Our project team is composed of 20 UC San Diego engineering students who are seeking to develop innovative solutions to challenging, technical problems for high powered rocketry (particularly with respect to liquid methane, liquid oxygen propellant rockets).

“We see the ability to design, build, and test bi-propellant liquid-fueled rockets as a key career skill in the coming decades, with a host of new, innovative rocket companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin and Orbital ATK taking spaceflight in entirely new directions,” Robert Zubrin, president of the Mars Society, said. “Using methane as a fuel is a critical component for missions to the planet Mars, as it is easy to create liquid-methane out of the resources already available on that world.”

**Please describe how you think your proposal will successfully impact our goal to improve education for all.**

This project takes a step towards opening opportunities in the rapidly growing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Supporting RPL’s effort towards competing in the FAR and MARS Society launch competition will enable engineers at UC San Diego to develop the necessary skills to be competitive within aerospace industry after graduation. Further, the two $50,000 rewards for the winning the competition goes directly to UC San Diego to be used for scholarships for students in the STEM fields related to rocketry.