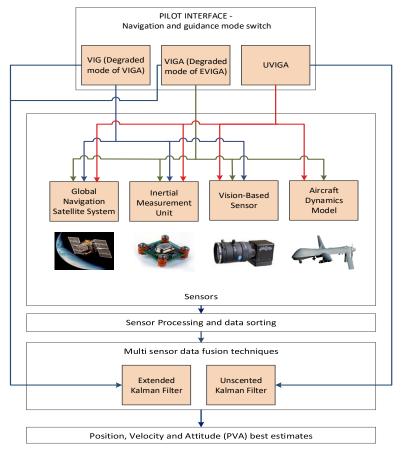


### **GNSS Performance Threats**

- Causes of GNSS data degradation or loss:
  - Obscuration
  - Bad satellite geometry (DOP)
  - Fading (low C/N<sub>0</sub>)
  - Doppler shift (signal tracking, acquisition time)
  - Multipath effect (C/N<sub>0</sub>, range and phase errors)
  - Interference and Jamming
- GNSS signal outages/degradations models are used in association with suitable integrity thresholds and guidance algorithms
- Using these models, the ABIA system is able to generate integrity caution (predictive) and warning (reactive) flags, as well as steering information to the pilot and electronic commands to the aircraft/UAV flight control system



### **Integrated Navigation Architecture**

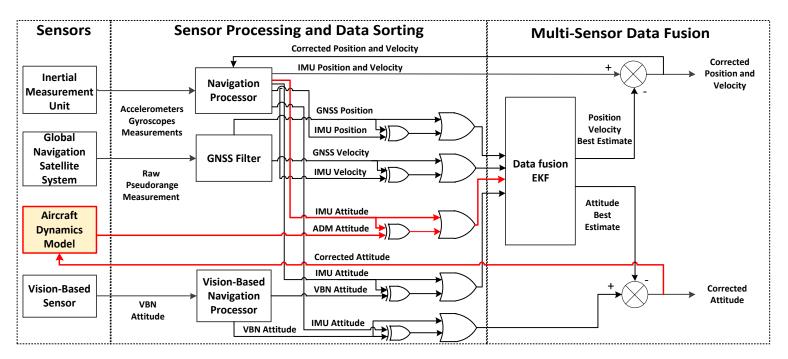


#### **GNC for the StopRotor VTOL UAS**



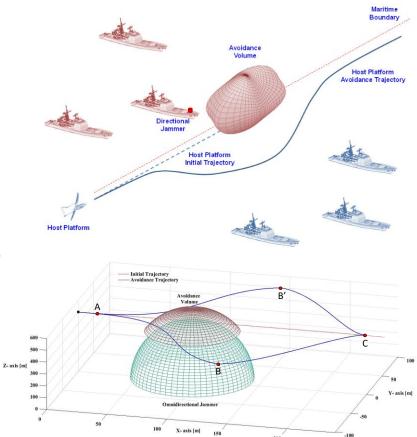
### **Integration Architectures**

- VBN/INS/GNSS (VIG) Configuration
- VBN/INS/GNSS/ADM (VIGA) Configuration



# Autonomous Navigation and Guidance in GNSS-denied Environments

- Jamming radiation pattern estimated based on J/S, C/N<sub>0</sub> and jammer type
- ABAS predictions used to avoid jamming volume
- Simulation of spot, sweep and barrage type jamming
- Generation of optimal avoidance trajectories, preventing degradation or losses of navigation data

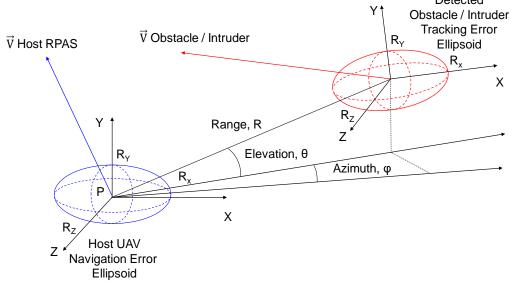


# **Separation Assurance / Collision Avoidance**

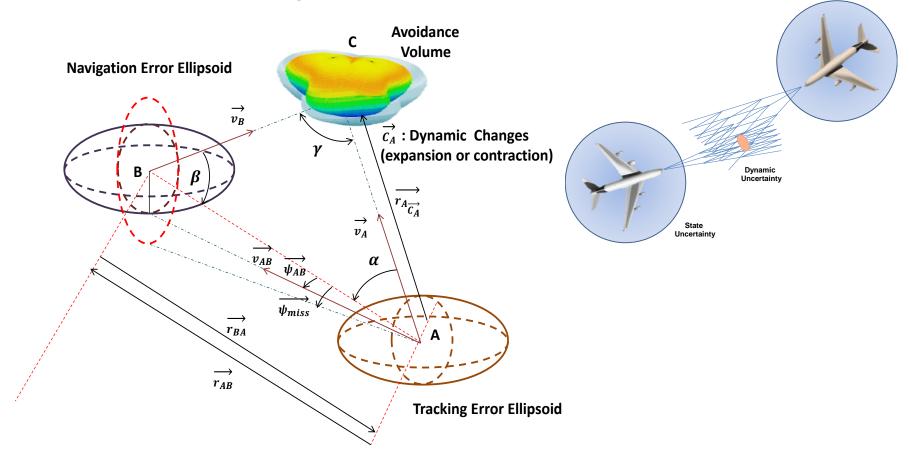
- Cooperative and Non-Cooperative Separation Assurance and UAS Sense-and-Avoid (SAA) are paramount capability to enable manned and unmanned aircraft to coexist in all classes of airspace
- A new unified framework is required for a seamless integration of UAS in the ATM system (UTM) with no impacts on safety and operational/environmental efficiency
- Autonomous SA and Collision Avoidance (CA) has to be equivalent or exceed the ATM de-confliction and pilot see-and-avoid capabilities in current airspace
- SA/CA systems must allow operations during day and night in all-weather conditions
- System response time and integrity must be adequate for platform dynamics and operational environment

#### SA/CA – Avoidance Volume

- **Avoidance volume** in the space surrounding each track is determined
- Accomplished by considering both navigation and tracking errors affecting the measurements (plus perturbations) and translating them to unified range and bearing uncertainty descriptors, which apply both to cooperative and non-cooperative scenarios
  Detected

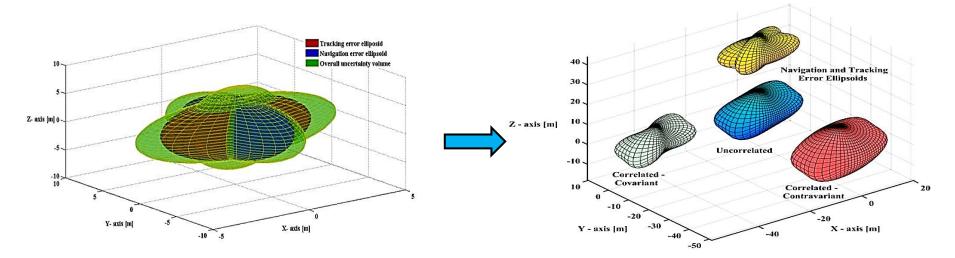


#### **SA/CA – Relative Dynamics**



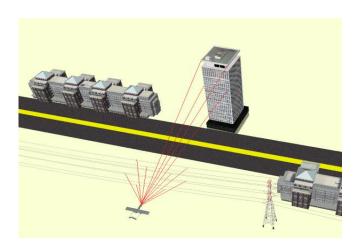
#### **SA/CA – Error Analysis**

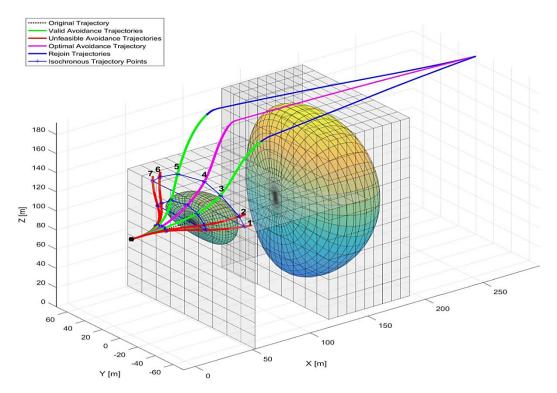
- Errors are statistically correlated (e.g., ADS-B) or uncorrelated (e.g., NC-SAA)
- The avoidance (uncertainty) volume for uncorrelated measurements is obtained by inflating the navigation ellipsoid with the tracking error components
- The uncertainty volume for correlated errors is obtained using vector analysis [14]



### **SA/CA – Safety-critical Applications**

- Uncertainty volumes for avoidance of ground obstacles
  - A set of feasible avoidance trajectories is generated in real-time



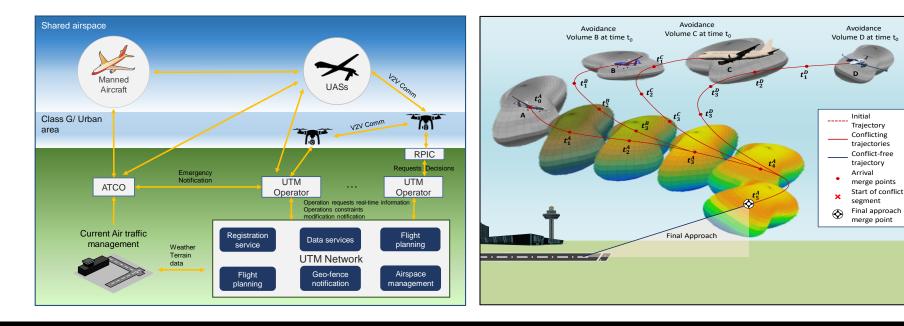


### **Presentation Outline – Part I: Research**

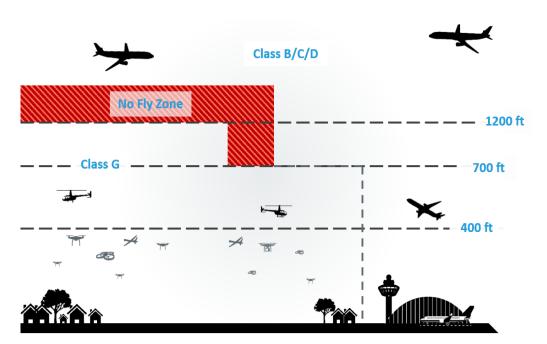
- 1. Introduction
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### **UAS Traffic Management**

- The unified approach supports trusted autonomous operations in the UAS Traffic Management (UTM) context
- Avoidance volumes (i.e., dynamic geo-fences) are generated in real-time to allow computation of the optimal avoidance flight trajectories

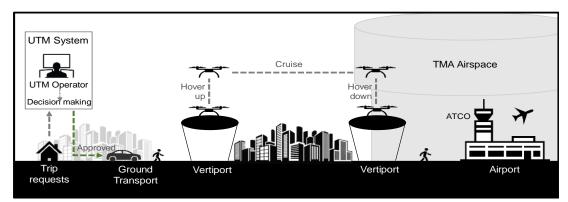


# **UAS Traffic Management – Key Challenges**



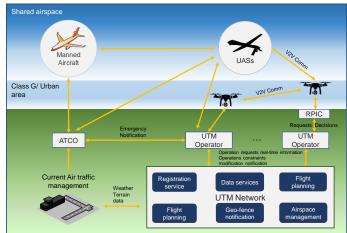
- The conventional tactically focussed and tactical ATC paradigm cannot fulfil the needs of manned/UAS traffic integration
- A higher degree of automation is necessary in the UTM framework
- The tactical deconfliction approach of traditional ATM cannot be scaled down to apply in UTM
- The tasks and responsibilities of human UTM operators are not fully defined

# **UAS Traffic Management and UAM**



#### **Urban Air Mobility**

The ability to start/end flight trips essentially anywhere (low predictability of traffic)



- UTM/UAM are moving towards trusted autonomy
- Highly automated human-in-the-loop operations bring about issues of responsibility allocation and mandates evolutions in the legal and regulatory frameworks (liability concerns)

The tasks and responsibilities of humans and AI agents in UTM/UAM are yet to be defined

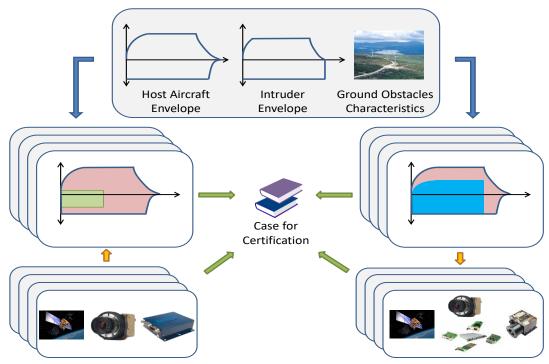
## What will be the role of Human Operators?

#### From Human-IN-the-Loop to Human-ON-the-Loop

- HOTL is a supervisory control paradigm where an operator focusses on high-level strategic tasks, meaning that the autonomous/intelligent system performs most or all tactical level activities
- The synergy of AI with HOTL architectures is seen as a possible solution to the problem:
  - Al can prevent/mitigate imminent hazards without requiring the operator's approval as in HITL operations
  - Human is still informed and consulted, with the possibility of intervening if and when required (based on both predictive and reactive integrity features)
- The introduction of high-performance AI requires a higher and better level of humanmachine coordination (machine and human integrity monitoring/augmentation functions)

#### SA/CA – Pathway to Certification

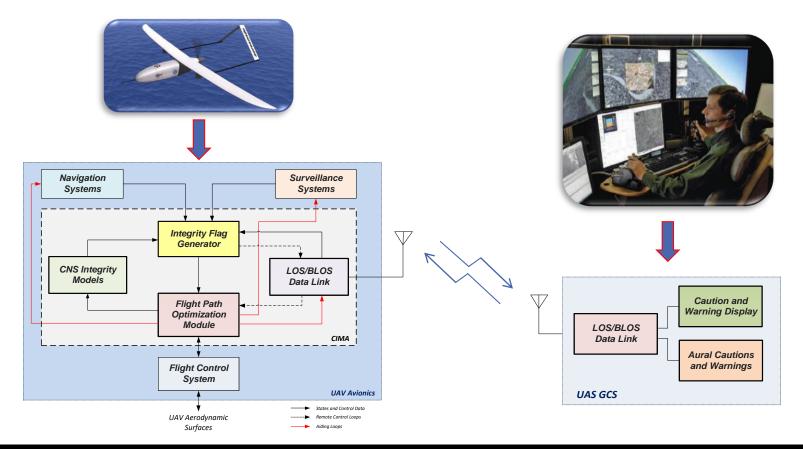
 Distinctive advantage: ability to determine the safe-to-fly UAS envelope based on the on-board sensors and alternatively to identify the required sensors in order to achieve a certain predefined safety envelope



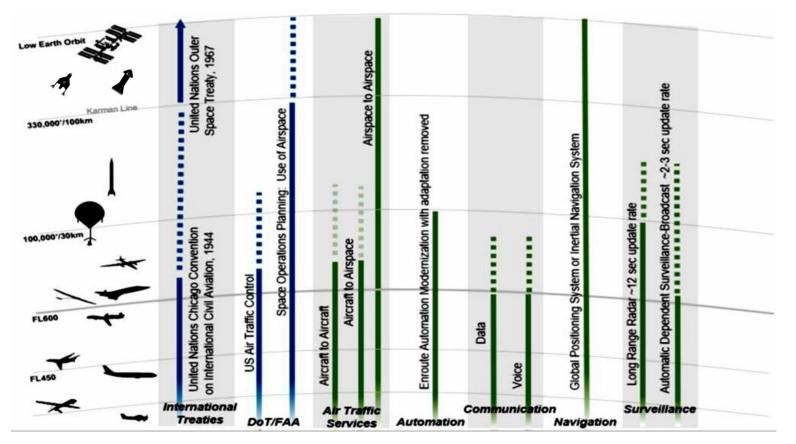
### **CNS Integrity Monitoring and Augmentation for SAA**

- To allow the high levels of autonomous decision making required in TDA loop, the UAS Communication, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) systems must guarantee high levels of integrity
- Integrity is a measure of the level of trust that can be placed in the performance of a system. For CNS, this means that either a specified level of performance is available (with a specified max probability of failure) or, if not, a usable integrity flag is generated within a max Time-To-Alert (TTA)
- In addition to integrity monitoring (inherently reactive), in UAS applications there is a strong need for Integrity Augmentation including both predictive and reactive features
- In UAS the adoption of <u>Integrity Augmentation</u> for all CNS systems would allow an extended spectrum of autonomous and safety-critical operations

#### **CNS Integrity Monitoring & Augmentation**



#### **Evolving Air and Space Transport Ecosystem**



# **Distributed Satellite Systems**

#### What Are Distributed Satellite Systems (DSS)?

DSS mission architectures move away from the monolith system concept to adopt *multiple* elements that *interact*, cooperate and communicate with each other, resulting in new systemic properties and/or emerging functions

Architecture	Mission goals	Cooperation	System makeup	Inter-Sat distance	Operational independence	
Constellation	Shared - Focus on coverage	Required	Homogeneous	Regional	Independent to co-dependent	
Train	Independent to shared	Optional	Heterogeneous	Local	Independent	
Cluster	Shared	Required	Homogeneous	Local	Independent to co-dependent	4
Swarm	Shared	Required	Homogeneous to heterogenous	Local to regional	Independent to co-dependent	W
Fractionated	Shared	Optional to required	Heterogeneous	Local	Independent to co-dependent	
Federated	Independent	Ad-hoc, optional	Heterogeneous	Local to regional	Independent	



Swarms Strength in numbers- active



Clusters Close formation. interferometry, SAR NASA DARWIN

Trains

Fractionated Fully distributed functionalities (Power, Pavloads)active field of research.

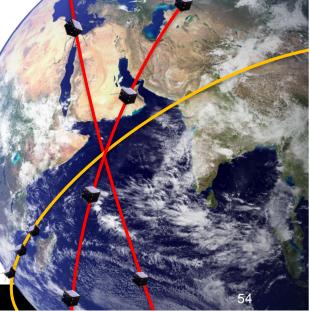
Synergistic Measurements, Reduce temporal variation in EO Mission NASA A-Train

research field 1000+ Small Sat Platforms



Focus on Coverage (EO & Communication) GPS, Iridium, DMC

OneWeb, Starlink (900+ Platforms) .....



# **Distributed Satellite Systems (2)**

#### Why do we need truly Distributed Satellite Systems?

To provide a more **responsive** and **resilient** option to **addressing the growing needs** of the global **scientific community** and **defense sector** by aiding in the **measurement and prediction of**:

#### Earth Observation (EO)







- Global meteorological events, natural disasters and fauna migration movements as a result of climate change
- Maritime illegal fishing, sea terrorism, illegal immigrations

#### Space Domain Awareness/STM







- Increase of Resident Space Objects (RSO) perpetuating hazardous "Kessler Syndrome"
- Reduction of uncertainty by Tracking of <10cm RSO's elusive to ground infrastructure

# **DSS and SmartSat Research Context**

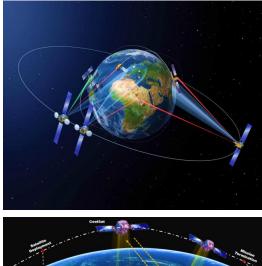
Advanced Satellite Systems, Sensors and Intelligence. Communications, connectivity and IoT technologies. Next Generation Earth Observation Services. Trusted Autonomy and Evolutionary Mission Control Centres

#### **Strengths/Discriminators**

- Ground-based and space-based SDA/STM
- AI-based sensor management and data fusion (autonomous decision making, diagnosis/prognosis and mission management)
- Custom sensors and data analytics products and services for: Mining and Resources, Agriculture/Horticulture/Aquaculture, Transport and Logistics
- Adaptive interfaces and interactions for de-crewing of mission control centres

#### **Research Capabilities**

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) software for trusted autonomous operation
- Fault-tolerant avionics/spaceflight systems research
- Intelligent satellite health management systems
- Passive and active EO/IR sensors and systems

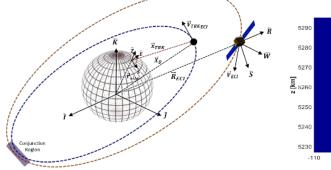


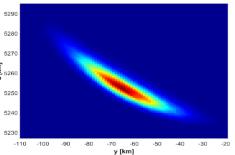


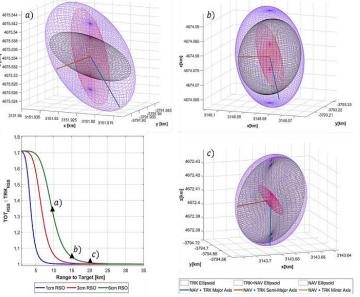
# **Space Domain Awareness and Traffic Management**

Non-cooperative/cooperative tracking, multi-objective trajectory optimisation and goal-based mission planning for time-critical application such as deconfliction of space vehicles

- Unified mathematical framework for 4-Dimensional collision uncertainty quantification and mapping
- Considering both space-based and ground-based space surveillance sensors
- Unique software tools employing AI/ML techniques





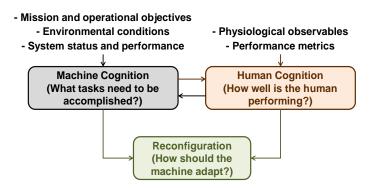


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# The CHMI<sup>2</sup> Concept

- This project addresses the development of closed-loop human machine systems implementing Cognitive Human Machine Interfaces and Interactions (CHMI<sup>2</sup>)
- CHMI<sup>2</sup> supports human machine teaming whereby a system senses and adapts to the mission environment and the cognitive state of the operator

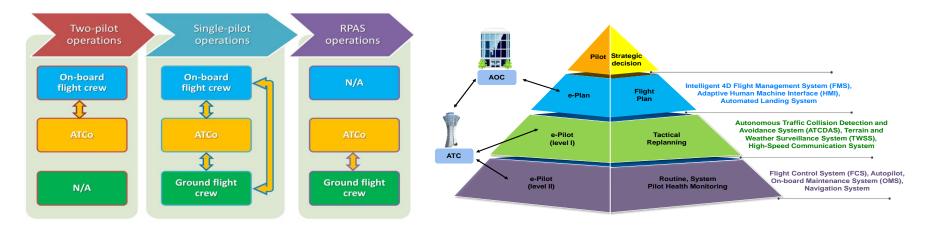


The CHMI<sup>2</sup> concept enables <u>Trusted Autonomous Operations</u> in both mission-critical and safety-critical applications

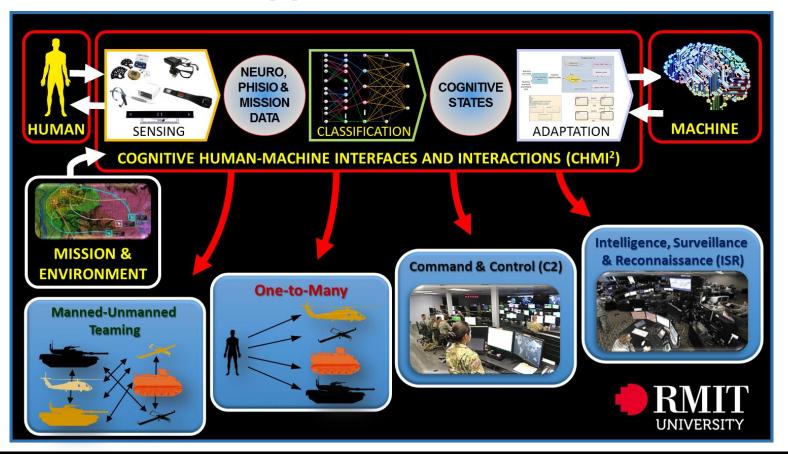
# **CHMI<sup>2</sup> Aeronautical Applications**

#### Initial System Requirements

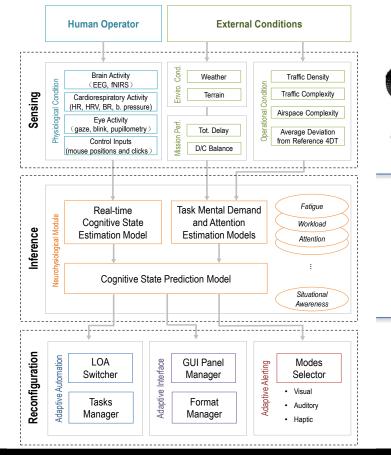
- Increase CNS+A efficiency by dynamically assisting human operators based on realtime detection of physiological and cognitive states
- To improve the total system performance by facilitating human-machine teaming
- To provide clear and unambiguous display formats and functions (system modes, submodes and data) based on the operator's estimated cognitive states



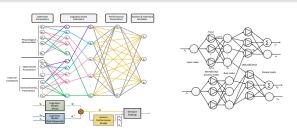
# **CHMI<sup>2</sup> Defence Applications**

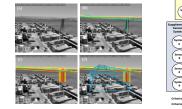


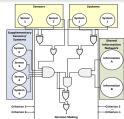
# **CHMI<sup>2</sup> Framework**









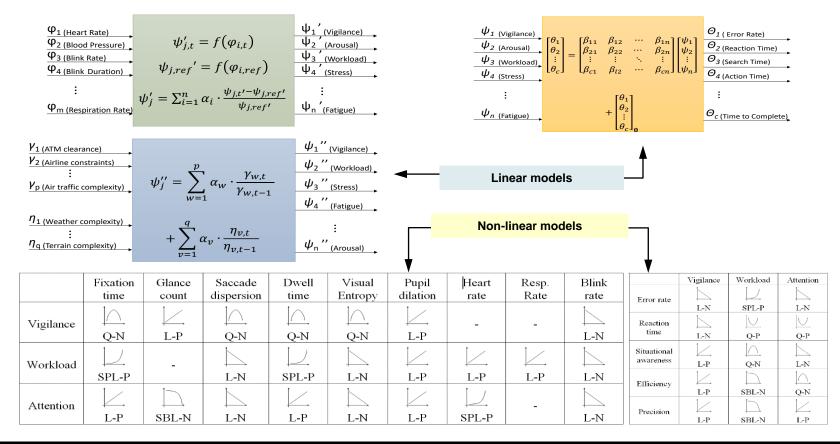


**Sensing:** uses a suite of sensors to measure neurophysiological observables in real time, and extracts relevant features from the observables

**Inference:** estimates cognitive states from the features in the sensing layer using various artificial intelligence (and machine learning) techniques

Adaptation: module drives the HMI<sup>2</sup> based on inferred cognitive states and key mission performance metrics

# **CHMI<sup>2</sup> Mathematical Framework**



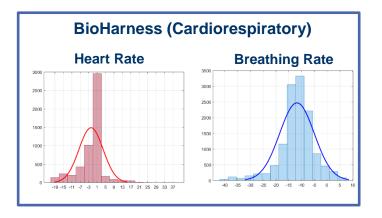
# **Offline Calibration – Cognitive Test Battery**

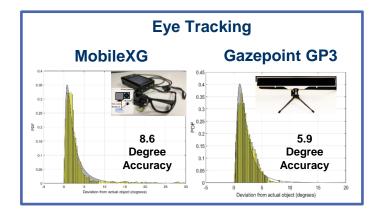
- A battery of cognitive tests was developed to support the offline calibration of the ANFIS classifier
- The Cognitive Test Battery (CTB) comprises a number of standardized tasks:
- The CTB is evolving by adopting the NASA Multi-Attribute Test Battery (MATB-II) software

# **Neuro-Physiological Sensor Network**

**Sensor Performance Characterization** 

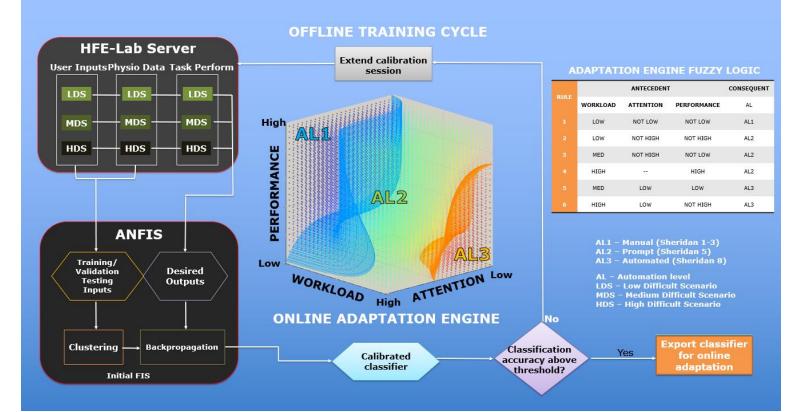
- Characterisation activities of Neuro-Physiological Sensors (NPS) used for the operator cognitive inference
- The uncertainty associated with the neuro-physiological observations is quantified and propagating through the classifier to obtain uncertainty in inferred cognitive states



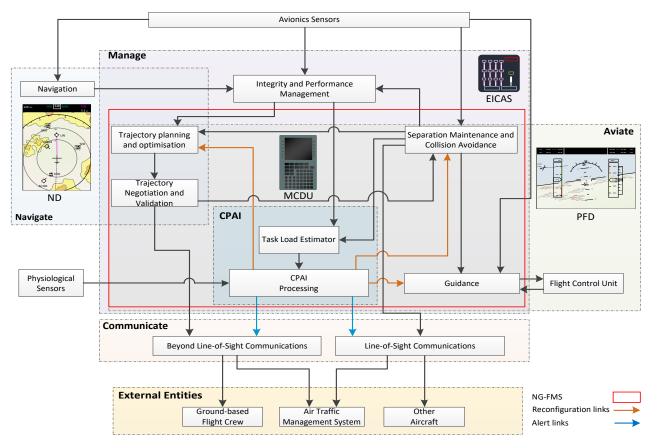


### **Inference Engine**

#### **Cognitive Adaptation Methodology (Summary View)**

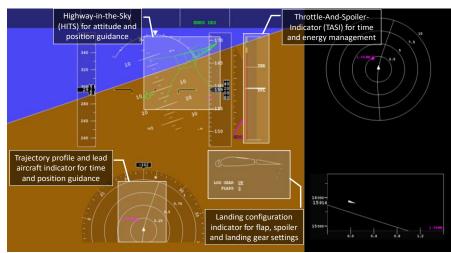


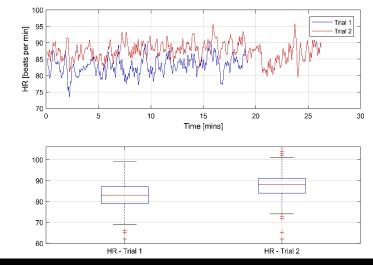
# CHMI<sup>2</sup> SiPO Case Study



# CHMI<sup>2</sup> SiPO Case Study (2)

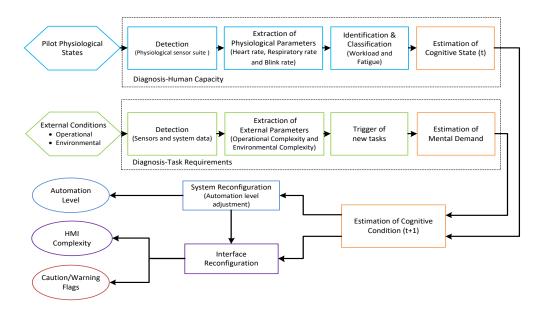
- Simulated A320 SYD-MEL flight in adverse weather conditions
- Development of novel formats and functions to generate and follow a time-and energy optimal descent trajectory (MEL)
- Human-in-the-loop experiments were carried out, with a pilot manually flying the aircraft under different weather conditions
- **Solution** Eye tracking data (dispersion and fixation) show correlation with high workload phases
- Correlation found between mental workload and HR (positive) and HRV (negative)

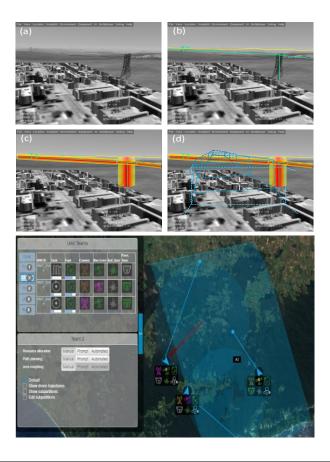




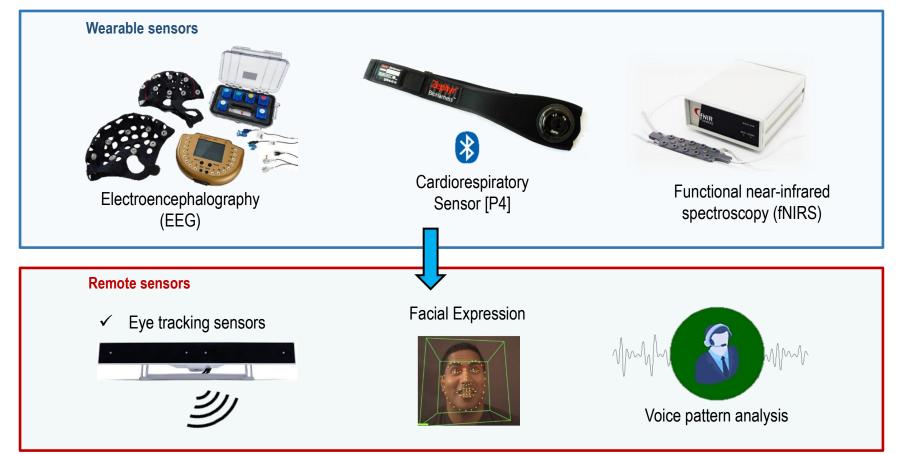
# **CHMI<sup>2</sup> UAS Case Studies**

- Low-level flying UAS and One-to-Many UAS missions
- Sensing, estimation and reconfiguration tested in real-world environemnts
- Dynamic HMI transitions and AL adaptation meet requirements for real-time operations (further work on EEG required)

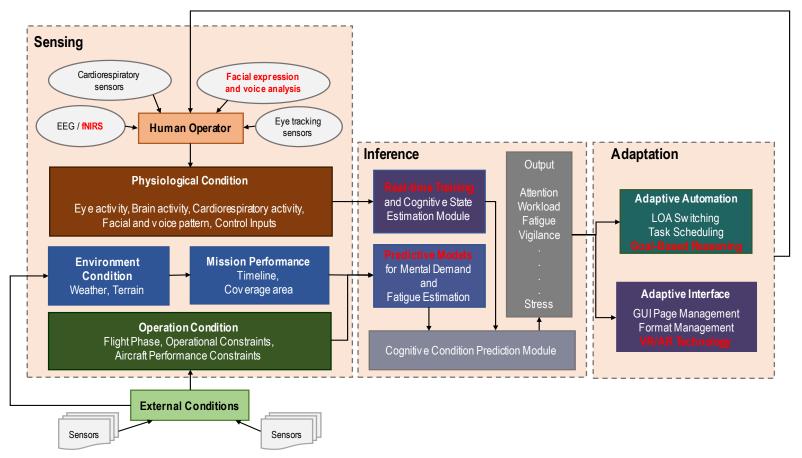




### **Current Evolutions – Sensor Network**



### **CHMI<sup>2</sup> Current Evolutions – Data Fusion**



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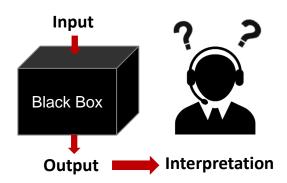
## **Human On the Look Dynamic Interactions**

### Challenges

### **Solution**

Higher level of automation in an out-of-loop paradigm

- Lower cognitive capability
- Progressive deskilling
- Lower situational awareness







Adaptive and Interpretable HMI

#### Cognitive Human-Machine System (CHMS)

#### **Human Factors**

#### **AI Explanation**

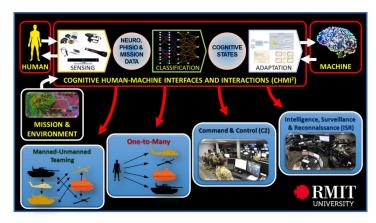
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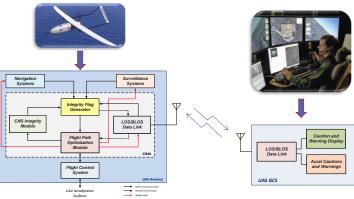
## **Towards Trusted Autonomous UTM Operations**

Ongoing verification during operations is not a new concept in ATM. The significance of this development is related to (reciprocal) trust in human–machine teaming:

- Cognitive Human-Machine Interfaces and interactions (CHMI2): machine trust in the human
- Integrity Monitoring & Augmentation (IM&A): human trust in today's machine (not just CNS but all safety-critical and mission-essential onboard/ground systems)

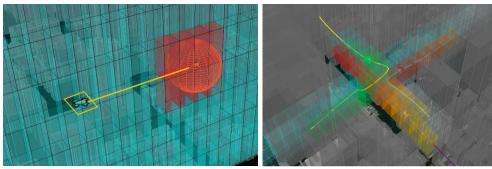


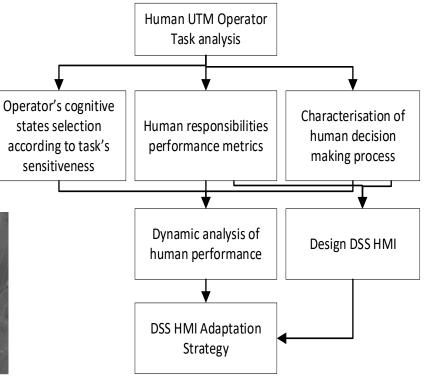




## **UTM HMI and Decision Support Systems**

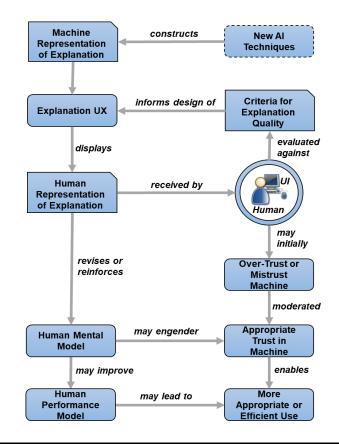
- To maximize effectiveness and Al interpretability, the HMI design shall be based on task analysis
- System and human operator integrity metrics allow to determine the optimal level of autonomy and a dynamic allocation of tasks to the HMT



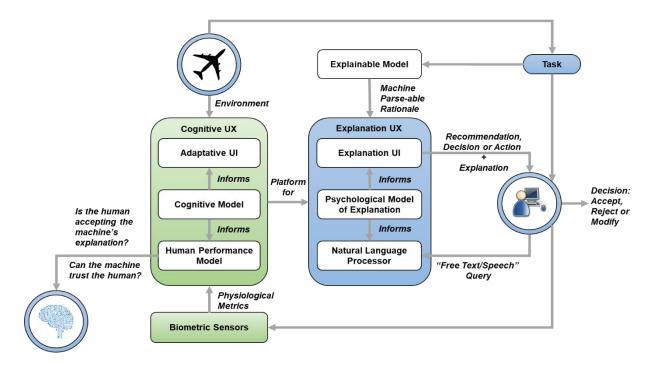


## **Explainable AI and User Interface Design**

- Explainable AI requires both new machine learning processes and an explanation framework comprising both a psychological model of explanation and an explanation HMI
- Each XAI explanation UX technique will be informed by the same psychological model of explanation, to be developed mainly by the Human and Machine Cognition

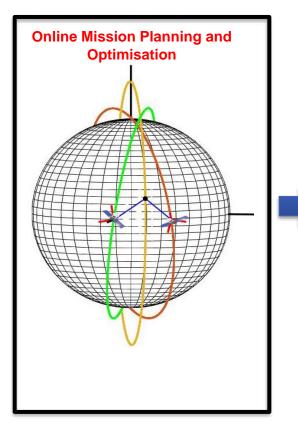


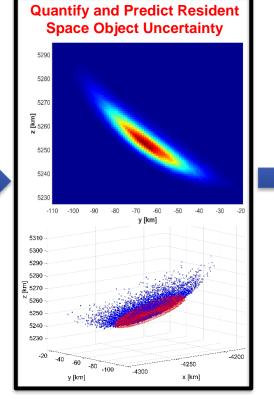
## **Cognitive HMI and Explanation UX**

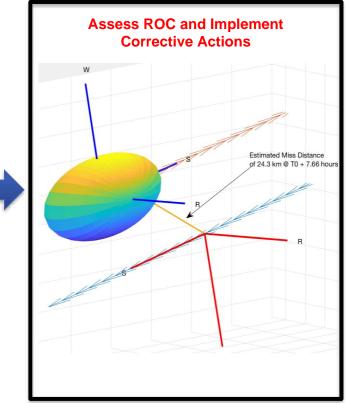


- Explainable AI
- Trusted Al
- Certifiable Al

## **AI-Based STM Decision Support Systems**







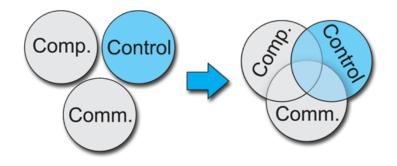
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## **Avionics Systems Evolutions – CPS**

- From Digital Avionics Systems to Aerospace Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
- CPS are engineered through the seamless integration of digital and physical components, with the possibility of including human interactions
- This requires three fundamental functions to be present: Control, Computation and Communication (C<sup>3</sup>)
- Practical CPS typically combine sensor networks and embedded computing to monitor and control physical processes, with feedback loops that allow physical processes to affect computations and vice-versa





## **Avionics CPS and Trusted Autonomy**

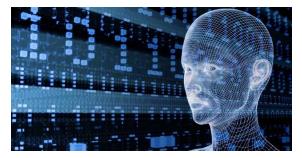
The avionics R&I systems community is focusing on two special categories of CPS:

- Autonomous Cyber-Physical (ACP) systems
  - □ Semi-Autonomous Cyber-Physical (S-ACP) systems
- Cyber-Physical-Human (CPH) systems

The challenge is to develop robust, fault-tolerant and secure ACP and CPH systems that ensure **trusted autonomous operations** given:

- Specific hardware constraints
- Variability of mission requirements
- Uncertainties in physical processes
- The possibility cyber/physical attacks and human errors





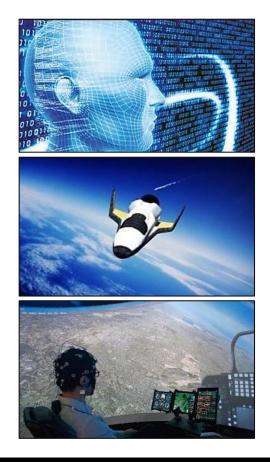
## Intelligent CPS (iCPS)

Industry 4.0 focuses on new technologies to deeply connect the digital world with the physical world. Current trends with clear avionics applications include:

- Advances in automation and autonomy
- Enhanced human-machine and machine-machine communications
- Widespread adoption of artificial intelligence and machine learning

Four key technology drivers enable these trends:

- Big data and Internet of Things (IoT)
- Advances in sensor networking and data analytics;
- Improvements in transferring digital instructions to the physical world; and
- New forms of human-machine interaction, such as cognitive, augmented and virtual reality systems.



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**Trends: All-Domain Effective Global Intelligent Management (AEGIM)** 



Advancing Technology for Humanity



#### PART II: Restructuring Avionics Engineering Curricula to Meet Contemporary Requirements and Future Challenges

Irfan Majid Senior Member IEEE Dept of Avionics Eng – Institute of Space Technology imajid@ieee.org Giancarmine Fasano Senior Member IEEE Dept of Industrial Eng – University of Naples g.fasano@unina.it

DATE: 2021/10/05

https://ieee-aess.org/tech-ops/avionics-systems-panel-asp



Advancing Technology for Humanity



#### **Restructuring Avionics Engineering Curricula to Meet Contemporary Requirements and Future Challenges**

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## **Presentation Outline**

- Introduction
- Overview of Existing Avionics Engineering Programs
- Keeping pace with Industry Requirements
- Proposed Undergraduate Curriculum
- Research and Innovation Areas in Avionics Engineering
- Proposed Graduate Programs
- Wrap up

#### Questions and Discussion

## Introduction

- Scope of Avionics
  - Aviation Electronics
    - Onboard & CNS+A



- Cost of avionics system in aircraft ranges from one third to two thirds
- ✤ Avionics is a multi-billion dollar industry world wide
- Avionics is a rapidly evolving applied field



## **Domains of Avionics**

Air Traffic Management	Surface / Runway Mgmt, Arrivals / Departures, Airspace / Trajectory analysis & optimization, ATM
Flight Critical Systems	Flight Control, Engine Mgmt, Architectures, HMI
Comm, Nav and Surveillance	DACS, ACAS, TCAS, ADS-B, Non Cooperative Surveillance
Avionics Hardware and Software Design	Safety Analysis, Complex System Design Processes, Certifiable Hardware & Software Dev, V&V
Autonomous Systems	UAS, UAM, UTM, Human-Autonomy Teaming
Space Systems	Satellite Avionics, Space transport avionics, Space mission systems
System Engineering Support	Design Flow Process, SII, HIL, System Level V&V
Operational Support	Life Cycle Support, Vehicle Health Mgmt, Weather Info

## **Unique Features of Avionics Engineering**

- Size, Weight, Power and Cost (SWaP-C)
- Hardware and Software Safety Certification
- \* Product and Service Life Cycle Management
- Operational Environment (CNS+A)





## **Career Pathways**

Aerospace Systems Products and Manufacturing

- Aerospace Systems Research and Development
- Government Agencies and Regulators
- Defense Forces
- Avionics Equipment
- Airlines (Maintenance)



## **Future Growth**

- **Aviation industry is projected to grow at a fast pace in the coming decade**
- Induction of UAS for various roles
- Inception of Urban Air Mobility (UAM)
- Increased activity in the space sector



- UAS/UTM RDT&E and safe/effective regulations
- New operating environments, such as very low altitude airspace
- Integrated multi-sensor systems for autonomous vehicles (vision-based, RADAR, LiDAR, etc.)
- knowledge requirements on avionics engineers continue to evolve at an impressive rate

## **Shortcomings of Current Avionics Curricula**

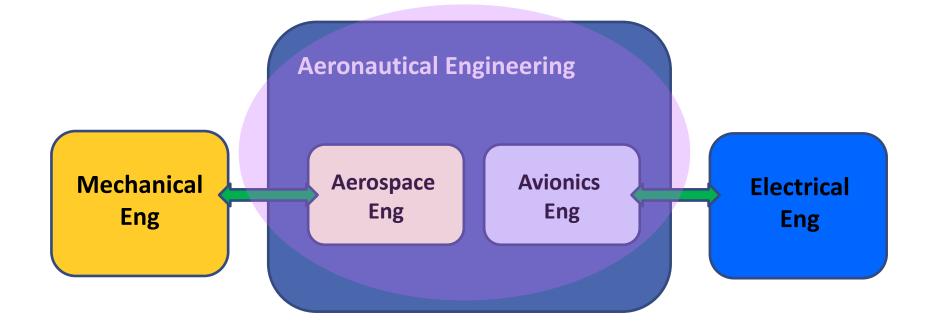
In many universities Avionics Engineering programs exist under

the wings of Aerospace or Electrical/Computer Eng. Departments



- Engineers from Electrical/Computer Science/Aerospace degrees take much longer to become useful in Industry
- **Scope of many avionics programs narrowed down to aircraft electronics**
- Focus on technology oriented avionics programs but lack of CNS+A integration and practical hands-on skills
- Persistent lack of coordination between industry and academia in many areas
- Fail to meet contemporary requirements and future challenges

## **Avionics Engineering Scope**



## **Under-Graduate Curricula Guidelines**

Disciplines	Topics
Aeronautics	Avionics Hardware & Software Design, Testing & Certification (Initial and Continuing Airworthiness), Flight, Control Systems, Aerodynamics & Flight Mechanics, Guidance and Navigation, Aerospace Computing & Data Networks, Aerospace Communications & Networking Systems, Cooperative & Non-Cooperative Surveillance, Systems, Electromagnetic Compatibility for Avionics Systems, UAS Avionics, Air Traffic Management Systems, Aerospace Remote Sensing and Mission Systems, Multi sensor Data Fusion, Spaceflight Systems
Electrical & Electronics	Analog Electronics, Digital Electronics, Applied Electromagnetics, Instrumentation and Measurement, Electronic Communications, Digital Communications, Control Systems, Microwave & Antenna Engineering, Motors and Generators
Interdisciplinary Courses	Statics, Dynamics, Thermodynamics, Manufacturing Systems, Operations Research & Engineering Management
Computing & Systems	Programming and Hardware Languages, Modeling & Simulation, Artificial Intelligence
Humanities & Sciences	Mathematics, Physics, Communication Skills

### Lab Contents

- Avionics Architectures
- Avionics System Design
- Radar Systems
- Sensor Fusion



- Flight Controls and Navigation Systems
- Air Traffic Management Systems



### **Intricacies of Independent Avionics Programs**

- Applied breadth oriented field with systems engineering approach
  - Restriction on maximum number of credit hours
- Nomenclatures and Conventions
  - ABET relates to Aviation Electronics
  - Also be considered as complex Cyber Physical Systems
- Safety Critical Autonomous Systems

Requisite knowledge of Avionics Engineering can best be imparted through independent Avionics Engineering programs



#### **Post Graduate Studies**

### **Post Graduate Studies**

- **Strong link with research and development and with industry needs**
- ✤ A few universities currently offer master programs in Avionics
- Some universities include avionics studies and courses in master curricula in Aerospace Engineering, or in new programmes aimed at Autonomous Vehicles / Systems
- Education + Research: Opportunity to keep pace with modern needs and to take advantage from the wealth of new research opportunities
- ✤ Need of close liaison with industry

### **Post Graduate Studies**

Challenges and opportunities for education and research involve many areas

- Integrated CNS/ATM and Avionics (CNS+A) Systems
- Urban Air mobility and Urban Traffic Management
- Cyber-physical security of avionics and CNS/ATM systems
- Fault-tolerant avionics and intelligent Health and Usage Management Systems (HUMS)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) in avionics systems design and operations
- Evolution of Avionics Human-Machine Interfaces and Interactions (HMI<sup>2</sup>)
- Space Avionics

### **Post Graduate Curricula**

✤ The hypothesis of a graduate Avionics Engineering program is formulated

It can focus on six specialization domains

### **Post Graduate Curricula**

#### **Avionics Software & Avionics System CNS Systems** Design **Cyber Security** Design of Safety Critical Advanced Navigation • Avionics Software Design & Certification Avionics Systems Avionics Cyber Security • Design of CNS/ATM Aircraft Communications •Cyber Security for Systems and Networking **Embedded Systems** Advanced Avionics Surveillance Systems and Architectures and CNS+A Tracking Integration • Filtering and Estimation Avionics Human Factors Theory Engineering

Awareness of challenges and aspects relevant to the incorporation of new technologies in avionics systems (e.g., AI)

### **Post Graduate Curricula**

#### Cont'd

#### Avionics Microwave Systems

- Integrated RF Front Ends
- Aircraft Antennas
- Advance Radar Systems
- Satellite communications

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- Autonomous Systems Guidance & Control
- UAS Traffic Management
- UAS Airspace Integration Technologies
- APNT

#### Spacecraft Avionics Systems

- •Space Flight Dynamics and Control
- •Space navigation and Mission Planning
- Space Avionics Deign
- •Multispectral imaging systems for spacecraft

## **Electives**

- Synthetic Vision
- Adaptive Control for Avionics Systems
- ✤ Aircraft Navigation and Trajectory Prediction
- Microwave Circuit Design
- Real Time Operating Systems
- Airborne and Space borne Communication Systems
- Aircraft Electromagnetic Compatibility
- Advanced Engineering Mathematics
- Machine Learning with Avionics Applications

- Multimode data fusion
- Graphical rendering for display technology
- Component manufacturing
- Rotorcraft engineering
- Avionics Design Project
  - Collaboration with industry
  - project linked to specialization area
- Al in Avionics Systems

## Wrap Up

- Avionics Engineering education curricula require a major overhaul at all levels
- Engineers from Electrical/Computer Science/Aerospace degrees take much longer to become useful in Industry
- Complete scope of onboard and ground-based systems (CNS+A) must be covered
- Guidelines have been provided for UG and PG curricular evolutions that overcome existing deficiencies, meets industry expectations and embrace RDT&E contemporary challenges

## Wrap Up

- Differences in rules and education systems at international level, and constraints relevant to different academic entities, may hinder the full adoption of the proposed curricula
- However, they can represent guidelines for the evolution of avionics education within different curricular frameworks
- Multidisciplinarity, contamination beyond traditional academic boundaries, collaboration with industry, modern practices (challenge-based education, on-the-job training) as directions to train the new avionics workforce



Advancing Technology for Humanity



## **Questions and Discussion**

# Thank you!

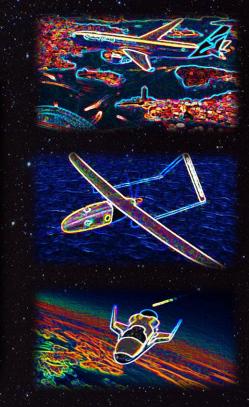


If you wish to discuss possible collaborations with the AESS Avionics Systems Panel (ASP) please send an email to: roberto.sabatini@ieee.org

You can find additional information about the ASP at: https://ieee-aess.org/tech-ops/avionics-systems-panel-asp

IEEE/AIAA Digital Avionics Systems Conference: https://2021.dasconline.org/

IEEE/AIAA Integrated Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Conference: <u>https://i-cns.org/about/</u>



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