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Colorado School of Mines: MAST – Modular Adaptive Separation Technology



“From Icebergs to Orbit,
Powered by PESTO”

Topic and Scope

The Problem: Cryogenic Boil-off:

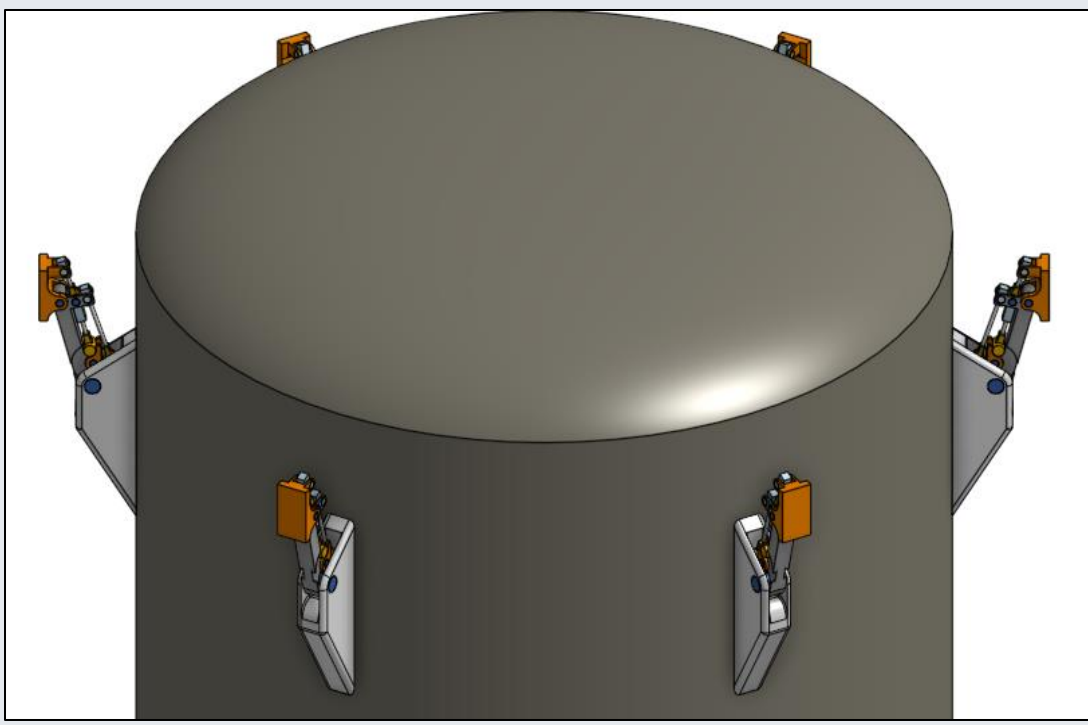
- Excessive heat causes vaporization
- Increases needed fuel at launch

Our Approach:

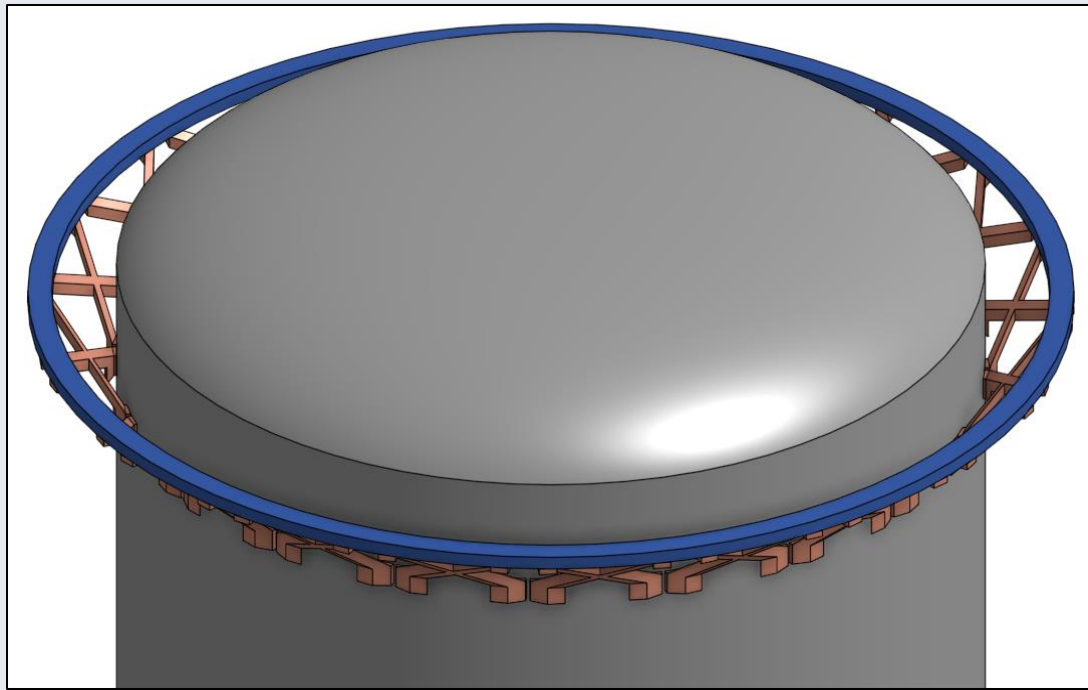
- Utilize tank retractable tank supports
- Decouple conductive elements
- Reduce heat transfer, boiloff
- Validate load-bearing capabilities

Criticality:

- Extended missions face fuel challenges
- Thermal equilibrium becomes problematic



MAST
tank
structure



Typical
tank
structure

Requirements

Major low-level:

- TRL Level of ~4
- Justify low TRL
- Prevent kilowatts of heat transfer
- Support 290 kN at launch
- Survive launch vibrations
- Minimum FoS of 1.5
- Weigh at most 25 kg

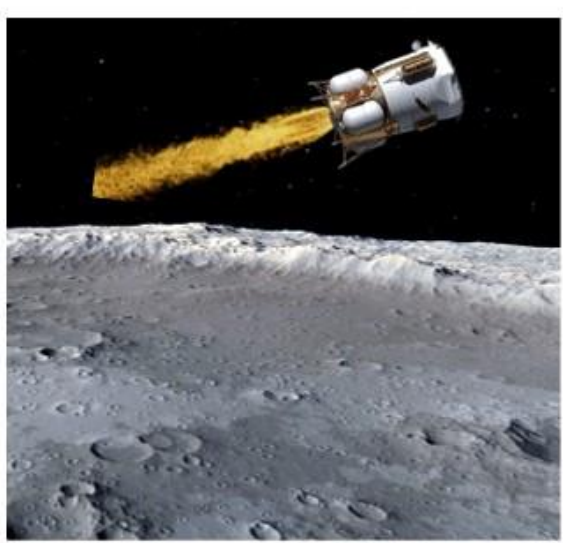
Type	Req	Requirement
High Level	HL1	The design shall be easily adaptable to NASA adoption.
High Level	HL2	The design shall survive in a space environment.
High Level	HL3	The design shall be fieldable in 3 – 5 years (Artemis III).
High Level	HL4	The design shall not pose additional risks to the crew.
High Level	HL5	The design shall survive launch and landing loads.
High Level	HL6	The design shall survive a mission duration of multiple months.

Operational Viewpoint

Modes of Operation

High Load Phase

- Support arm is engaged to provide stability during high structural load conditions
- Provides required structural load path

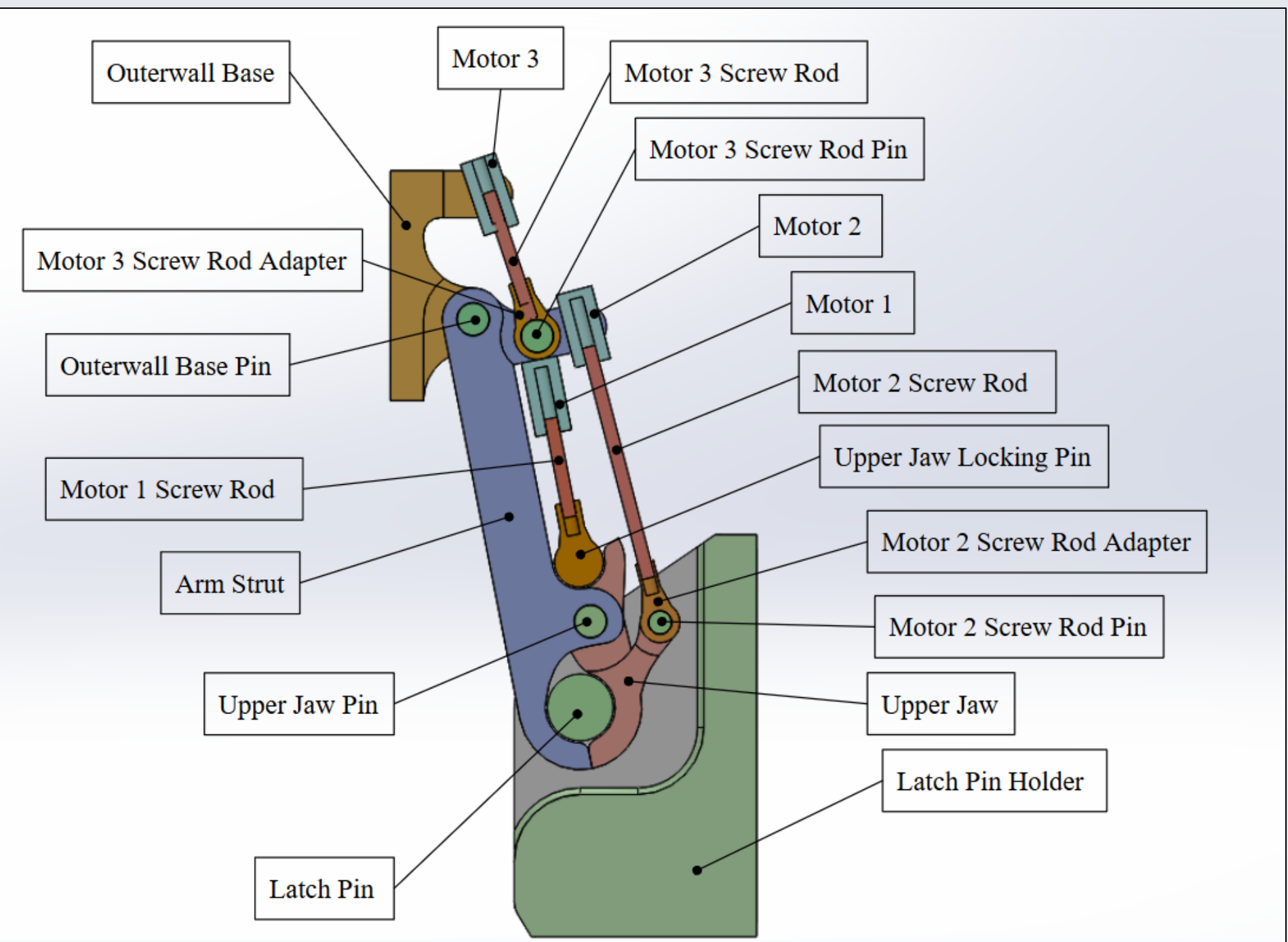


Low Load Phase

- Support arm is released to eliminate points of heat transfer across structural load path
- Support can change configuration repeatedly based on mission needs

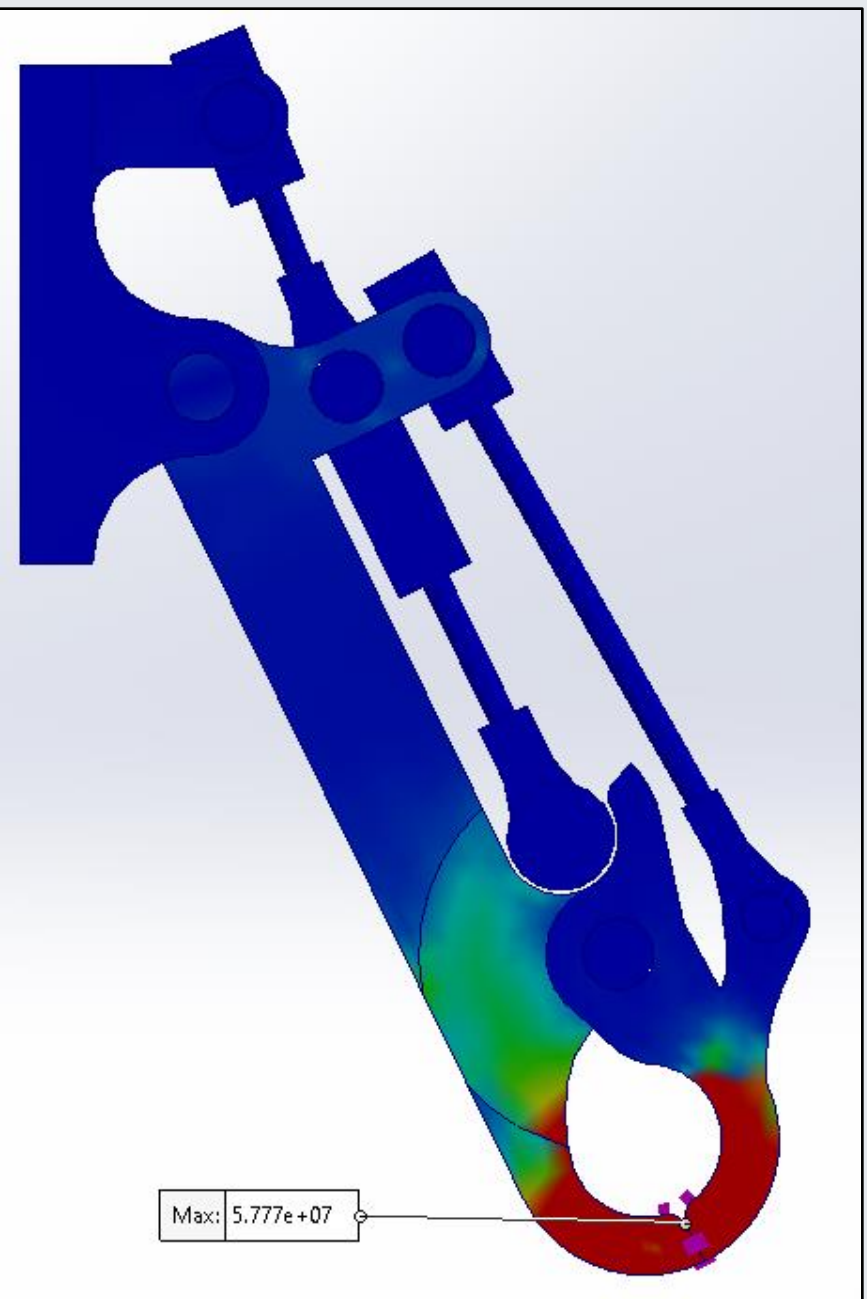


Solution Details



- Designed for 12 supports
- 23.8 kg in mass
- 55.4 x 29.9 x 10 cm
- Modular in design
- Ti-5Al-2.5Sn Alloy

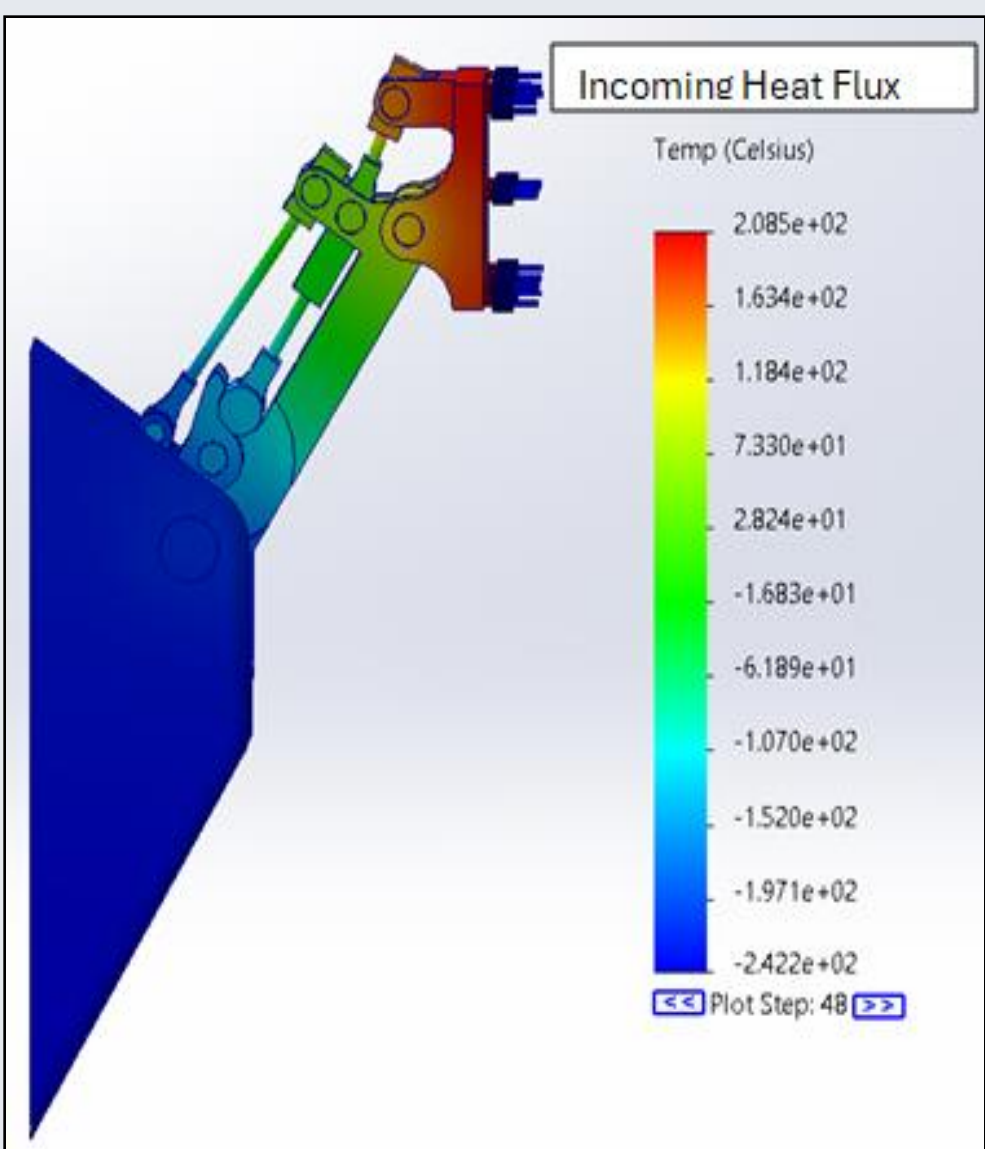
Mechanical Loading



Launch
Stress Plot

- Use SolidWorks Simulator
- Launch Test:
 - Vibrational and thrust considerations
- Launch FoS: 14.31
- Drop Test (lunar):
 - 3.1 ft/s
 - Drop FoS: 10.3

Thermal Analysis



Heat
transfer
plot

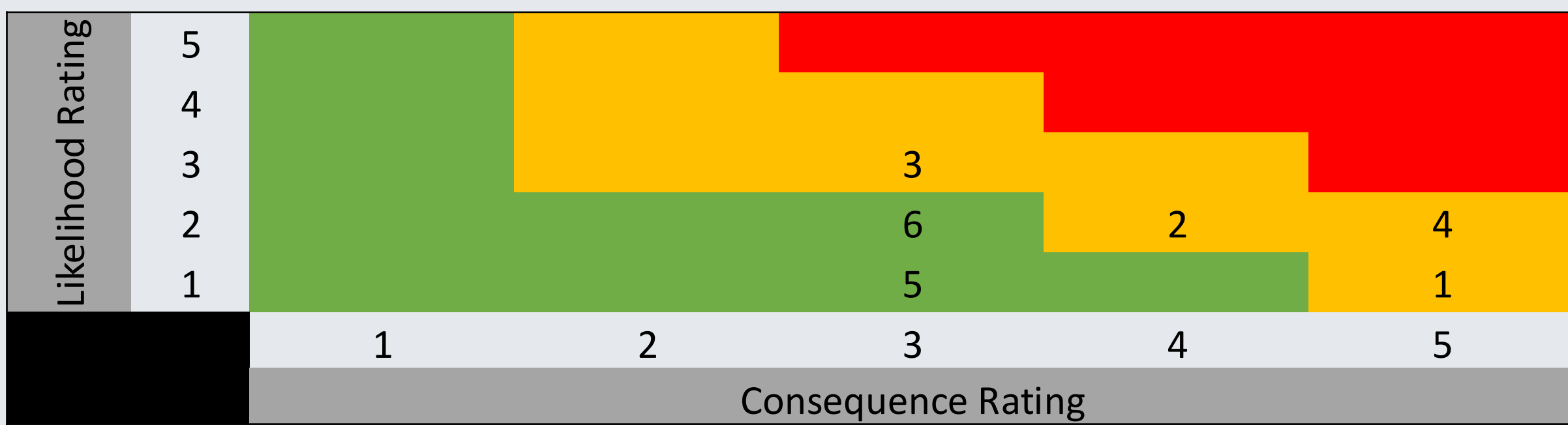
- Incoming heat flux of 1410 W/m²
- Initial Conditions:
 - Arm strut: –150 °C
 - Latch pin holder: –253 °C
 - 28 W of transfer per support
 - 0.378 g/s boiloff
 - 97% reduction in boiloff

Budget and Schedule

Items	Lunar Landing Cost	Lunar (UC)	LEO Launch Cost	LEO (UC)
Resource	Cost	Uncertainty Cost	Cost	Uncertainty Cost
Material	\$216,672.00	\$246,412.80	\$216,672.00	\$246,412.80
Manufacture	\$53,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$53,000.00	\$70,000.00
Integrate and Test	\$2,430,000.00	\$1,611,500.00	\$810,000.00	\$1,611,500.00
Launch	\$285,600,000.00	\$357,000,000.00	\$856,800.00	\$1,071,000.00
Total	\$288,299,672.00	\$358,927,912.80	\$1,936,472.00	\$2,998,912.80

Phase	Estimated Time (Months)
Planning	4.5
Testing and Iteration	9.5
Manufacturing for Assembly	4
Assembly	3.5
Integration with Spacecraft	3
Safety Checks	2
Total (Months)	26.5

Risk Mitigation



Major risks:

- Structural damage during mission
- Spacing for MAST is too small
- Design is too heavy
- Structure cannot handle launch forces

Mitigation Plans:

- Analyze and test to ensure FoS requirement
- Use standard tank clearance (Artemis III)
- Optimize structural mass
- Simulate and test to replicate launch environment

Alignment

- HL1 –
 - Based on NASA standards
 - Justifies low TRL solution with high TRL components
- HL2 –
 - Electronic and mechanical components verified
 - Titanium alloy prevents overheating
- HL3 –
 - Fieldable in just over two years
 - Pairs with existing NASA technology
- HL4 –
 - Mechanically and thermally verified
- HL5 –
 - Verified using SolidWorks Simulator
- HL6 –
 - Non-load bearing during low load phase