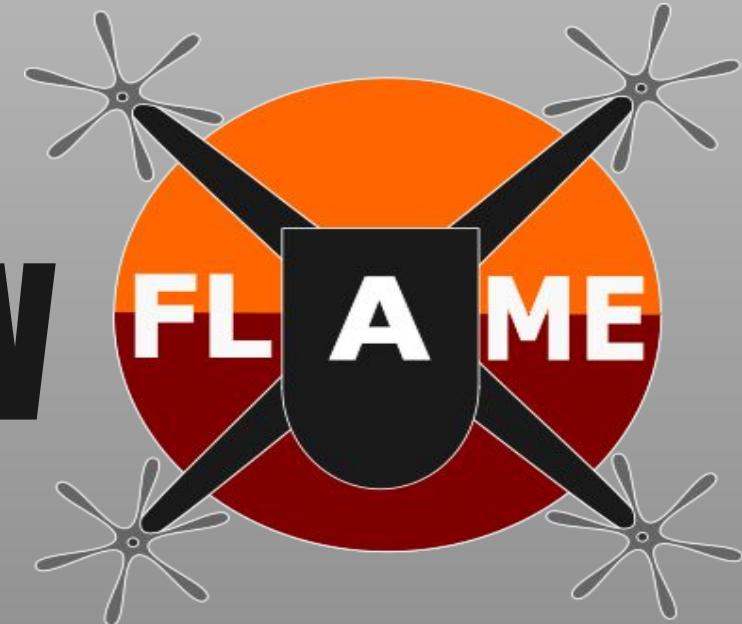

FLAME Test Readiness Review



The Fire Limiting Aerial Management Ensemble:

Christian Bowman
Maximillian Brown
Ethan Davis
Donovan Gavito
Joshua Geeting
Drew Kane

Ian McCarty
Braden Nelson
Jack Pearse
Alex Putnam
Brady Sivey
Jared Steffen

Advisor: Prof. Jeff Glusman
Industry Mentor: Jack Elston of Black Swift Technologies



Project Overview

Mission Objective

- Autonomously fly to and from locations of interest through an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)
- Drop payloads of mock fire retardant in targets at locations of interest to show proof of concept of a fire prevention UAS

Mission Challenges

- Deploy water payload within 1 meter accuracy of 3 given target locations in 20 minutes
- Autonomous takeoff, flight, and landing capabilities, with ability for human-in-the-loop takeover
- Support at least 5 pounds of payload through takeoff and flight



FLAME Autonomous Firefighting UAS High Level ConOps



Legend:

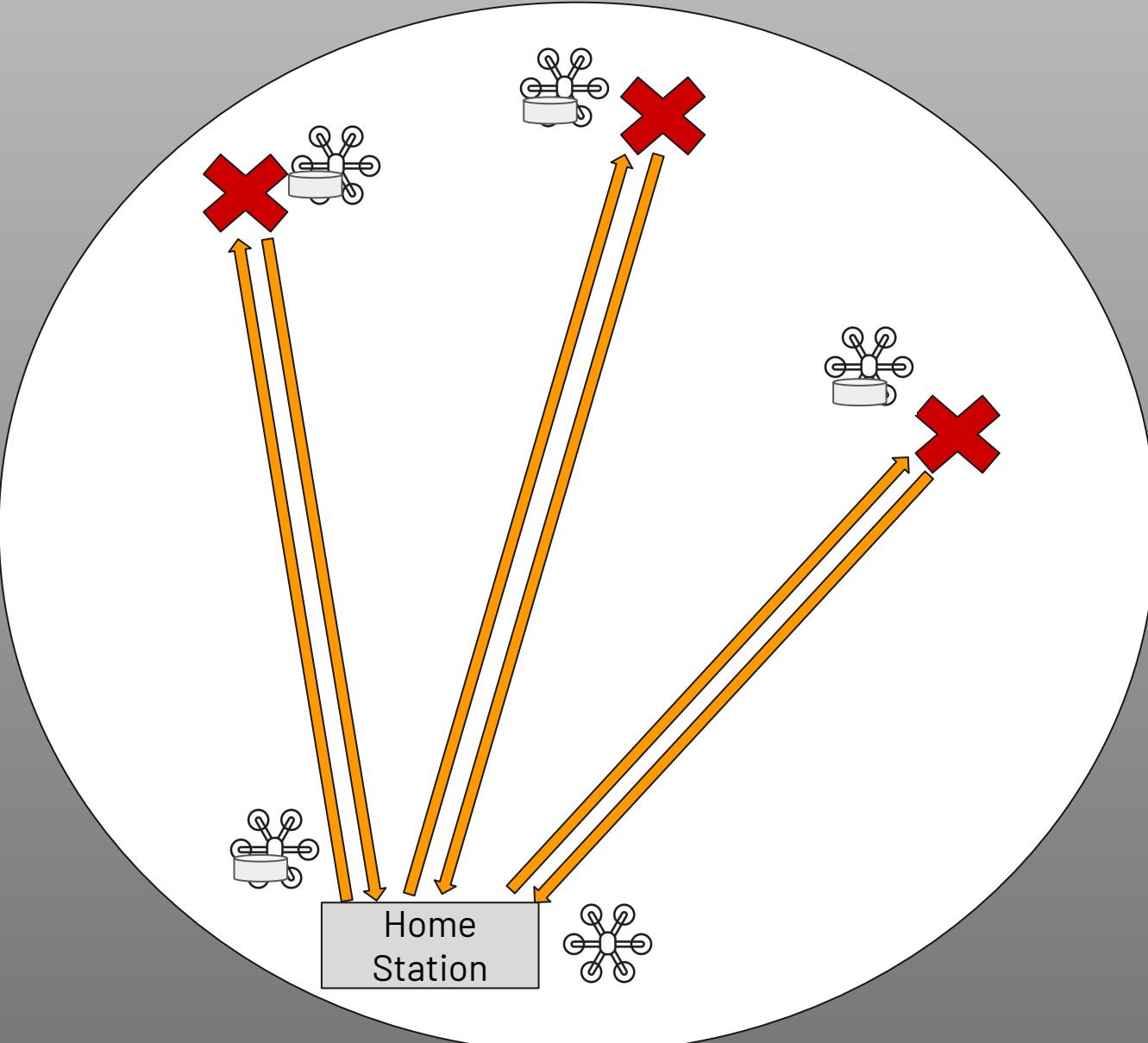


Target Location



Autonomous Travel

- 100 meter diameter mission zone
- Given a home base location within mission zone
- Given GPS coordinates of three target locations
- Travel to target location
- Deploy payload
- Return to home station
- Ground team reloads a new 5 pound payload
- Repeat for 2 additional target locations

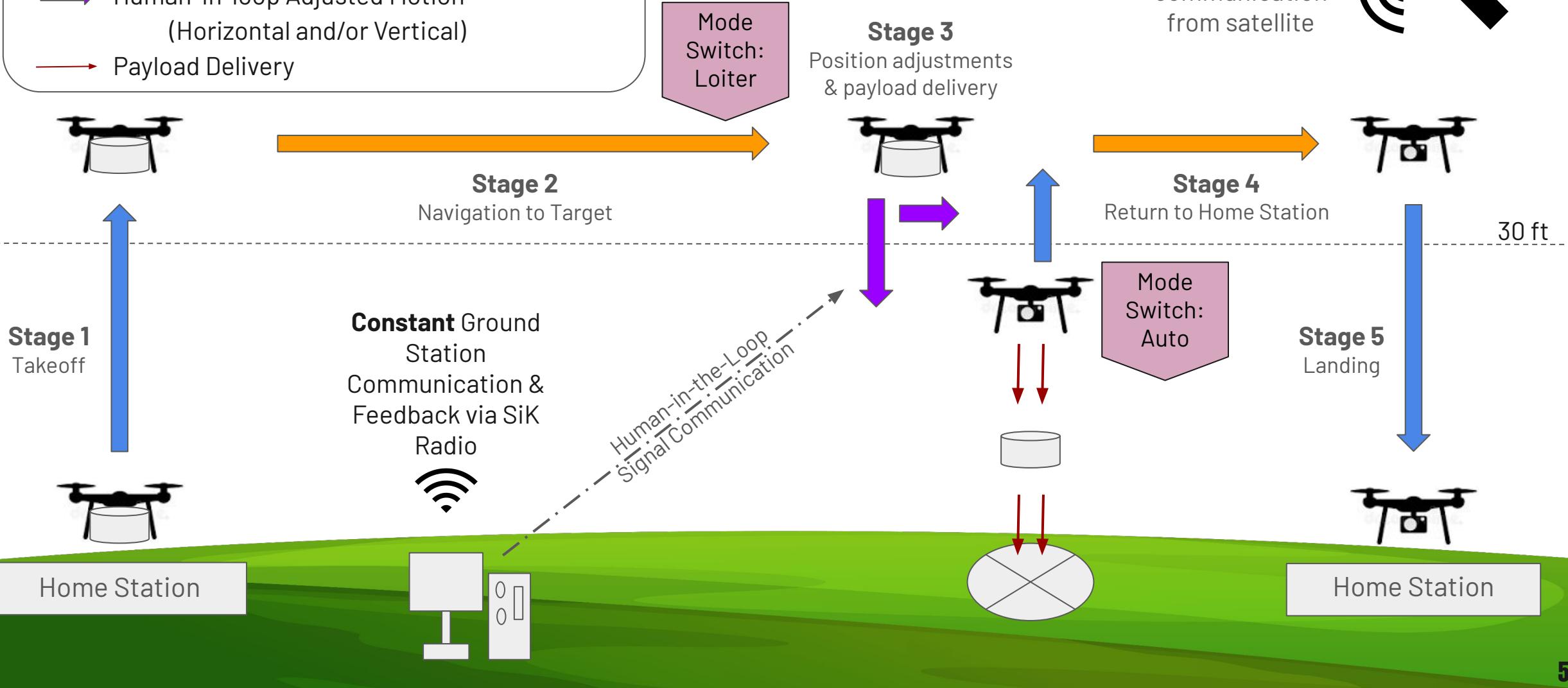


FLAME Autonomous Firefighting UAS Low-Level ConOps



Legend:

- Autonomous Vertical Motion
 - Autonomous Horizontal Motion
 - Human-in-loop Adjusted Motion (Horizontal and/or Vertical)
 - Payload Delivery
-





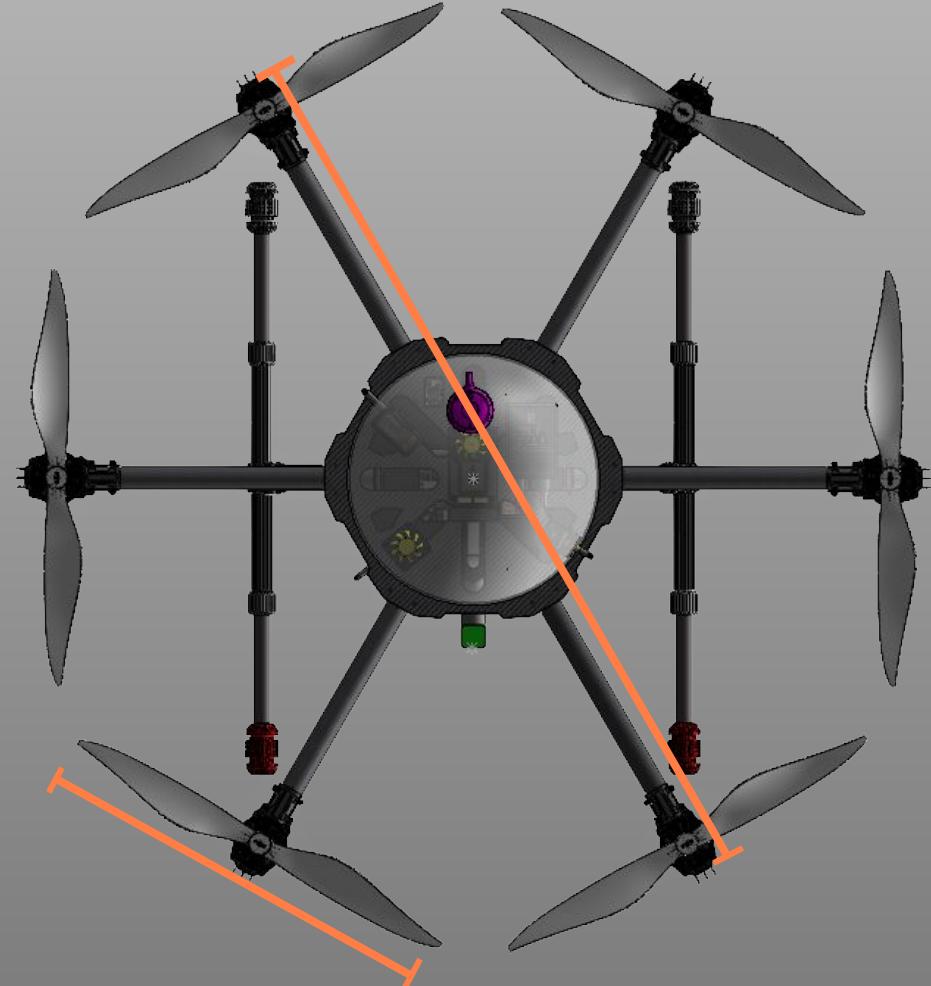
Design Review

Changes since CDR/IDR

Design Overview



960 mm / 3.14 ft

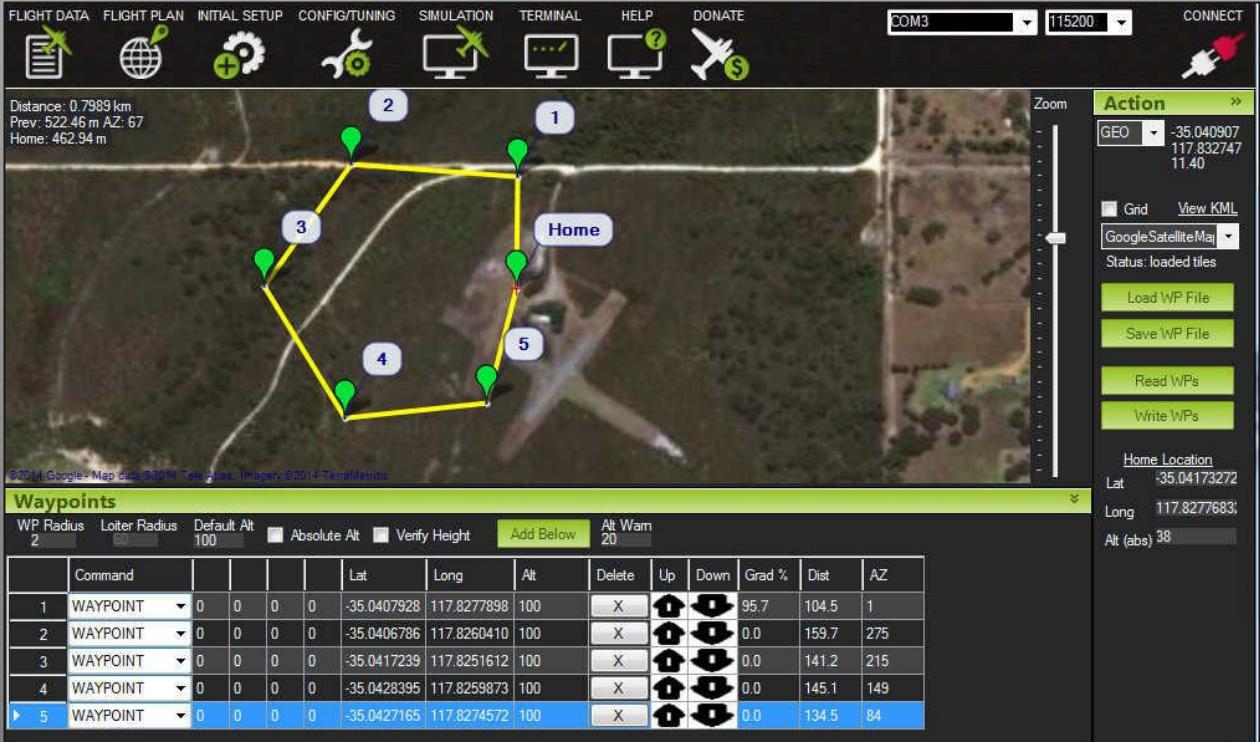


Software Selections

- ArduPilot and Mission Planner
 - Compatible
 - Documentation
- Capabilities
 - Save and load mission profiles
 - Simulation-In-The-Loop
 - Data logging
- Mission Planner Commands
 - Takeoff
 - Waypoint travel
 - Altitude Hold
 - Return to launch
 - Land

Software Selections

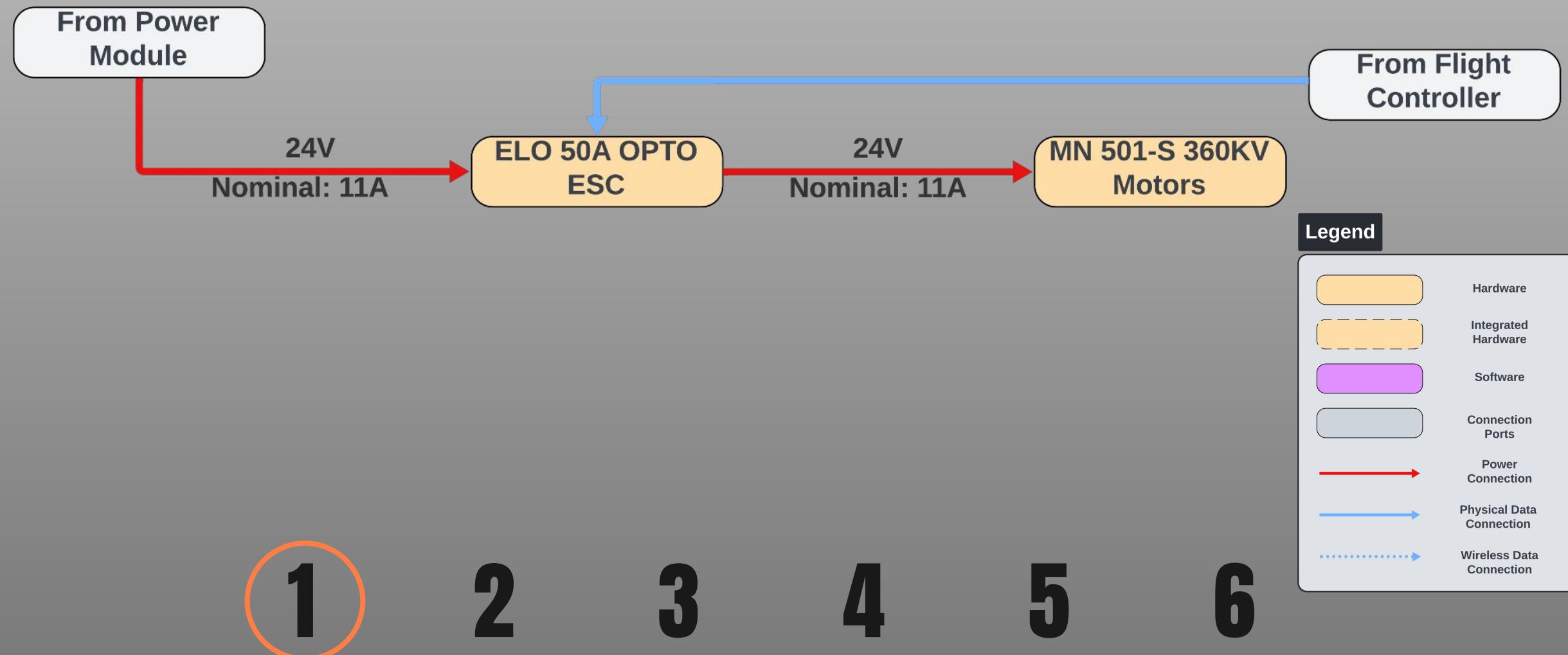
Use	Software
Autopilot	ArduPilot
Mission Planning	Mission Planner



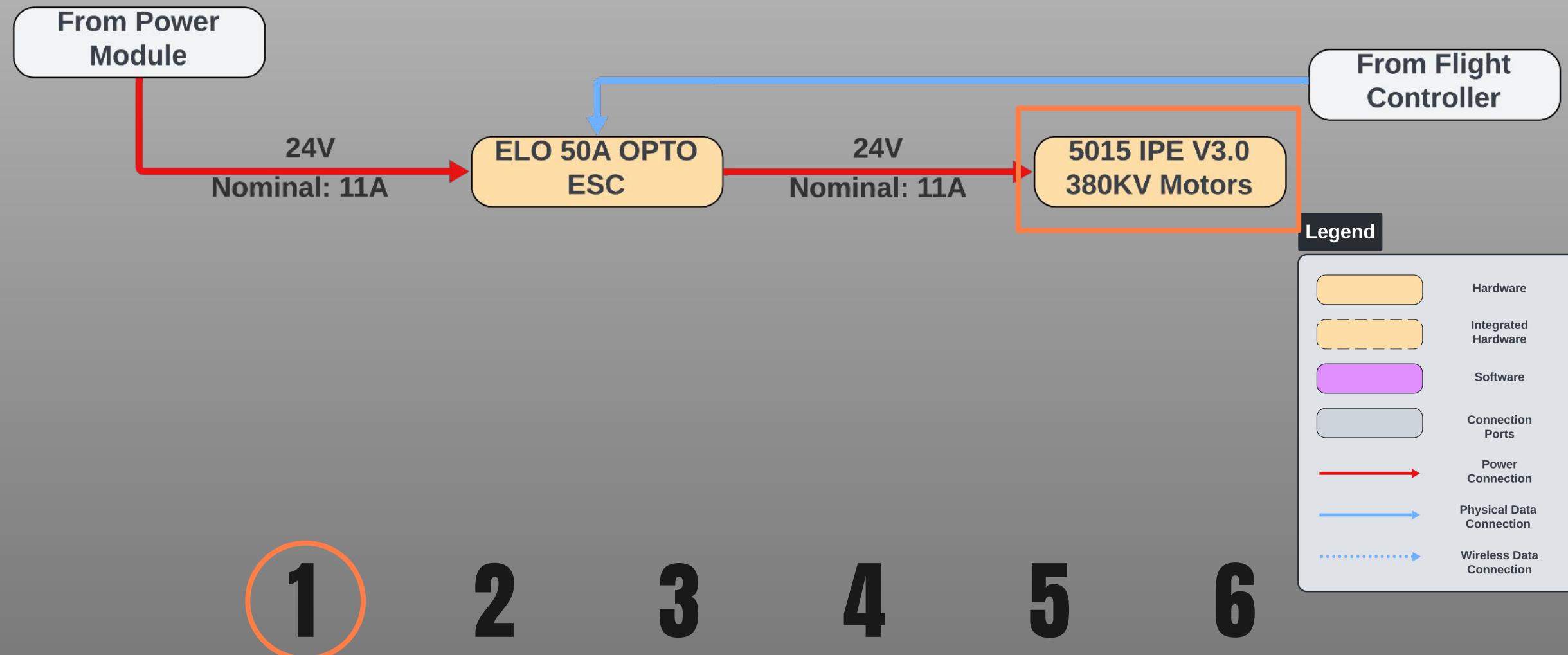
The screenshot shows the Mission Planner software interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs: FLIGHT DATA, FLIGHT PLAN, INITIAL SETUP, CONFIG/TUNING, SIMULATION, TERMINAL, HELP, and DONATE. Below the navigation bar, the main window displays a map with a flight plan consisting of five waypoints (labeled 1 through 5) and a返航点 (Home). The map also shows terrain and a small aircraft icon. On the right side of the interface, there's a sidebar titled "Action" which includes options like "Grid", "View KML", "GoogleSatelliteMap", "Status: loaded tiles", "Load WP File", "Save WP File", "Read WPs", "Write WPs", "Home Location", and coordinates "Lat: -35.04173272" and "Long: 117.8277683". At the bottom, there's a "Waypoints" table with columns for Command, WP Radius, Loiter Radius, Default Alt, Absolute Alt, Verify Height, Add Below, Alt Warn, Lat, Long, Alt, Delete, Up, Down, Grad %, Dist, and AZ.

WP Radius	Loiter Radius	Default Alt	Absolute Alt	Verify Height	Add Below	Alt Warn	Lat	Long	Alt	Delete	Up	Down	Grad %	Dist	AZ
2	100					20				X			95.7	104.5	1
2	0	0	0				-35.0407928	117.8277898	100	X			0.0	159.7	275
3	0	0	0				-35.0417239	117.8251612	100	X			0.0	141.2	215
4	0	0	0				-35.0428395	117.8259873	100	X			0.0	145.1	149
5	0	0	0				-35.0427165	117.8274572	100	X			0.0	134.5	84

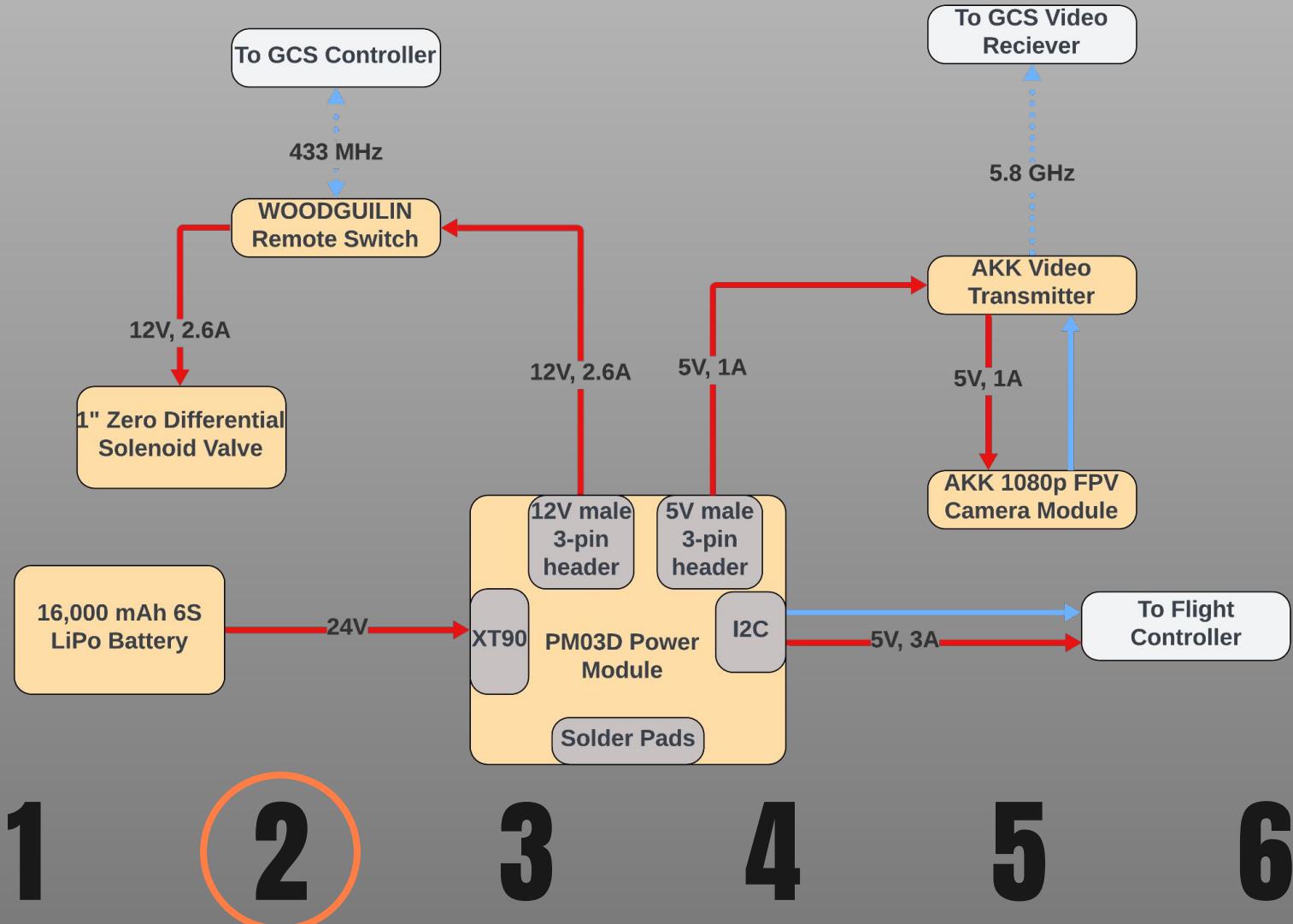
Design Changes



Design Changes



Design Changes Continued



Legend

	Hardware
	Integrated Hardware
	Software
	Connection Ports
	Power Connection
	Physical Data Connection
	Wireless Data Connection

1

2

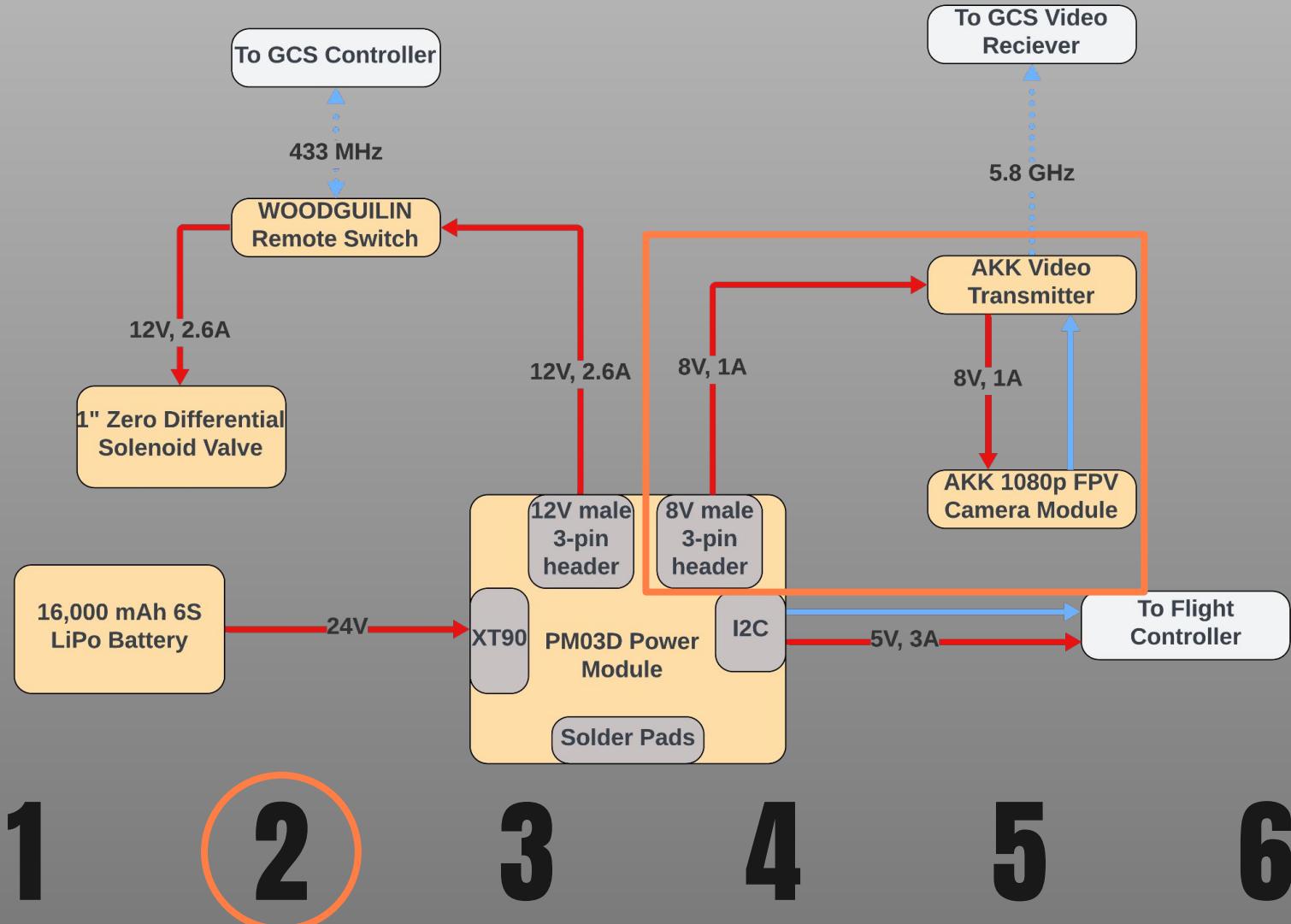
3

4

5

6

Design Changes Continued



1

2

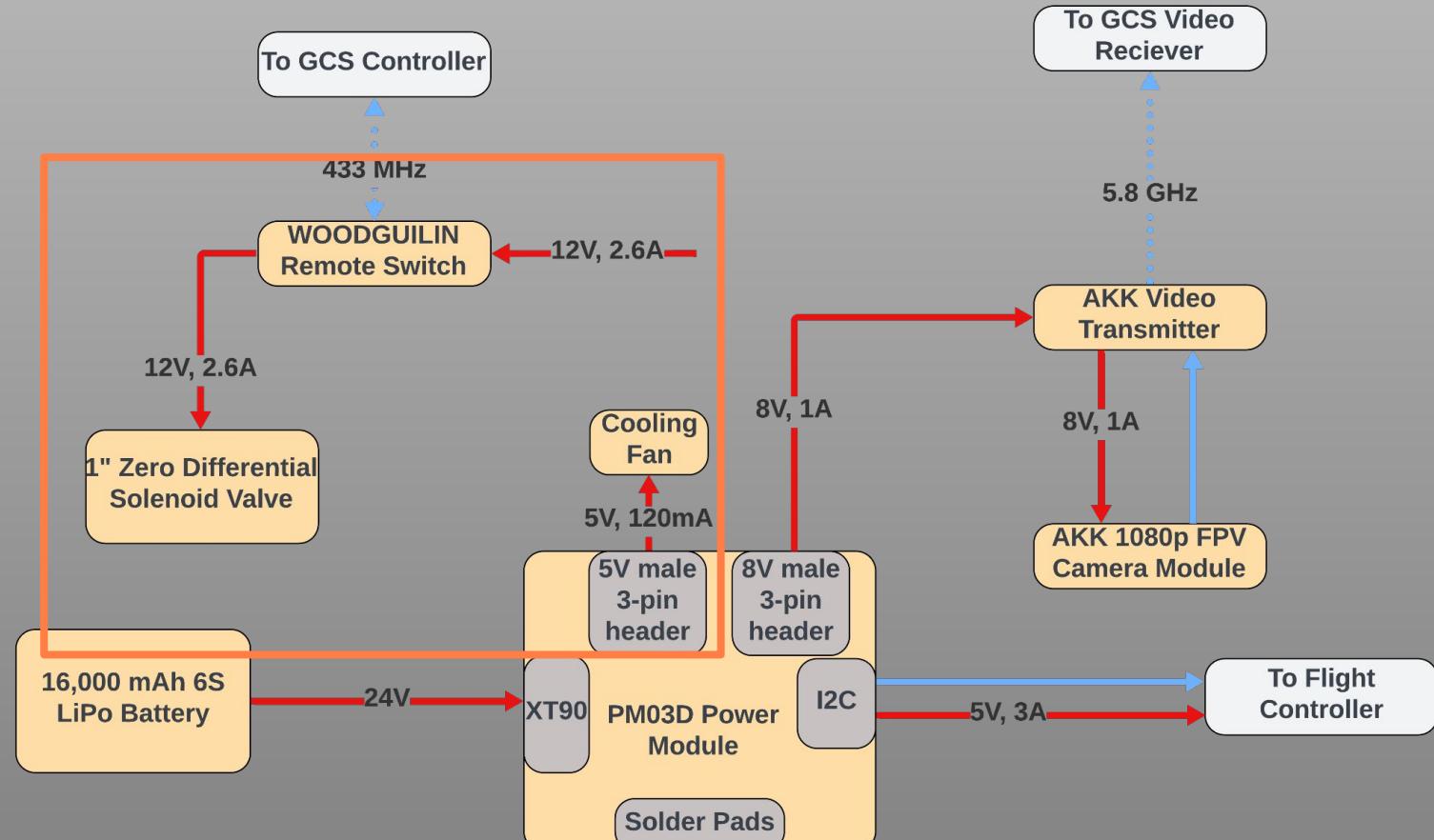
3

4

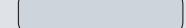
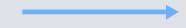
5

6

Design Changes Continued



Legend

	Hardware
	Integrated Hardware
	Software
	Connection Ports
	Power Connection
	Physical Data Connection
	Wireless Data Connection

1

2

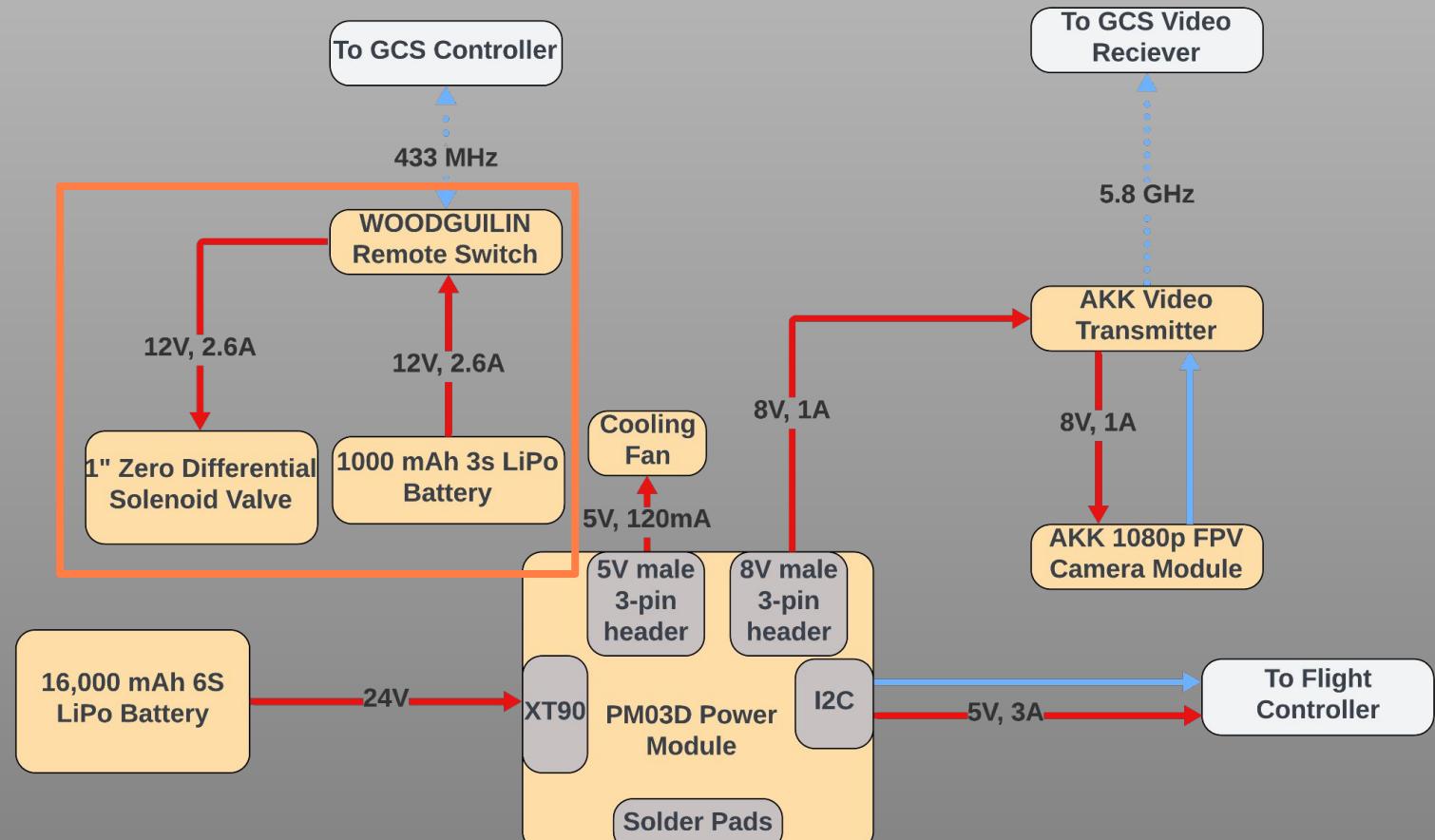
3

4

5

6

Design Changes Continued



1

2

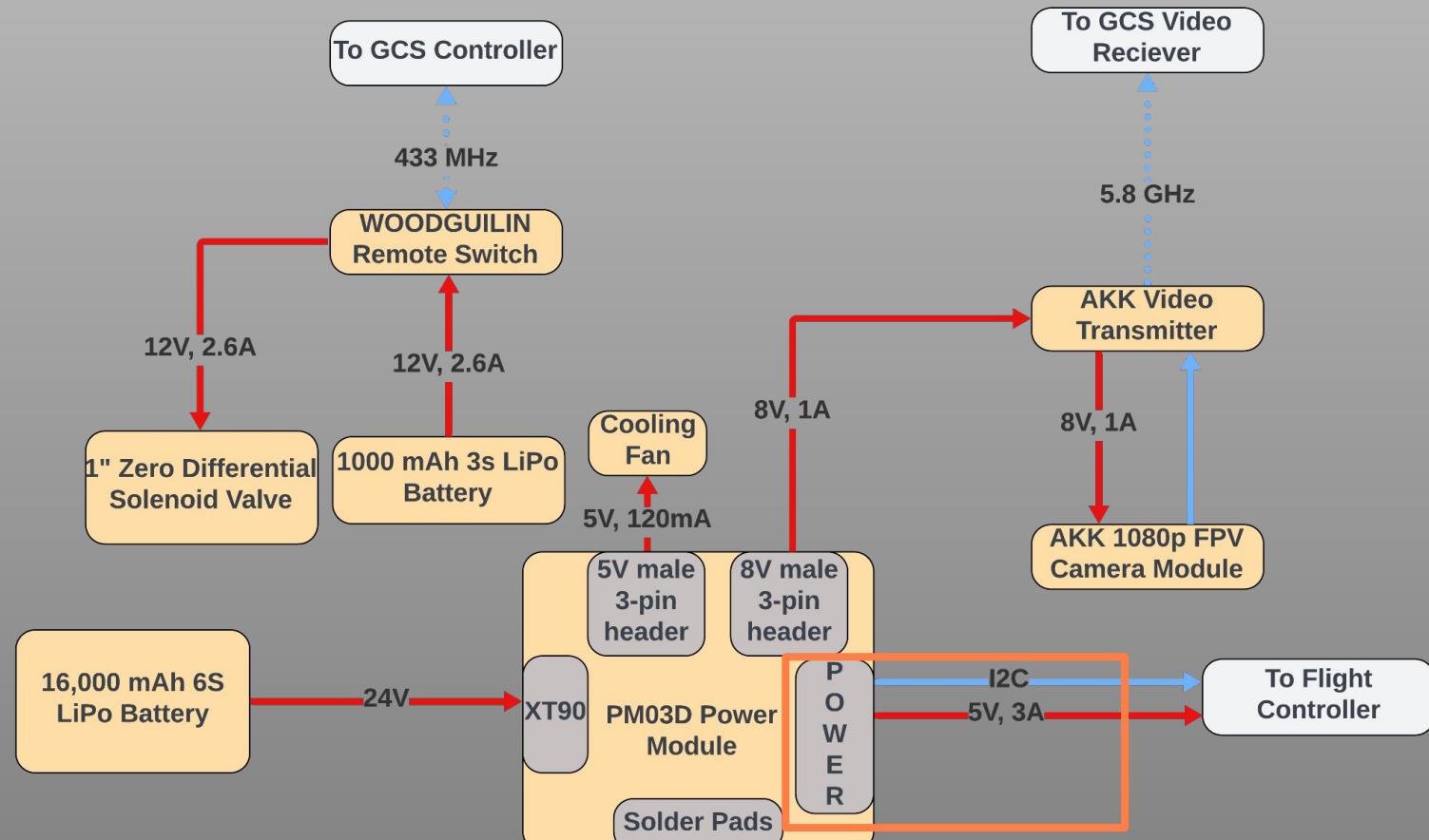
3

4

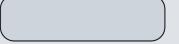
5

6

Design Changes Continued



Legend

	Hardware
	Integrated Hardware
	Software
	Connection Ports
	Power Connection
	Physical Data Connection
	Wireless Data Connection

1

2

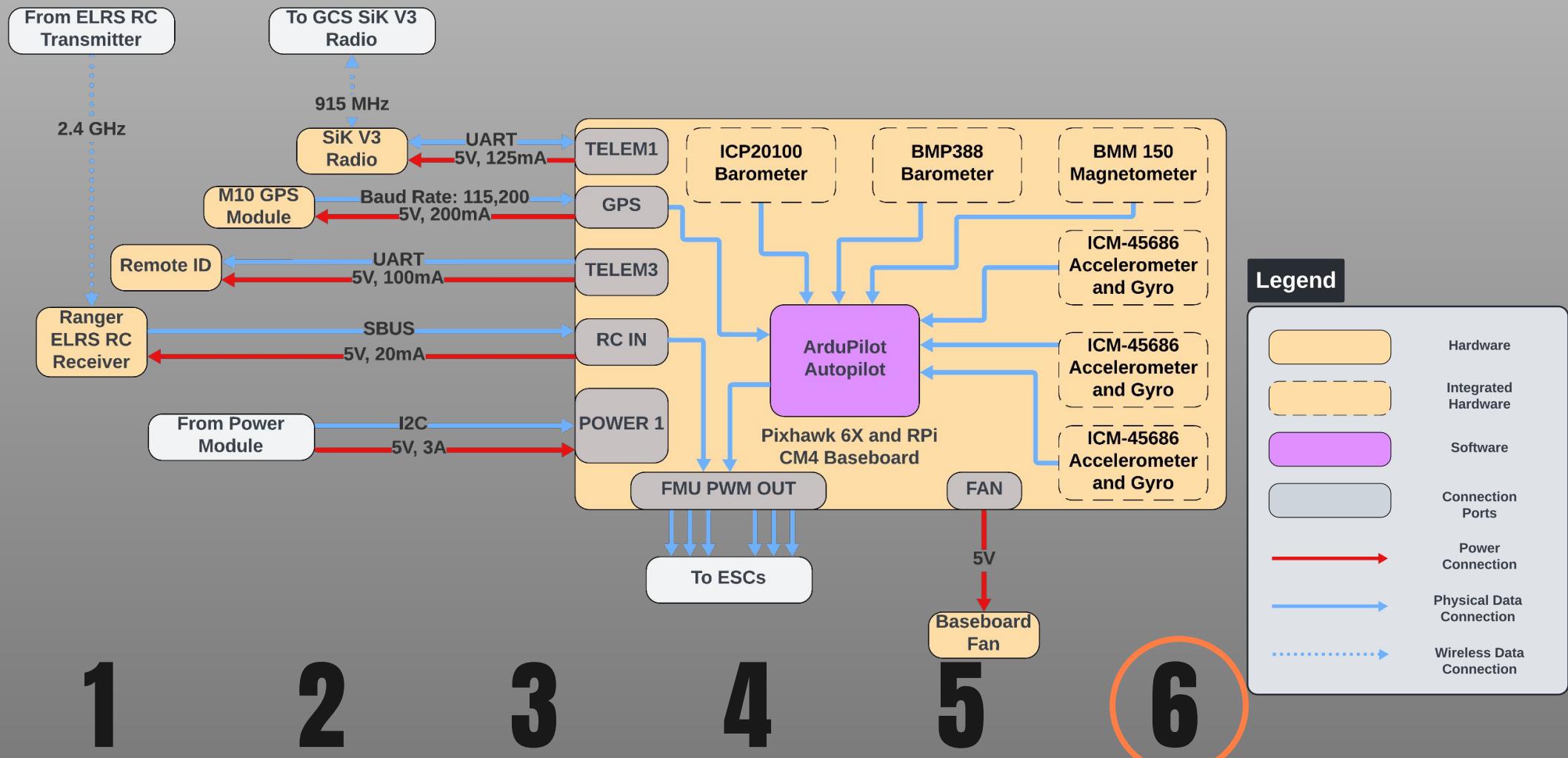
3

4

5

6

Design Changes Continued



1

2

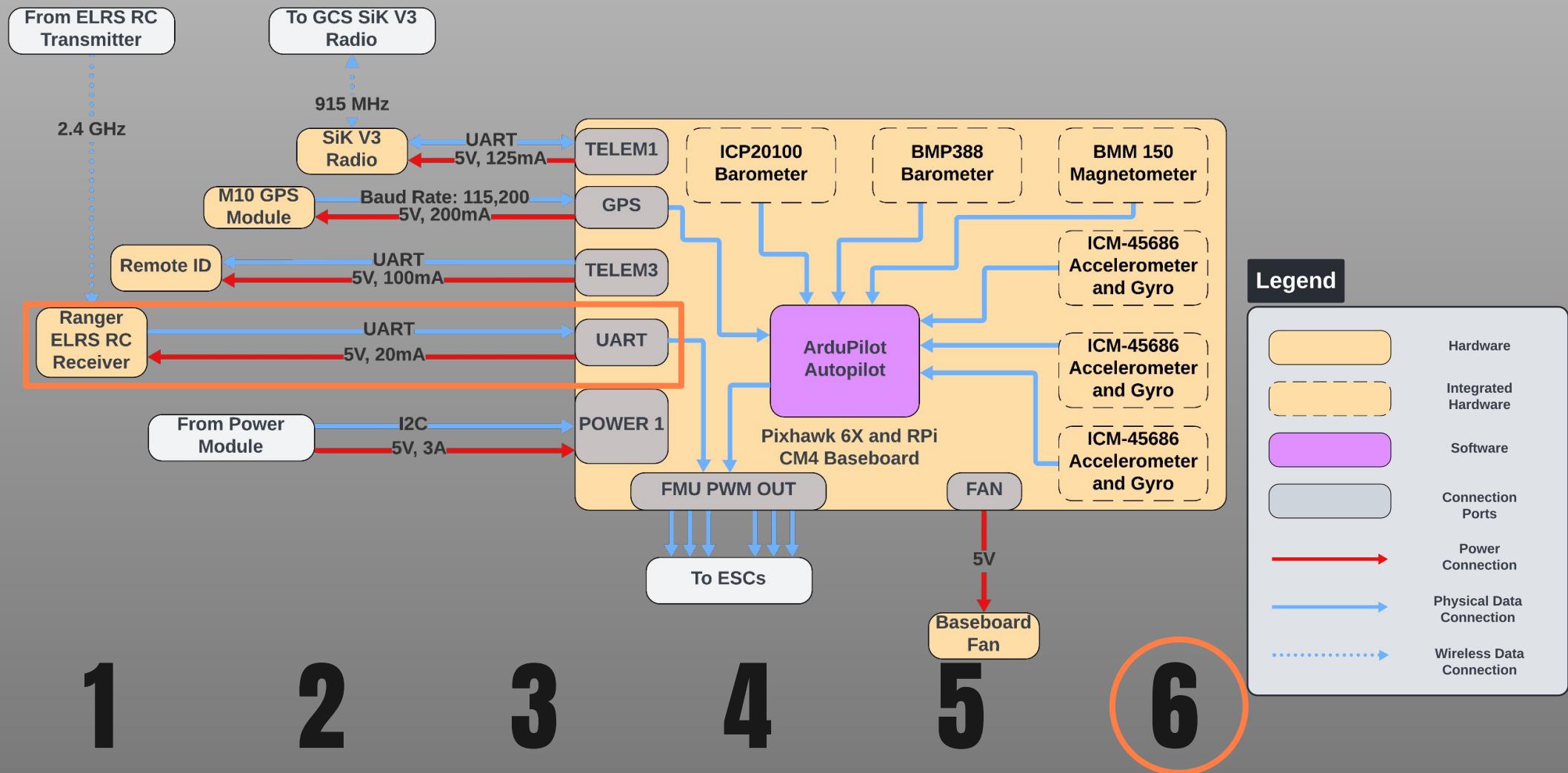
3

4

5

6

Design Changes Continued



1

2

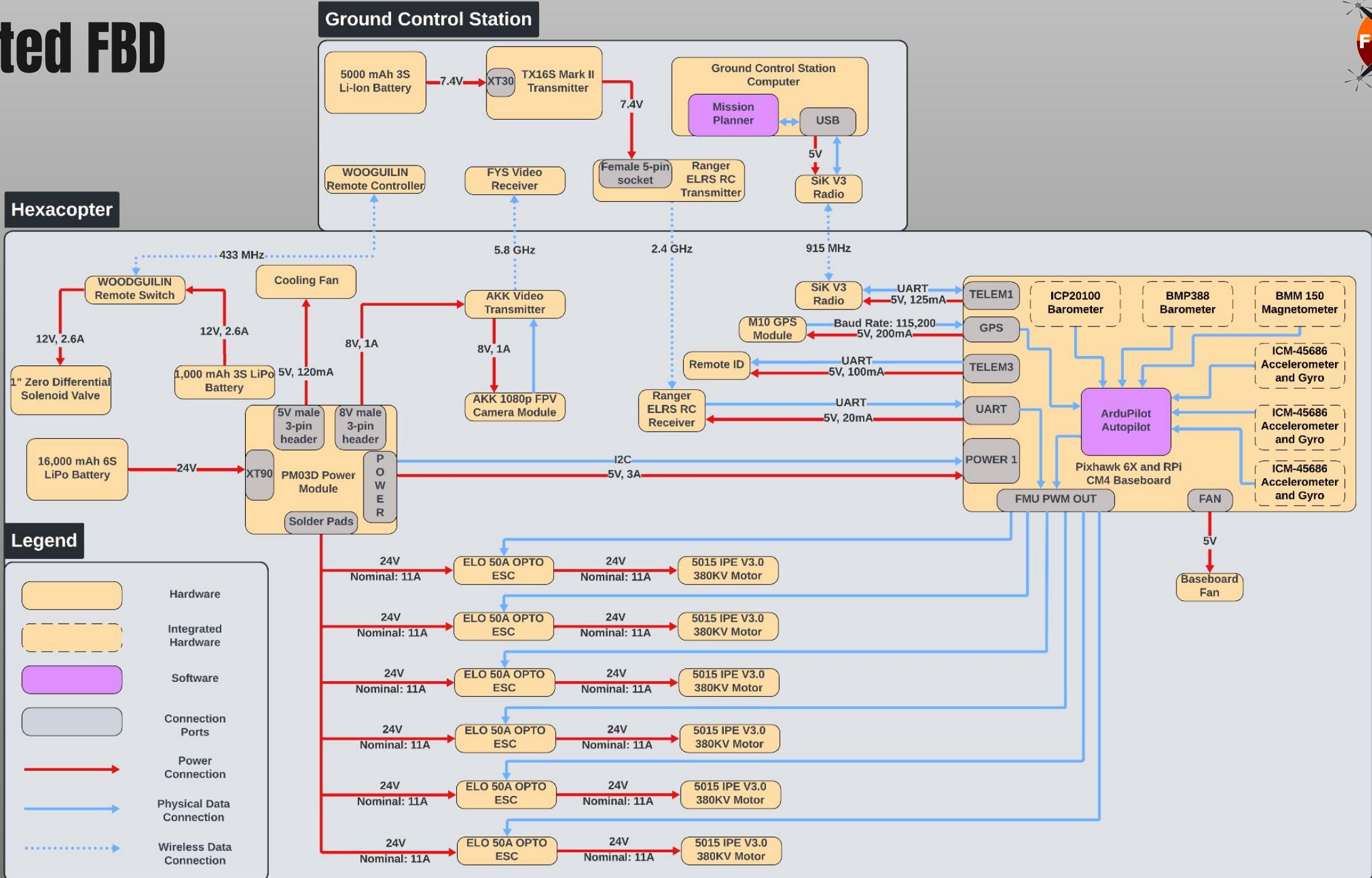
3

4

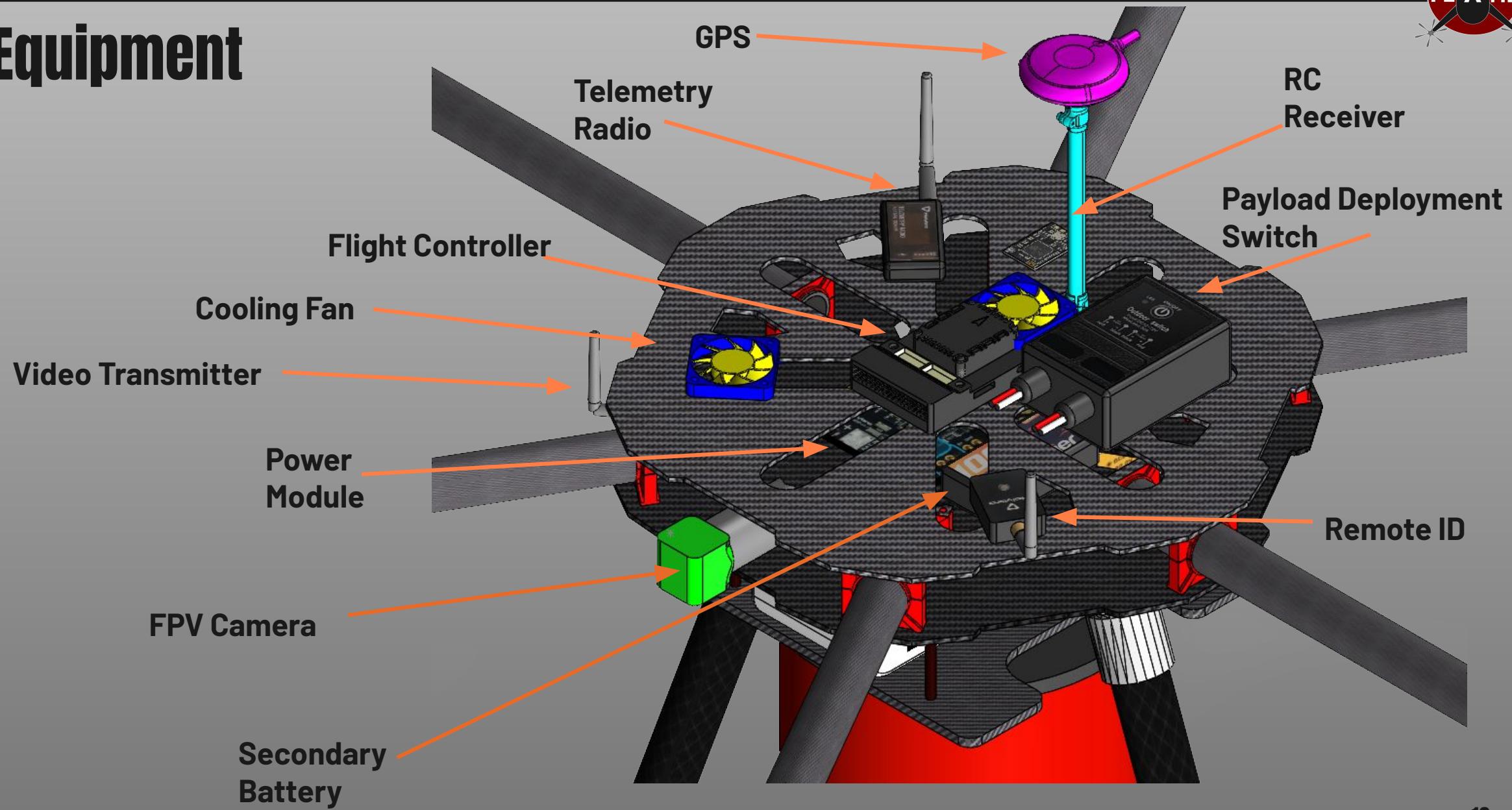
5

6

Updated FBD

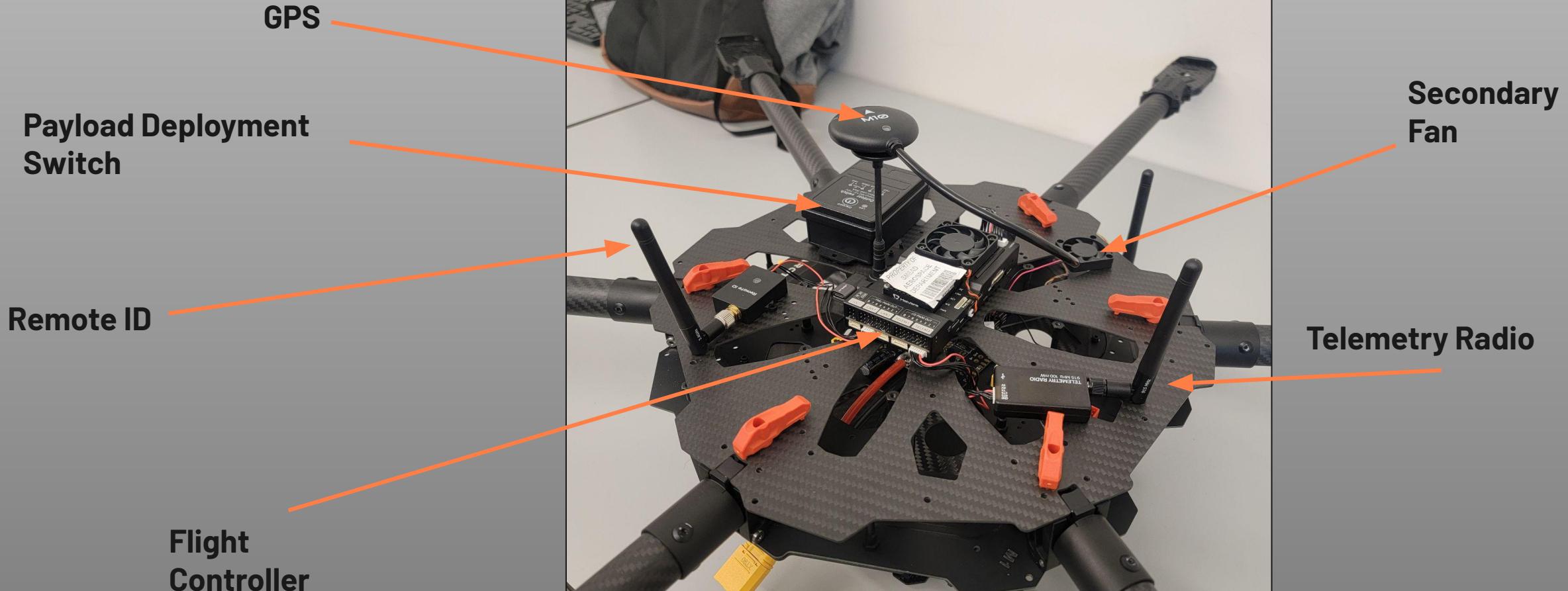


Equipment





Equipment



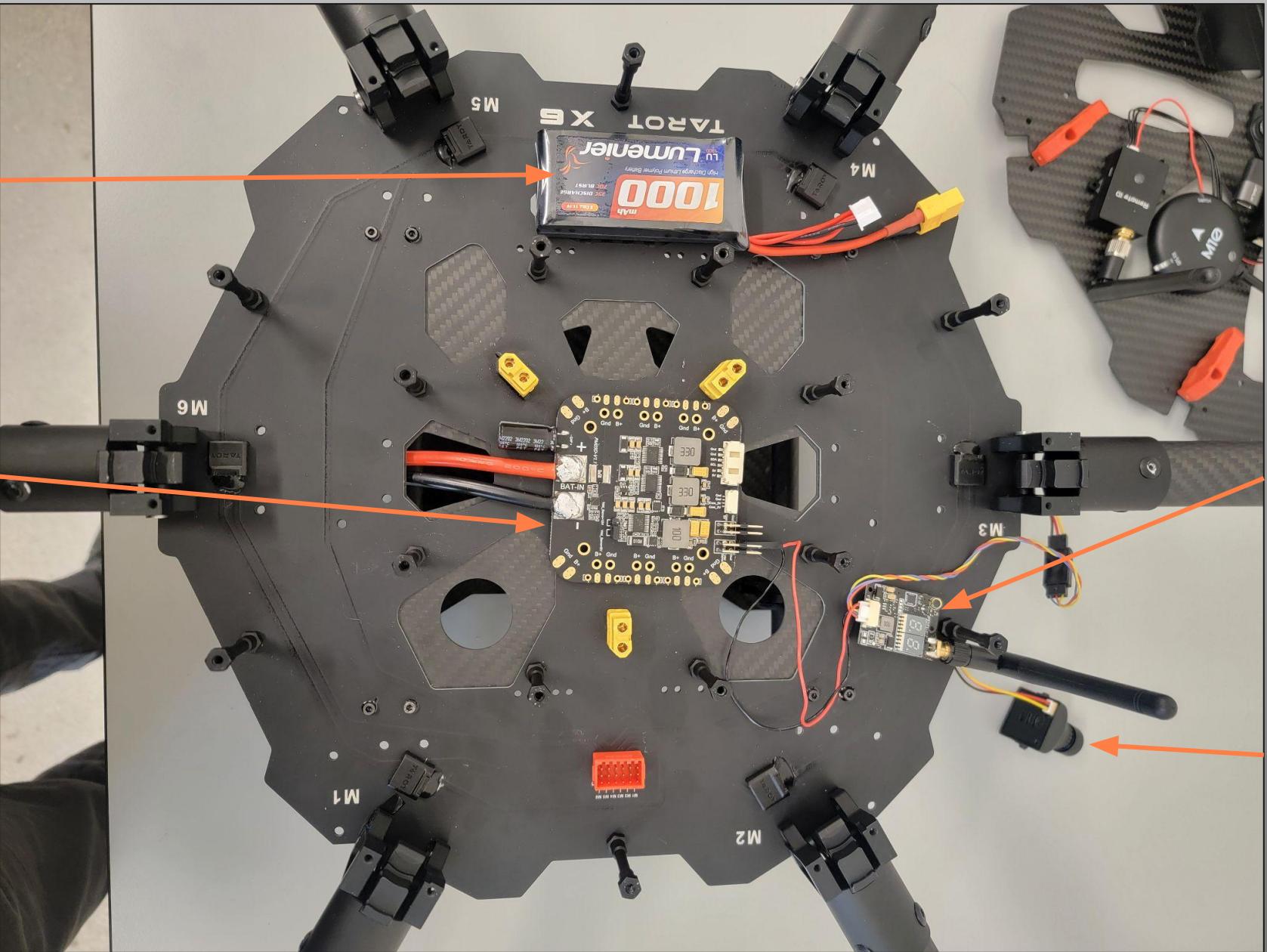
Equipment

Secondary
Battery

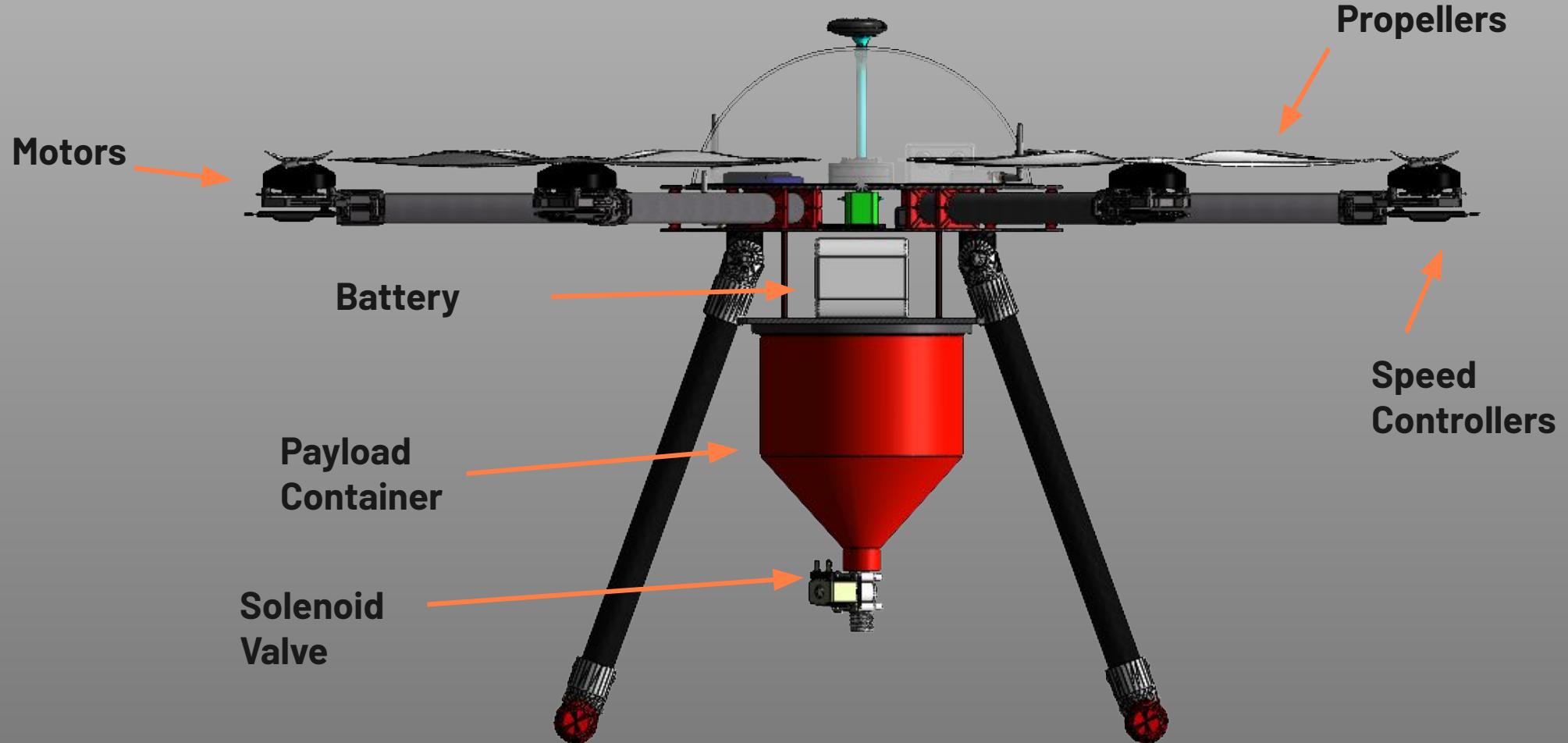
Power Module

Video Transmitter

FPV Camera



Equipment



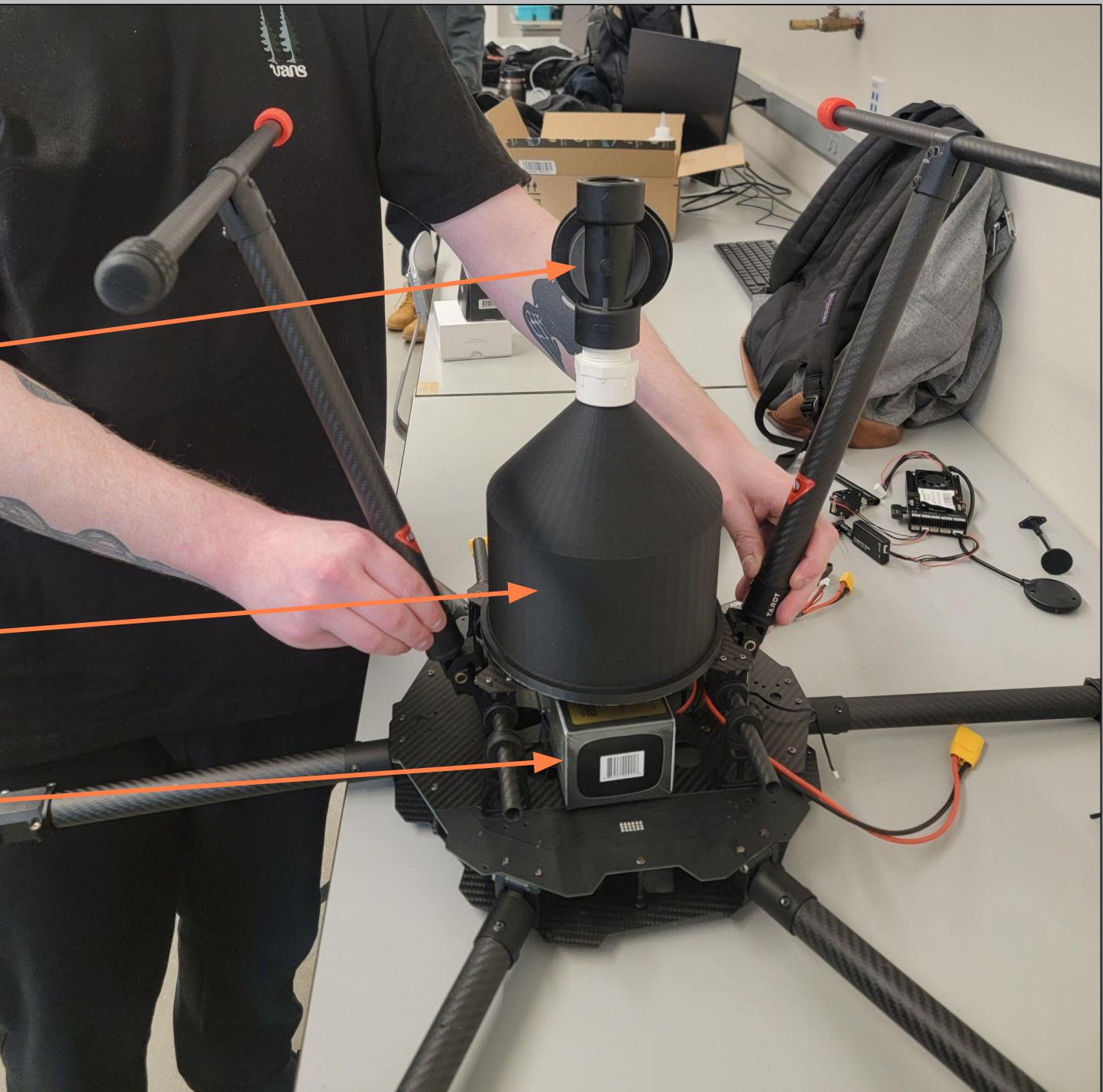
Equipment



Solenoid
Valve

Payload
Container

Battery

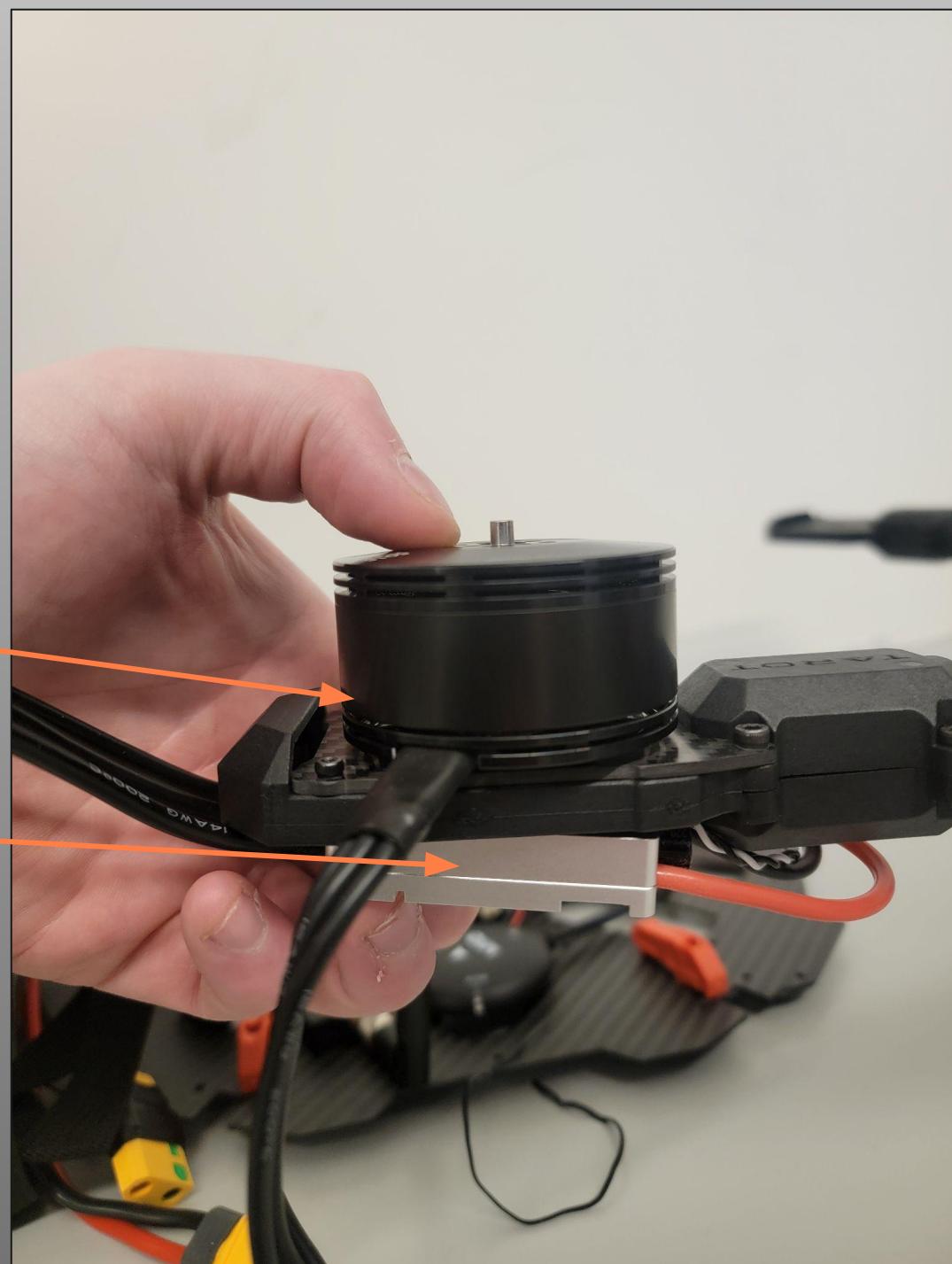


Equipment



Motor

ESC





Schedule



Remaining Tests

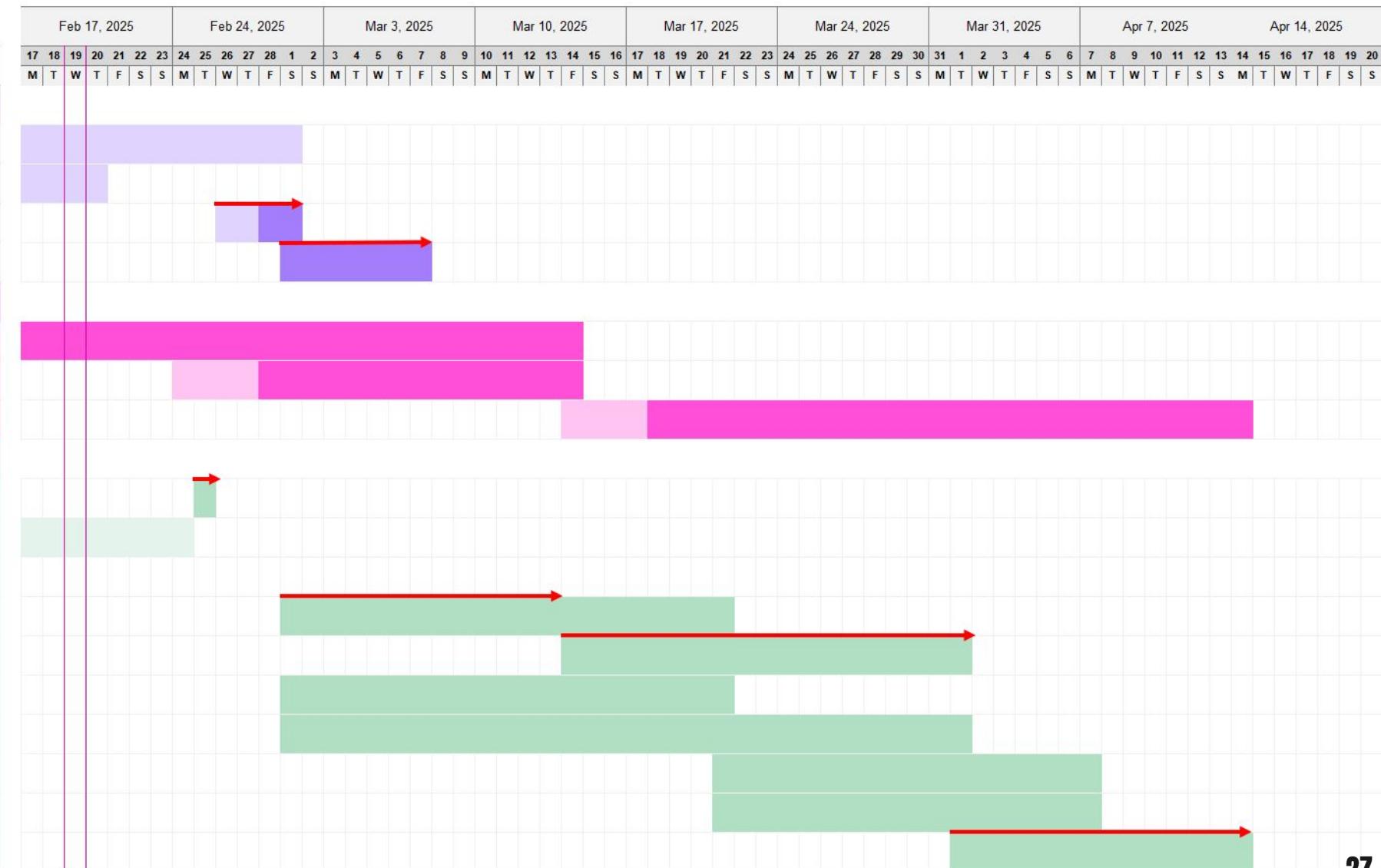
Tests	Requirements Fulfilled	Status
Payload Deployment Time	FR 1.5, DR 1.7	In Progress
Rotor Thrust Evaluation*	FR 1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2,	Not Started
Payload Deployment Accuracy	FR 2.1, 3.5	Not Started
GPS Accuracy	FR 3.1, DR 1.2	In Progress
Battery Health	FR 1.1, 1.4	Completed
Mass Flow Rate	FR 2.1, 3.4, DR 5.1.1	Not Started
RC Control (Initial Flight)	FR 3.1, DR 1.5	Not Started
Autonomous Flight	FR 1.2, 1.3, DR 1.2	Not Started
Premature Payload Deployment	FR 2.1, 3.4, DR 5.1.1	Not Started
Single Mission Leg*	FR 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1	Not Started
Payload Reload	FR 1.4, 2.1	Not Started
Final Mission	FR 1.1-6, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.5	Not Started

*Will be discussed later in the presentation

Spring Semester Progress Tracking

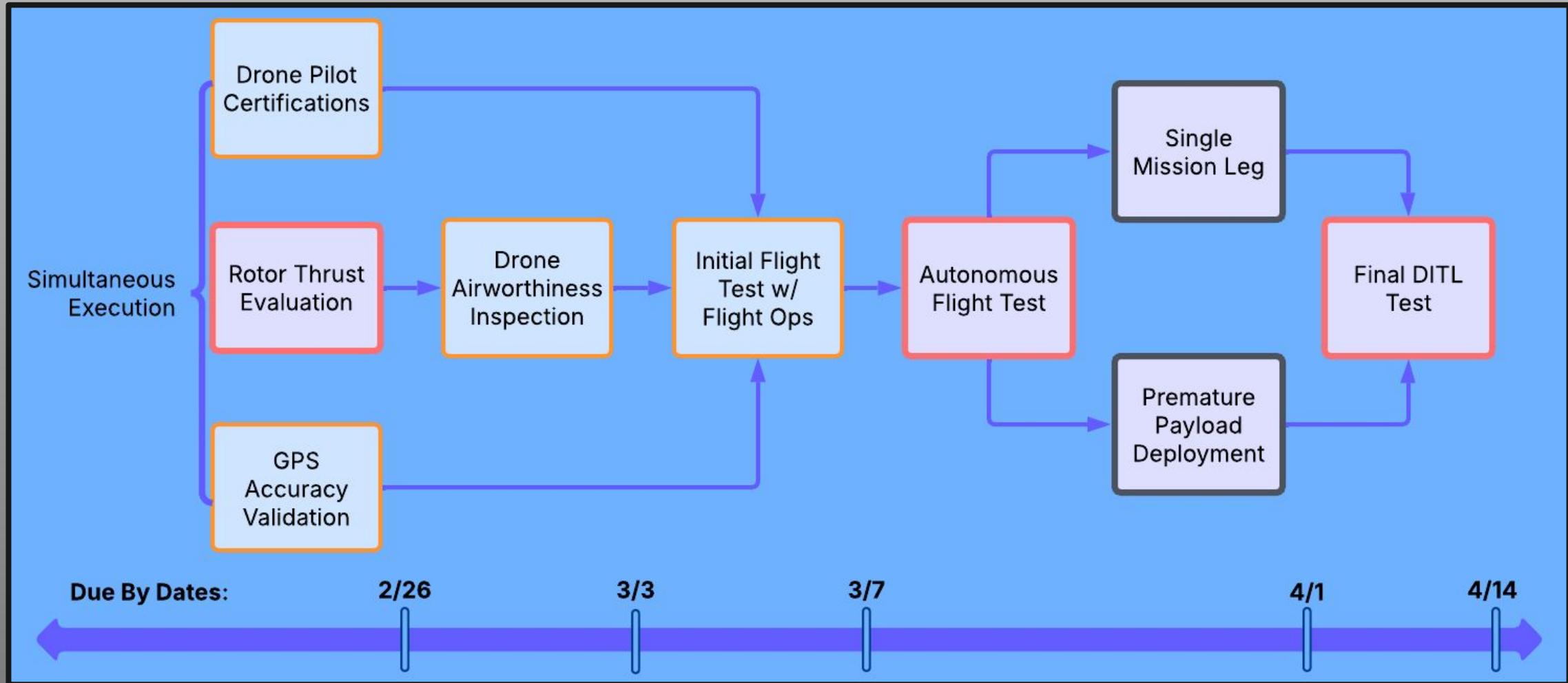
6

TASK	PROGRESS	START	END
Flight Ops Milestones			
Drone Pilot Canvas Course	100%	1/16/25	3/1/25
Drone Pilot Flight Certification	100%	2/7/25	2/20/25
Drone Airworthiness Inspection	50%	2/26/25	3/1/25
Initial Flight	0%	3/1/25	3/7/25
Integration			
Software Avionics	50%	1/16/25	3/14/25
Avionics Structure	25%	2/24/25	3/14/25
Final System	13%	3/14/25	4/14/25
Testing			
Thrust Eval	0%	2/25/25	2/25/25
Payload Deployment Time	100%	1/23/25	2/24/25
Battery	100%	1/23/25	2/12/25
Remote Controlled Flight	0%	3/1/25	3/21/25
Autonomous Flight	0%	3/14/25	4/1/25
GPS	0%	3/1/25	3/21/25
Payload Deployment Accuracy	0%	3/1/25	4/1/25
Single Mission Leg	0%	3/21/25	4/7/25
Premature Payload Deployment	0%	3/21/25	4/7/25
Final System	0%	4/1/25	4/14/25





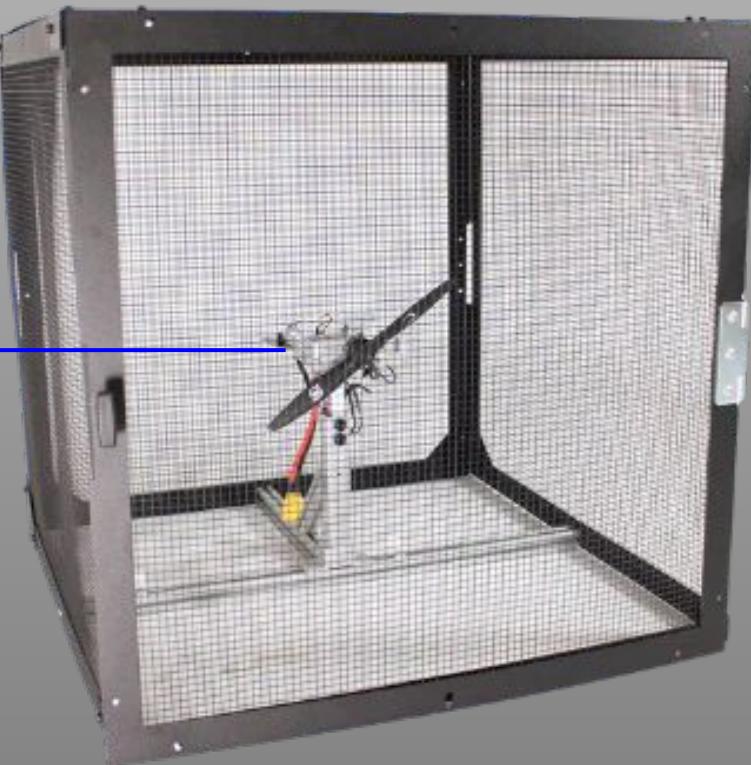
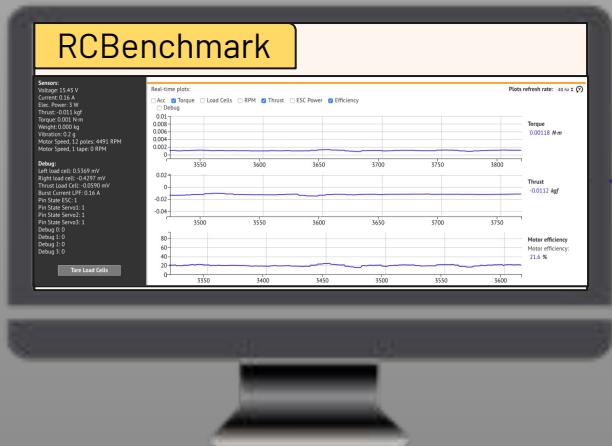
Critical Path





Static Thrust Test

Brief Overview



Reasons for Test

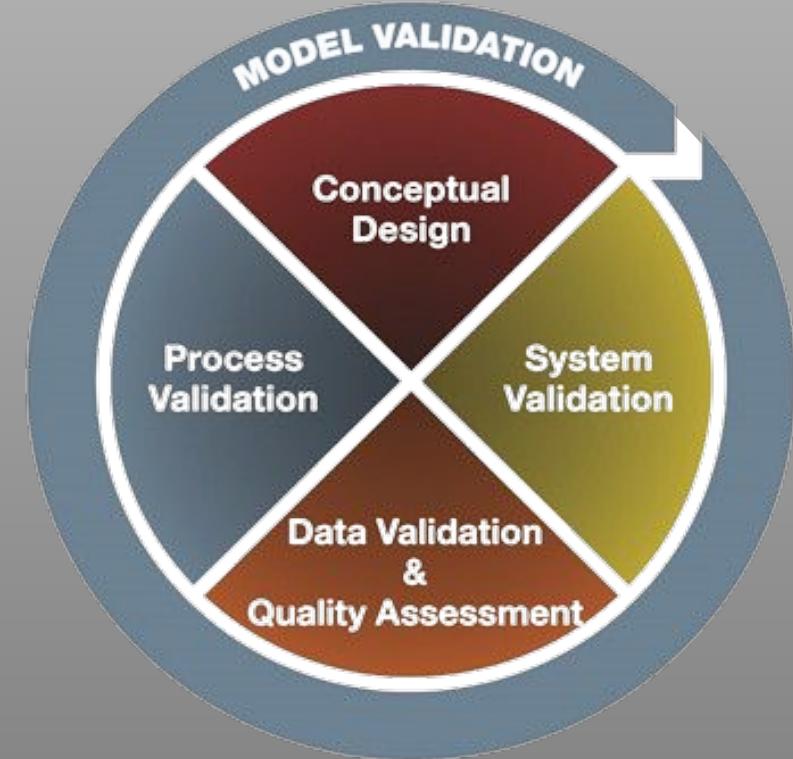
- **Model Validation**

- Thrust profile results:
 - Thrust does not match model: Change model
 - Thrust matches model: First stage of validation
 - Second stage of validation is with DiTL test

- **Thrust Profile Expectations**

Gain a better understanding of the thrust profile of our motors

- Allows using experiential data rather than rely on data sheets
- Allows us to understand the power draw of our motors, can edit the energy model based on results



Driving Requirements

- **FR 2.2** The system shall be able to take off, fly, and land with a minimum fire retardant weight of 5 pounds
- **DR 3.1.1** The propulsion subsystem shall provide thrust sufficient to lift the aircraft and its payload during take off and landing
- **DR 3.1.4** The propulsion subsystem shall provide sufficient thrust to reach the 30 foot hard deck

Sensors, Basics, and Test Organization

- **Facility:** Design/Build/Fly, Engineering Center
- **Sensor:** Series 1580 Test Stand
 - Sensor type: Load cell
 - Sampling rate: up to 50 Hz
- **Calibration plans**
 - Software calibration was completed with DBF using RCBenchmark Calibration wizard on 1/22
 - Stand hardware calibrated on 2/21





Sensor Specs

	Range	Tolerance	Requirements	Meet Requirements?
Voltage Supplied	0-50 V	$0.5\% \pm 0.05 \text{ V}$	24 V	
Current Supplied	0-55 A	$1.0\% \pm 0.1 \text{ A}$	45 A (max)	
Force	-5 to +5 kgf	$0.5\% \pm 0.005 \text{ kgf}$	1.67 kgf per motor	
Sampling	Up to 50 Hz	N/A	> 0.02s per thrust increase	

Safety Equipment

- Tools for adjusting motor and test stand
- Fire Blanket
- ABC Fire Extinguisher
- Class D Fire Extinguisher
- First Aid Kit
- Communication Devices - cell phone
- Safety Glasses - For all Flight personnel in zone
- Safety Gloves



Pre-Thrust Test Checks

Activities that must be performed prior to starting motor thrust testing:

1. Team evacuation and safety briefing
2. Mounting and component inspection
3. Software and Hardware calibration check
4. Safety equipment check and verification
5. Identify hazardous areas
 - a. Propeller rotation plane
 - b. Open side of the testing chamber
6. Verify motor is properly secured in test stand

Pre-Thrust Test Checks - Motor Mounting

Attaching motor to test stand steps:

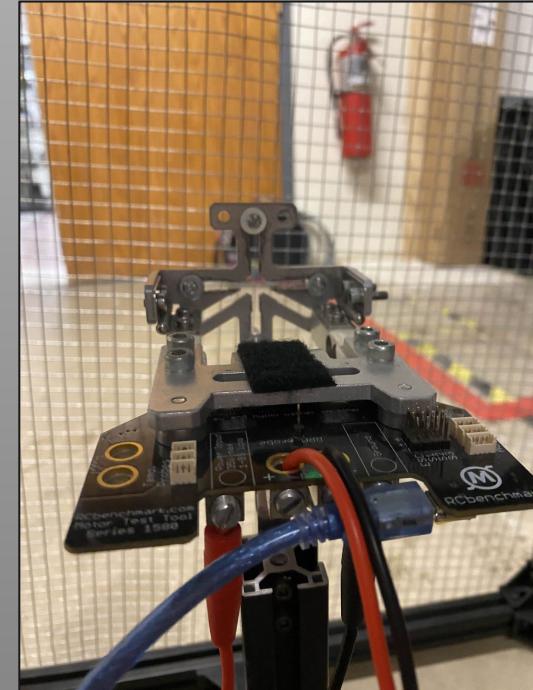
- Secure motor into testing cell
- Connect data cables
 - ESC to motor
 - Computer to ESC

If testing with no propellers:

- Connect battery to ESC
 - Avoid throttling to high speeds

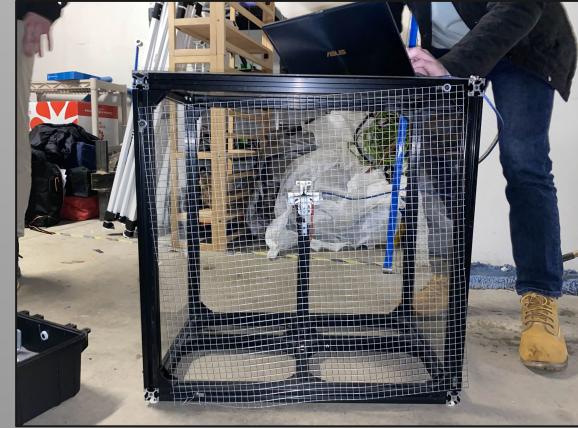
If testing with propellers:

- Ensure battery is disconnected from ESC
- Attach propellers to motor
- Connect battery to ESC



Test Procedure

- **Motor Thrust Testing:**
 - Clear area
 - Begin thrust test with a verbal countdown from 5
 - Spool up motors in increments of 5% power
 - Wait 5 seconds between each increment
 - Go until 100% power – do not exceed
 - Begin spooling down motors in increments of 20% power
 - Once motor is stationary, give call that the test is finished
 - Disconnect battery
 - Save / Download the available data from throughout the test
 - Dismount motor from test stand to complete test



Data Acquisition

- **Thrust Values**

- Varying power levels
- 0.005 kgf accuracy

- **Power Draw Values**

- Continuous data at various motor speeds
- 0.05 V accuracy

- **Outputs as .csv file**

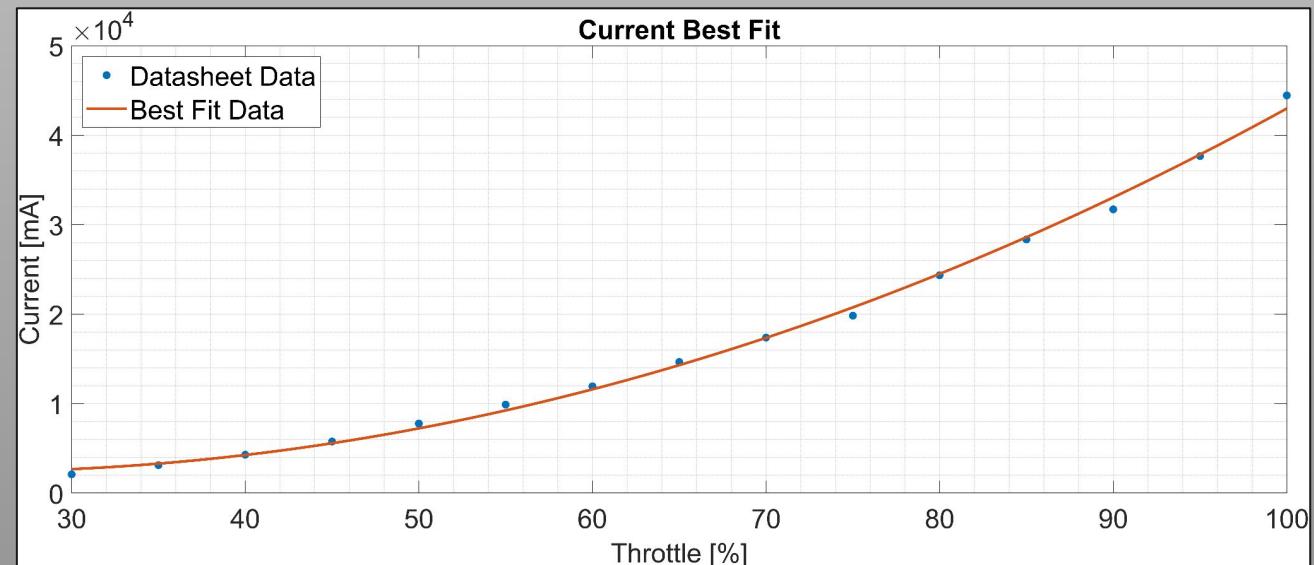
- Easy MATLAB integration



Test Data Analysis

Using test data the Energy Consumption Model can be improved

- Analyze test data:
 - Compare empirical results with data sheet values
 - Test data vs Throttle %
- Use in Energy Model:
 - Replace data sheet values with test data in model
 - Air-density ratio adjustment can be removed



Pass / Fail Criteria

- **Test Pass**
 - Accurate data is collected on the motors
 - Thrust
 - ESC Power
 - Motor efficiency
- **Motor Pass / Fail**
 - Test values meet data sheet performance / test values significantly differ from data sheet
 - Output 5 kgf thrust at maximum
 - Smooth thrust outputs for all power levels
- **Expected Performance**
 - Test data can output necessary thrust at a given level for the mission's success





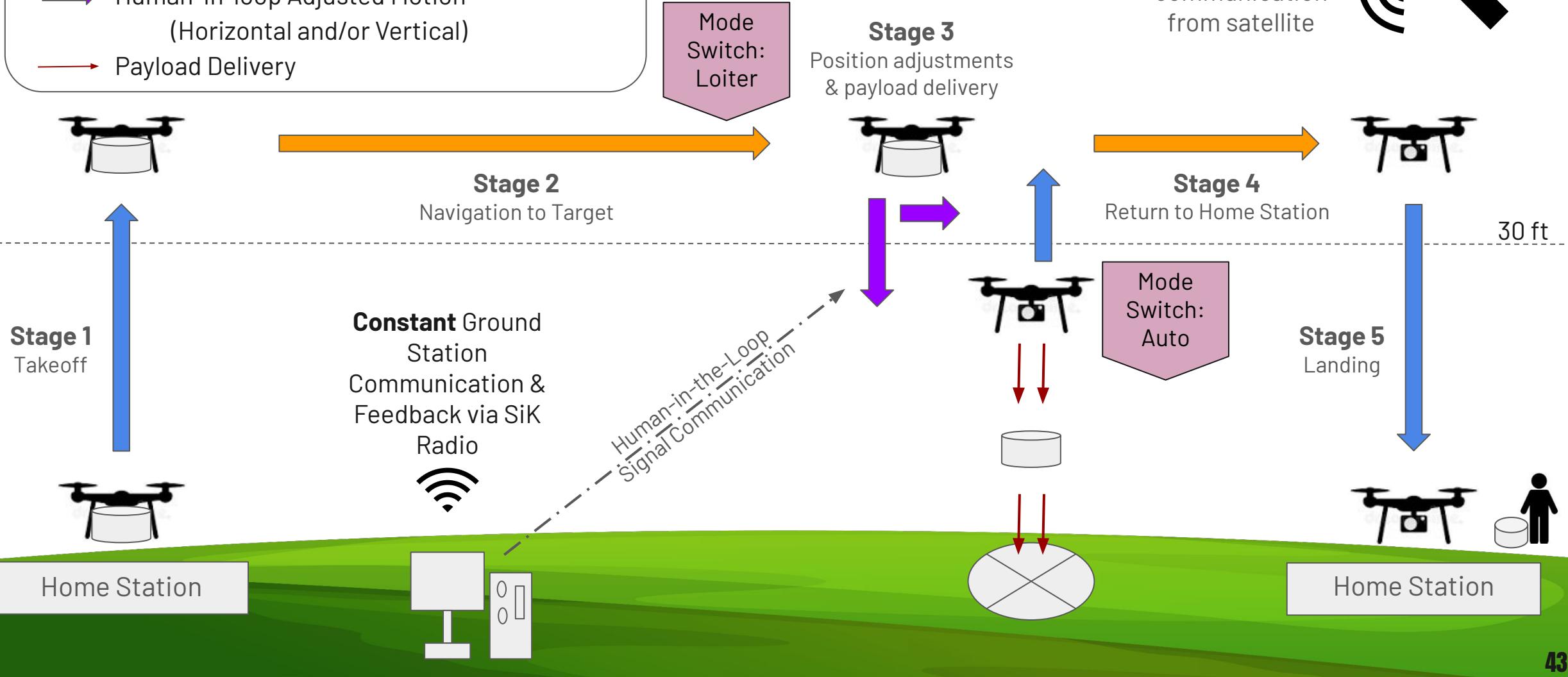
Single Leg Test

FLAME Autonomous Firefighting UAS Low-Level ConOps



Legend:

- Autonomous Vertical Motion
 - Autonomous Horizontal Motion
 - Human-in-loop Adjusted Motion (Horizontal and/or Vertical)
 - Payload Delivery
-



Reasoning Behind Test

- **Validate Dynamics Model**
 - Behavior during deployment
 - If model and results do not match, fix model accordingly
- **Validate Energy Consumption Model**
 - If model does not match test-data, update model
 - Ensure drone has sufficient energy capacity / endurance to complete full mission
- **Verify High Level Functional Requirements**
 - Most driving requirements are verified by this single leg test
 - 100m range
 - 5 lbs of payload
 - 20 minute time limit (test should be less than a third)

Driving Requirements

- **FR 1.1** The system shall have a minimum range of 100 meters
- **FR 1.2** The system shall be able to take off autonomously
- **FR 1.3** The system shall be able to land autonomously
- **FR 1.7** The system shall be operable in mild weather conditions
- **FR 2.1** The system shall carry and deploy 5 pounds
- **FR 3.1** The system shall utilize human-in-the-loop to navigate from 10 meters RMS accuracy to 1 meter from location of interest

Prerequisite Tests

- Motor Thrust Stand Evaluation
- Payload Deployment Accuracy/Time
- Autonomous Flight Test
- GPS Accuracy
- Payload Reload
- Battery Health
- Mass Flow Rate
- RC Control (Initial Flight)
- Premature Payload Deployment

Sensor Specs



- **PixHawk 6X**
 - Onboard sensors
 - **3** Accelerometers/Gyrosopes
 - **2** Barometers
 - Magnetometer
 - Uses ArduPilot
 - Tested multiple times
 - Provides data logging for flight analysis
 - 5V, 3 A input / Max 5V, 1.5 A output

Sensor Specs



- **M10 GPS**

- Connects directly to flight controller
- 2.0m CEP accuracy (50% Circular Error Probable)
- < 200 mA at 5 V
- GPS L1 Frequency Band (1575.42 MHz)

- **700TVL 2.8mm 120 Degree FPV Camera**

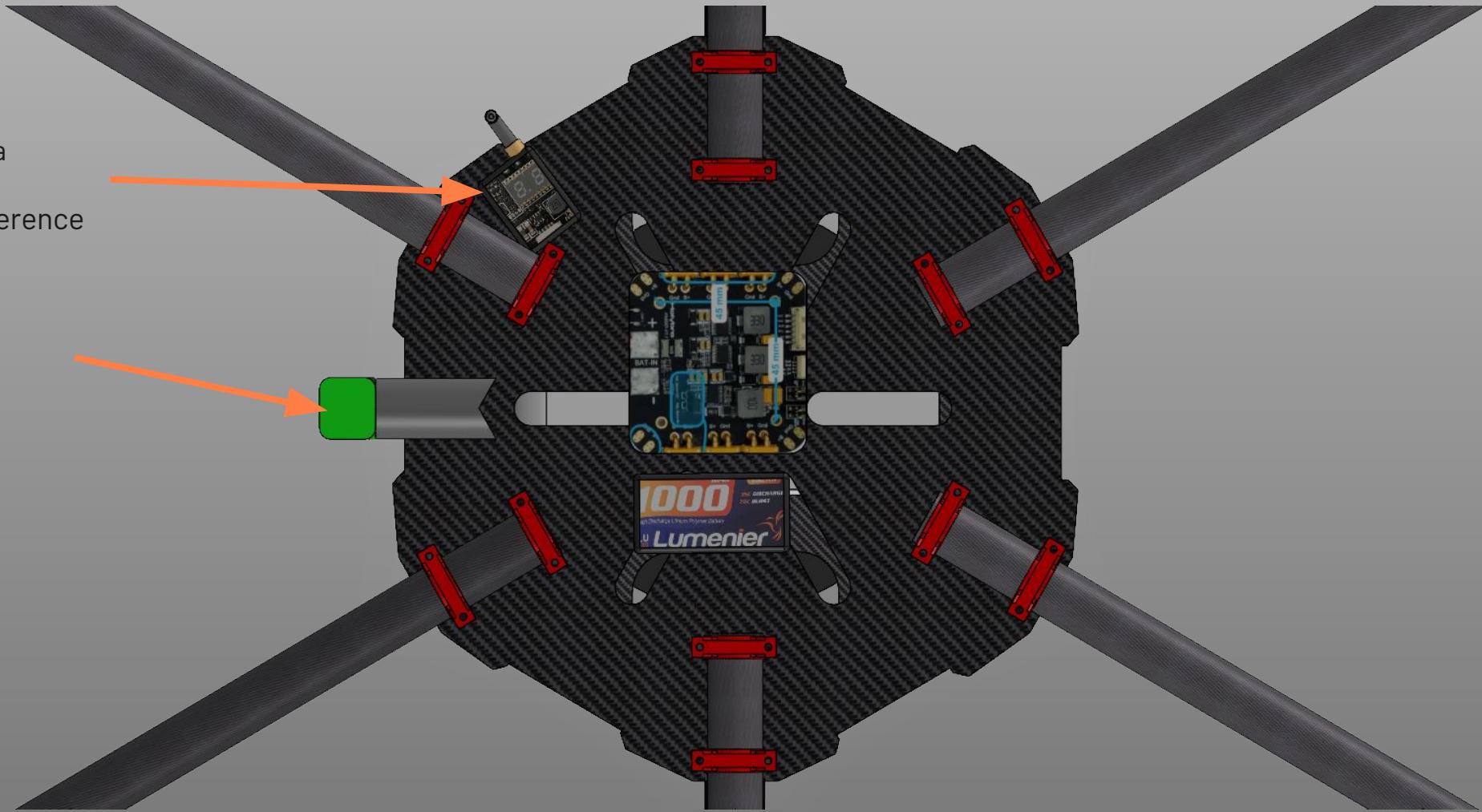
- Horizontal resolution: 1080p
- Connected directly to power module for 8V

- **AKK KC04 5.8G 600mW FPV Transmitter**

- Transmitting distance > 3000m
- Video band width: 0-8.0 MHz
- 280mA at 5V
- 5.8 GHz signal transmitted directly to 5.8GHz FPV monitor

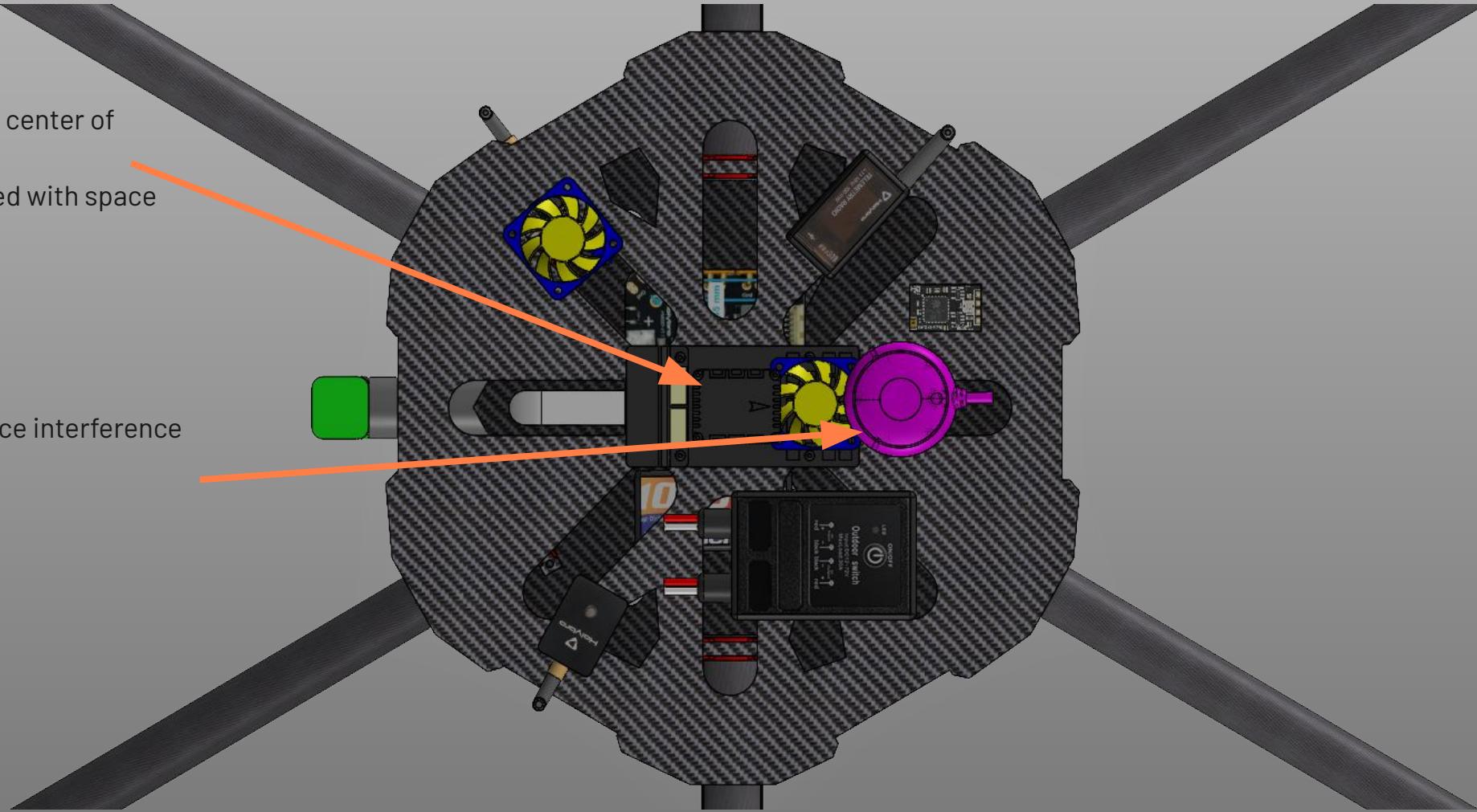
Placement of Sensors

- **Video Transmitter**
 - Placed on edge for antenna
 - Fan for circulation
 - Away from battery interference
- **Camera**
 - Mounted with offset from the center



Placement of Sensors

- **Flight Controller**
 - Placed near/directly above center of gravity
 - Allow wires to be distributed with space
- **GPS**
 - Placed near center to reduce interference from motors
 - Mounted on a stand





Calibration Plans

- **Pixhawk 6X Flight Controller**
 - Use Mission Planner Software
 - Follow steps in the Accelerometer Calibration tab
 - Set on flat surface and rotate the flight controller on different slides
- **RC Controller**
 - Set Minimum and Maximum Values for Joysticks and AUX inputs
- **Electronic Speed Controllers**
 - Calibrate the thrust inputs with the RC controller
- **FPV Camera**
 - Calibrate the focus of the FPV camera to our pilot's desired liking

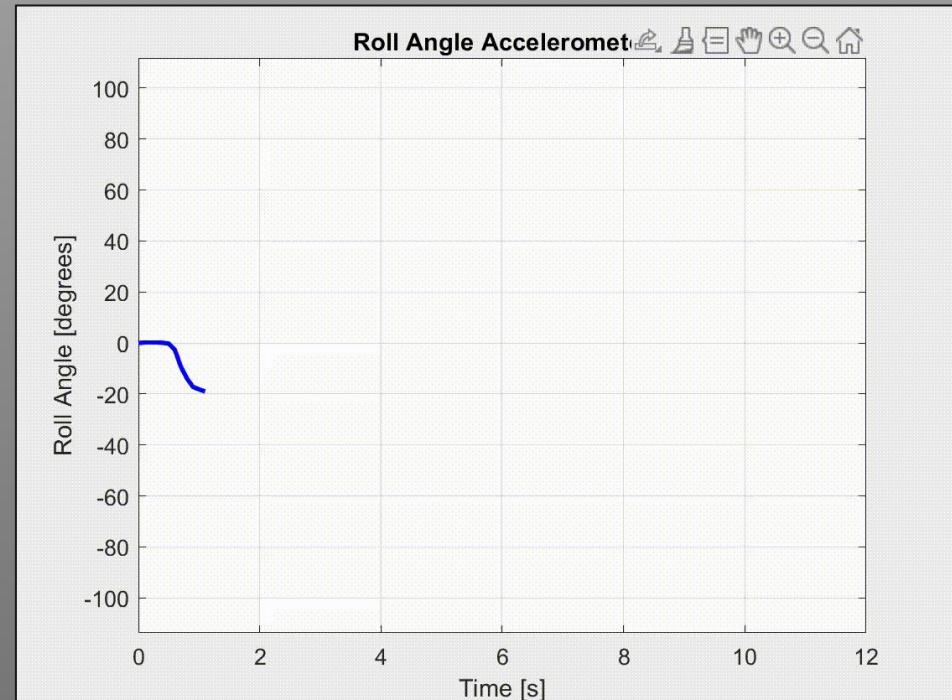
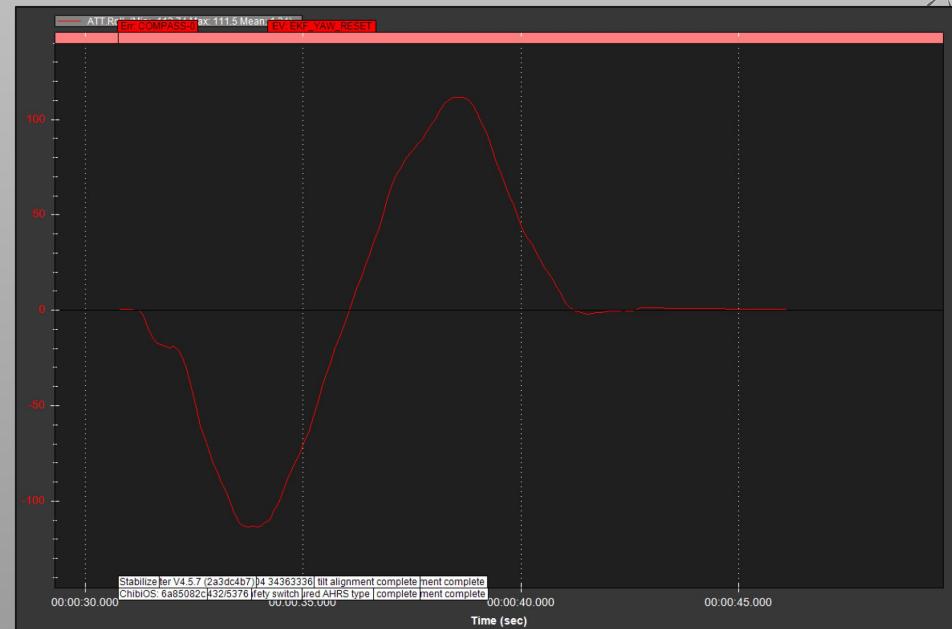
Accelerometer Calibration

Level your Autopilot to set default accelerometer Min/Max (3 axis).
This will ask you to place your autopilot on each edge.

[Calibrate Accel](#)

Data Acquisition/Analysis

- Utilize onboard sensors to verify expected mission performance
 - Position (lat, long, alt)
 - Attitude
 - Battery current draw
 - Battery voltage
 - Throttle
- CPU Onboard Flight Controller collects data, writes to SD Card
 - MAVLink download
- Plot collected data and compared to model
 - Mission Planner
 - MATLAB



Equipment and Facilities

- **Ground Station**

- Laptop with Mission Planner
- Transmitter
- Video Receiver Screen
- Remote Switch Controller
- Communication Devices
- Landing Pad
- Target

- **Safety equipment**

- Tools to repair and adjust drone
- Extra set of batteries
- Fire Blanket
- First Aid Kit
- Safety Glasses, hard hats, high visibility vests
- Long pants/sleeves
- Class ABC & D Fire Extinguishers
- Any additional equipment

- **Test facilities**

- CU South
- AERO backyard
(potentially)





Pre-Flight Checks

Check	Responsibility
1. Pre-Flight Check: Ground Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open mission planner on laptop and load mission• Plug in telemetry radio• Power on video receiver
2. Pre-Flight Check: Hexacopter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unfold hexacopter in a clear, open area free of obstruction• Inspect Frame thoroughly for fractures, splintering or deformation• Inspect that the propellers are installed correctly• Address issues that can be restored on site or abort mission
3. Pre-Flight Check: Systems Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure telemetry radios are paired and communicating• Check the GPS coordinates by comparison to google maps coordinates• Arm hexacopter and test control systems to ensure motor response and flight controller calibration
4. Pre-Flight Check: Ground Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once drone is ready, mission leader checks ground station and supporting crew before takeoff• Allow teams to do training and preparation before flight day
5. Perimeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch area is 10 meters from ground station• Area of flight is 100 meters in diameter• VOs ensure hexacopter stays in perimeter

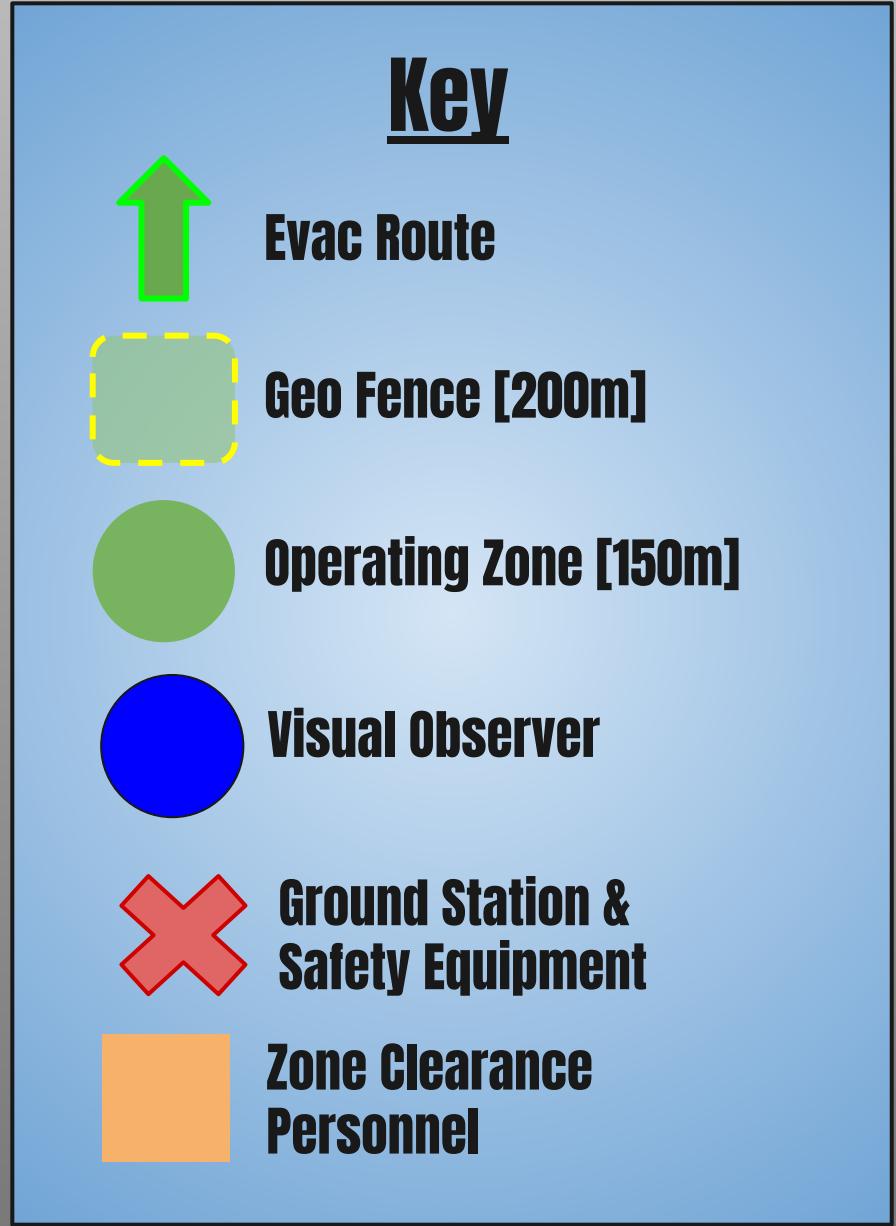
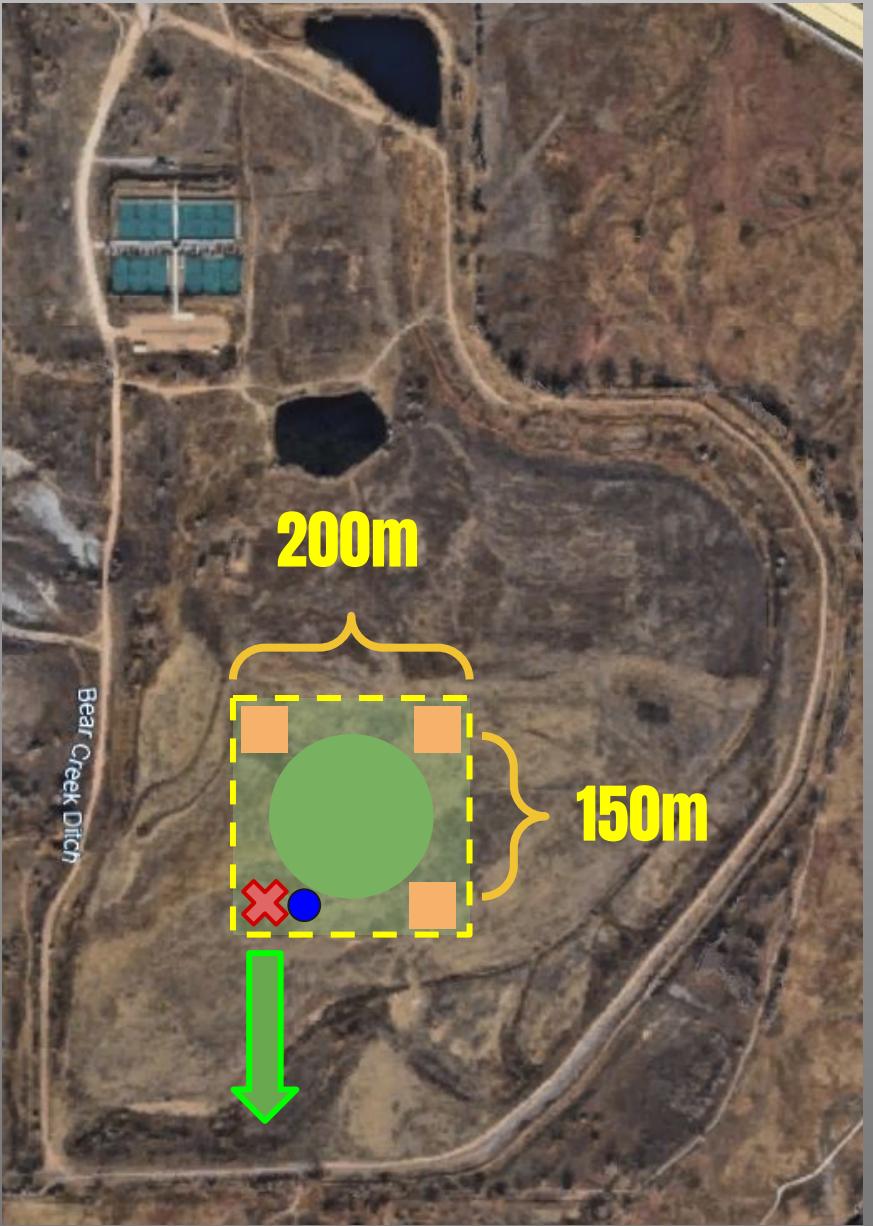


Flight Day Procedure

Safety Step	Responsibility
1. Safety Team Preparations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission Leader checks roles and responsibilities of every team member• Establish authority of PIC• Every team member must understand their role and gather necessary resources to be successful• Notify Mission Leader if resources or understanding is not available
2. Pre-Flight Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See previous slide for relevant pre-flight checks
3. Perimeter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure negligible change of testing environment• Follow all CU South policies
4. Go/No-Go	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order for the flight to proceed, each team member must independently determine that conditions are sufficient for the flight to proceed• The decision to "Go" must be unanimous
5. Flight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that everyone has cleared the drone area and remains cleared during flight• PIC establishes flight countdown• Once countdown is finished, execute mission• Once mission is complete, PIC and Mission Leader ensure safe retrieval parameters

Go/No-Go

- **Go**
 - Wind: 0-10 miles per hour
 - Visibility: > 3 statute miles
 - Clouds: Floor > 1,000 ft AGL
 - Ground Station: receives telemetry and GPS data
- **No-Go**
 - Wind: over 10 miles per hour
 - Visibility: < 3 statute miles
 - Weather: rain, snow, fog
 - Ground station: unable to receive telemetry data and/or GPS data
 - Airspace restrictions and/or Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR)



Pass/Fail Criteria

- **Pass**

- Drone reaches target zone autonomously
- Payload deployed on target
- Drone returns to base and lands autonomously
- Drone is reloaded with no issues



Completed within $\frac{1}{3}$ of full mission time (20 minutes)

- **Fail**

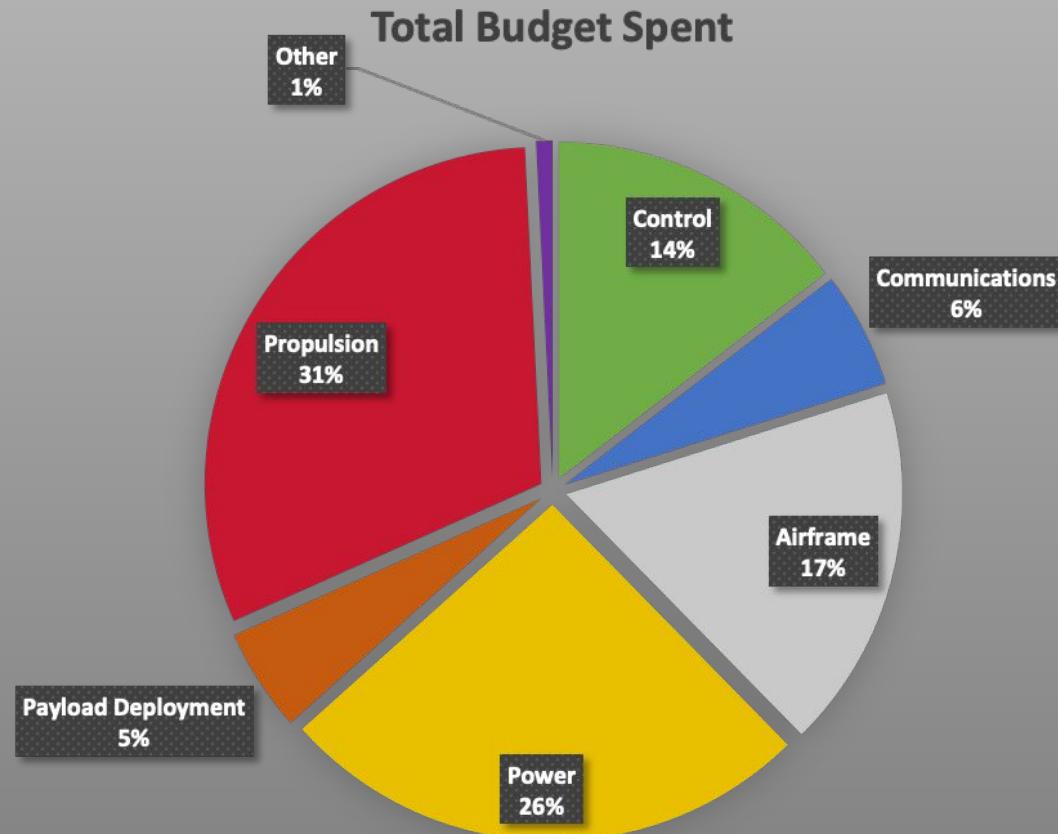
- Drone loses control in flight and has to switch to human operation before target range
- Payload doesn't hit target
- Drone needs human operation to land or system loses control during landing
- Payload deploys early
- Unrecoverable communication error occurs
- Drone goes below 30 foot hard deck during autonomous flight
- Unable to complete in $\frac{1}{3}$ of full mission time
- Reloading complications occur

- **Expected Performance**

- UAS successfully completes mission laid out in ConOps within $\frac{1}{3}$ of a full mission time

Budget

Budget Details



Subsystem	Total Spent
Propulsion	\$1027.07
Power	\$855.34
Airframe	\$588.13
Control	\$483.97
Communications	\$185.55
Payload Deployment	\$164.80
Other	\$31.98

- Overall Spent
 - **\$3336.84**
- Total Remaining
 - **\$663.16**
- All major components have been purchased and received



Additional Budget Details

Phase	Amount Spent	Allocated Budget	Margin
Phase 1: Testing	\$185.40	\$250 \$500	25.9% Under Budget
Phase 2: Manufacturing	\$3113.78	\$3650 \$3000	14.7% Under Budget
Phase 3: Expo/Other	\$31.98	\$100 \$500	68.0% Under Budget
Total	\$3325.17	\$4000	16.9% Under Budget



Critical Budget Items

Component	Amount Needed	Spares	Expected Cost	Expected Lead Time	Failure Risk	Failure Impact	Failure Preparations
Airframe	1	0	\$499.99 per Airframe	7-14 days	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Super glue/flex tapeBudget margins for Individual Parts
Propellers	6	6	\$56.11 per 8 Propellers	14-28 days	High	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Always have spares to prepare for long lead times
Motors	6	0	\$102.60 per Motor	3-10 days	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safe handlingSafe flyingBudget Margins
Battery	1	1	\$335.99 per Battery	3-10 days	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Safe handlingSafe flyingBudget margins



Questions?



Backup slides

Table of Contents

- CDR Modeling
 - Energy Consumption Model.....(Slides 67-72)
 - Flight Dynamics Model.....(Slides 73-77)
- Software/Electrical
 - Software Breakdown.....(Slides 79-87)
 - Electrical Components.....(Slides 88-93)
- Hardware
 - Payload Deployment.....(Slides 95-96)
 - Airframe.....(Slide 97)
- Safety.....(Slides 99-103)



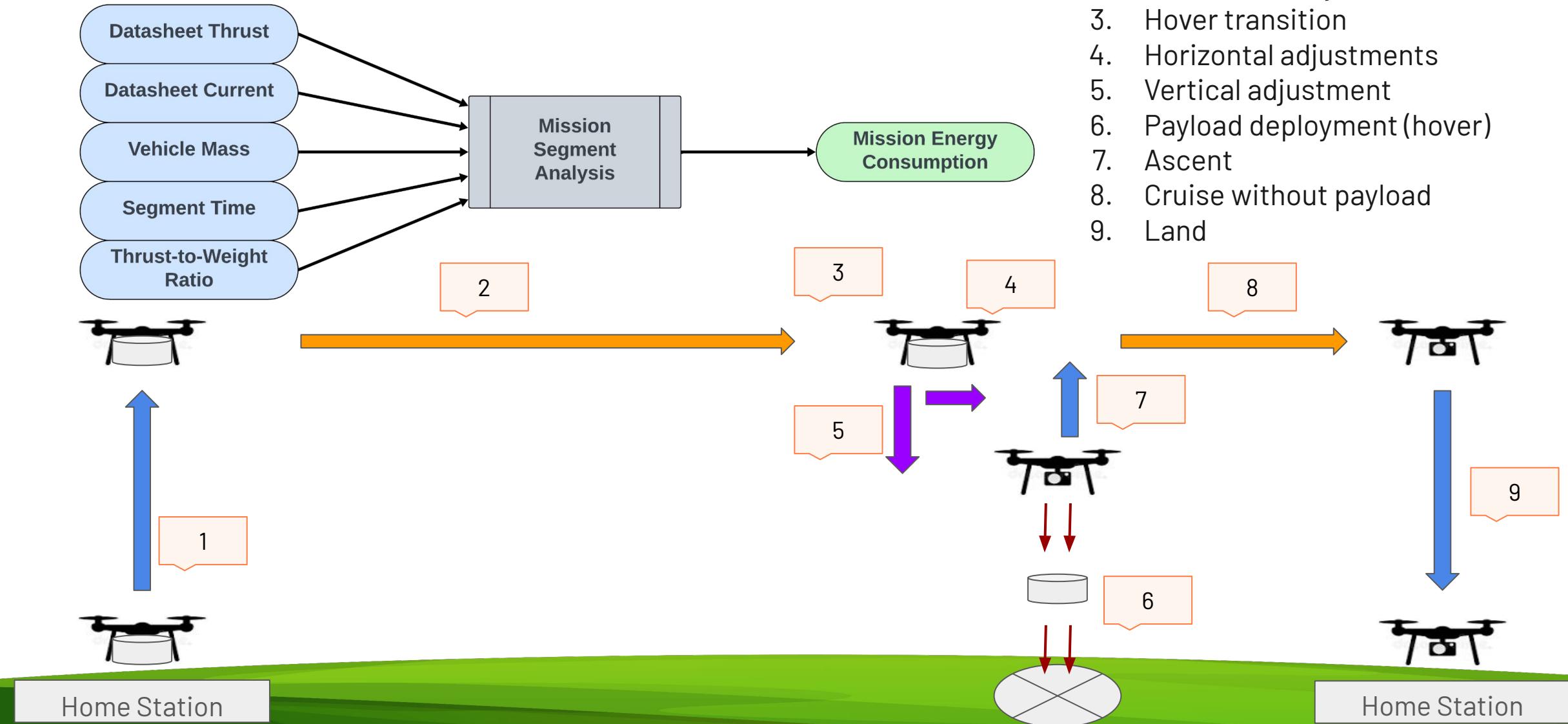
CDR Modeling

Energy Consumption Analysis Model



Mission Segments:

1. Takeoff
2. Cruise with Payload
3. Hover transition
4. Horizontal adjustments
5. Vertical adjustment
6. Payload deployment (hover)
7. Ascent
8. Cruise without payload
9. Land





Model Uncertainty

- **Motor thrust values**
 - Unknown test altitude of motor datasheet data
 - Multiply datasheet thrust values by ratio of air densities of Boulder and sea-level

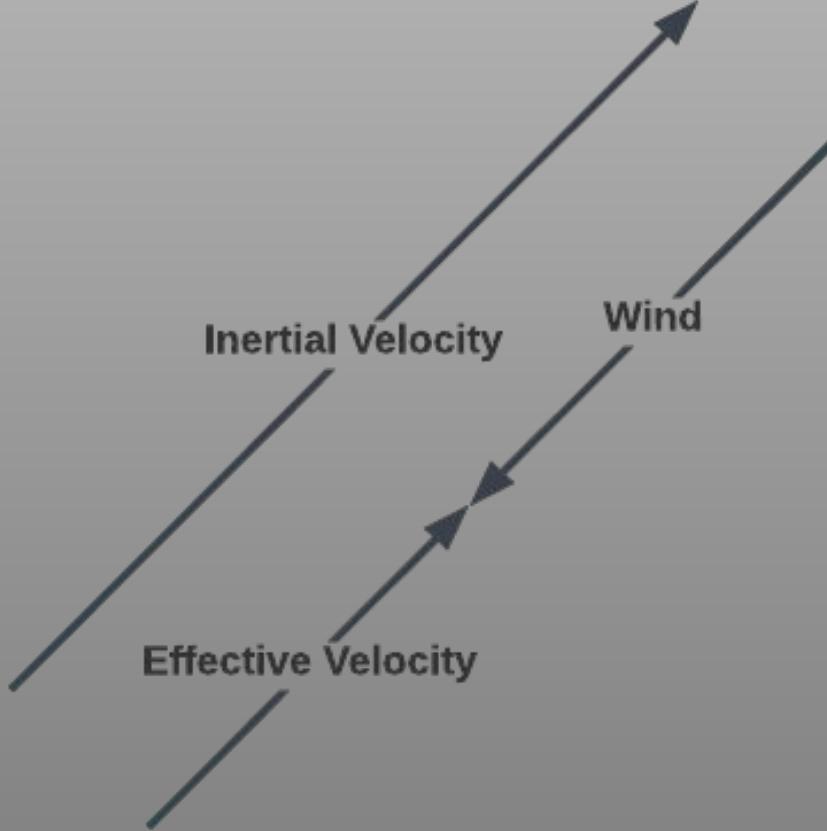
$$T_{alt} = T_{data} \frac{\rho_{alt}}{\rho_{s.l.}} = 0.85 T_{data}$$

- **Human-in-the-loop (HITL) segment times**
 - Dynamics model cannot account for time lengths of the HITL segments
 - Allowed for 60 seconds for HITL segments

Modeling Wind

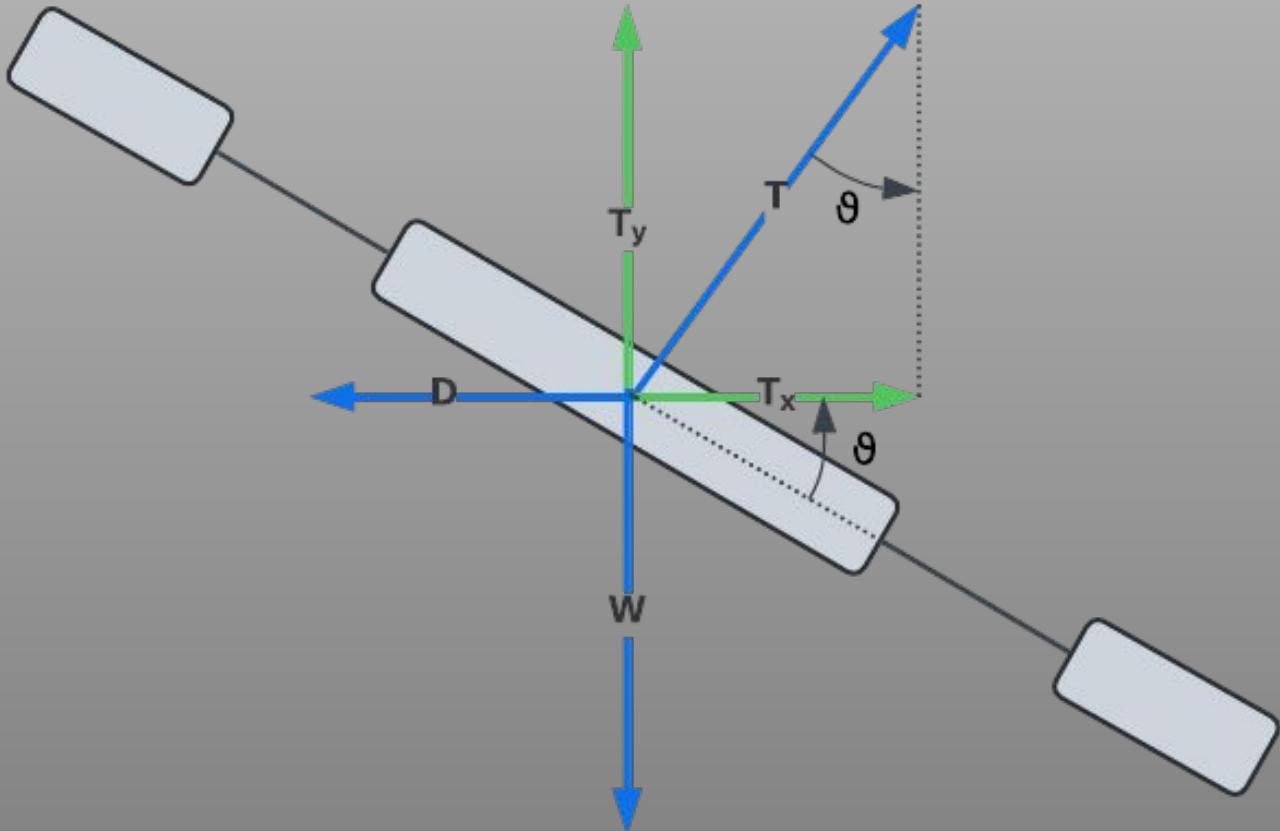


- **Assumed worst case scenario**
 - A headwind directly opposing vehicle velocity vector
- **Boulder average wind conditions**
 - Max of 10 mph from January-April
- **To account for wind**
 - Lowered desired velocity by 10 mph (4.47 m/s) in model



Modeling Drag

- **Assumed: Steady, level, unaccelerated flight**
 - Horizontal thrust equal to drag
 - Horizontal thrust dependent on tilt angle
 - Simplify drag equation for aerodynamic force coefficient, ν
- **Accounting for drag**
 - Within dynamics model
 - Nu: ν
 - Very small (approximately 0.005)
 - Drag considered negligible



At maximum velocity:

$$T_x = D = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_D A V^2 = \nu V^2$$



Thrust-to-Weight and Velocity

- **Thrust to Weight Ratio**
 - Not an input parameter for ArduPilot
- **Maximum Tilt Angle**
 - Set to 10 degrees
 - This is the smallest maximum tilt angle for ArduPilot
- **Modeled Equations:**
 - Assuming negligible drag, no wind, symmetrical thrust, steady and level flight, and no shift in center of mass

Tilt angle Required to maintain constant T/W ratio:

$$\frac{T}{W} = \sec \theta$$

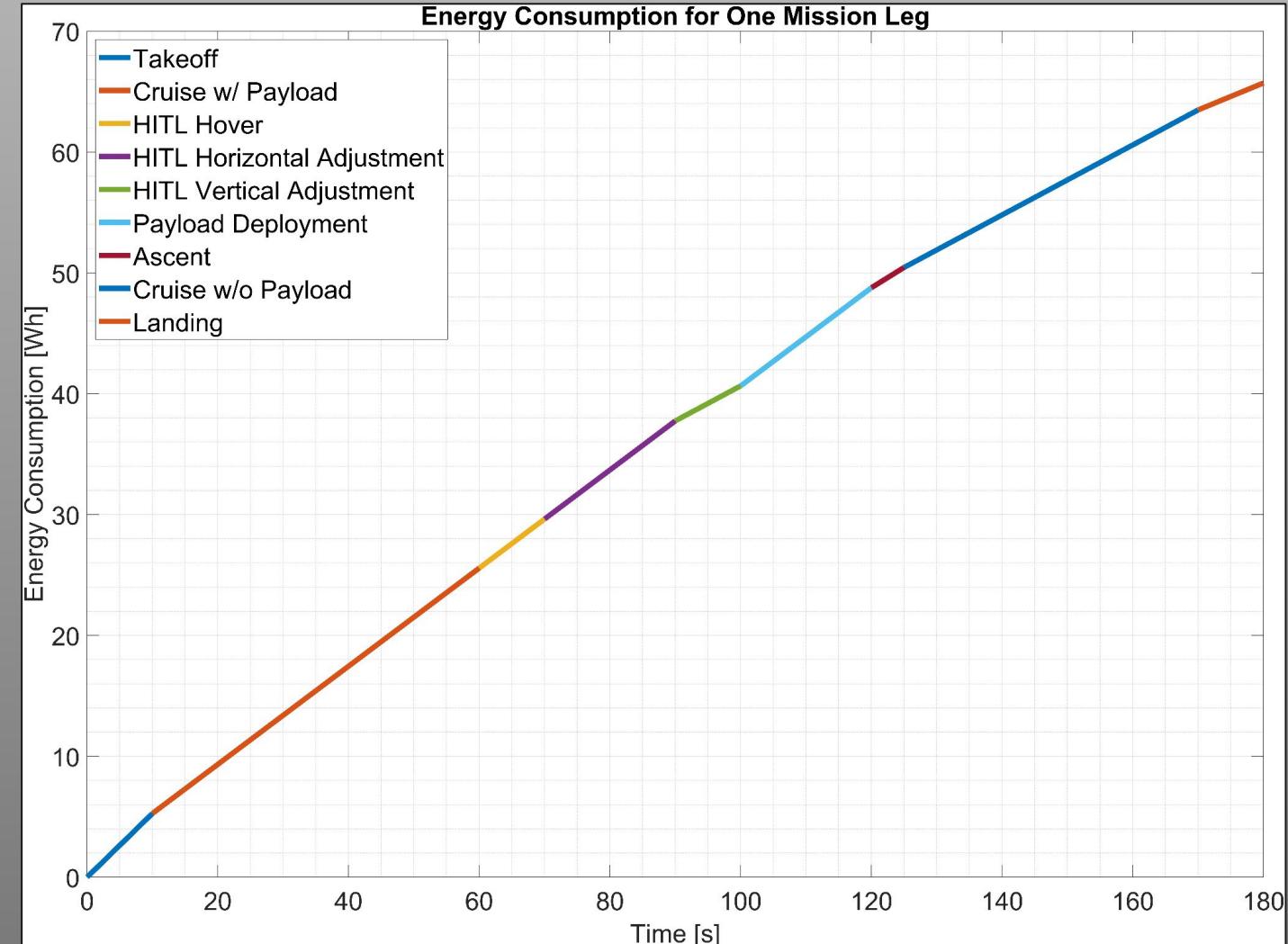
Velocity as a function of time for given tilt angle and T/W ratio:

$$v(t) = \frac{T}{W} * t \sin \theta$$

Model Results: Mission Performance of Hexacopter

- One mission leg results (100 m)
 - 65.7 Wh per mission leg
 - Multiply total by four to represent the total number mission legs with an extra for a buffer
 - 180 seconds per mission leg
 - 12 minutes for entire mission
 - 8 minutes of reloading
 - <1 minute of reloading per mission leg is expected
- Account for battery Depth of Discharge (DoD)
 - Typically ~85%
 - Gives us battery energy capacity of 309.2 Wh
 - 16,000 mAh 6S LiPo = 355.2 Wh

$$E_{batt} = \frac{E_{mission}}{DoD}$$



Dynamics Model: Governing Equations

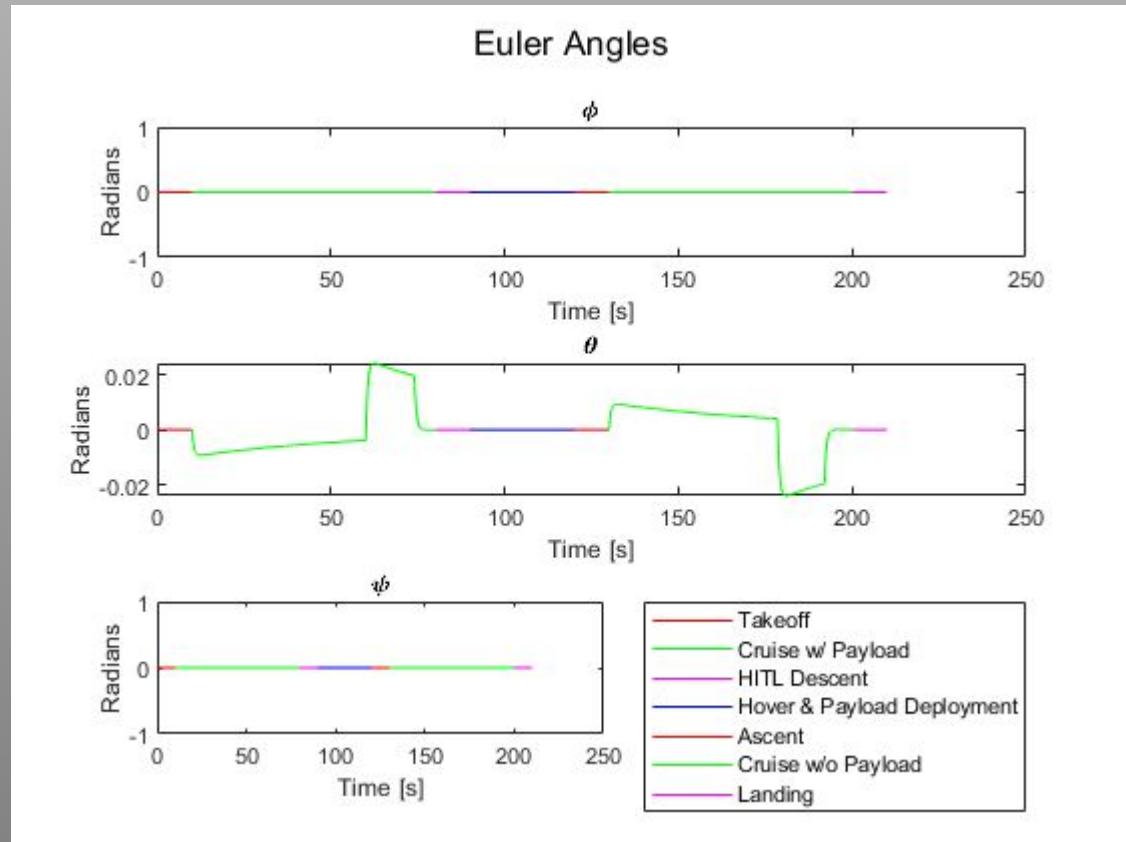
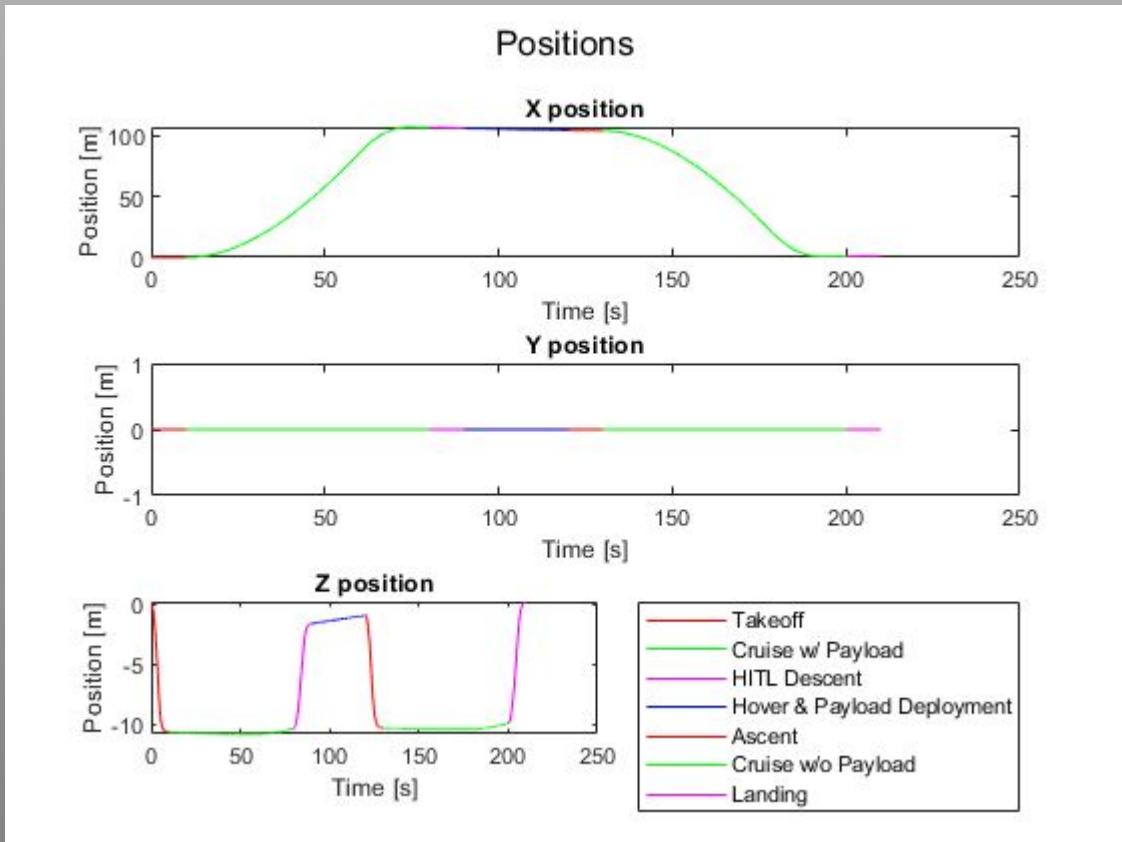
$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_E \\ \dot{y}_E \\ \dot{z}_E \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_\theta c_\psi & s_\phi s_\theta c_\psi - c_\phi s_\psi & c_\phi s_\theta c_\psi + s_\phi s_\psi \\ c_\theta s_\psi & s_\phi s_\theta s_\psi + c_\phi c_\psi & c_\phi s_\theta s_\psi - s_\phi c_\psi \\ -s_\theta & s_\phi c_\theta & c_\phi c_\theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u^E \\ v^E \\ w^E \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\phi} \\ \dot{\theta} \\ \dot{\psi} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sin \phi \tan \theta & \cos \phi \tan \theta \\ 0 & \cos \phi & -\sin \phi \\ 0 & \sin \phi \sec \theta & \cos \phi \sec \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix}$$

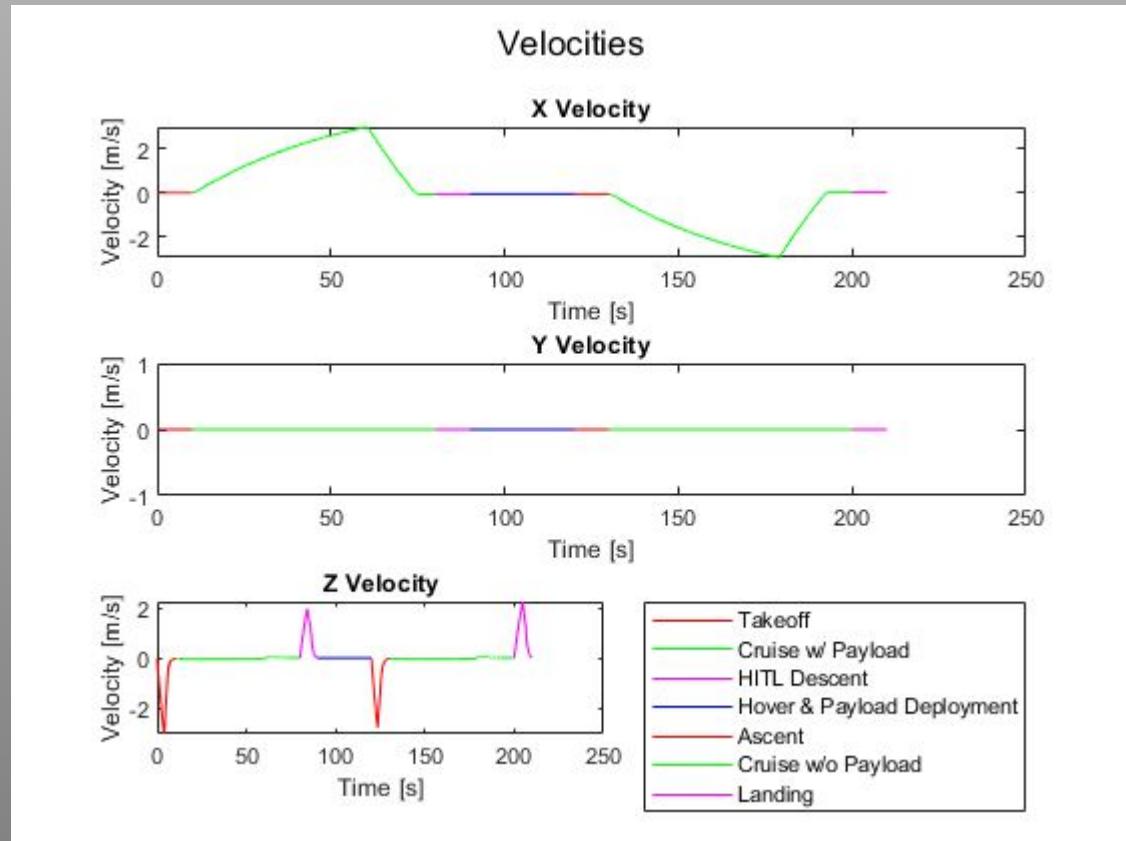
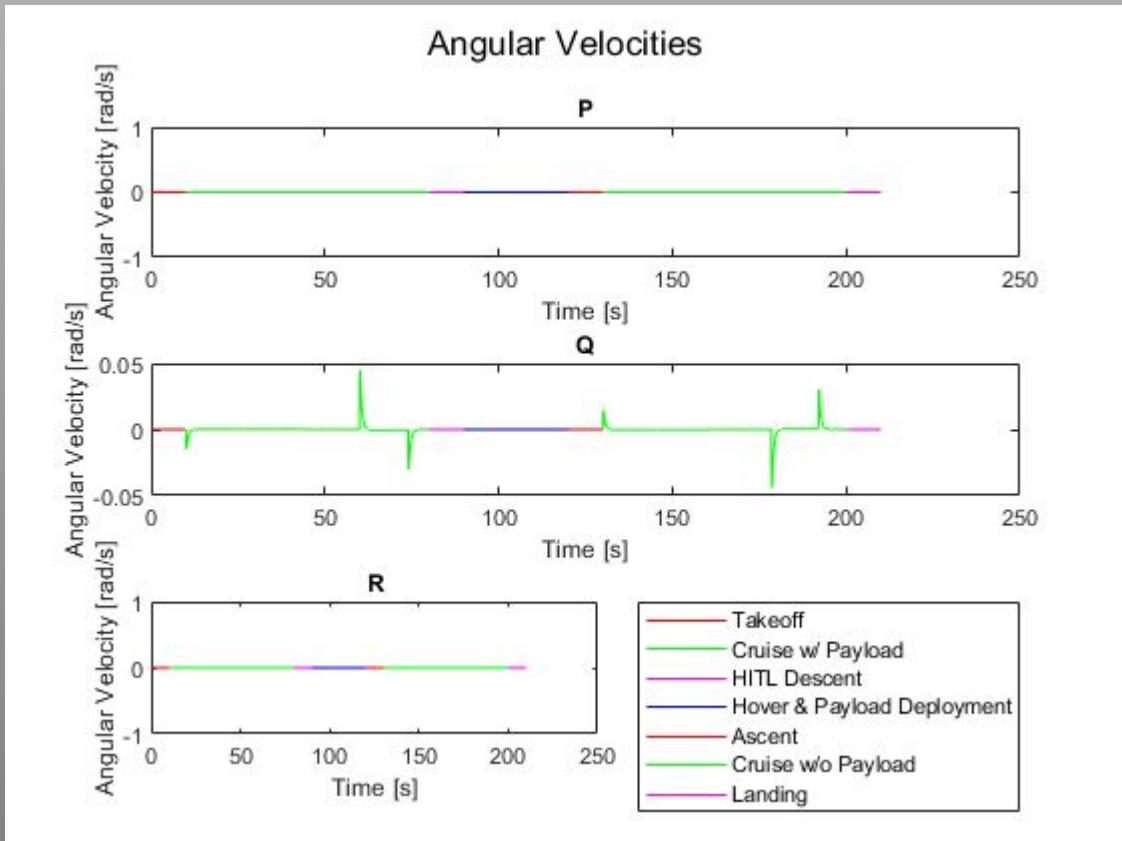
$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{u}^E \\ \dot{v}^E \\ \dot{w}^E \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} rv^E - qw^E \\ pw^E - ru^E \\ qu^E - pv^E \end{pmatrix} + g \begin{pmatrix} -\sin \theta \\ \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \theta \cos \phi \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{m} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{m} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ Z_c \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{p} \\ \dot{q} \\ \dot{r} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{I_y - I_z}{I_x} qr \\ \frac{I_z - I_x}{I_y} pr \\ \frac{I_x - I_y}{I_z} pq \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{I_x} L \\ \frac{1}{I_y} M \\ \frac{1}{I_z} N \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{I_x} L_c \\ \frac{1}{I_y} M_c \\ \frac{1}{I_z} N_c \end{pmatrix}$$

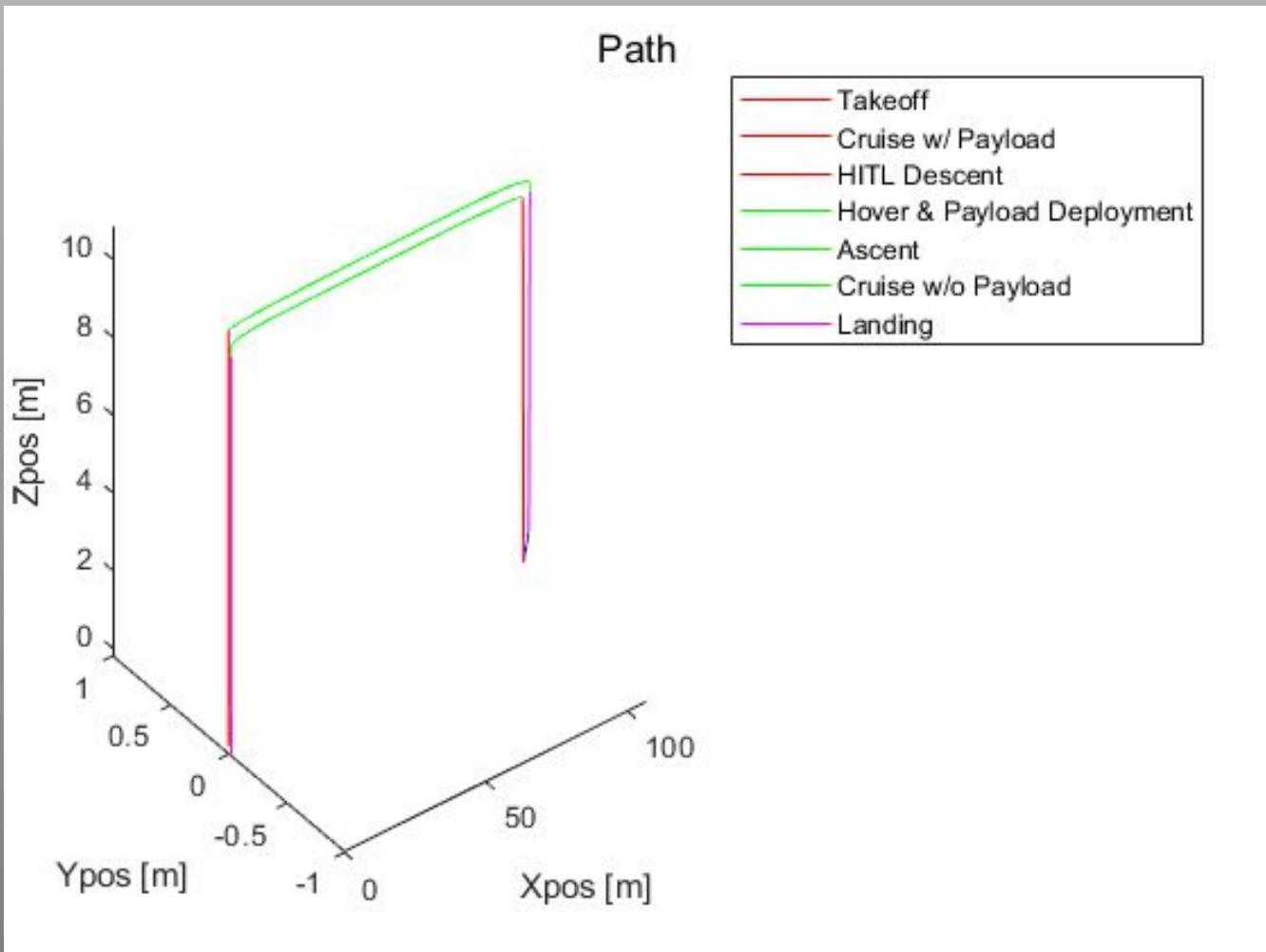
Dynamics Model: Plots



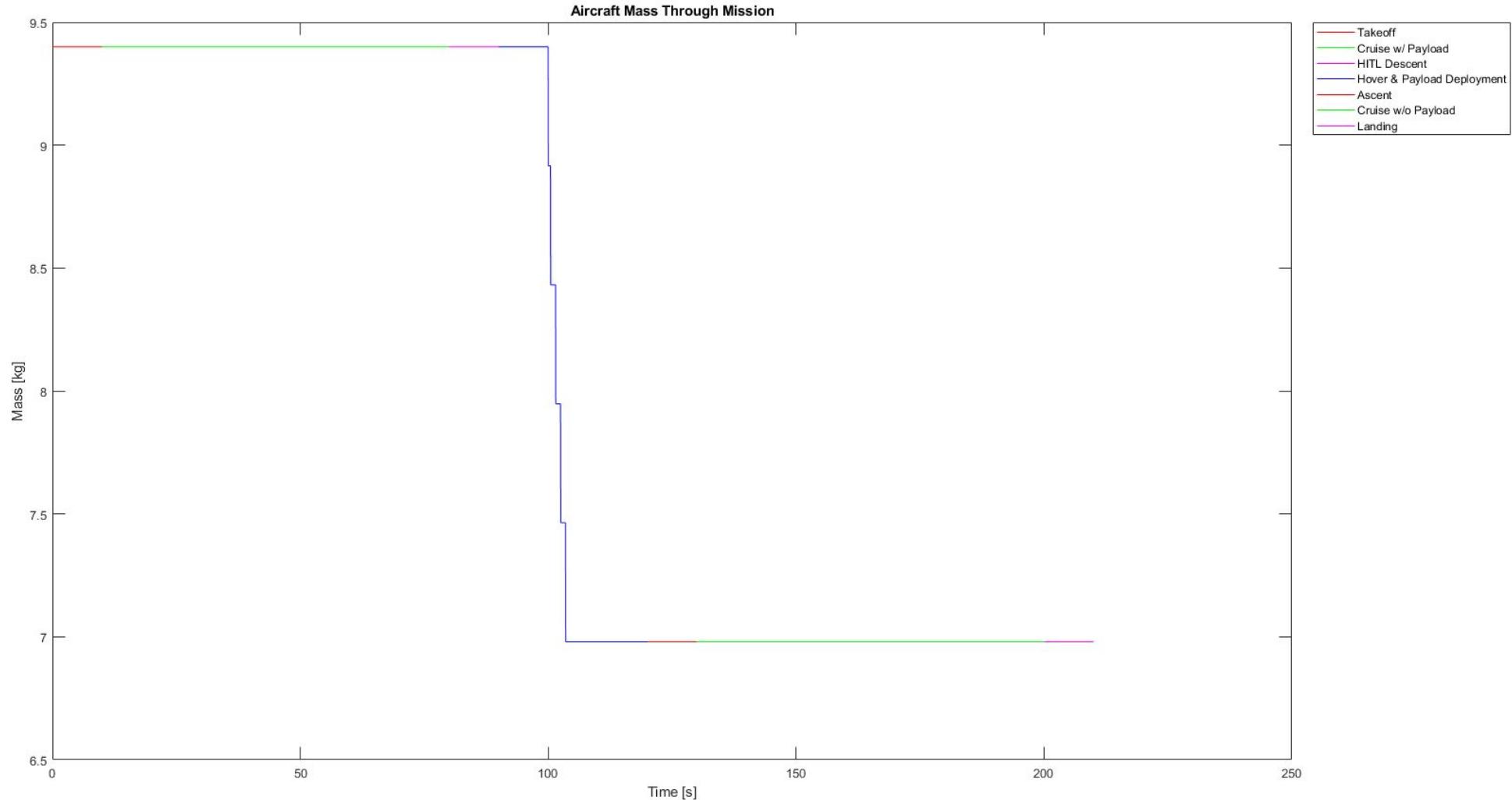
Dynamics Model: Plots (Continued)



Dynamics Model: Plots (Continued)



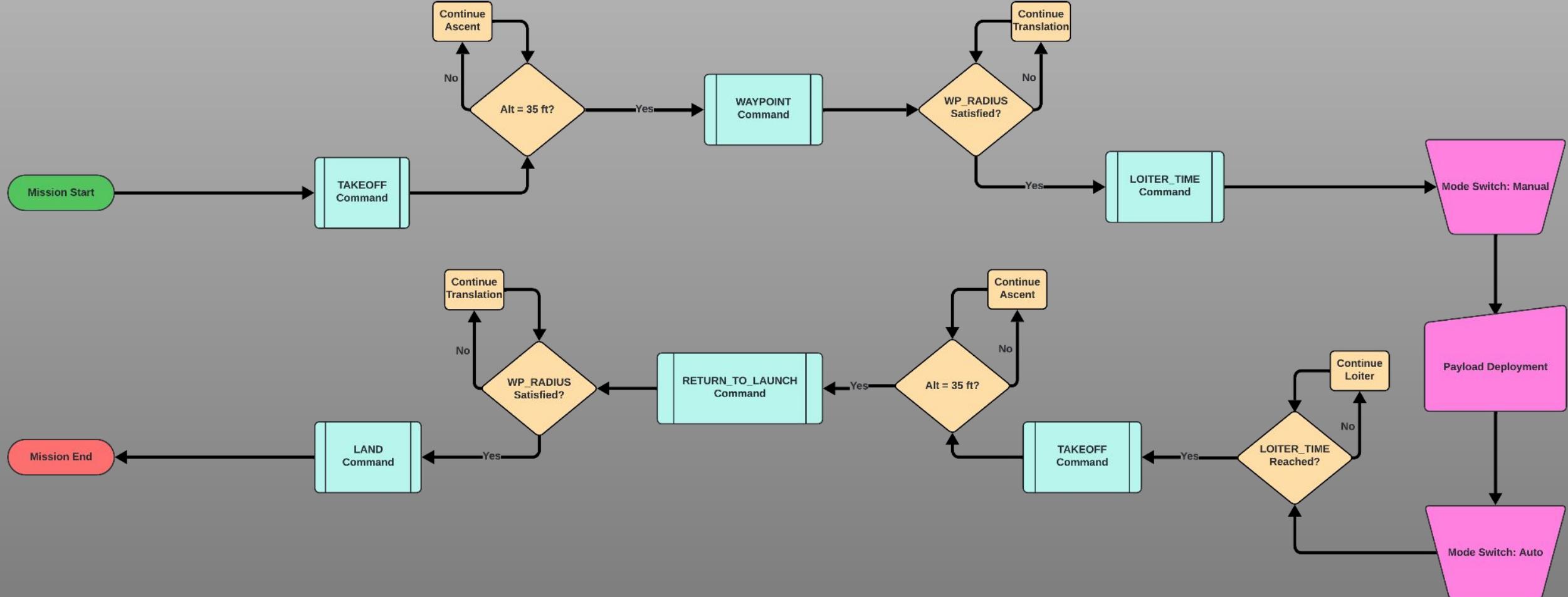
Dynamics Model: Plots (Continued)





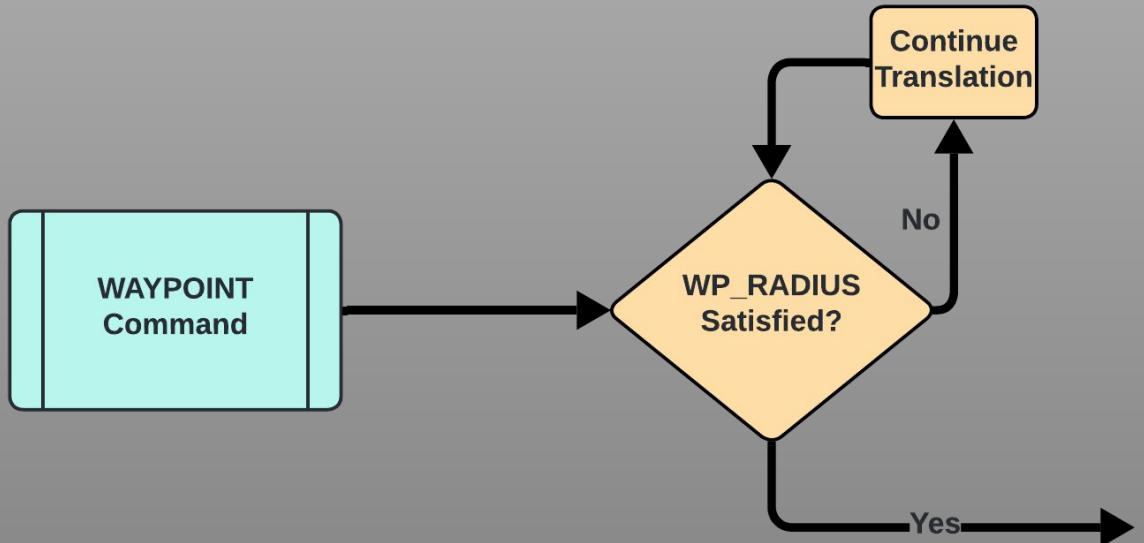
Software/Electrical

ArduPilot Mission Architecture



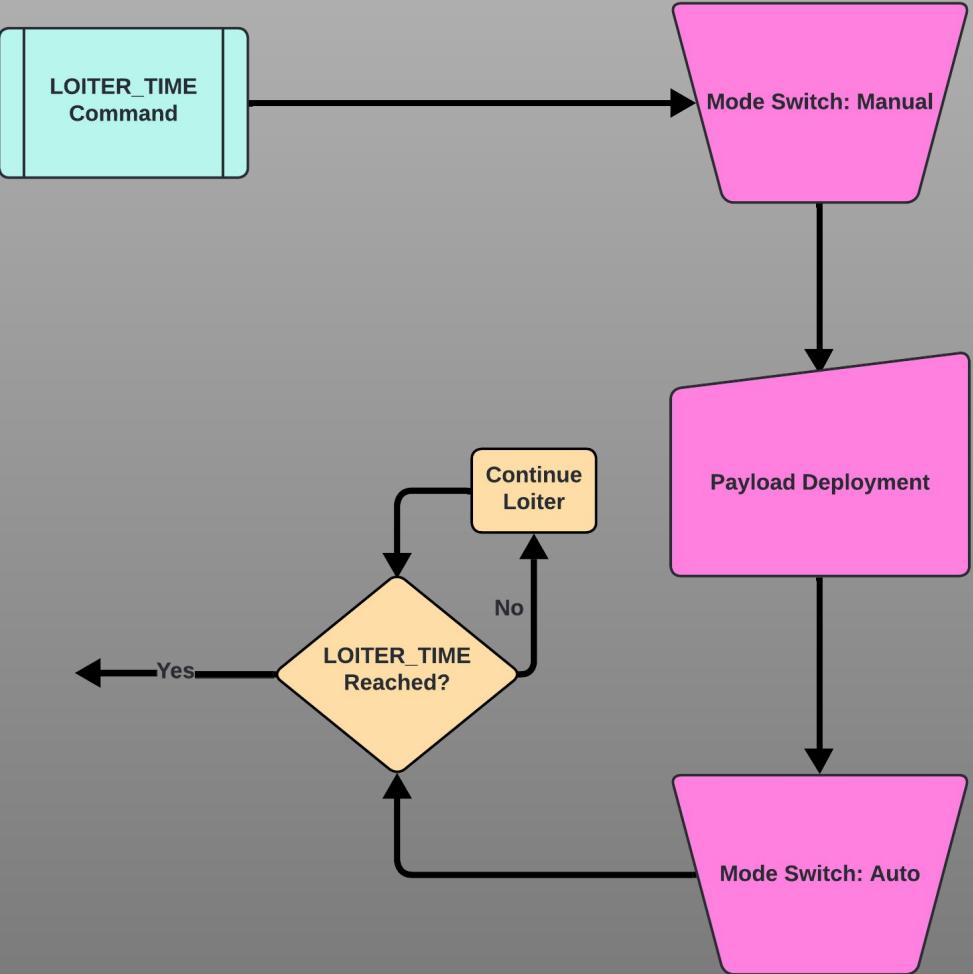
ArduPilot Mission Architecture

- WAYPOINT
 - Entered through latitude and longitude
- WP_RADIUS
 - Configurable parameter prior to mission start
 - Have a 10m requirement
 - Extended Kalman Filter 3 (EKF3)
 - Estimated position and attitude
 - 3 IMUs → 3 EKF3 “calculations” in parallel
 - Will use the EKF3 output with the best health
 - Based on consistency of sensor data
 - [Extended Kalman Filter Navigation Overview and Tuning — Dev documentation](#)



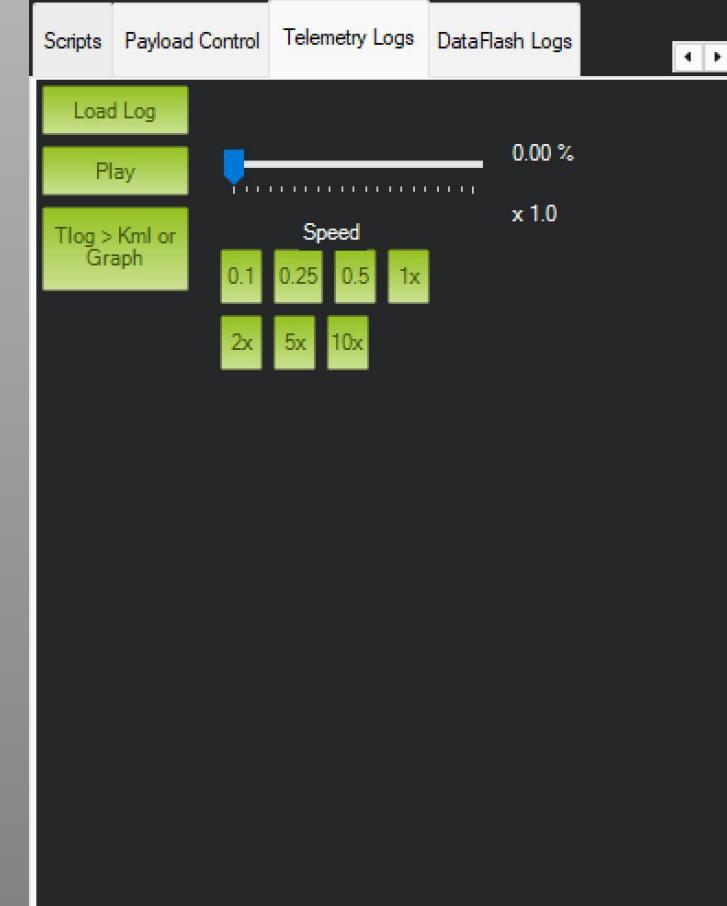
ArduPilot Mission Architecture

- LOITER_TIME
 - Configurable within mission setup
- Mode Switch: Manual
 - On RC Controller
 - Will pause mission commands
 - Will be done once drone has stopped translation
 - Telemetry data/visual observation
- Mode Switch: Auto
 - On RC Controller
 - Will resume mission commands
 - Will be done once payload deployed
 - Visual inspection on camera
- PID Gains
 - Tune for lighter weight
 - Adjust acceleration parameters by ratio of min_TOW/max_TOW
 - Units of centidegrees per second squared
 - Per ArduPilot "Tuning Instructions"



Data Management

- Log Types
 - DataFlash
 - Logs are stored on an SD card
 - Downloadable via Mavlink
 - Export MATLAB file
 - Telemetry
 - Recorded by ground station
 - Information sent via SiK Radio
 - Graph within Mission Planner
 - Redundancy
 - Data loss prevention



Mission Planner GUI: Mission Planning



The screenshot shows the Mission Planner 1.3.82 build 1.3.8979.17128 ArduCopter V4.5.7 (f8d13d34) interface. The top bar includes icons for DATA, PLAN, SETUP, CONFIG, SIMULATION, and HELP. The ARDUPILOT section shows connection details: TCP 115200, TCP5760-1-HEXAROTC, Stats..., MISSION, Zoom 18.0, GEO -35.362504, 149.163394, SRTM 583.00m. On the left, a map view shows a green circle with point '4' and a yellow rectangle. A red box highlights the right panel, which contains buttons for Grid, View KML, GoogleHybridMap (selected), Status: loaded tiles, Inject Custom Map, Load File, Save File, Loaded SeniorMission, Read, Write, Write Fast, and Home Location (Lat: -35.363351, Long: 149.1652413, ASL: 587.15). The bottom left displays the message "Map area loaded -35.3484, -35.3784, 149.1504, 149.1804 in 308.11ms". The bottom right shows a mission log table:

	Command	Time s				Lat	Long	Alt	Frame	Delete		Grad %	Angle	Dist	AZ
1	TAKEOFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	Terrain	X		0	0	0	0
2	WAYPOINT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Relative	X		0	0	0	0
3	TAKEOFF	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	Terrain	X		0	0	0	0
4	LOITER_TIME	3	0	0	0	-35.3631035	149.16343...	0	Relative	X		0.0	0.0	165.9	280
5	RETURN_TO_LAUNCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Relative	X		0	0	0	0
6	LAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Relative	X		0	0	0	0

Mission Commands

- Load pre-saved mission commands
 - Manually set home location via coordinates
 - Manually type altitude and latitude/longitude



Mission Planner GUI: Mission Status



- **Mission Status**
 - Armed/disarmed (safety)
 - Mission timer
 - Battery info
 - Airspeed/ground speed
 - Attitude
 - Assess mission progress
 - Let pilot know when to take control



Mission Planner GUI: Tuning

ARDUPILOT

Basic Tuning

Extended Tuning

Lock Pitch and Roll Values

Stabilize Roll (Error to Rate)	Stabilize Pitch (Error to Rate)	Stabilize Yaw (Error to Rate)	Position XY (Dist to Speed)
P 4.500	P 4.500	P 4.500	P 1.000
ACCEL MA 110000	ACCEL MA 110000	ACCEL MA 27000	INPUT TC 0.150

Rate Roll	Rate Pitch	Rate Yaw	Velocity XY (Vel to Accel)
P 0.135	P 0.135	P 0.300	P 2.0
I 0.135	I 0.135	I 0.020	I 1.000
D 0.0036	D 0.0036	D 0.000	D 0.500
IMAX 0.500	IMAX 0.500	IMAX 0.500	IMAX 100
FLTE 0	FLTE 0	FLTE 2.5	
FLTD 20	FLTD 20	FLTD 20	
FLTT 20	FLTT 20	FLTT 20	

Throttle Accel (Accel to motor)	Throttle Rate (VSpd to accel)	Altitude Hold (Alt to climbrate)	WPNav (cm's)
P 0.50	P 5.000	P 1.000	Speed 1000
I 1.000	Tune None	RC6 Opt Do Nothing	Radius 200
D 0.000	Min 0.000	RC7 Opt Save WP	Speed Up 250
IMAX 80	0.000	RC8 Opt Do Nothing	Speed Dn 150

Filter Logs	Options	RC9 Opt	RC10 Opt
Mask	0	Do Nothing	Do Nothing

Static Notch Filter	Harmonic Notch Filter		
Enabled	Disabled	Attenuation	5
Frequency	0	Bandwidth	5
BandWidth	0	Reference	0
Attenuation	10	Frequency	10
		Options	0
		Harmonics	0

Write Params **Refresh Screen**

-

Tuning

- Follow ArduPilot "Tuning Instructions" for min_TOW



Mission Planner GUI: Parameters

ARDUPILOT Stats... TCP 115200 TCP5760-1-HEXAROTC DISCONNECT

GeoFence

Basic Tuning

Extended Tuning

Onboard OSD

MAVFTP

User Params

Full Parameter List

Planner

Geofence

ACRO

ADSB_TYPE

AHRS

ANGLE_MAX

ARMING

ARSPD_ENABLE

ATC

AUTO_OPTIONS

AUTOTUNE

AVD_ENABLE

AVOID

BARO

BARO1

BARO2

BARO3

BATT

BATT2_MONITOR

BATT3_MONITOR

BATT4_MONITOR

BATT5_MONITOR

BATT6_MONITOR

BATT7_MONITOR

BATT8_MONITOR

BATT9_MONITOR

BCN_TYPE

BRD

BTN_ENABLE

CAM

CAM1_TYPE

CAM2_TYPE

CAN

CC_TYPE

CHUTE_ENABLED

CIRCLE

COMPASS

CUST_ROT_ENABLE

DEV_OPTIONS

DID_ENABLE

DISARM_DELAY

EAHRS_TYPE

EFI_TYPE

EK2_ENABLE

EK3

ESC

FENCE

FFT_ENABLE

FHLD

FILT1_TYPE

Name	Value	Default	Units	Options	Desc	Fav
ACRO_BAL_PITCH	1	1		0.3	rate at which pitch angle returns to level in acro and sport mode. A higher value causes the vehicle to return to level faster. For helicopter sets the decoupling of the vertical axis in the pitch axis. A higher value rate at which roll angle returns to level in acro and sport mode. A higher value causes the vehicle to return to level faster. For helicopter sets the decoupling of the vertical axis in the roll axis. A higher value	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_BAL_ROLL	1	1		0.3	higher value causes the vehicle to return to level faster. For helicopter sets the decoupling of the vertical axis in the roll axis. A higher value	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_OPTIONS	0	0		-0.5 0.95 0 Disabled 1 Very Low	A range of options that can be applied to change acro mode behaviour. Air-mode enables ATC_THR_MIX_MAN at all times (air mode has no effect on helicopters). Beta_Throttle disables the	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_RP_EXPO	0.3	0.3		-0.5 0.95 0 Disabled 1 Very Low	Acro roll/pitch Expo to allow faster rotation when stick at edges	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_RP_RATE	360	360	deg/s	1 1080	Acro mode maximum roll and pitch rate. Higher values mean faster rate of rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_RP_RATE_TC	0	0	s	0.1 0.5 1 Very Soft	Acro roll and pitch rate control input time constant. Low numbers lead to sharper response, higher numbers to softer response	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_THR_MID	0	0		0.1	Acro Throttle Mid	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_TRAINER	2	2		0 Disabled 1 Leveling 2 Coupling and Limited	Type of trainer used in acro mode	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_Y_EXPO	0	0		-0.5 0.95 0 Disabled 1 Very Low	Acro yaw expo to allow faster rotation when stick at edges	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_Y_RATE	202.5	202.5	deg/s	1 360	Acro mode maximum yaw rate. Higher value means faster rate of rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACRO_Y_RATE_TC	0	0	s	0.1 0.5 1 Very Soft	Acro yaw rate control input time constant. Low numbers lead to sharper response, higher numbers to softer response	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADSB_TYPE	0	0		0 Disabled 1 TuAvionix-MAVLink 2 Smeatoh	Type of ADS-B hardware for ADSB-in and ADSB-out configuration and operation. If any type is selected then MAVLink based ADSB-in messages will always be enabled.	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_COMP_BETA	0.1	0.1		0 0.001 0.5	This controls the time constant for the cross-over frequency used to fuse AHRS (airspeed and heading) and GPS data to estimate ground velocity. Time constant is 0.1 Asec. A larger time constant will give	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_EKF_TYPE	3	3		0 Disabled 1 Enable EKF2 2 Enable EKF3	This controls which NavEKF Kalman filter version is used for attitude and position estimation	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_GPS_GAIN	1	1		0 0.10	This controls how much to use the GPS to correct the attitude. This should never be set to zero for a plane as it would result in the plane losing control in turns. For a plane always use the default value of 1.0	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_GPS_MINSATS	6	6		0 10	Minimum number of satellites visible to use GPS for velocity based corrections attitude correction. This defaults to 6, which is about the number of which the velocity information from a GPS becomes less reliable	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_GPS_USE	1	1		0 Disabled 1 Use GPS for DCM position 2 Use GPS for DCM position	This controls whether to use dead-reckoning or GPS based navigation. If set to 0 then the GPS won't be used for navigation, and only dead reckoning will be used. A value of zero should never be	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_OPTIONS	0	0		0 None 1 Yaw45 2 Yaw90	This controls optional AHRS behaviour. Setting DisableDCMFallbackFW will change the AHRS behaviour for fixed wing aircraft in the forward flight to not fall back to DCM when the EKF	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_ORIENTATION	0	0		0 None 1 Yaw45 2 Yaw90	Overall board orientation relative to the standard orientation for the board type. This rotates the IMU and compass readings to allow the board to be oriented in your vehicle at any 90 or 45 degree angle. The	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_RP_P	0.2	0.2		0 1.0 0.4	This controls how fast the accelerometers correct the attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>
AHRS_TRIM_X	0	0	rad	-0.1745 +0.1745	Compensates for the roll angle difference between the control board and the frame. Positive values make the vehicle roll right.	<input type="checkbox"/>

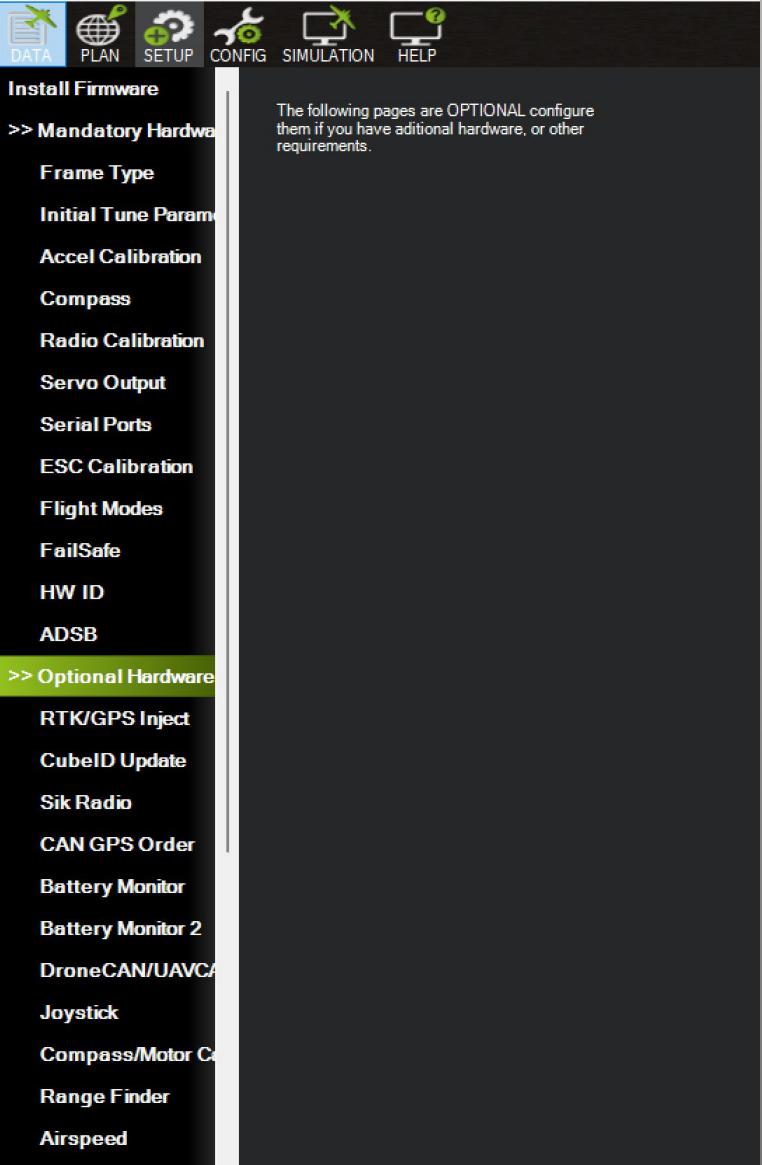
Load from file Save to file Write Params Refresh Params Compare Params All Units in raw format with no scaling 3DR_Iris+_AC34.pz Load Presaved Reset to Default Search Modified None Default

Parameters

- Manually adjust parameters as needed
- Payload deployment



Mission Planner GUI: Setup



- **Hardware**
 - Mandatory
 - Frame type
 - ESC Calibration
 - Set Flight Modes
 - Calibrate PixHawk sensors
 - Optional
 - GPS
 - SiK Radio
 - Battery Monitor (PM03D Power Module)

Specifications



SiK Telemetry Radio V3

- Over 300 meters in range
- Error correction up to 25% of bit errors
- Easy Plug-in to Flight controller.
- 915 MHz Radio Signal
- 125mA at 5V
- Compatible with ArduPilot and Mission Planner

Specifications



RadioMaster ExpressLRS 2.48 GHz Receiver

- 2.48 GHz Signal
- Plug Directly into Flight Controller
- Receives directly from 2.48 GHz Transmitter
- Dual Channel for signal sensitivity
- UART communication protocol

Specifications



12V Remote Control Switch

- Range of 1500 meters
- 433MHz Operation Frequency
- Attached to power module
- 9 V battery

Specification



Remote ID

- Range: > 5km detection range
- 2.4GHz(ERP) Wifi broadcast
- Directly into flight controller
- FAA Guidelines
- 5 Volts

Specifications



Tattu Lipo Battery

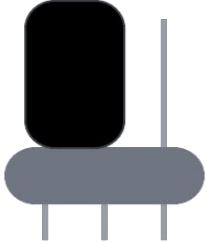
- 16000mAh
- 22.2 V 6S
- 30 Discharge Rate Capacity
- Power Model to prove its success

PM03D Power Module



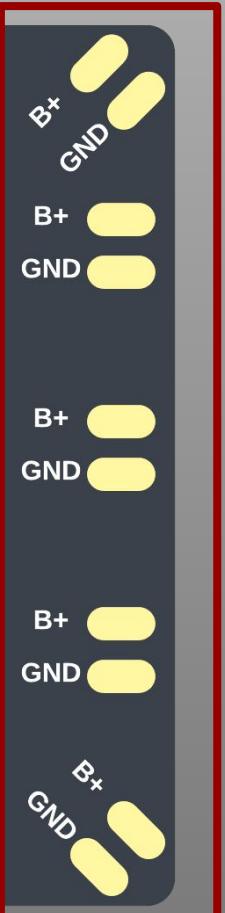
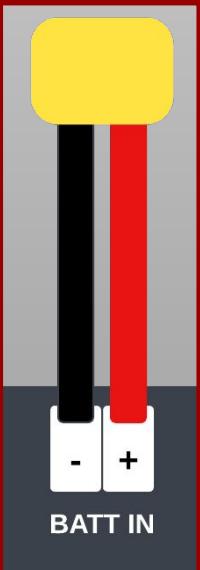
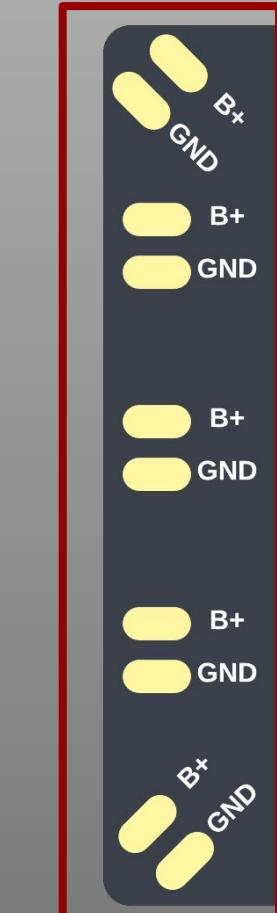
XT90 Connector to 6S (24V)
LiPo battery with 10 AWG wire
and max peak current of 40A

Configure male 3-pin header
to 12V with header jumper

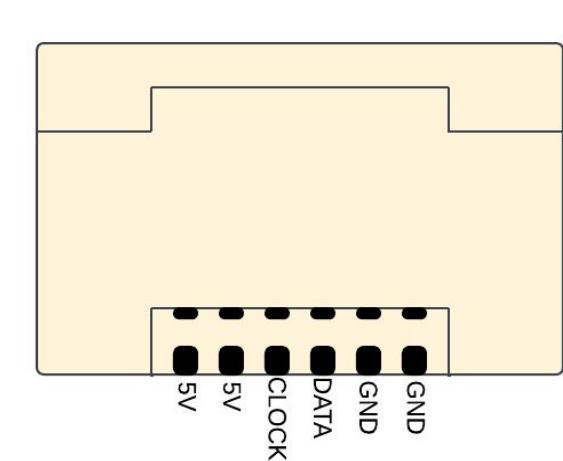


5V or 12V
GND
5V 3-pin male header to
camera and video transmitter
(left)

12V 3-pin male header to
remote switch & Solenoid
valve (right)



Solder pads to ESCs and
motors, outputs battery
voltage of 24V and max
peak current of 40A



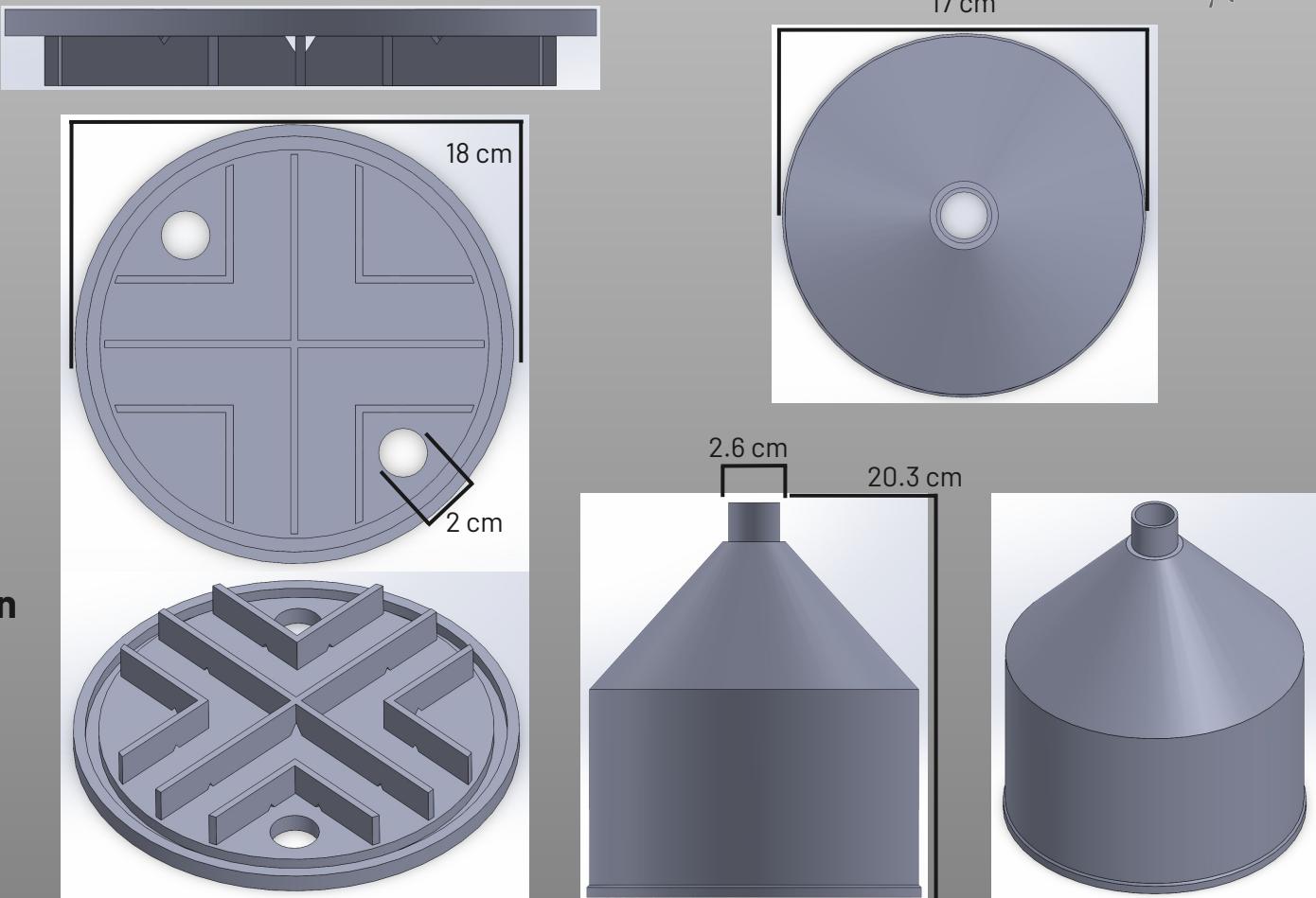
I2C digital signal data output and
Pixhawk 6X power (5V) with JST
GH receptacle connector

Hardware

Payload Deployment Subsystem: Container



- ~10 % Payload Margin
- **Payload Stability / Fluid Flow**
 - Baffles
 - Angled walls to promote outflow
 - Airflow/Fill Ports
- **Manufacturing Constraints - 3D Printing**
 - Overhang <50 degrees
 - Minimize support material
- **Structural Analysis - Design Space Optimization**
 - Minimize surface area (container mass)
 - Minimize moment of inertia
- **Airframe Integration**
 - To be completed after airframe delivery



Cylinder Height	Total Height	Slant Angle	Top Radius	Bottom Radius	Contained Payload Volume	PLA Volume	Estimated PLA Density	Estimated PLA Mass	Estimated Total Mass
9.94 cm	16 cm	48 deg	8 cm	1.27 cm	2,479 cm ³	255 cm ³	1.24 g/cm ³	316 g	2,735 g



Payload Deployment Subsystem: Deployment Mechanism

Remote Switch



Solenoid Valve



1" NPT - Schedule 40 Slip Coupling



Vinyl Tubing



Airframe Subsystem

Frame Selected: Tarot T960 Hexacopter

- Carbon fiber arms, legs, motor mounts
- Aluminum arm locking mechanisms
- Adjustable battery Mounting Plate



Total Mass	Tip to Tip Length	Landing Gear Clearance	Standard Propeller Size
2.12 kg	960 mm	320 mm	18"

Safety



Personnel: Safety Teams

- **Flight team**
 - Aircraft Inspection lead (AIL)
 - Ethan Davis
 - Facilitate pre/post-flight safety checks
 - Software Inspection Lead (SIL)
 - Jared Steffen
 - Ensure all electronics are primed with up-to-date software and amply charged for testing/mission
- **Fire Safety Team**
 - Fire Extinguisher Handler (FEH)
 - Alex Putnam
 - Responsible handling of a fire extinguisher in event of combustion
- **Injury Team**
 - Designated Driver (DD)
 - Ian McCarty
 - Responsible for transportation to nearest hospital if injury occurs
 - Boulder Fire Department Contactor (FD Contactor)
 - Jack Pearse
 - Responsible for contacting Boulder FD if necessary

★ FAA required position
★ 91-57C certified Pilot



Personnel: Nominal Flight Ops Team

- **Mission Leader (ML)**
 - Drew Kane
 - Responsible for overall direction of the mission in coordination with PIC
 - Cannot override PIC regarding operation of aircraft
- **Flight Operations Coordinator (FOC)**
 - Brady Sivey
 - Responsible for all ground-based operations, delegates tasks as necessary
- **Flight Crew Lead (FCL)**
 - Braden Nelson
 - Must oversee operations and ensure airworthiness

★ FAA required position
★ 91-57C certified Pilot

Personnel: Nominal Flight Ops Team

- **Pilot In Control (PIC) ★ / Pilot at Controls (PAC-M)**
 - Donovan Gavito ★
 - Pilot the drone and responsible for all Flight Operations and Safety
- **Pilot At Control Of Ground Station (PAC-0)**
 - Maximillian Brown ★
 - Pilot at Controls for the Ground Station
- **Visual Observer (VO) ★**
 - Braden Nelson, Christian Bowman ★, Jared Steffen
 - Primary visual observer responsible to mention issues that are noticeable
- **Reloading Unit (RU)**
 - Josh Geeting, Ethan Davis
 - Responsible for safely reloading the aircraft with the new payload in between mission legs

★ FAA required position
★ 91-57C certified Pilot

FLAME Autonomous Firefighting UAS Reloading ConOps



Legend:

- Vertical Motion (Takeoff/Landing)
- Ground Station Command Area
- Reloading Area
- Payload
- Ground Station Area
- Landing/Takeoff Pad
- Crew Movement

