



# Hypersonics and Dream Chaser

Dr. John Olson

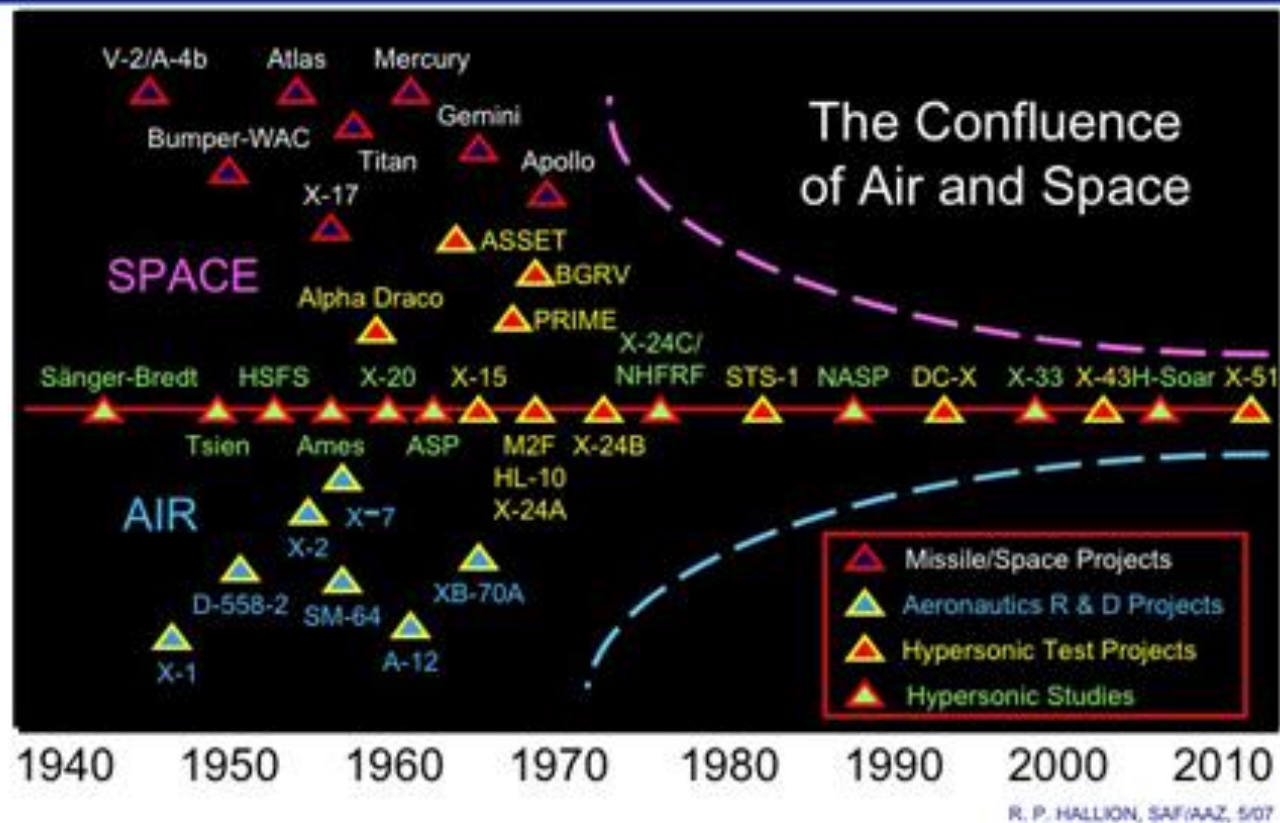
Vice President, Space Systems Group

June 2014

**Proprietary Statement**—Information contained herein represents Proprietary Intellectual Property of Sierra Nevada Corporation and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed in whole or in part by any means, person, or organization for any purposes without express written permission. Neither receipt nor possession of this data, from any source, constitutes such permission.

Hypersonics = Mach Number  $\geq 5$

75 Years of Effort...



- **Current State:** White House: National Hypersonics Strategy, OSTP & DoD: Hypersonics Capability and Facility Report to Congress, US Air Force Hypersonics Plan, DARPA Hypersonics Plan, NASA Hypersonics Program
  
- **Focus Areas:**
  - ◆ Weapons, ISR, Access to Space
  
- **Challenges/Opportunities:** Technology, Budgets, Programmatic, Facilities, Ops
  
- **Drivers:**
  - ◆ **Integrated National Hypersonics Plan:** To include Requirements, Architectures, Systems, RDT&E needs, Ranges/Facilities/Infrastructure, and Personnel plan
  - ◆ **Policy:** A stable National and Department/Agency policy
  - ◆ **Budgets:** A stable, requirements-based multi-year budget

## ■ Hypersonics Technology Maturation and Foundational Research

- ◆ NASA's Hypersonics Project: Reusability & Re-entry
- ◆ DARPA's Integrated Hypersonics Program – Re-planned
- ◆ Fuel development
- ◆ High-Speed ISR S&T



## ■ X-51A Waverider

## ■ High Speed Strike Weapon (HSSW)

- ◆ Initiated to design and flight test technologies

## ■ Conventional Prompt Global Strike (CPGS)

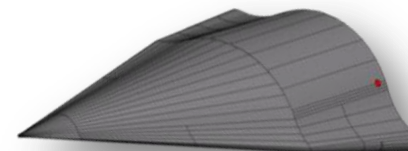
- ◆ DARPA HTV-2
- ◆ Army Advanced Hypersonic Weapon (AHW)



## ■ DARPA's Tactical Boost Glide (TBG)

## ■ Hypersonic International Flight Research and Experimentation (HIFiRE)

- ◆ Bi-lateral arrangement: USAF AFRL & Australian DoD (DSTO)

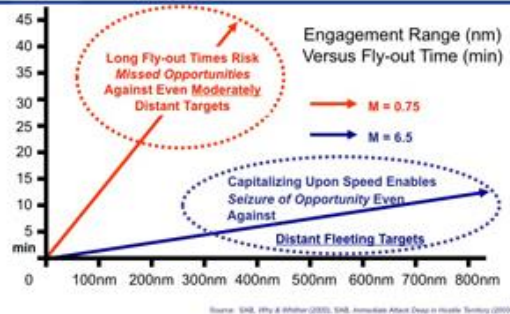


## ■ X-51A

- ◆ M5+ w/JP7 Fuel; Air launched from B-52
- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> flight in May 2010 partial success
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> flight in June 2011 fuel system issues
- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> flight in August 2012 flight controls issues
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> flight in May 2013 SUCCESSFUL!!!
  - 4+ mins of powered flight



### The Hypersonic Advantage...

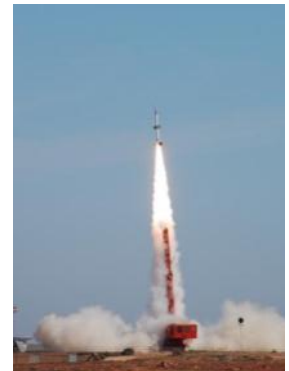


## ■ CPGS

- ◆ High Mach boost glide; advanced materials and thermal protection
- ◆ HTV-2: two flight tests, did not meet objectives; substantial data obtained
- ◆ AHW: first flight test met objectives

## • HIFiRE

- Foundational flight test experiments; collaboration with Australia
- 4 successful flight tests
- Engineering systems and avionics, aerodynamics and aero heating, hydrocarbon scramjet operability



# NASA Hypersonics Project: *Reusability and Re-entry*



**Development and validation of foundational tools and technologies for two hypersonic system classes: the Highly Reliable Reusable Launch Systems (HRRLS) class, an airbreathing space launch vehicle, and the High Mass Mars Entry Systems (HMES) class, a large vehicle focused on transporting humans to and from Mars.**

## Highly Reliable Reusable Launch Systems

### Materials & Structures

- Thermal Protection Systems
- Hot Structures
- High Temperature Seals
- Reusable Cryogenic Tanks

### Integrated Systems

- Staging
- Thermal Management
- Power and Actuators
- Intelligent Controls

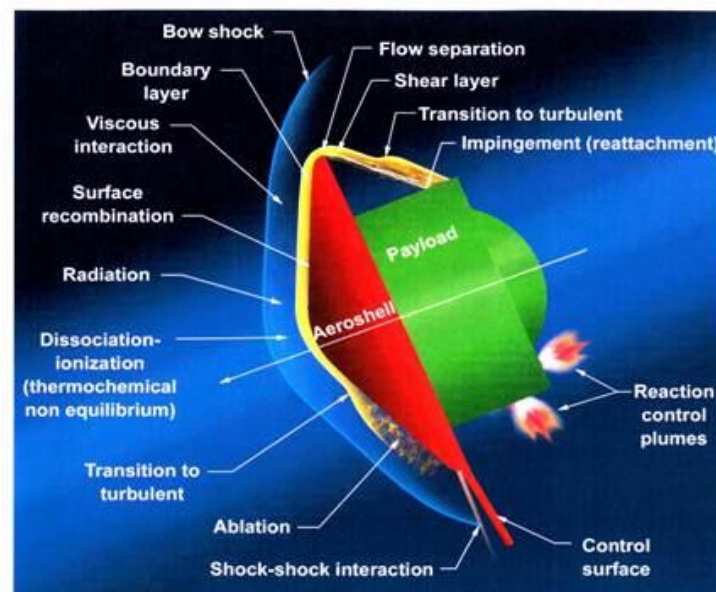
### Airframe-Propulsion Integration

- Integrated Vehicle Performance
- Inlet Boundary Layer Ingestion
- Nozzle Performance

### Propulsion

- High-Mach Turbojets
- Dual-Mode Scramjets
- Combined Cycle Engines

## Mars Entry Vehicle





NASA

United States



Columbia

# Dream Chaser Space System

- Capable of 7 crewmember transport for the International Space Station and LEO
  - Meets NASA requirements for 4 crew to and from ISS
  - Also accommodates pressurized cargo
- Non-toxic Main Propulsion System (MPS) motors used 3rd stage insertion, launch abort, orbital translations, and deorbit maneuver
- <1.5g re-entry profile and >1000 nm cross-range capability
- Integrated on the Atlas V launch vehicle, but Launch-vehicle agnostic
  - Mature, reliable, and compatible with 100+ consecutive Atlas (46 consecutive Atlas V launches)







## NASA's HL-20 Spacecraft (Russian BOR-4 heritage)

- >1200 wind tunnel tests
- Trajectory studies
- Handling evaluations
- Abort landing simulations
- Ergonomics and egress
- Fabrication and operations



## Building Upon Space Shuttle Heritage

- Leverages 40 yrs of Shuttle design, technology development, and operational experience
- Reusable, Reconfigurable Runway-Landing Vehicle
- Ideally Suited to Host a Range of Other Missions



## SNC's Dream Chaser Vehicle

- Incorporates 10+ years of research, design, development, and testing
- Modern materials, Aerodynamic data
- Improved flight control surface design
- Significant CFD analysis, Wind Tunnels
- Trajectory refinement
- Component and wind tunnel testing
- Launch vehicle integration
- Flight simulation

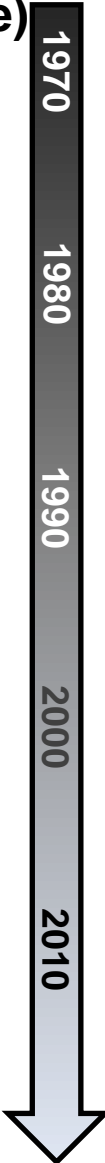
1970

1980

1990

2000

2010



# Dream Chaser Historic First Flight – Much More History to Make!



Space Shuttle Enterprise  
October 26, 1977  
Edwards AFB, Runway 22L

Dream Chaser Spaceship  
October 26, 2013  
Edwards AFB, Runway 22L



- Completed 29 Milestones under the NASA Commercial Crew Program
- Engineering Test Article (ETA) Tested & Flown; Fly again Fall 2014
- Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV) Under Construction, First Orbital Flight 2016

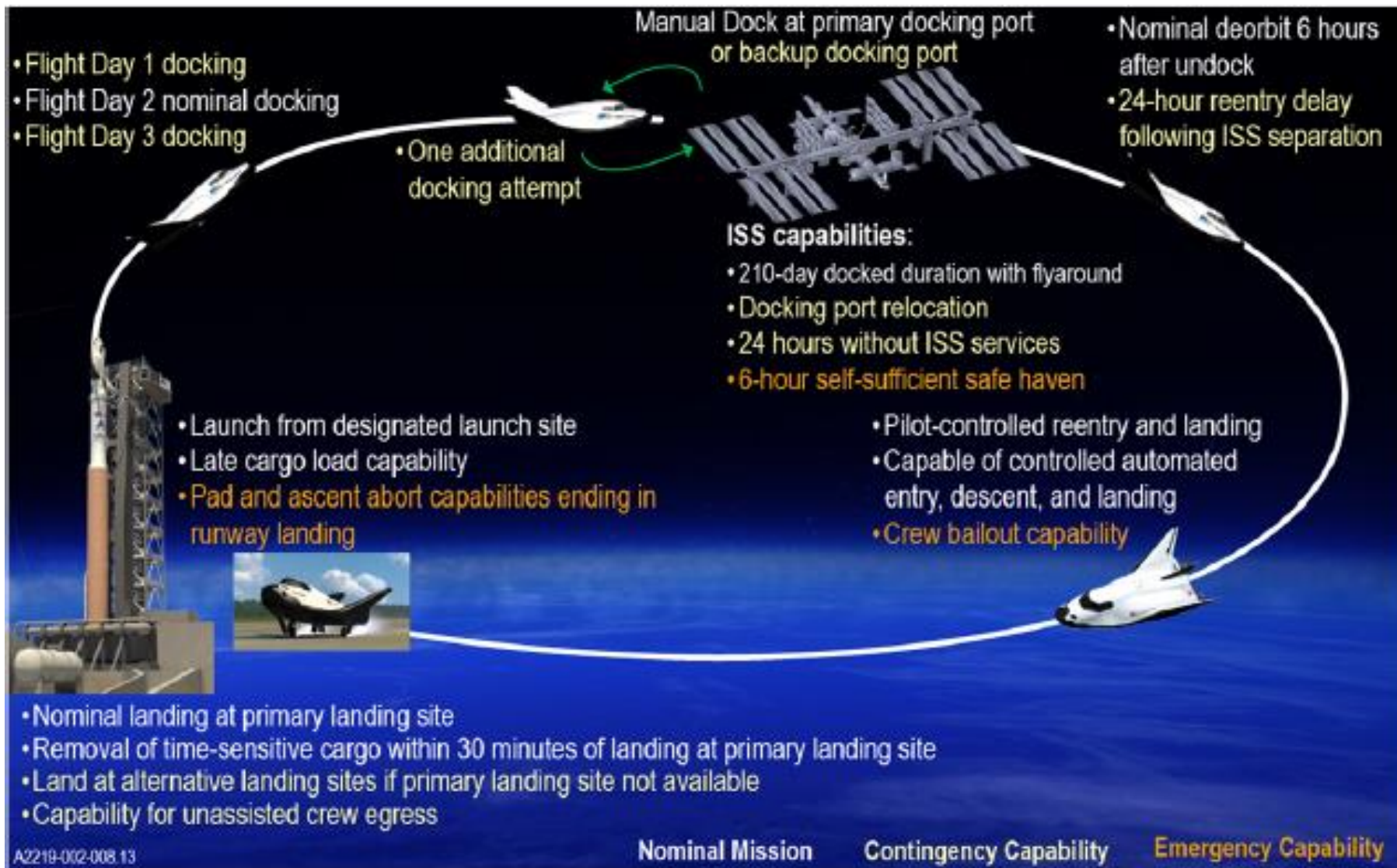


# Our NASA Mission: Crew Transport Services to the ISS

**snc** SIERRA  
NEVADA  
CORPORATION



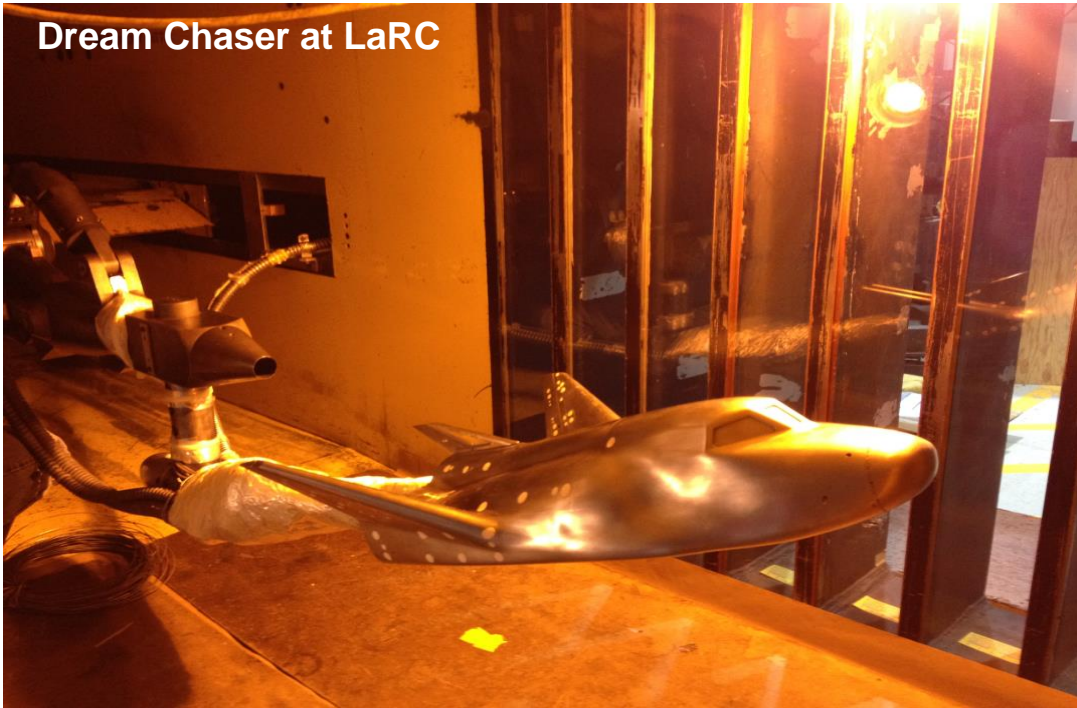
# DC Concept of Operations



- **The Dream Chaser program is completing its hypersonic verification through both analysis and test**
  - Aerodynamic testing in wind tunnels
  - Thermal Protection testing in wind tunnels
  - Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis with various software codes
  - System, sub-system, and component testing, including sensors and controls
- **Dream Chaser re-entry is comparable to Space Shuttle with regards to flight conditions in the hypersonic regime**

- **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) Analysis**
- **Wind Tunnel Testing: Subsonic, Transonic, Supersonic, Hypersonic**
- **2 Orbital Test Flights: OFT-1 (2016) and OFT-2 (2017)**
- **Powered Flight Testing**
- **Lift to Drag Ratio (L/D): Similar to Shuttle**
- **Trajectory optimization: Crossrange 1,100+ nm**
- **Aero database reconstruction → Validate models**
- **Mach 25 re-entry**
- **High-altitude Energy Management (Same as Shuttle) S-turns**
- **Heading Alignment Cone (HAC) Energy Management**
- **Sensors and Data throughout flight profile**
- **Pressure: Static, Dynamic, Base**
- **Temp: Profile, Peak, Rates, Loads, Thermal Diffusivity**

Dream Chaser at LaRC



## Extensive Testing with 11 state-of-the-art wind tunnels used

- NASA Ames Research Center
- NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
- NASA Langley Research Center
  - ◆ Hypersonic, aerodynamic wind tunnel testing at LaRC
  - ◆ 6% Dream Chaser OV Model
  - ◆ Approximately 2,000 Runs
    - Alpha sweeps (continuous and pitch-pause)
    - Beta sweeps (continuous and yaw-pause)
    - Mach sweeps
    - Control surface sweeps





# First Orbital Launch

November 2016



*It all starts with a Dream...Hypersonics and Space are the Future...today!*

**snc** SIERRA  
NEVADA  
CORPORATION



- **Air and Space platform S&T and development making progress, contributing to US national strategy/capability**
  - ◆ Investments in R&D, Facilities/Infrastructure, Test, Personnel, and Programs are producing results
  - ◆ Several successful efforts
- **Hypersonics provide important capabilities**
  - ◆ Speed solves problems and creates opportunities
  - ◆ Reusability aids affordability
  - ◆ Driving requirements in Air & Space will push results
- **Stability in focus, funding, and foundation building is key**
  - ◆ Building on recent successes in hypersonics R&D
- **SNC's Dream Chaser program is revolutionary!**



# Dawn of a Dream!

**snc** SIERRA  
NEVADA  
CORPORATION

*Thank you!*

