

DLR's Robotic Technologies for Space Debris Mitigation and On-Orbit Servicing

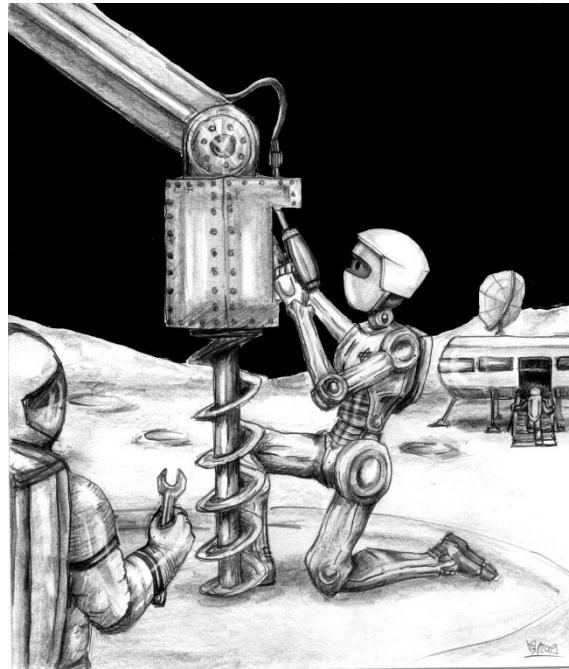
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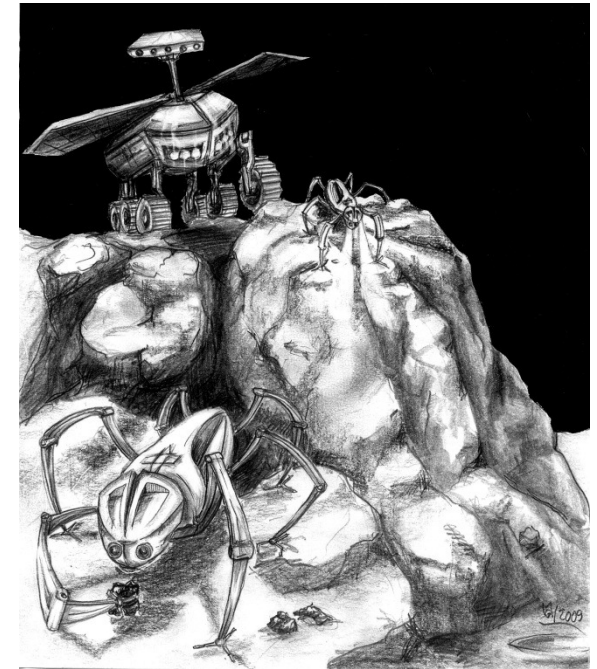
Space Robotics Application Scenarios at the German Aerospace Center (DLR)



On Orbit Servicing
and Space Debris



Space Robot Assistance

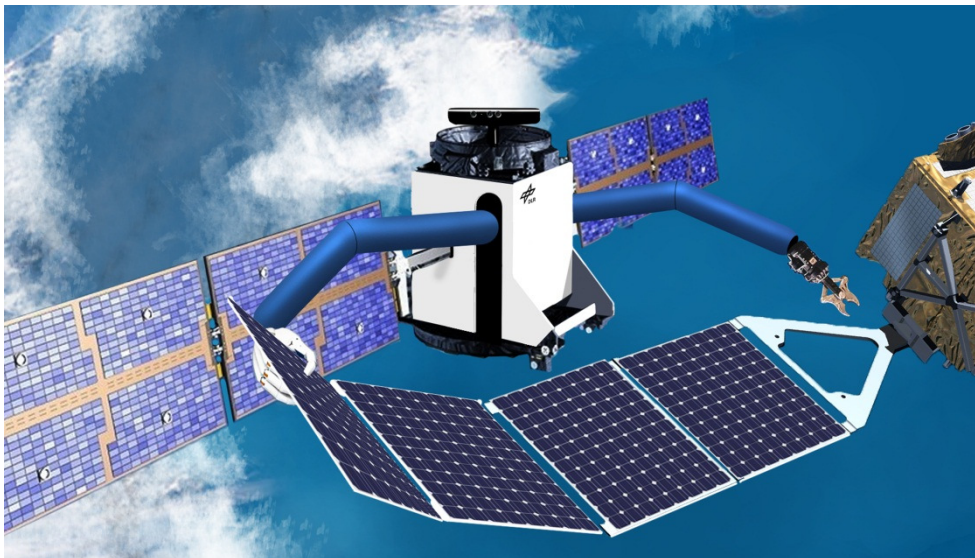
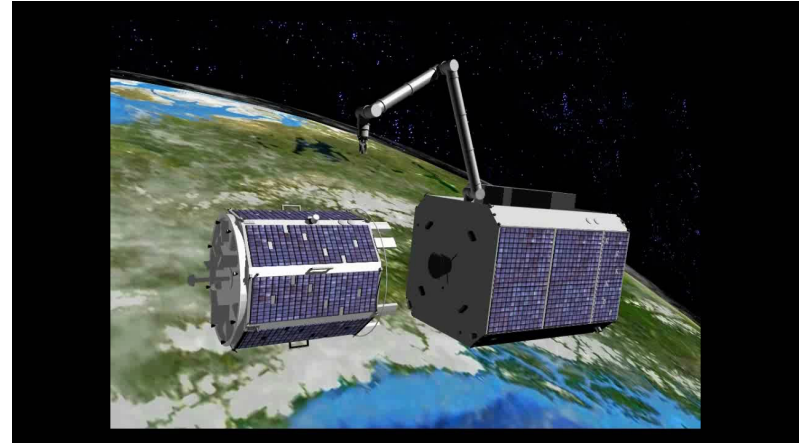


Planetary Exploration

On Orbit Servicing

Robotics provides a scalable technology:

- from simple tasks like
 - deorbiting
 - space debris removal
- over maintenance and repair
- to complex assembly assistance functions
 - new ISS?
 - future manned Mars spacecraft

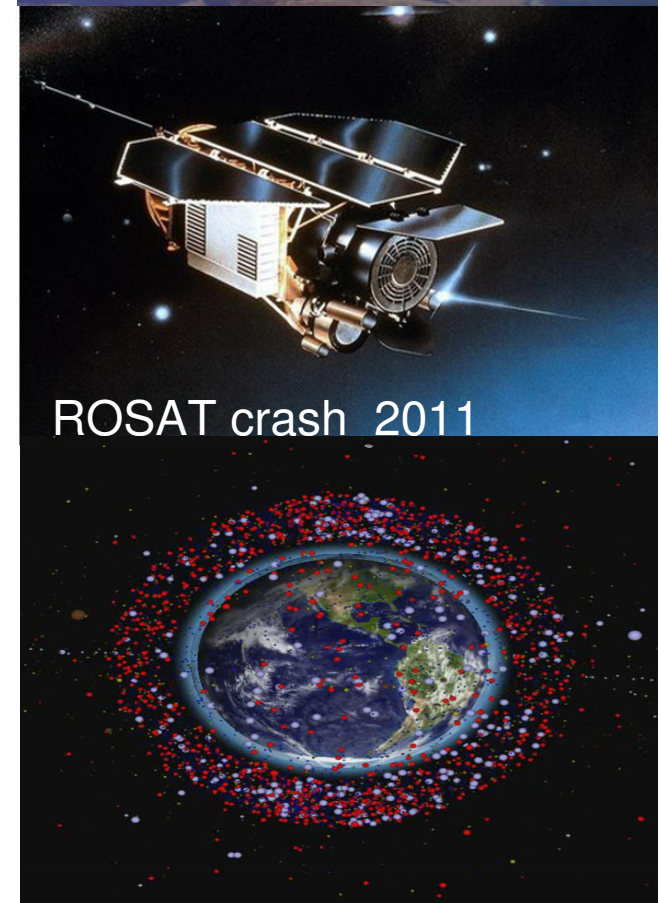
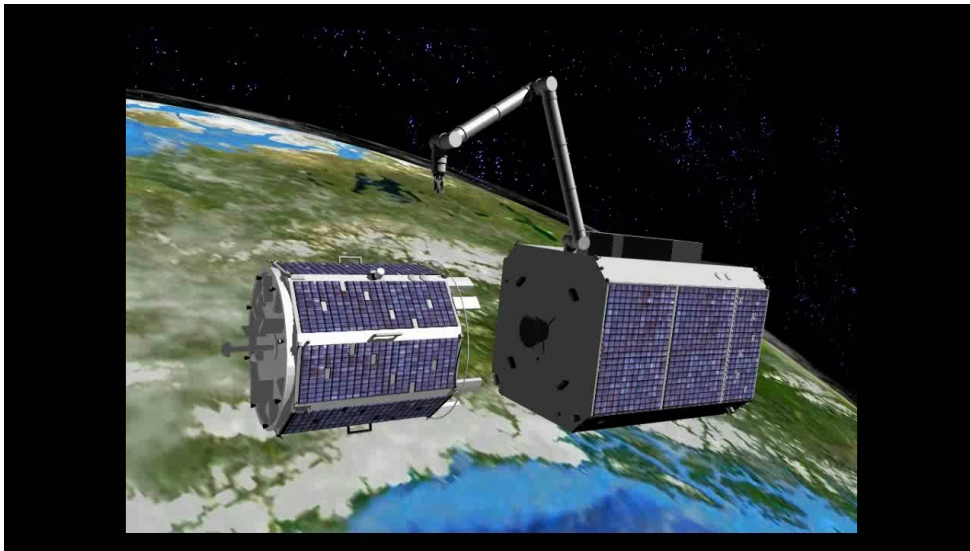


Space Debris Mitigation and on Orbit Servicing

Robot technology can handle both

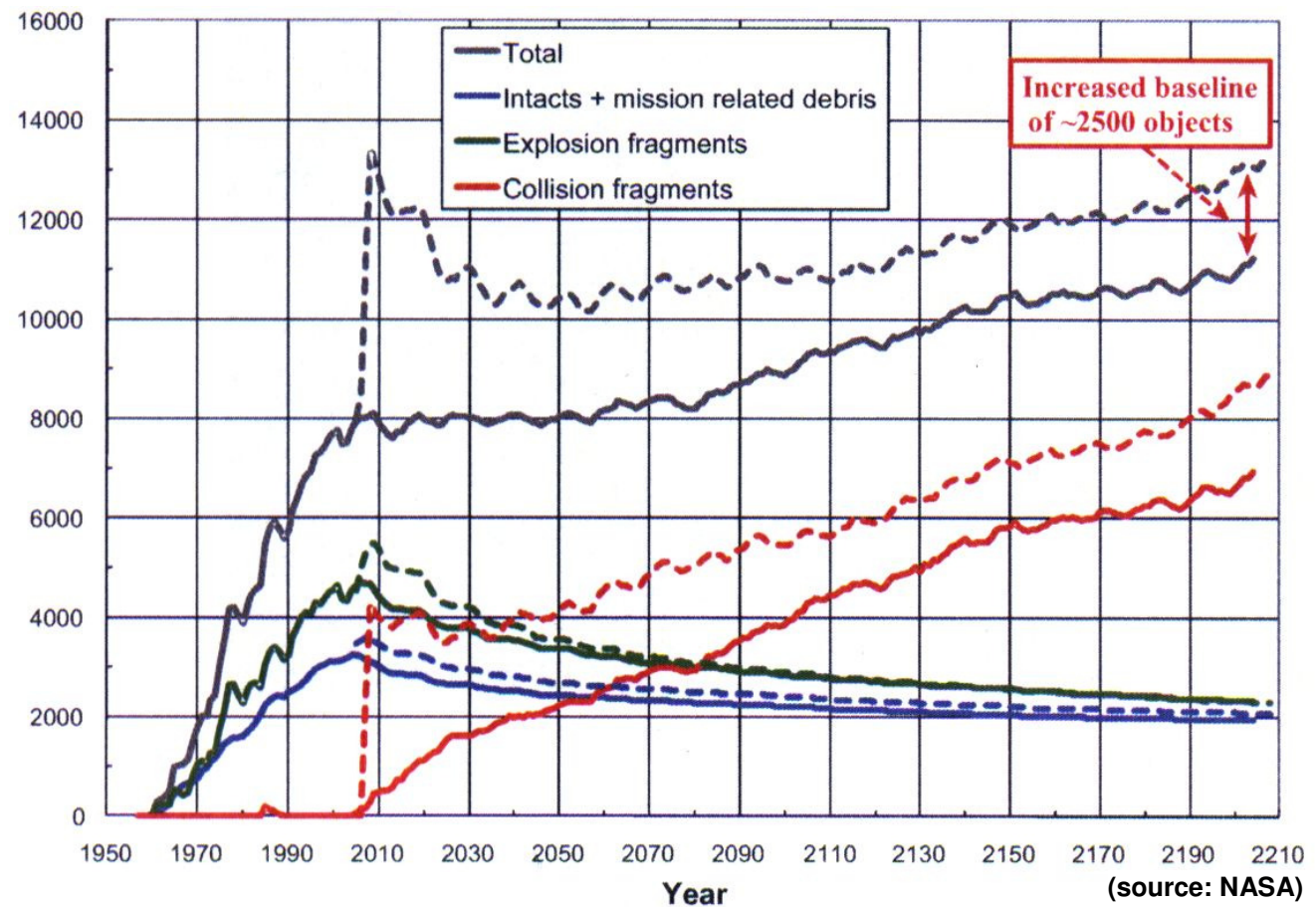
- service and repair
- space debris mitigation

DLR DEOS mission



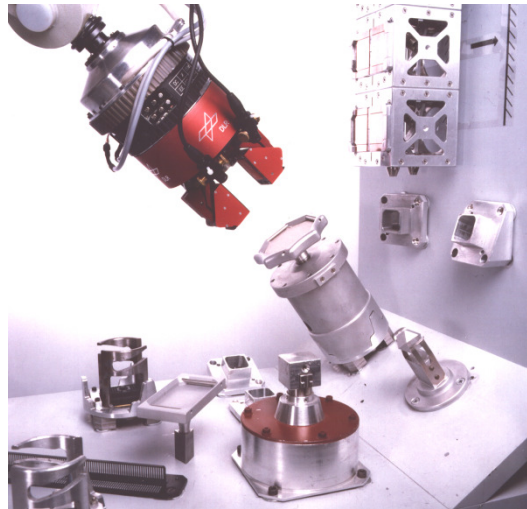
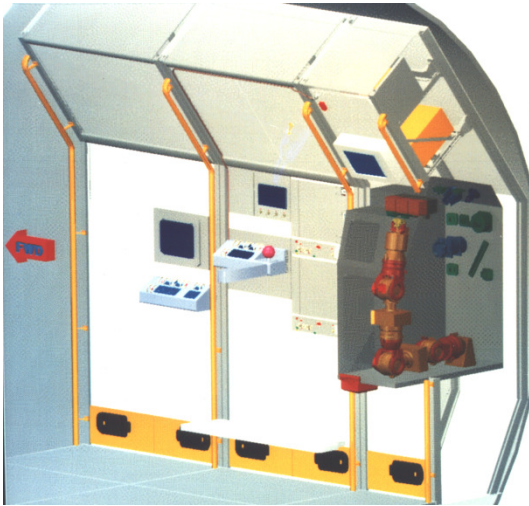
Space debris in LEO: Increase of future population

➤ Cascading effect starts to increase space debris even w/o any launches



➔ Only way to limit increase is to actively remove objects from LEO

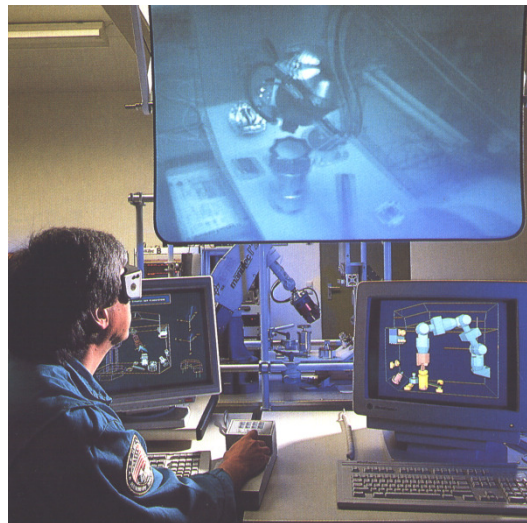
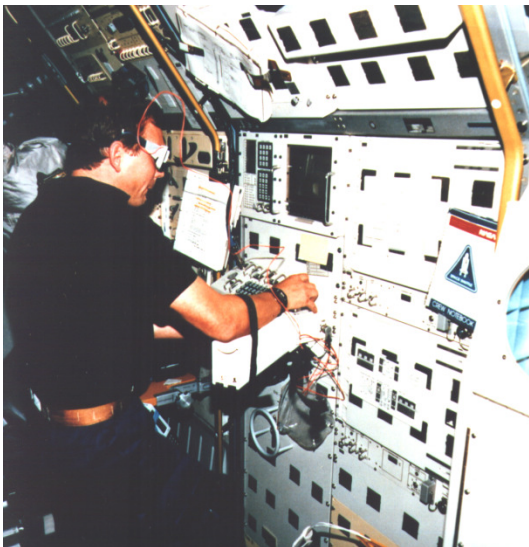
ROTEX - The first remotely controlled Robot in Space (1993)



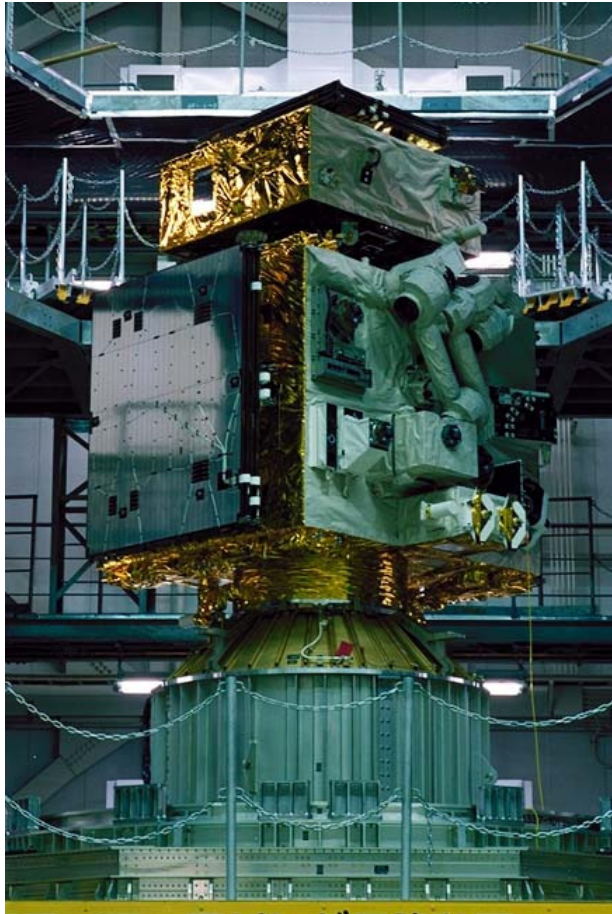
IEEE Judith A. Resnik Award

1994 – JOHANNES DIETRICH
Inst. Robotics & Syst. Dynamics -
Wessling, Germany

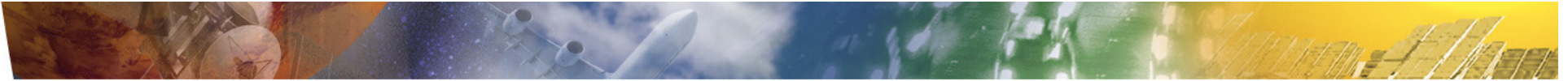
'For development of a successful
high-performance, rugged, multi-
sensor, miniaturized robotic gripper
for use in the outer space
environment.'



GETEX / ETS-VII 1999

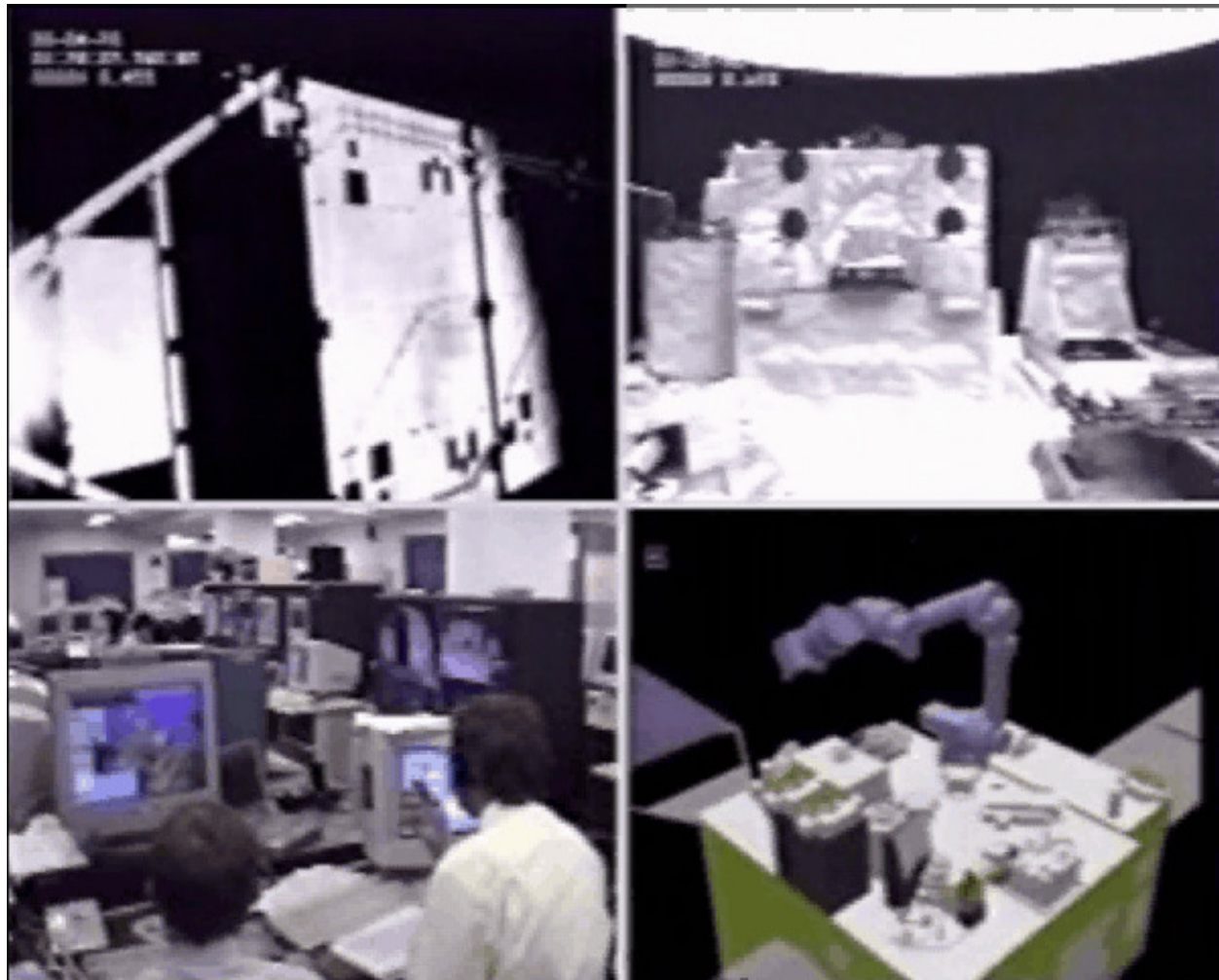


- Target (0.4t)
- Chaser (2.5t)
- Launched by H-II rocket on Nov.28,1997



Dynamic Motion Experiment

How does an Robot interact with the Satellite and affect its attitude control?



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Preparing light weight Robots and Hands for Space Application

➤ Requirements:

- low weight
- low energy consumption
- In size and agility comparable humans (antropomorph)



JUSTIN System:

Weight: 45 kg

DoF: 43

Control Loop: 1kHz

Head:

DLR 3D Modeller

Stereo Camera

Laser Scanner and

Stripe Projector

3 DoF

2 DLR Light Weight

Arms (left and right)

7 DoF each

Torso:

4 Joints / 3 actuated

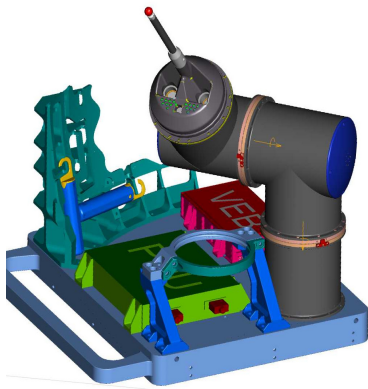
2 DLR Hands in left
and right configuration

12 DoF each



ROKVISS

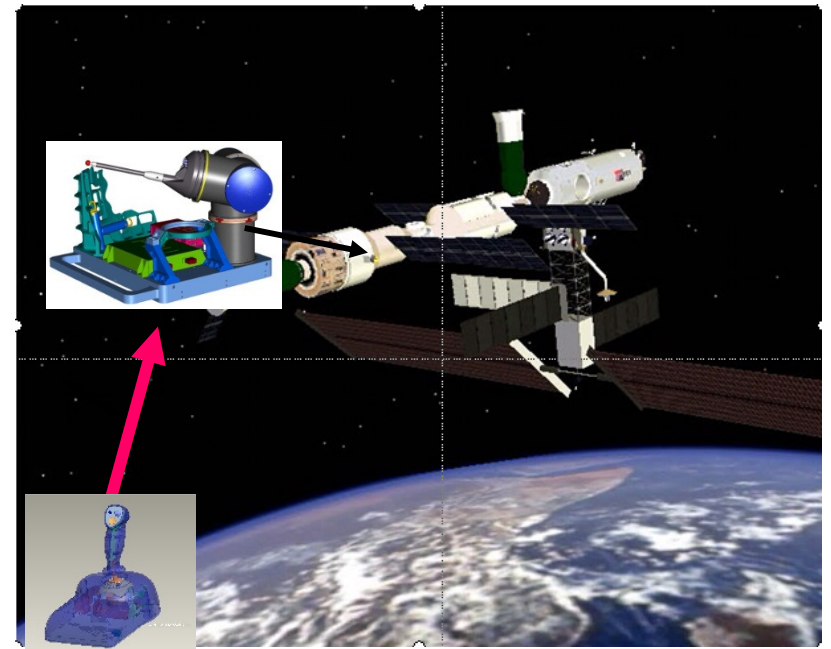
Roboter Komponenten Verifikation auf der ISS



Technology Validated in ROKVISS 6 Year Mission on ISS

Final highlights

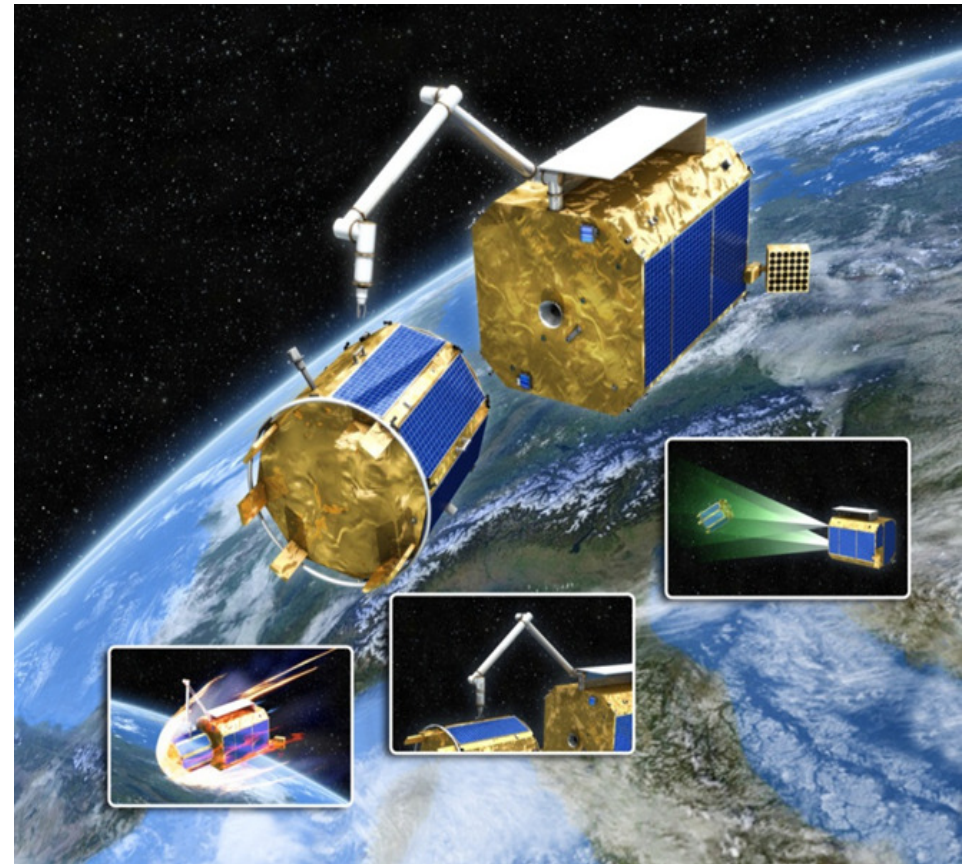
- Remote control „from home“
- return of the robot down to earth for wear analysis



The DEOS Mission

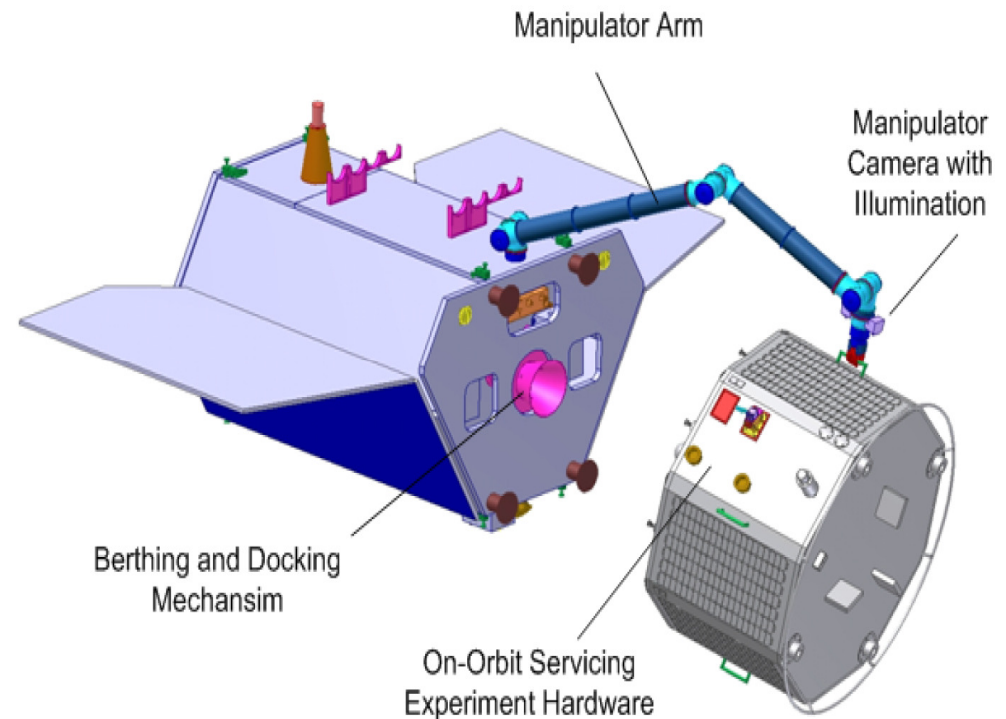
Mission statement

- Locate and approach a client satellite
- Capture a tumbling, non-cooperative satellite using a manipulator mounted on a free flying service-satellite
- Demonstrate servicing tasks: refuel, module exchange etc.
- De-orbiting of the coupled satellites within a pre-defined re-entry corridor



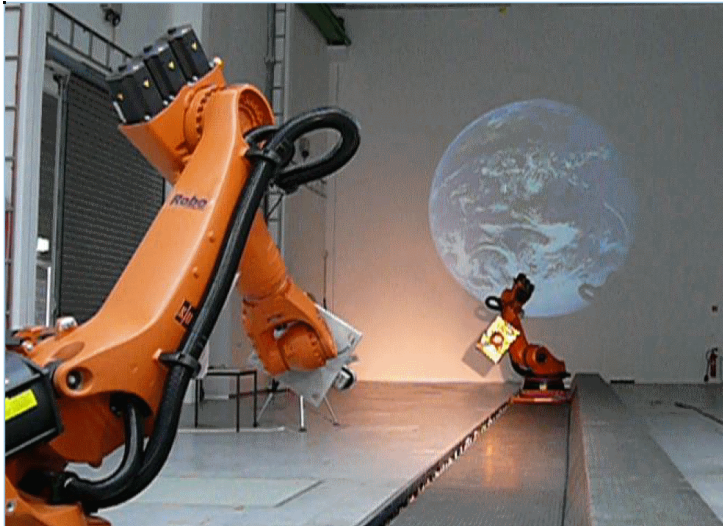
Robotics Sub-System

- Observation of client motion
- Identification of dynamic parameters
- Motion estimation
- Path-planning
- Path-control including visual-servoing
- Decay the motion between servicer and client

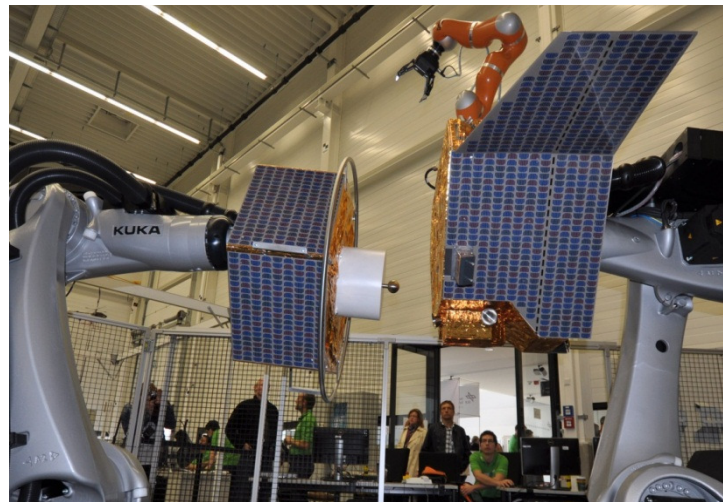




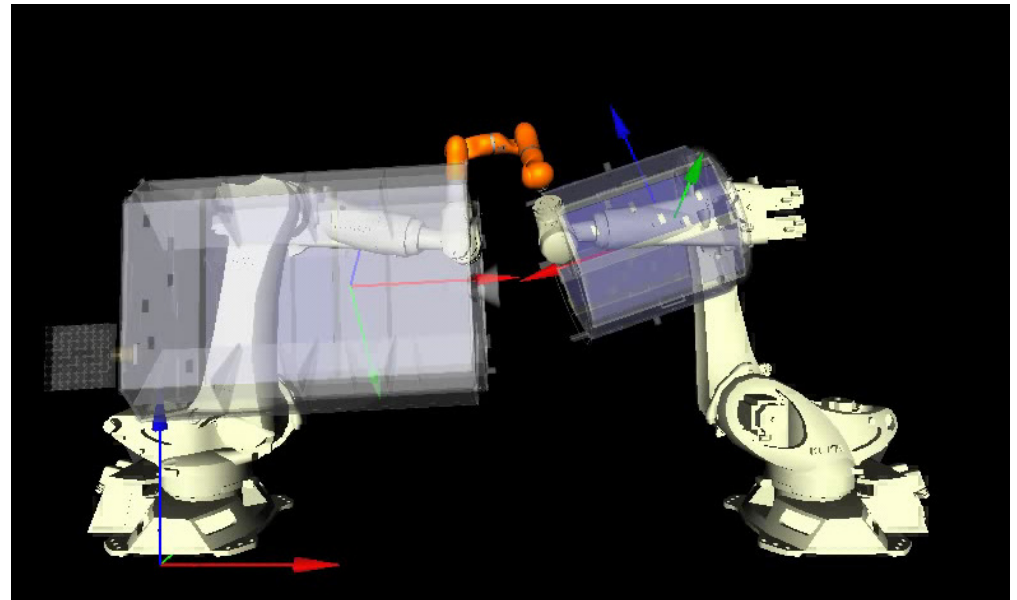
Hardware in the Loop Simulatoren



EPOS – simulation for approaching



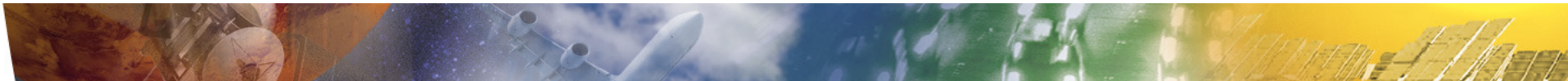
simulation of grasping and ,manipulation



DEOS-Simulator



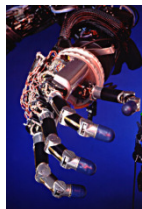
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Relais satellite in GEO



Spacecraft in GEO



Communication paths and corresponding round trip times

250 ms

500 ms

Spacecraft in LEO

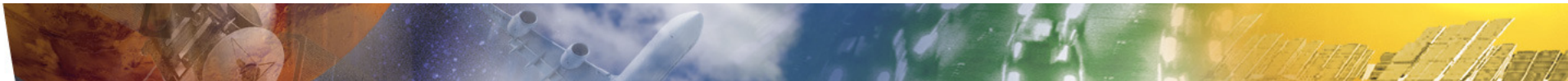
20 ms

Spacecraft in LEO

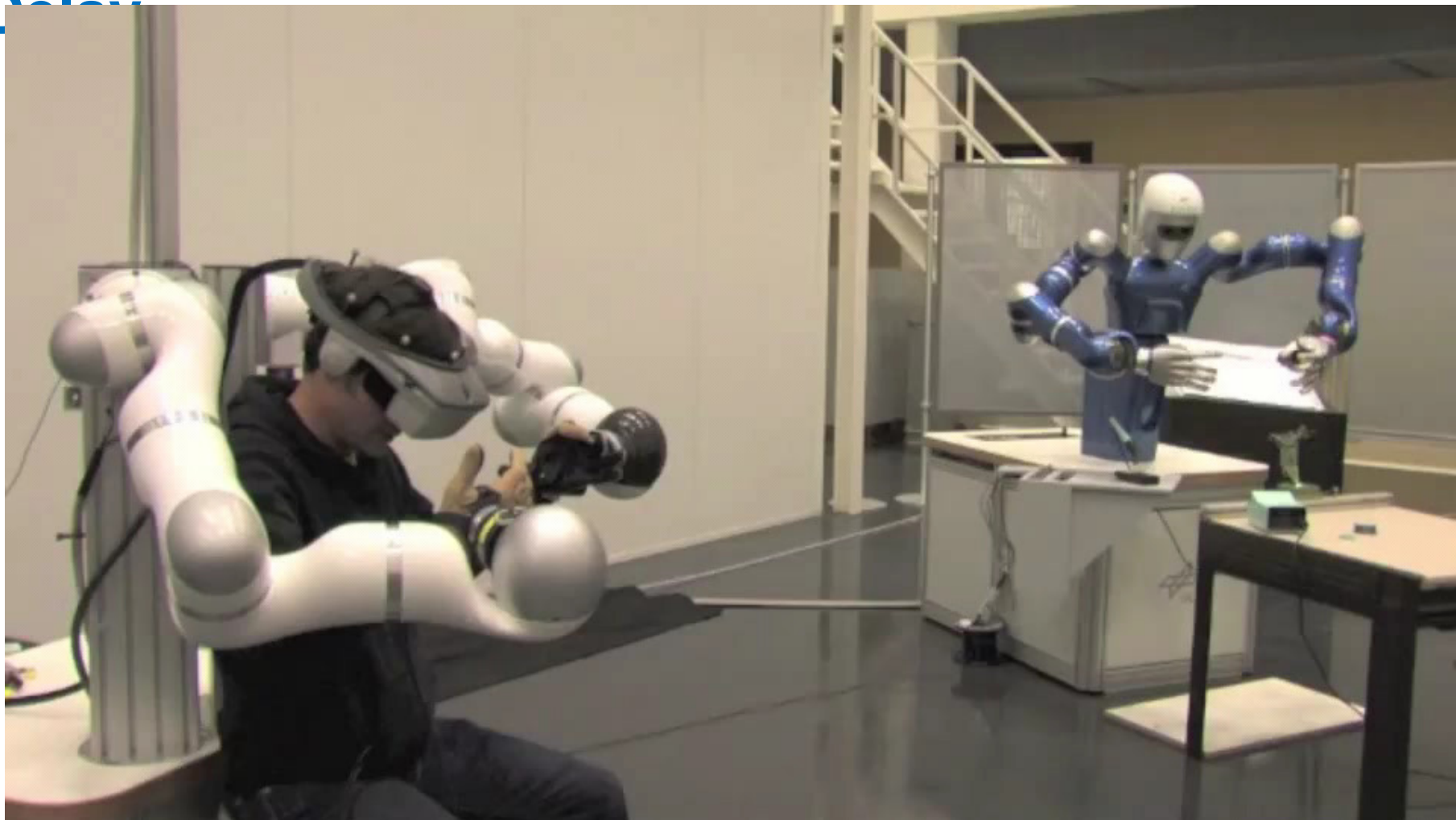


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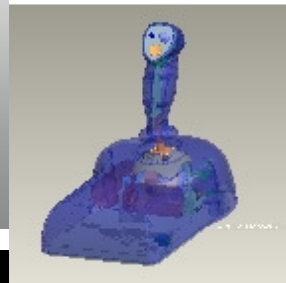




Tele-Presence Operation with Time Delay



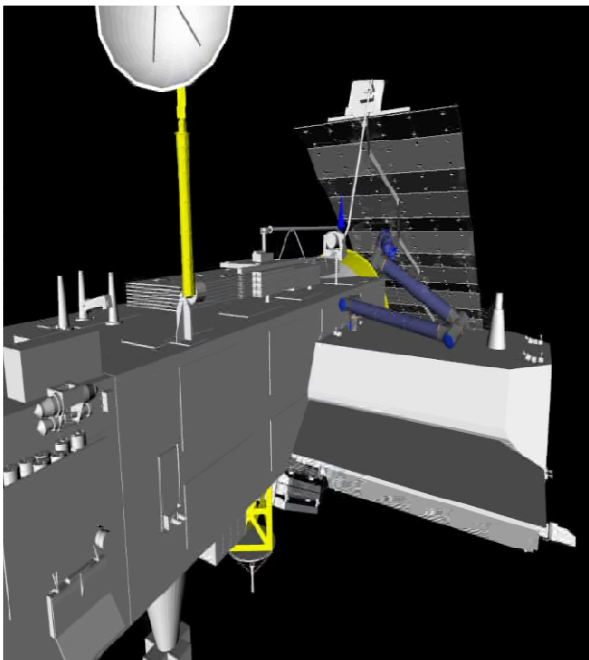
2014)
METERON (Start
2015)



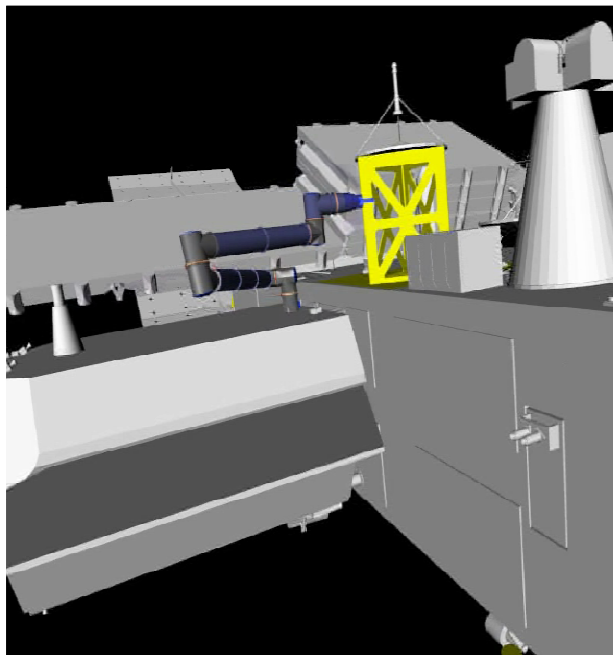
-Mars-End-To-End-RObotic Networking METERON

ENVISAT

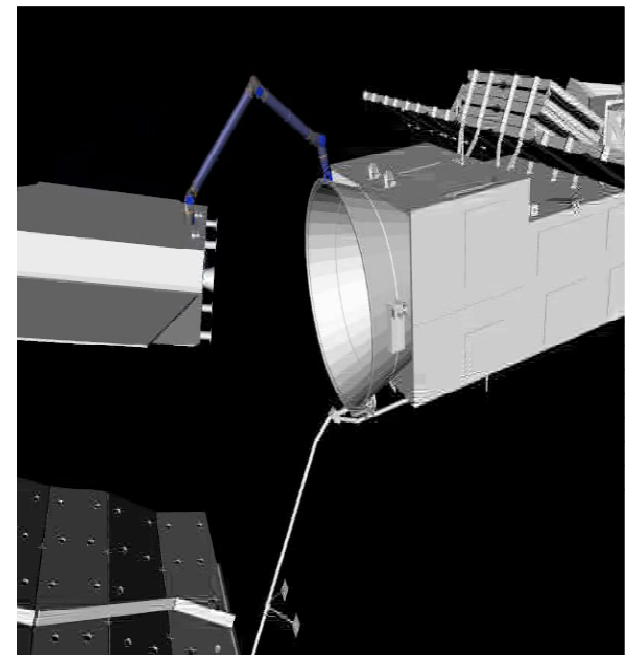
Possible Capture Methods (Subset only)



Antenna



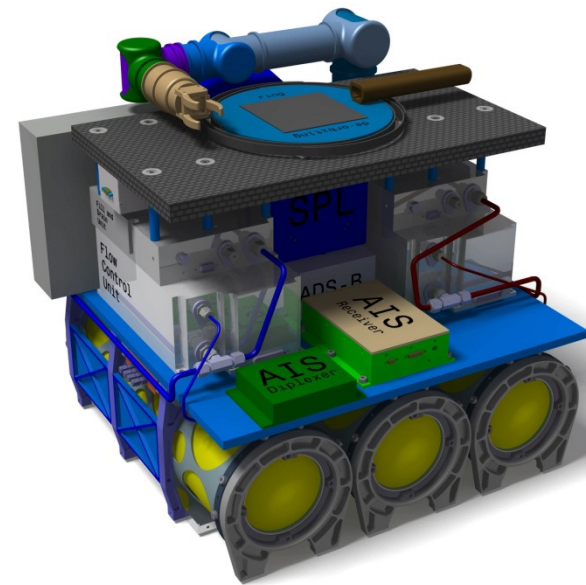
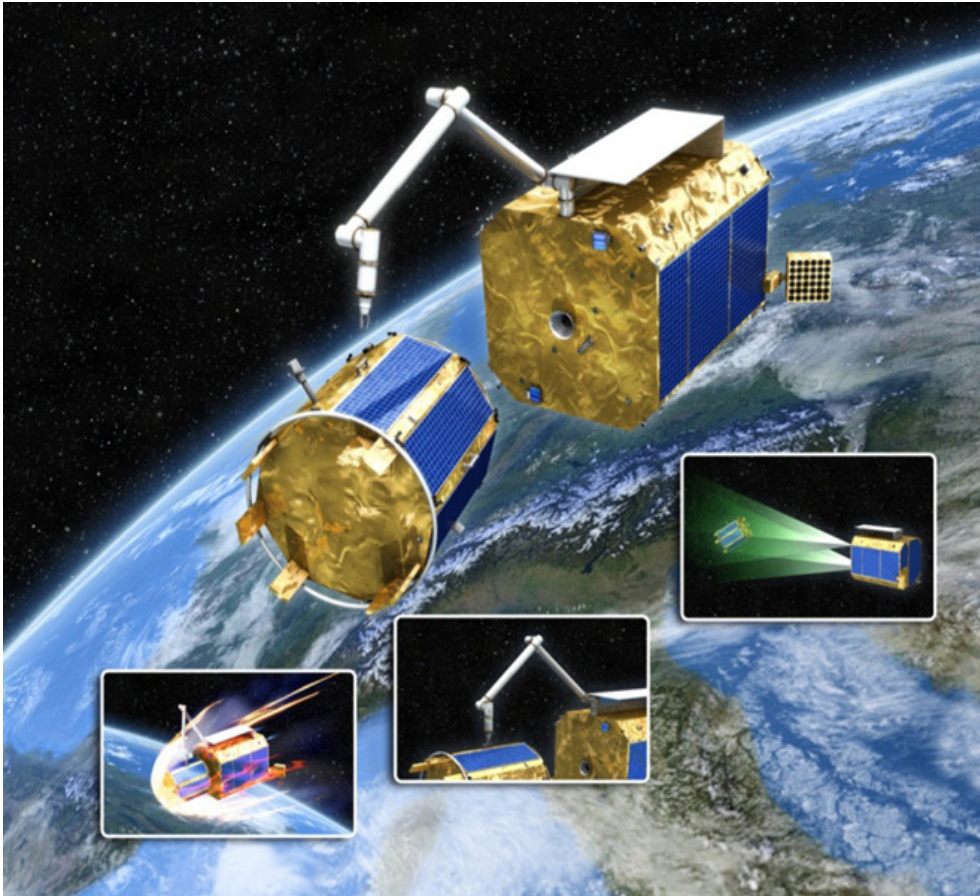
Structure



Adaptor

DEOS (Start 2017) – main DLR OOS Mission

Is a Swift, Low-Cost Mission Feasible?



Small, swift project based on DEXHAND and BIROS possible as precursor mission?
(small arm, drag sail and tether for de-orbiting)





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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