



Orbital Express Autonomous Rendezvous and Capture Flight Operations

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Orbital Express (OE) Flight Demonstration



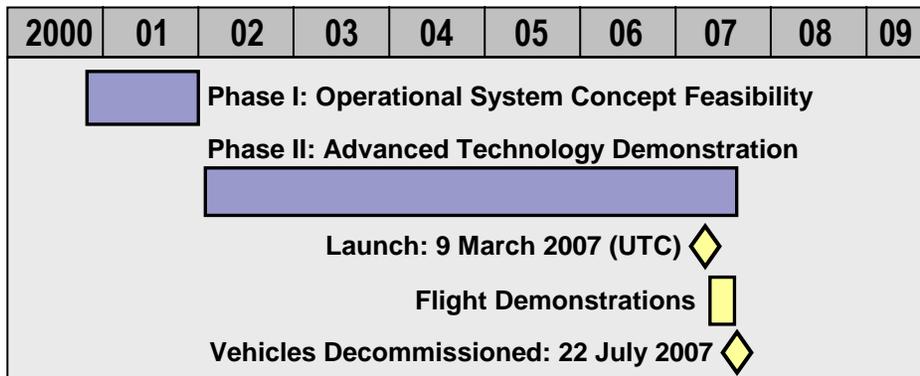
Program Objectives

- Design and develop 2 demonstration servicing satellites
 - ASTRO (Boeing)
 - NextSat (Ball)
- New levels of spacecraft autonomy
- Atlas V launch
- 492 x 492 km, 46° orbit
- 3-month demonstration period
- Post-demonstration application on operational spacecraft



Autonomous Technologies

- Long-range rendezvous & capture without ground assistance
- Onboard & ground-commanded abort and collision avoidance
- Soft direct capture
- Grapple & berth
- Hydrazine propellant transfer
- Robotic battery & computer transfer

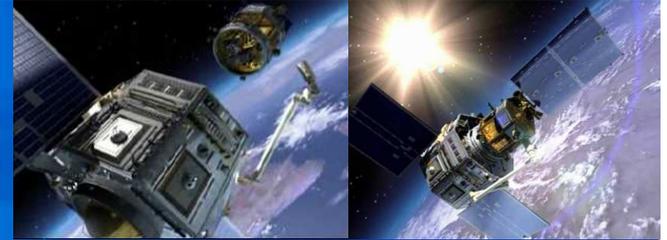




Mission Summary



- ❑ 7 AR&C exercises planned, 5 executed (plus end-of-life)
 - ▶ Second exercise satisfied 3 exercises
- ❑ Fuel expenditure on 4 exercises slightly lower than predicted
 - ▶ Prior to end-of-life exercise, ASTRO had 127 of 144 kg usable fuel remaining (88%)
 - ▶ After end-of-life exercise, but prior to decommissioning, ASTRO had 98 kg usable fuel remaining (68%)
 - ▶ After decommissioning, ASTRO had 0 kg fuel
- ❑ Mission had its share of problems
 - ▶ Some hardware, mostly software
 - ▶ Each resolved by OE ground team
 - ▶ Both vehicles healthy prior to decommissioning
- ❑ Several firsts in autonomous operations
- ❑ Numerous lessons learned from things that went right & things that went wrong
- ❑ Total mission success – all mated & unmated objectives met

A large satellite with multiple solar panels is shown in orbit over the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing land and water. The moon is also visible in the background.

AR&C Exercise #1

(Scenario 2-1)
6 May 2007 (UTC)

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AR&C Exercise #1



Movie



AR&C Exercise #1 Plan



- ❑ First U.S. demonstration of autonomous rendezvous & capture (AR&C)
 - ▶ World's first AR&C without target vehicle transmitting its navigation data
- ❑ Fully separate ASTRO from NextSat for the first time
- ❑ Max range = 12 m
- ❑ Unmated 1^h 53^m 29^s within $\pm 5^m$
 - ▶ Onboard-commanded countdown
 - ▶ Night demate over COOK AFSCN
 - ▶ Separation to 10 meter stationkeep
 - ▶ Approach
 - ▶ Night direct capture & mate over BOSS
 - ▶ Return to solar inertial attitude



AR&C Exercise #1 Plan



- ❑ Instructions preloaded at demate minus 4 hours
 - ▶ Ground hands-off until operation complete with vehicles mated & returned to solar inertial attitude
 - ▶ Onboard subsystem monitoring – and abort commanding, if needed
 - ▶ Ground subsystem monitoring – and backup abort commanding, if needed
- ❑ Redundant, dissimilar rendezvous sensors
 - ▶ Boeing passive camera-based tracking (Vis-STAR)
 - ▶ NASA-MSFC laser-based Advanced Video Guidance Sensor (AVGS)



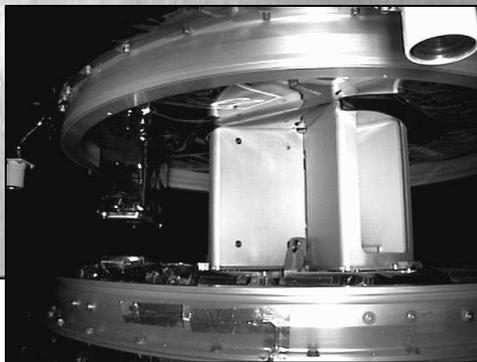
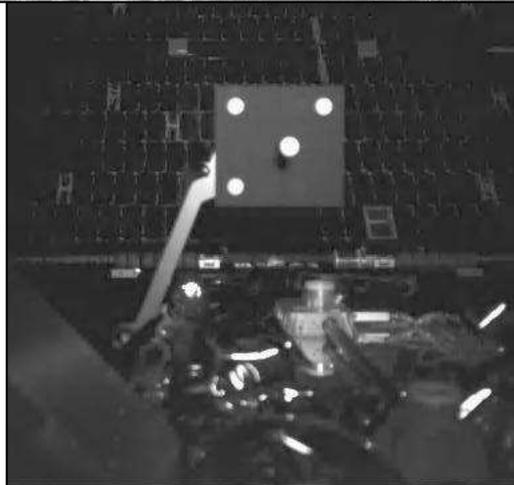
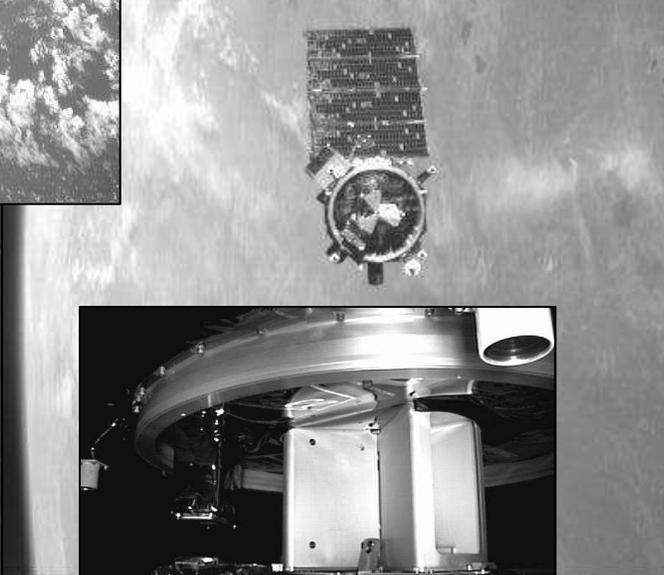
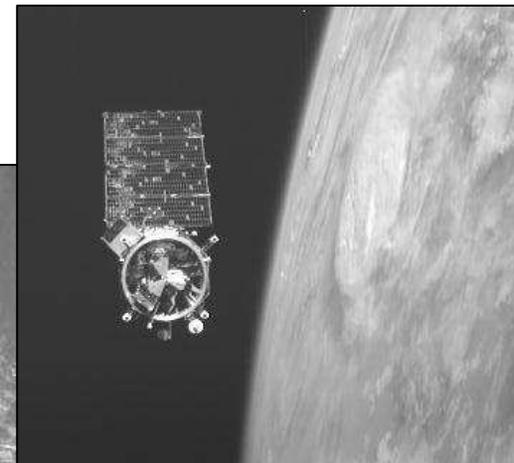
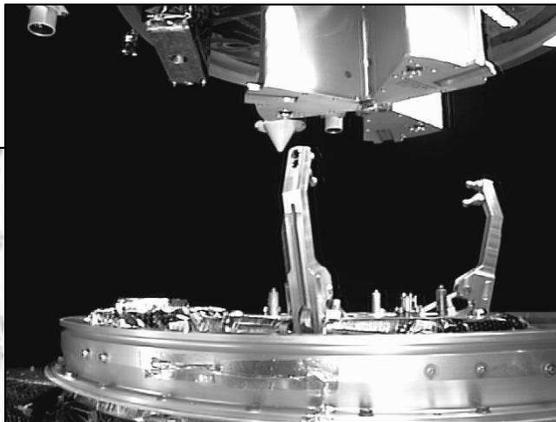
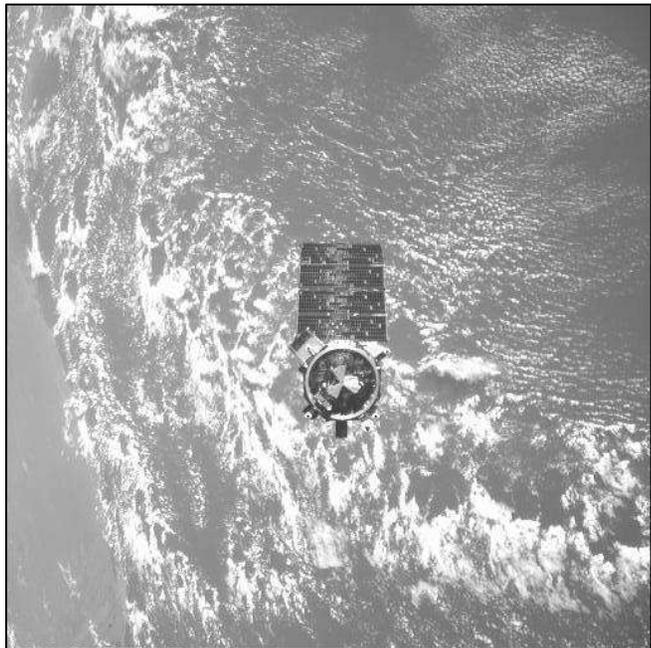
AR&C Exercise #1 Results

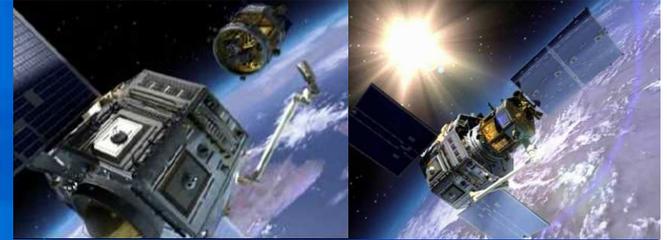


- ❑ 100% success
 - ▶ Fully autonomous, ground hands-off entire time
 - ▶ World's first AR&C without target vehicle assistance
- ❑ Max range = 12 m
- ❑ Unmated for 1^h 57^m 5^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): May 6th at 5^h 22^m 36^s
 - ▶ Capture initiation: May 6th at 7^h 17^m 51^s
 - ▶ Mate: May 6th at 7^h 19^m 41^s
- ❑ Mixed sensor performance
 - ▶ Wide FOV visible camera tracked inside 2 m & beyond 9 m (daylight), but not in between
 - ▶ IR camera provided good angle data but not attitude
 - ▶ AVGS continuous track entire time
- ❑ GN&C & propulsion behaved well
- ❑ Batteries remained charged
- ❑ NextSat maintained good-to-excellent solar inertial attitude
- ❑ Propellant use = 0.3 kg
 - ▶ Pre-exercise estimate = 0.4 kg



AR&C Exercise #1 Photos



A large satellite with multiple solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing land and water. The moon is also visible in the background against a starry sky.

AR&C Exercise #2

(Scenario 3-1)
12-20 May 2007 (UTC)

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AR&C Exercise #2 Plan



- ❑ Max range = 30 m
- ❑ Unmated for 2^h 8^m 16^s within $\pm 5^m$
 - ▶ Night demate over COOK
 - ▶ Separate to 30 m
 - ▶ Approach to 10 m stationkeep
 - ▶ Final approach
- ❑ First autonomous robotic grapple & berth
 - ▶ Night pass over BOSS
- ❑ Updated camera sensor inputs



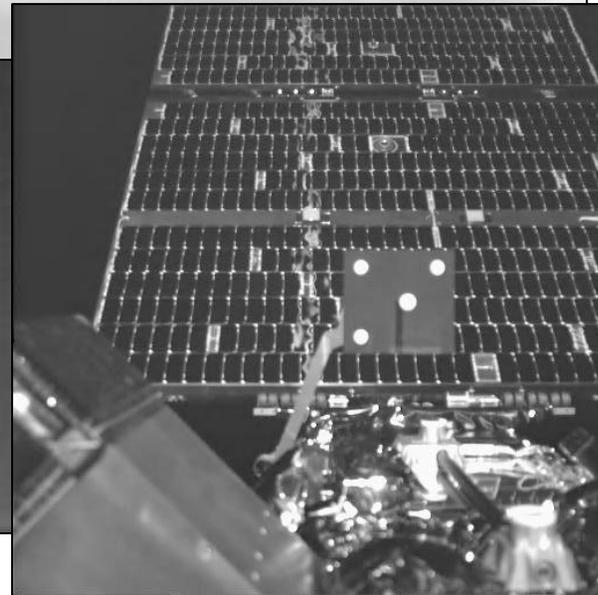
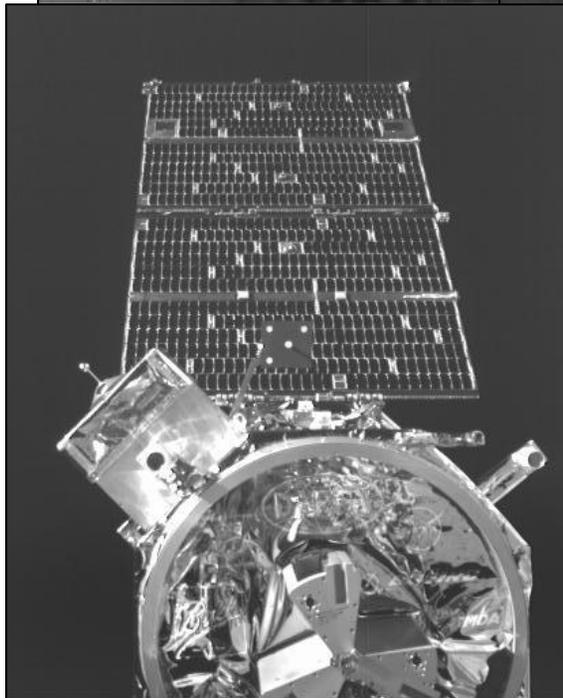
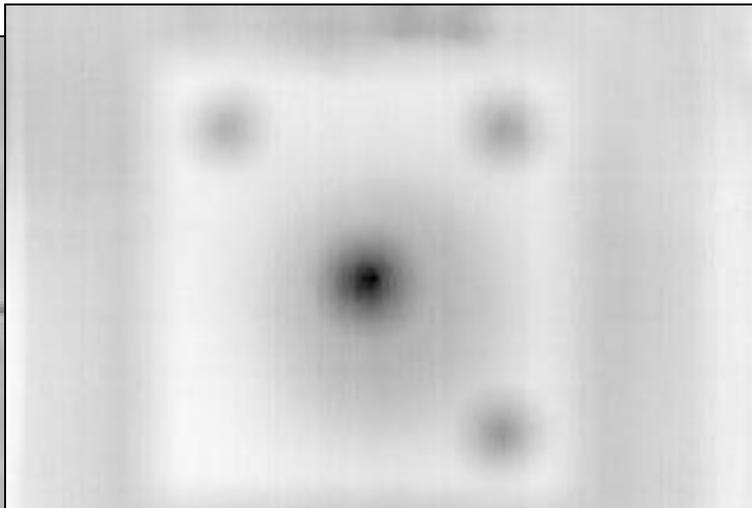
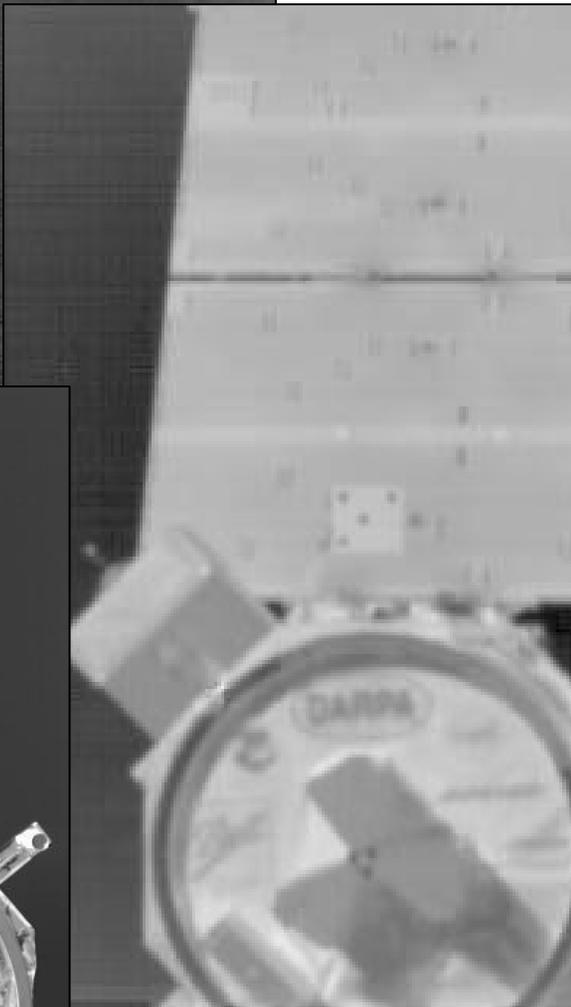
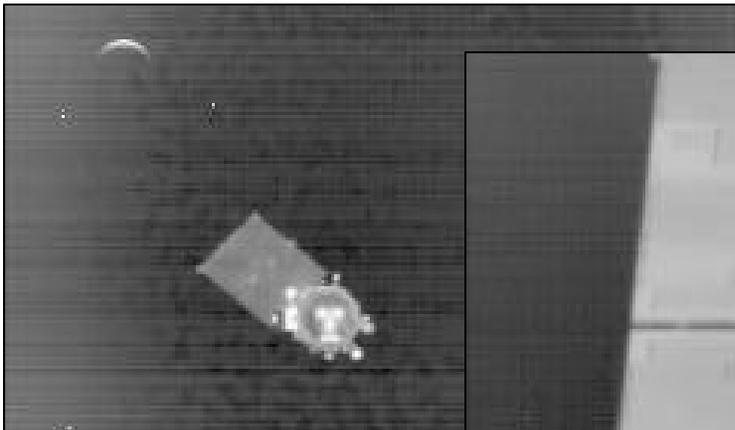
AR&C Exercise #2 Results

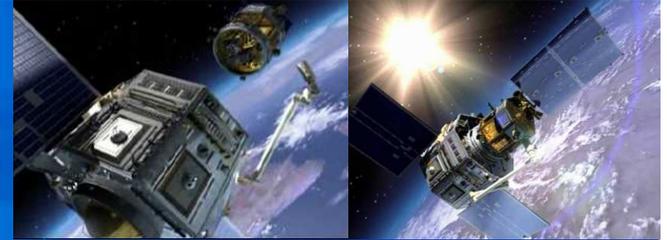


- ❑ Max range = 6 km
- ❑ Unmated for 7^d 22^h 25^m 30^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): May 12th at 4^h 28^m 52^s
 - ▶ Capture initiation: May 20th at 2^h 52^m 30^s
 - ▶ Mate: May 20th at 2^h 54^m 22^s
- ❑ Flawless separation to 30 m, return to 10 m, initial stationkeep
 - ▶ Camera continuous track entire time
 - ▶ AVGS continuous track entire time
- ❑ Three problems ensued
 - ▶ Sensor computer processor failed during 10 m stationkeep
 - ▶ IR camera locked onto bright pixels during 120 m stationkeep
 - ▶ Ground “nudge” command resulted in large erroneous burn
- ❑ 2 hours turned into 8 days of relative navigation recovery
- ❑ Ended with +V-bar approach and direct capture
- ❑ Propellant use = 4.1 kg
 - ▶ Pre-exercise estimate = 0.8 kg



AR&C Exercise #2 Photos



A large satellite with multiple solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing land and water. The moon is also visible in the background.

AR&C Exercise #3

(Scenario 5-1)
16 June 2007 (UTC)

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AR&C Exercise #3 Plan



- ❑ Max range = 120 m
- ❑ Unmated for 4^h 46^m 54^s within $\pm 5^m$
 - ▶ Daylight demate over LION with sun $\beta = -3.3^\circ$
 - ▶ Solar inertial separation to 70 m below/right of NextSat
 - ▶ Large 47 m crosstrack
 - ▶ $\pm 120 \times 60$ m elliptical flyaround
 - Natural motion with correction burns as needed
 - Single-orbit rate
 - ▶ +120 m stationkeep
 - ▶ -R-bar approach
 - ▶ Daylight mate over TDRSS with $\beta = -2.6^\circ$
- ❑ Sensor redundancy
 - ▶ Vis-STAR track entire time
 - ▶ AVGS track during corridor separation & approach
- ❑ Direct capture



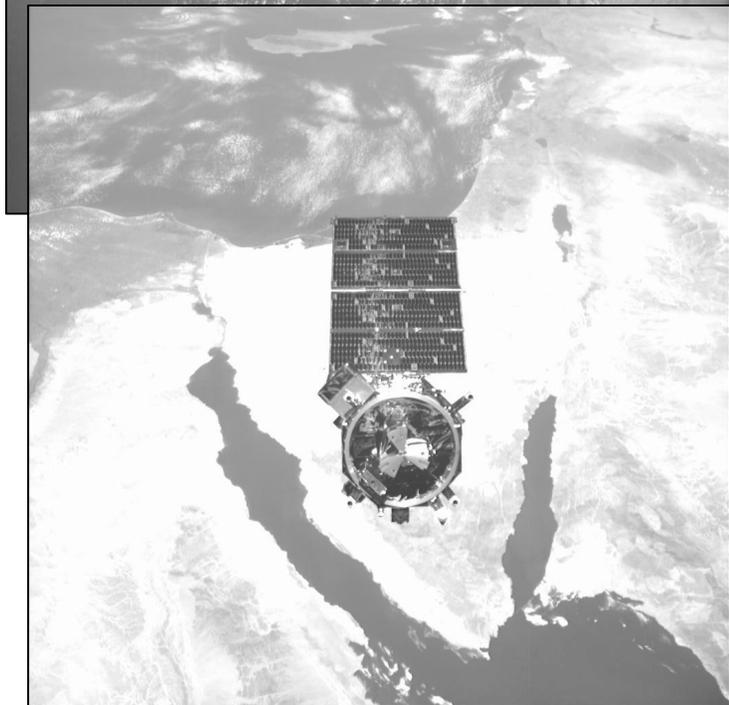
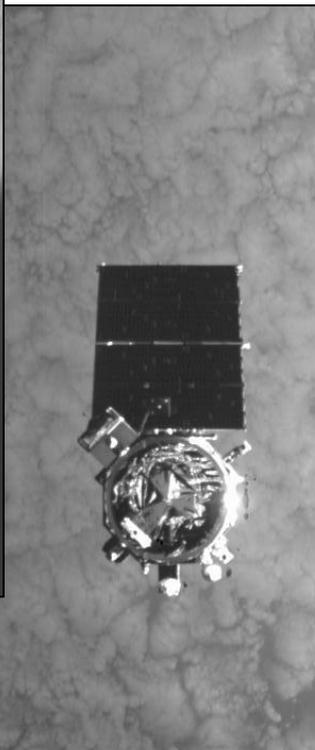
AR&C Exercise #3 Results



- Max range = 120 m
- Unmated for 4^h 51^m 7^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): June 16th at 9^h 47^m 2^s
 - ▶ Capture initiation: June 16th at 14^h 36^m 22^s
 - ▶ Mate: June 16th at 14^h 38^m 9^s
- Fully autonomous, flawless execution
- Excellent sensor performance
 - ▶ Nearly-continuous Vis-STAR tracking during all phases & lighting conditions, including earth background
 - ▶ Laser rangefinder near-100% accurate returns while beyond 50 m
 - ▶ AVGS near-continuous track while within 27° alignment (98 m outbound)
- GN&C and thrusters behaved nominally (no overheating)
- Batteries remained mostly charged despite LVLH approach
- NextSat properly held solar inertial & LVLH attitudes
- Improved ground understanding of relative navigation settings
- Propellant use = 1.4 kg
 - ▶ Pre-exercise estimate = 2.2 kg



AR&C Exercise #3 Photos



A large satellite with multiple solar panels is shown in space, orbiting Earth. The Earth's surface is visible below, showing land and water. The moon is visible in the background.

AR&C Exercise #4

(Scenario 7-1)
23 June 2007 (UTC)

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AR&C Exercise #4 Plan



- ❑ Max range = 4 km
- ❑ Unmated for 16^h 45^m 59^s within $\pm 5^m$
 - ▶ Daylight demate over GUAM with sun $\beta=24.6^\circ$
 - ▶ Solar inertial separation to 130 m above NextSat
 - ▶ Phasing to -4 km (behind NextSat)
 - ▶ Return to -120 m v-bar stationkeep
 - ▶ 100 m near-circular flyaround
 - Forced-motion, in-plane inspection
 - Single-orbit rate
 - ▶ +120 m v-bar stationkeep
 - ▶ Transfer to 60 m corridor
 - ▶ Solar inertial approach
- ❑ First autonomous robotic grapple & berth
 - ▶ Night pass over REEF or TDRSS with sun $\beta=27.5^\circ$



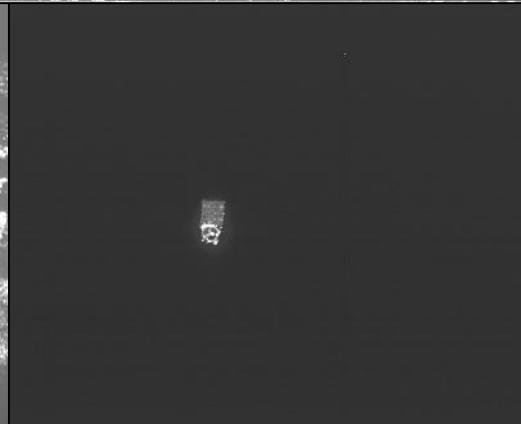
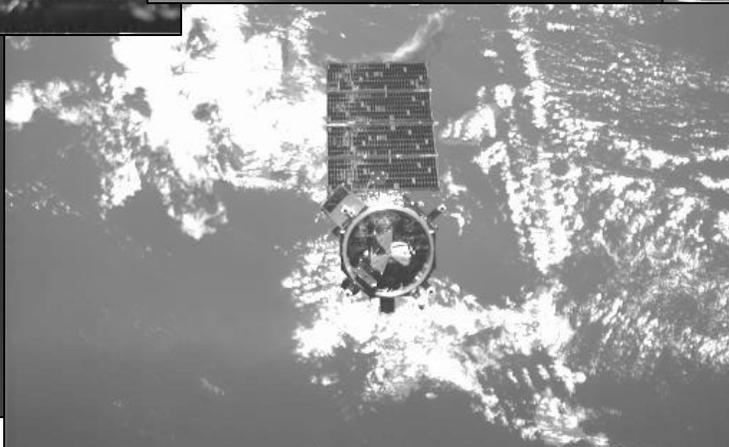
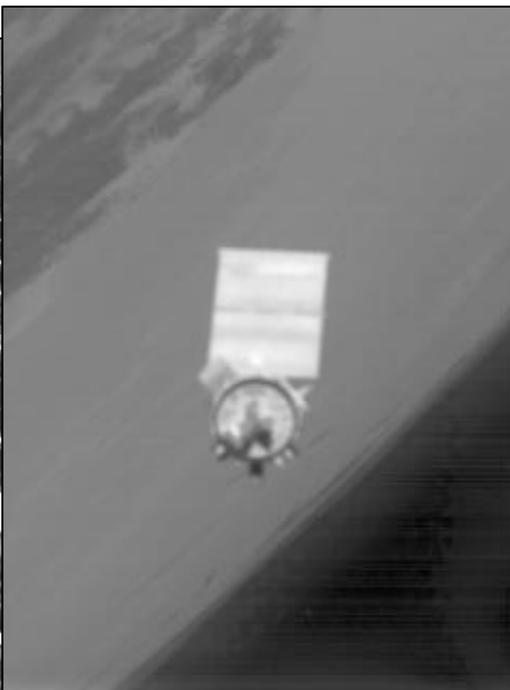
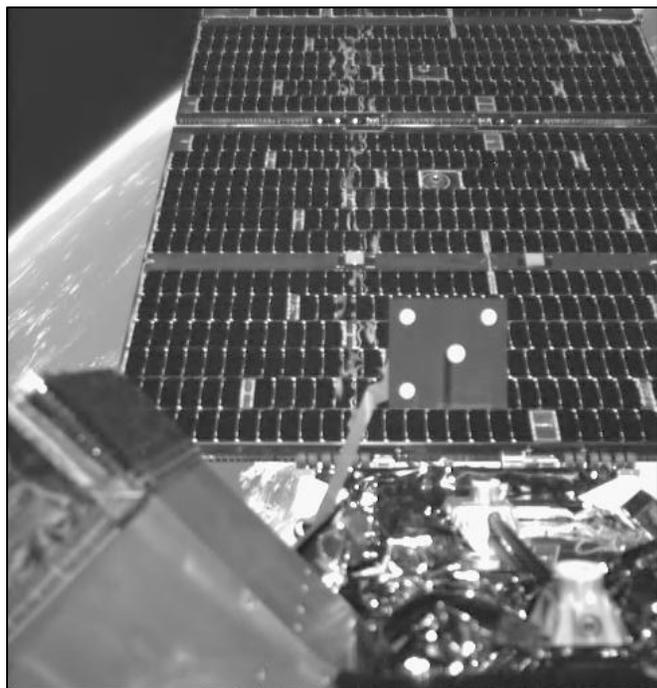
AR&C Exercise #4 Results



- ❑ Max range = 4 km
- ❑ Unmated for 22^h 2^m 19^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): June 23th at 0^h 55^m 42^s
 - ▶ Grapple initiation: June 23th at 17^h 37^m 38^s
 - ▶ Mate: June 23th at 22^h 58^m 1^s
- ❑ Fully autonomous, flawless rendezvous & prox ops
- ❑ World's first autonomous grapple
- ❑ Autonomous berth stopped by onboard mission manager
 - ▶ Script error
 - ▶ Completed with ground assistance
- ❑ Improved ground understanding of relative navigation settings
- ❑ Propellant use = 3.7 kg
 - ▶ Pre-exercise simulation estimated 3.8 kg

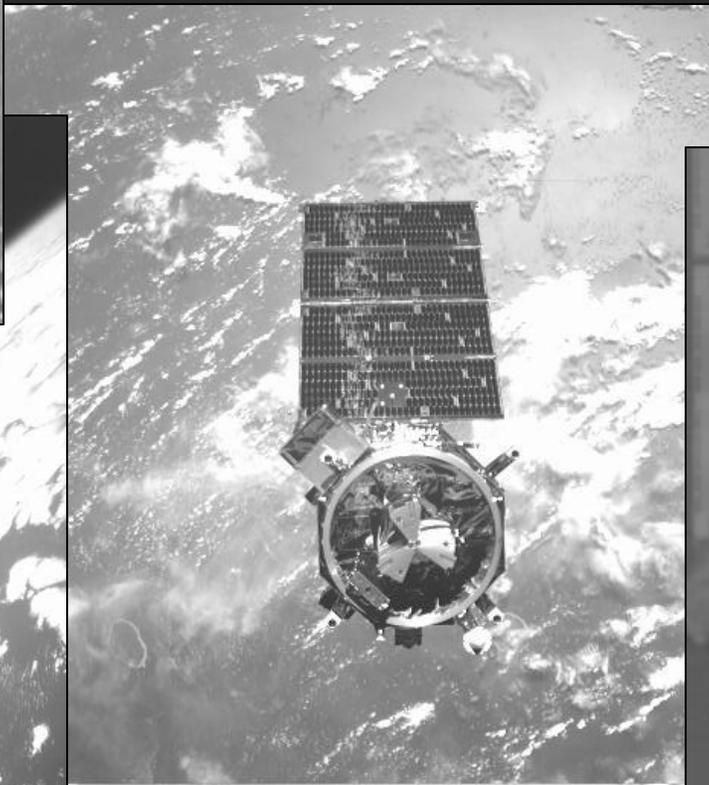
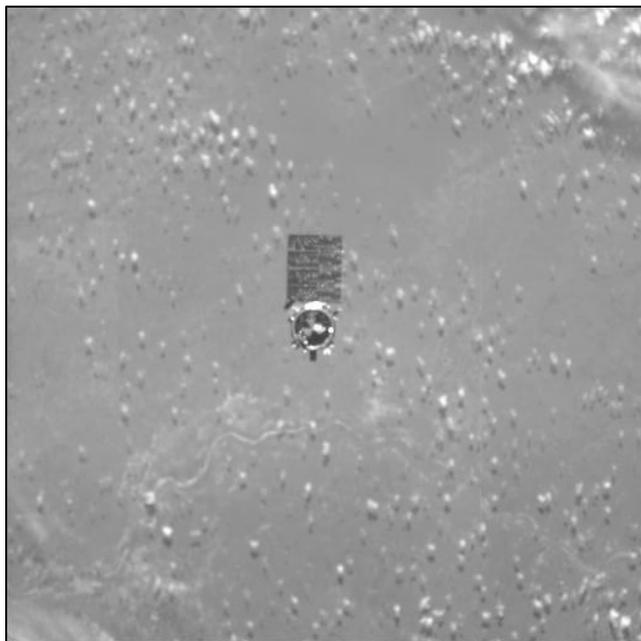


AR&C Exercise #4 Photos





AR&C Exercise #4 Photos



A large satellite with multiple solar panels is shown in orbit above the Earth. The Earth's surface is visible, showing land and water. The moon is also visible in the background against a starry sky.

AR&C Exercise #5

(Scenario 8-2)
27-29 June 2007 (UTC)

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AR&C Exercise #5 Plan



- ❑ Max range = 7 km
- ❑ Unmated for 1^d 1^h 25^m 45^s within $\pm 5^m$
 - ▶ Night demate with sun $\beta=44.0^\circ$
 - ▶ Solar inertial separation to 78 m above and slightly left of NextSat
 - ▶ Phasing to -7 km (behind NextSat)
 - ▶ Return to -4 km followed by demonstration of standoff mode for $\sim 6^h 43^m 32^s$
 - ▶ Return to -120 m v-bar stationkeep to await good lighting
 - ▶ 100 m near-circular inspection flyaround at 3 times orbital rate
 - ▶ $+120$ m v-bar stationkeep
 - ▶ Transfer to 60 m corridor and solar inertial approach
 - ▶ Night grapple & berth over HULA within $\pm 5^m$ with $\beta=48.6^\circ$
- ❑ Vis-STAR track entire time
- ❑ AVGS track during separation and approach



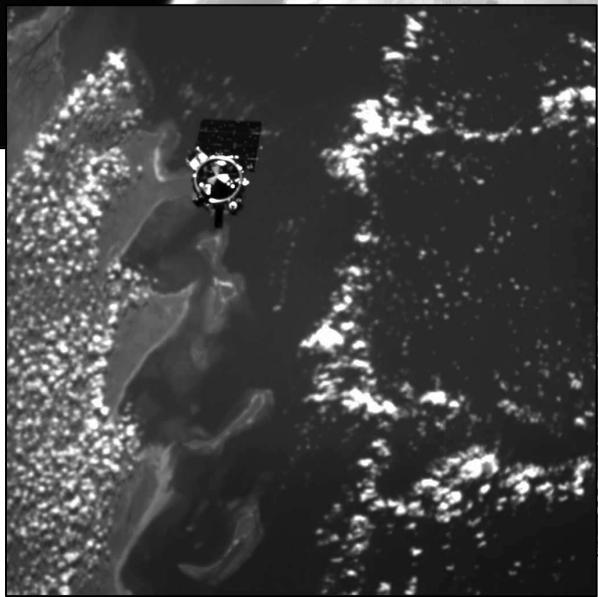
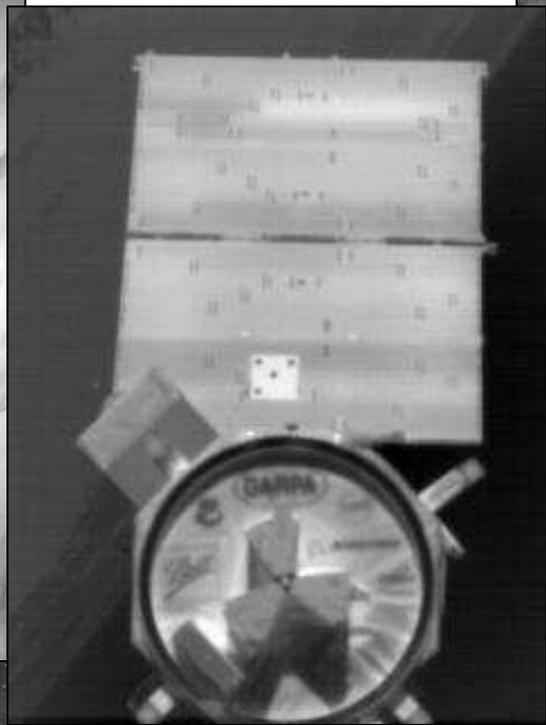
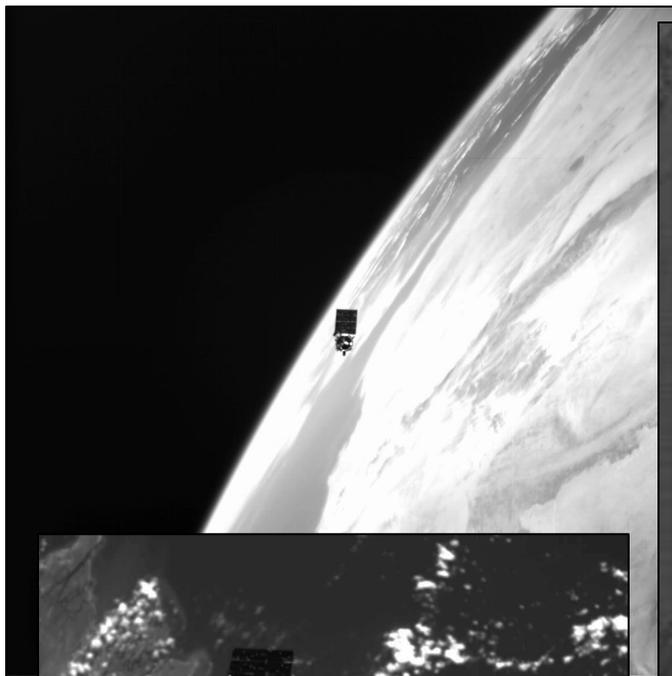
AR&C Exercise #5 Results



- ❑ Max range = 7 km
- ❑ Unmated for 1^d 21^h 54^m 19^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): June 27th at 8^h 9^m 13^s
 - ▶ Grapple initiation: June 28th at 9^h 31^m 55^s
 - ▶ Mate: June 29th at 6^h 3^m 32^s
- ❑ Fully autonomous, flawless rendezvous & prox ops
- ❑ Grapple anomaly
 - ▶ Late trigger of end effector “mousetrap”
 - ▶ Ground commanding required to berth NextSat
- ❑ Improved ground understanding of relative navigation settings
- ❑ Propellant use = 3.8 kg
 - ▶ Pre-exercise simulation estimated 4.0 kg

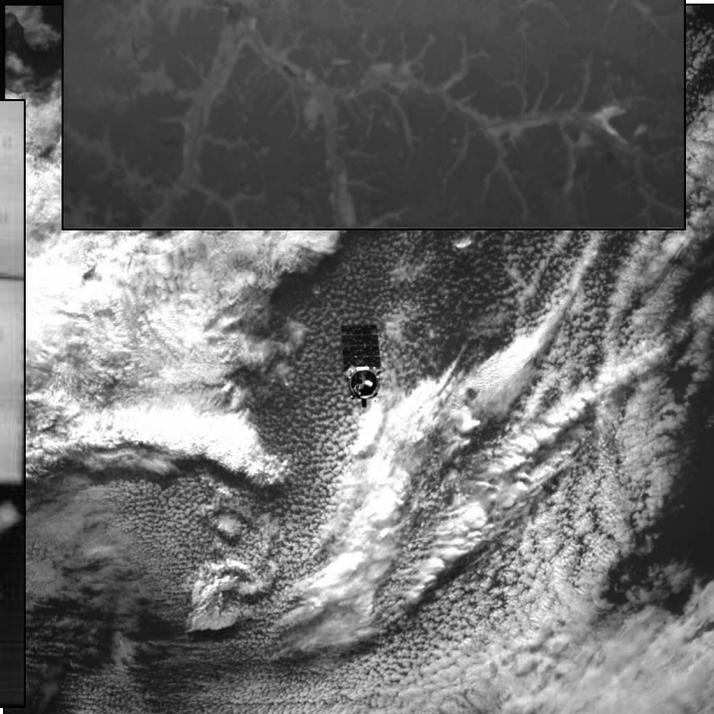
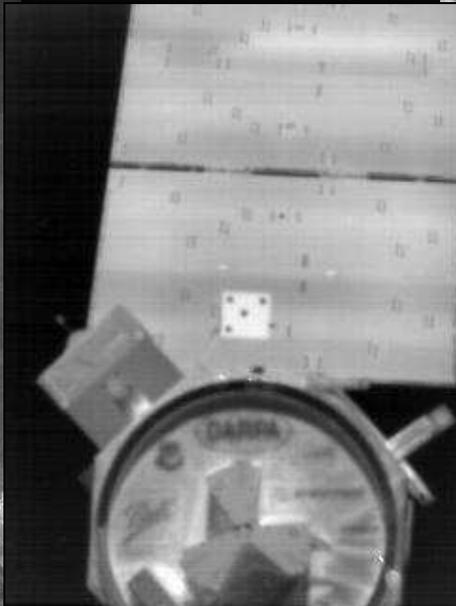
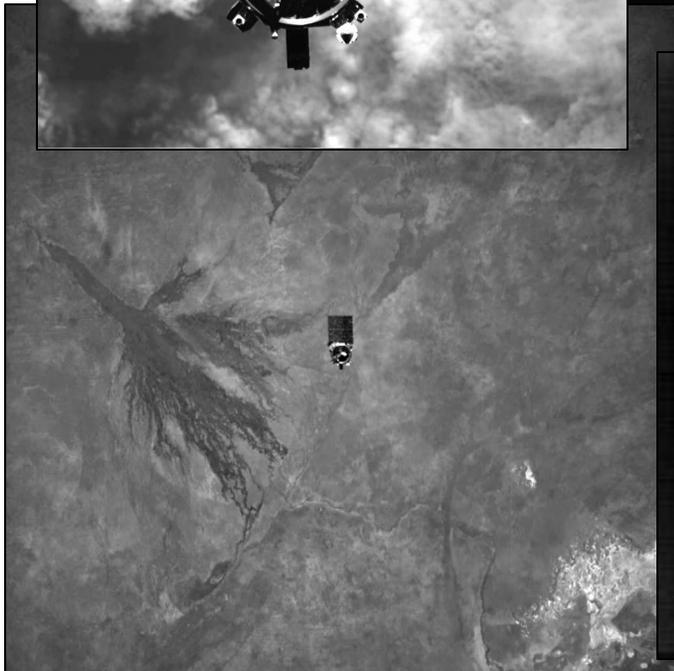
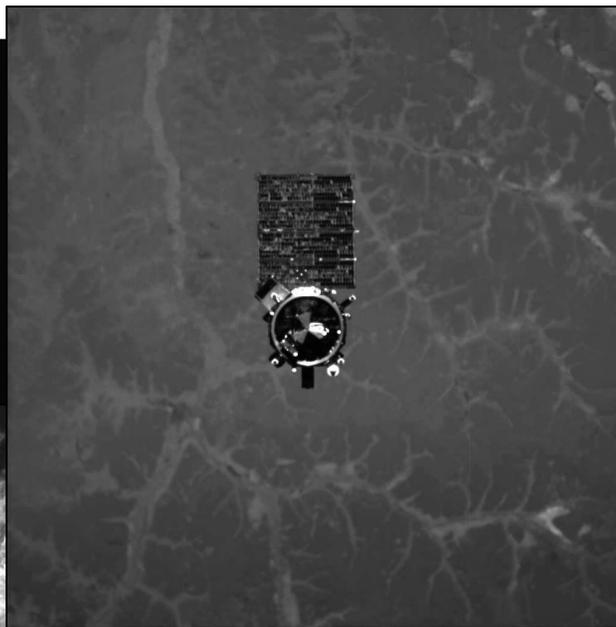
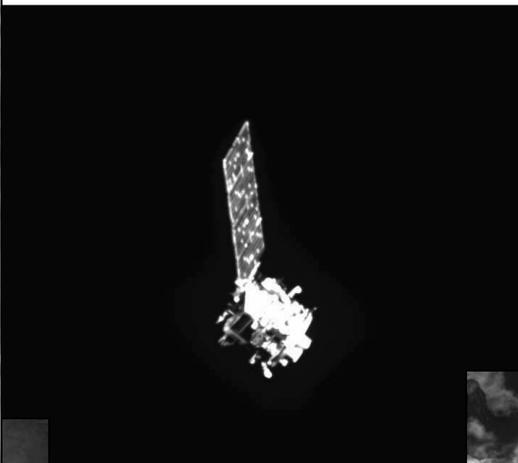


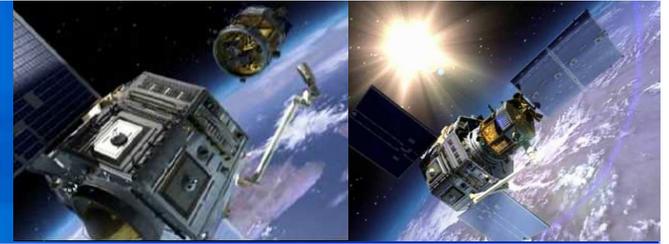
AR&C Exercise #5 Photos





AR&C Exercise #5 Photos





End-of-Life Exercise

17-20 July 2007 (UTC)

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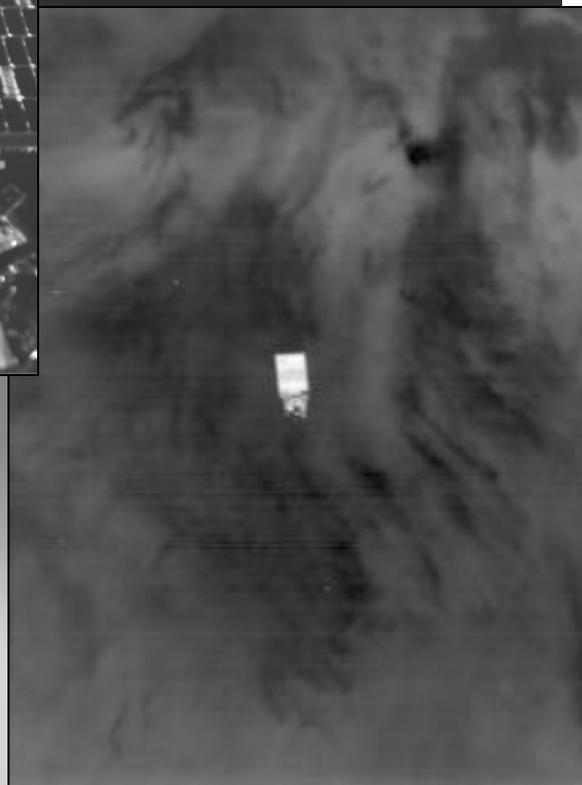
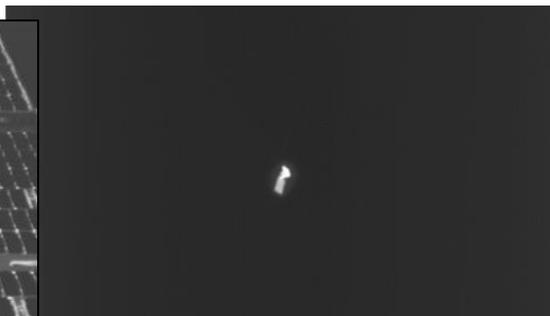
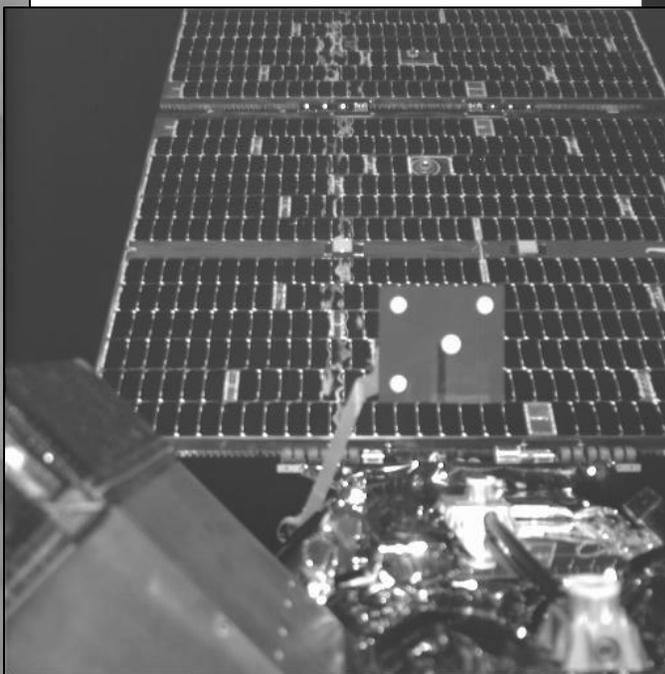
End-of-Life Exercise Results



- ❑ Unmated inside 1000 km for 3^d 4^h 26^m 0^s
 - ▶ Demate (UTC): July 17th at 3^h 41^m 0^s
 - ▶ -1000 km outbound: July 20th at 8^h 7^m 0^s
 - ▶ Propellant use: 29 kg
- ❑ Final tests of autonomous rndz
 - ▶ Transfer to -410 km, return to -1 km
 - ▶ Standoff between -1 km & -500 m (4 laps around "racetrack") for 1^d 5^h 44^m 27^s
 - Unrecoverable laser rangefinder failure
 - IR camera provided good angles data
 - ▶ Transfer to +500 m
 - Ended in erroneous football orbit behind NextSat with 1 km crosstrack
 - SIGI accumulated velocities again added to guidance solution
- ❑ Final state unmated, never to re-contact again (DARPA requested separation and unmated re-entry in accordance with USAF and USG policy)
 - ▶ Transfer to 15 km above NextSat, drifting behind
 - ▶ Additional safety with 1.25 km crosstrack
- ❑ Remaining fuel depleted prior to ASTRO permanent shutdown
 - ▶ Boosted ASTRO to 32 km above
- ❑ Both spacecraft to de-orbit within 25 yrs

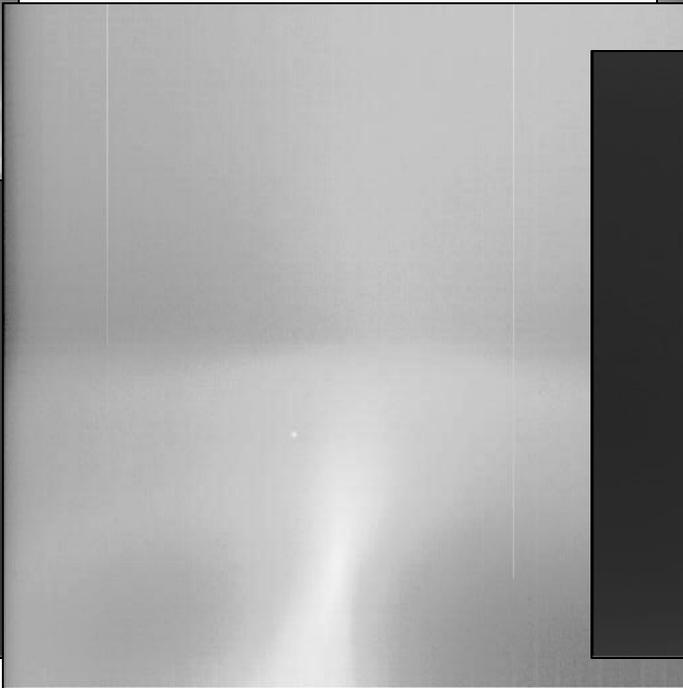
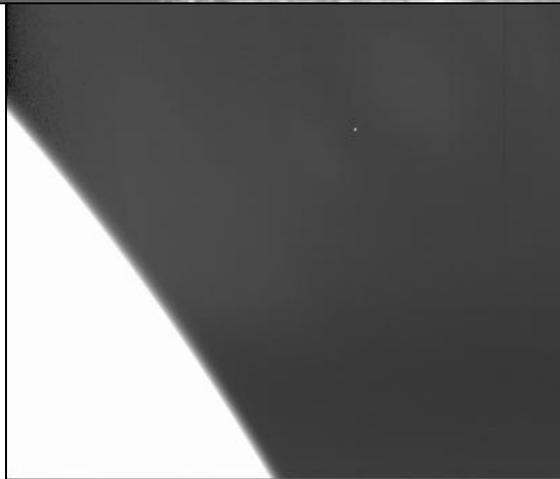
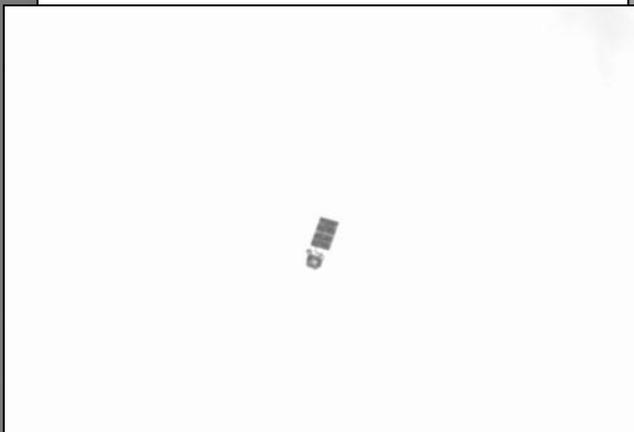
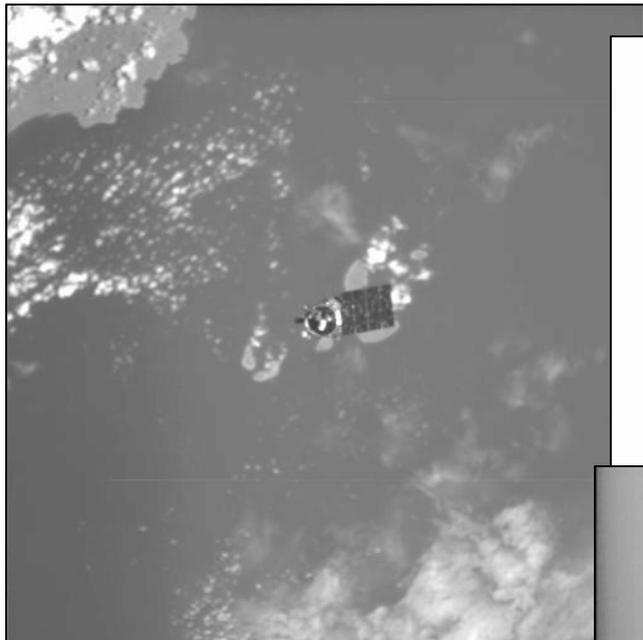


End-of-Life Exercise Photos



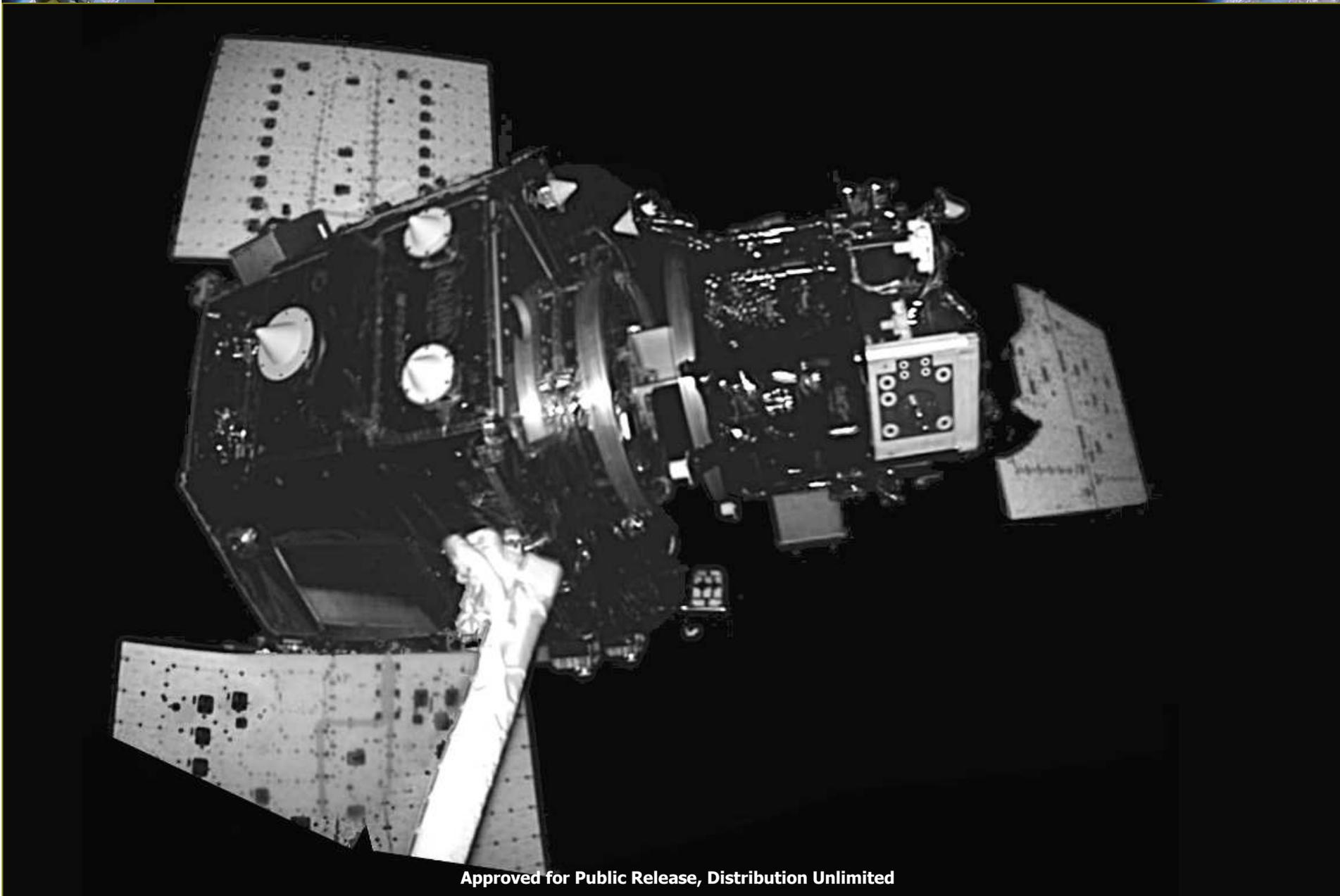


End-of-Life Exercise Photos



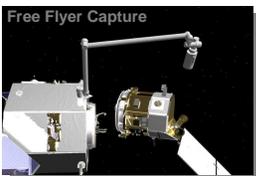
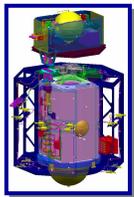
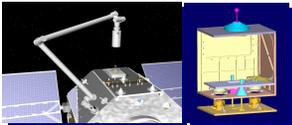
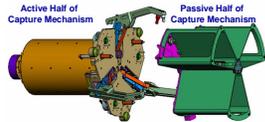
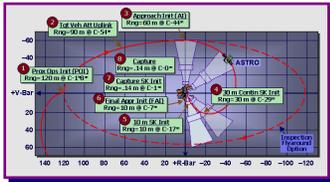
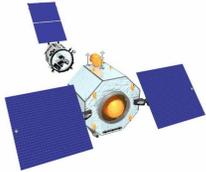


OE Self-Portrait



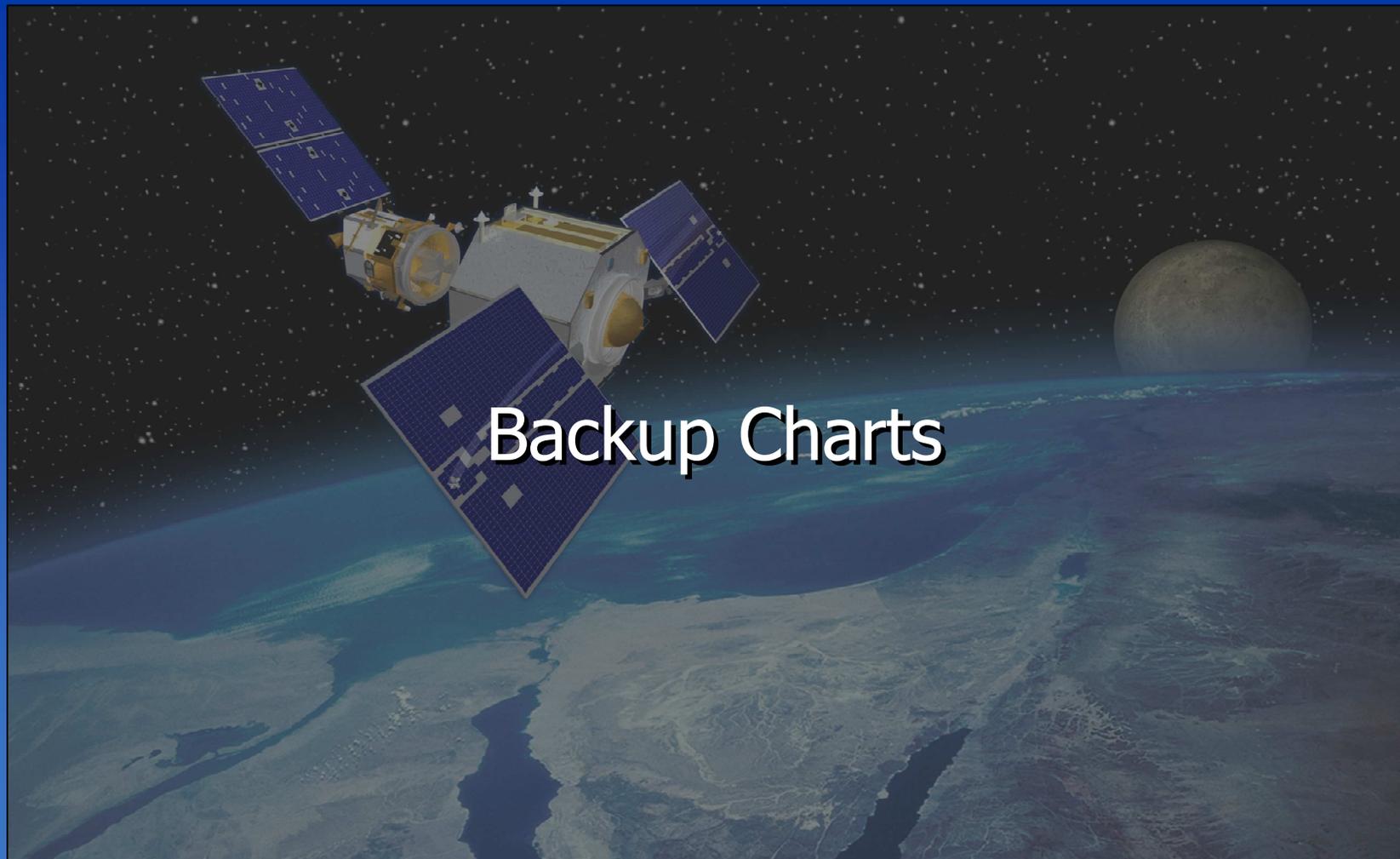
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OE Firsts



OE Exhibited a Number of Firsts in Space Most Notable

- ❑ First autonomous rendezvous and capture from a range of 7 km
- ❑ First autonomous soft capture of a satellite (i.e., during close stationkeep)
- ❑ First autonomous capture of a satellite using a robotic arm
- ❑ First autonomous robotic transfer of a component from one spacecraft to another
- ❑ First autonomous propellant transfer from one spacecraft to another
- ❑ First on-orbit use of an embedded IEEE 1394 (Firewire) spacecraft network



Backup Charts

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Big Blue Chart – Final Prelaunch Draft



OEDS Test Plan Summary (Rev N Beta 3 - Unofficial)

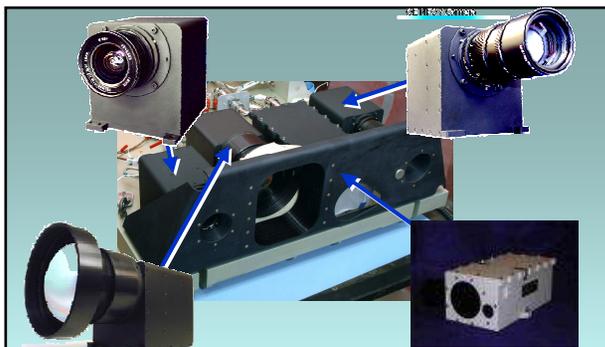
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1	-	-	-	-	-	A/V	-	-	-	-	7	0	0.0	0.0	2	0	4	16.7	4.0
2	-	-	-	10 m	Sol Inrl	A+V	-	XL	Direct	D	1	52	0.8	0.7	0	0	2	5.9	0.0
3	-	-	-	30 m	Sol Inrl	A+V	-	XL	Fr-Flr	N	1	52	0.9	0.8	2	0	2	5.9	0.0
4	-	-	-	60 m	Sol Inrl	A	-	Grd	Direct	D	3	27	2.0	1.9	0	0	0	0.9	0.0
5	-	-	Flyrd 1x	120 x 60 m	-R-Bar	A+V	-	XL	Direct	D	6	26	3.1	3.0	0	0	0	3.7	0.3
6	Behind	1 km	Flyrd 1x	100 x 100 m	Sol Inrl	V	Prox Ab 20-30	XL	Fr-Flr	N	8	11	4.9	4.0	2	0	2	5.7	0.0
7	In Front	7 km	Direct	-	+V-Bar	A+V	-	XL	Direct	D	20	58	4.2	3.4	0	0	0	3.1	0.3
8	Behind	7 km	Flyrd 3x	100 x 100 m	Sol Inrl	A+V	4 km Standoff	XL	Fr-Flr	N	23	59	8.0	5.9	2	1	5	11.0	0.0
EOL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	1.0	--
All	20% Uncertainties										-	-	4.8	3.9	-	-	-	-	1.0
Total Required:			91 Days		29.8 kg Fuel		21%		3		1	45	28.7	23.6	9	2	24	87.9	6.1
Total Propellant Available:			144 kg Fuel (FTAPS Usable)																

Note 1: ASTRO initial wet mass (excluding SSS and battery ORU) = 1040.32 kg (29 Sept 2006 Report)

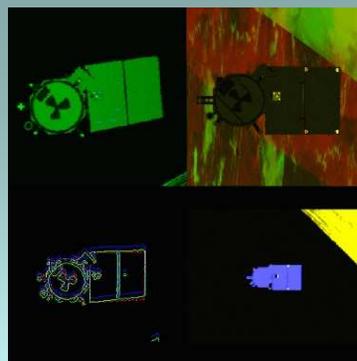
Note 2: AC3 used for Scenario 8



Boeing AR&C Technologies



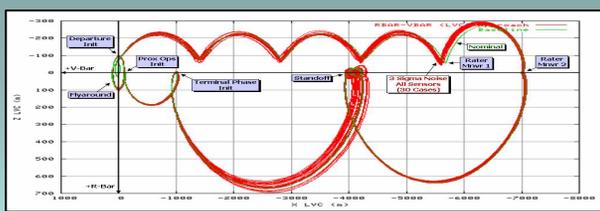
Space Qualified Rendezvous Sensors
- Enable Automated Rendezvous from 200 km to Dock



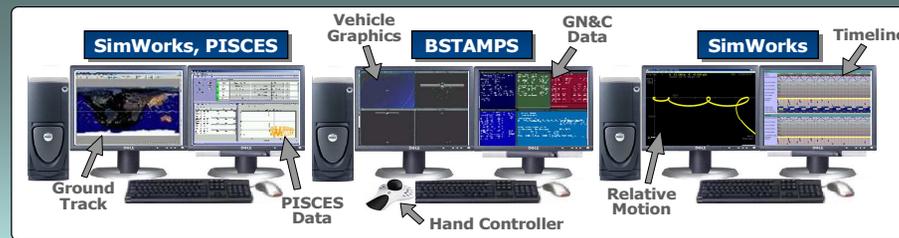
Vis-STAR
- Flight Sensor Software for Passive Client Attitude Determination



SensorSIM
- Realistic Scene Injection for Closed Loop Rendezvous Simulations



AutoGuide/AutoNav
- Guidance and Relative Navigation (G&RN) Software Enables Fully Automated Rendezvous and Capture



BSTAMPS+
*- Mission Design
- GN&C Software Development
- Control Center Telemetry & Graphics*



Translation Guidance Modes



No.	Translation Mode	Description	Application
1.	Phasing (NC)	Phase angle adjustment by targeting a point downrange of target vehicle	◆ Catch-up during far-field rndz
2.	Height Adjust (NH)	Raises or lowers chaser altitude relative to target orbit	◆ Altitude adjustment during far-field rndz
3.	Coelliptic (NSR)	Generates equal separation distances between chaser & target at apogee & perigee; aligns lines-of-apsides	◆ Orbit matching during rndz ◆ Contingency hold initiation
4.	Rater (NR)	Computes mnvr ignition time, transfer time, & delta-v to achieve aimpoint position with zero radial velocity	◆ Near-field rndz phasing/tangential mnvr
5.	Lambert (NCC)	Gooding's Lambert targeting algorithm computes mnvrs required to achieve aimpoint position, using orbit perturbations. Includes optional algorithms for 1) spreading out-of-plane components, & 2) in-plane transfer components, only	◆ Prox ops flyaround
6.	Corridor	Constrains chaser position inside a cone while traversing an approach or separation vector within velocity limits relative to target LVLH or body coordinates	◆ Vectored approach & separation
7.	Stationkeep	Constrains chaser position & velocity inside a 3-dimensional rectangle, cylinder, or truncated cone relative to target LVLH or body coordinates	◆ Nominal & contingency holds in LVLH or body frame
8.	Standoff	Places chaser in a football-shaped orbit offset from the target using Gooding's Lambert targeting algorithm	◆ Contingency V-bar hold at ranges ≥ 1 km
9.	Prox Abort	Redirects proximity operations trajectory during separation or approach, to best of 2 computed v-bar aimpoints using Rater guidance. Prevents penetration of keepout sphere & executes backout or breakout algorithms, if required.	◆ Abort flyaround trajectory during prox ops ◆ Abort approach or separation trajectory near target in response to critical failure
10.	External Delta Velocity (EXDV)	Ground-computed external DV in either LVLH or chaser body coordinates	◆ Ground-targeted mnvr

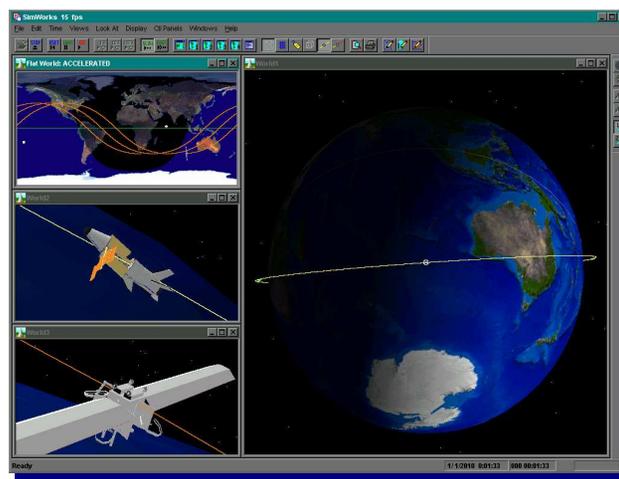
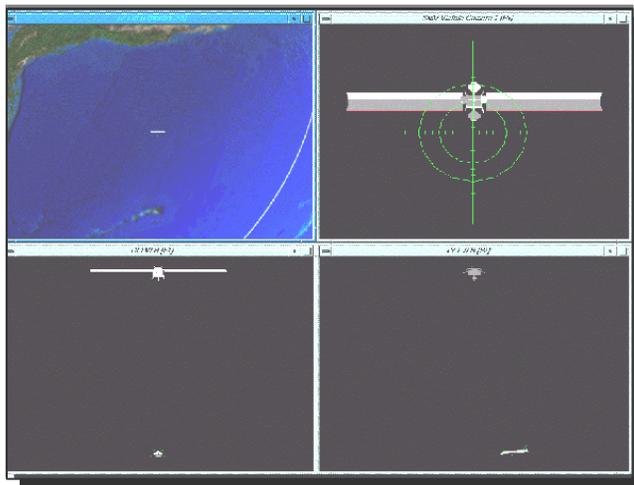
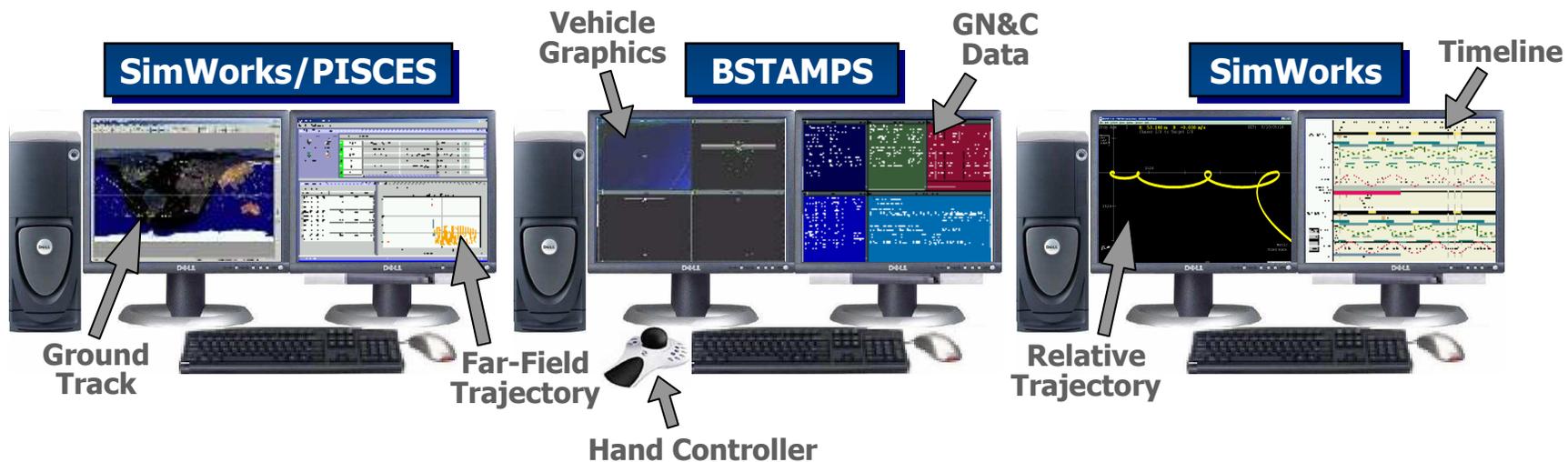


Pointing Guidance Modes

No.	Pointing Mode	Description	Application
1.	Stellar Inertial (STI)	Maintains body vector relative to the stars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sensor calibration
2.	Solar Inertial (SI)	Maintains body vector relative to the sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Contingency response to rotating solar array joint failure ◆ Docked operations
3.	Local Vertical Local Horizontal (LVLH)	Maintains body vector relative to the earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ground-computed orbit adjustment
4.	Target Track (TT)	Computes fixed or rotating vector stemming from specified chaser point (e.g., sensor) to specified target point (e.g., centroid), while maintaining a clock angle about that vector (secondary pointing constraint – e.g., sun angle). TT executes in 1 of 3 submodes: 1) Target Point (TP, vector fixed on a point – used at short ranges & long ranges during LRF operation), 2) Target Circle (TC, vector rotates in a circle with specified radius & time per rev about target vector – used at long ranges during non-LRF operation), or 3) Target Search (TS, vector spirals outward about target vector & stops when target identified – contingency use, only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TP during corridor separation & departure prior to LRF power-off – except during TS ◆ TC during departure beyond LRF power-off & return prior to NR2 – except during large mnvrs or TS ◆ TP following NR2 until 8 m – except during large mnvrs or TS ◆ TS as contingency during loss of tracking by camera or LRF
5.	Target Align (TA)	Aligns chaser X, Y, & Z body axes with target axes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Final approach alignment with grapple or docking mechanism
6.	Thrust Align (THA)	Points chaser axes along computed thrust vector to use fuel-efficient (e.g., aft) jets during large translation mnvrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Large orbit adjust mnvr ◆ Reboost
7.	Free Drift (FD)	Chaser unconstrained rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Post-grapple to berth ◆ Docked operations ◆ Contingency response to certain GN&C & propulsive failures



BSTAMPS+ Computer Layout





BSTAMPS+ Software Components



Chaser Telemetry Data Target Ground Track States Orbit Data RGNM I-Loads



Boeing Spacecraft Trajectory Analysis and Mission Planning Simulation (BSTAMPS)

• Executed on PC running Red Hat Linux OS

- Pre-mission flight software: RGNM design, development, & test platform
- Pre-mission trajectory design: Simulates chaser & target orbital motion
- GN&C monitoring: Displays real-time data from telemetry & ground track
- Rndz planning: Generates real-time I-loads, flown out at accelerated rate

- Propagates vehicle states & attitudes
- Generates Monte Carlo dispersion data
- Accepts piloted hand controller (Spaceball) inputs
- Includes GN&C flight software, vehicle & sensor models, environment models

- Displays live graphics generated by Vega Prime & Globe View
- Displays live plots generated by Viper
- Displays GUI-driven GN&C data



Guidance, Navigation, Articulation Data

SimWorks

• Executed on PC running Windows OS

- Predicts & displays ground tracks
- Predicts & displays globe tracks
- Predicts & displays relative trajectories
- Predicts & displays guidance trajectories
- Computes & displays timeline data
- Displays vehicle attitudes, shadows, jet firings, solar array positions, comm zones



Initial States, Engine Properties

Platform Independent Software Components for the Exploration of Space (PISCES)

• Executed on PC running Windows OS

- Pre-mission trajectory design: Computes 3-DOF rndz solutions
- Pre-mission dispersion analysis: Computes Monte Carlo trajectories
- Rndz planning: Computes ΔV inputs to far-field rndz translation sequence



Far-Field Rndz Mnv Solutions

• Displays final solution data & plots



Orbital Express Control Center Kirtland AFB – Albuquerque, New Mexico



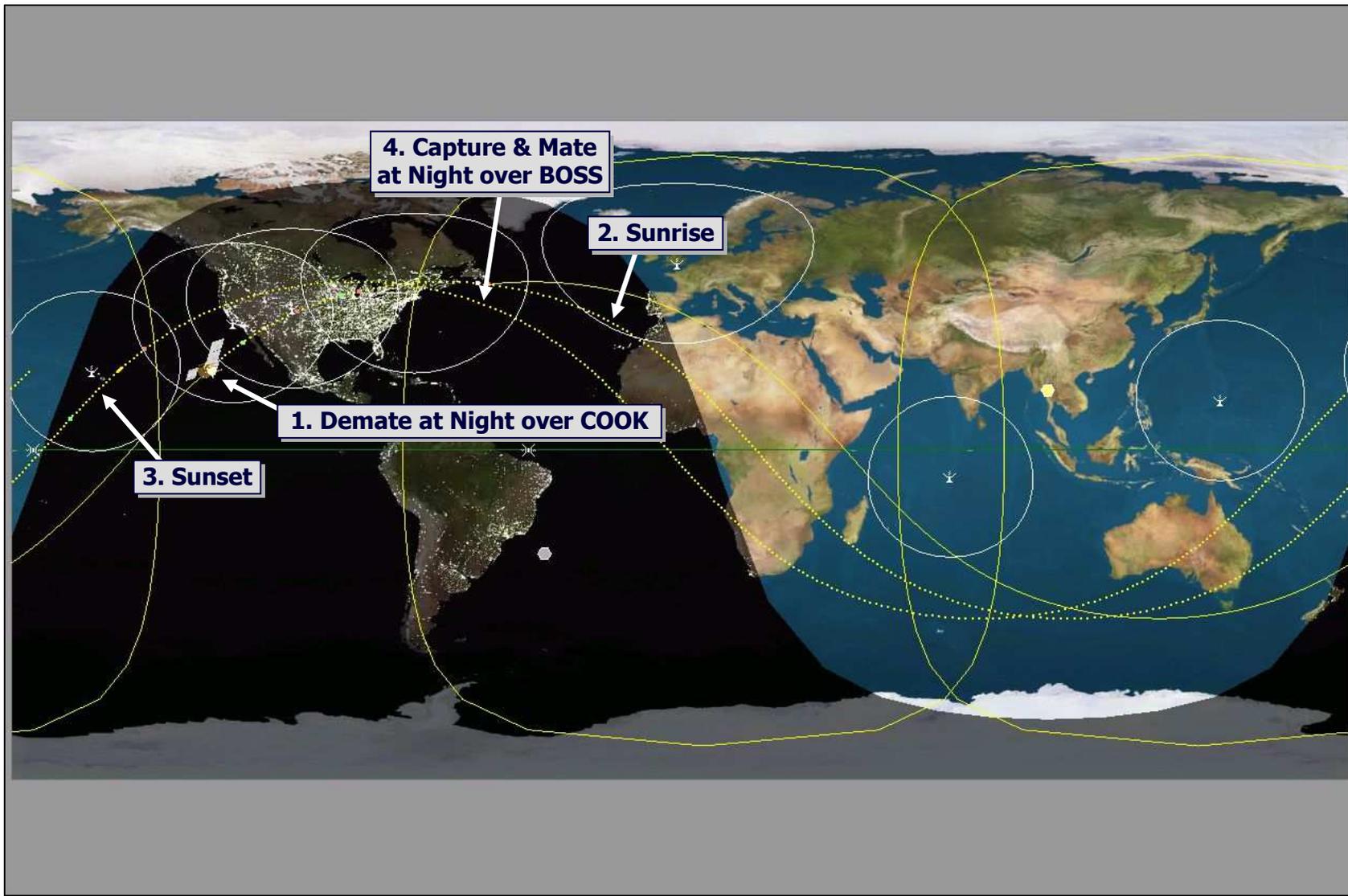
◀ **ASTRO Mission Control Team**

NextSat Mission Control Team ▶



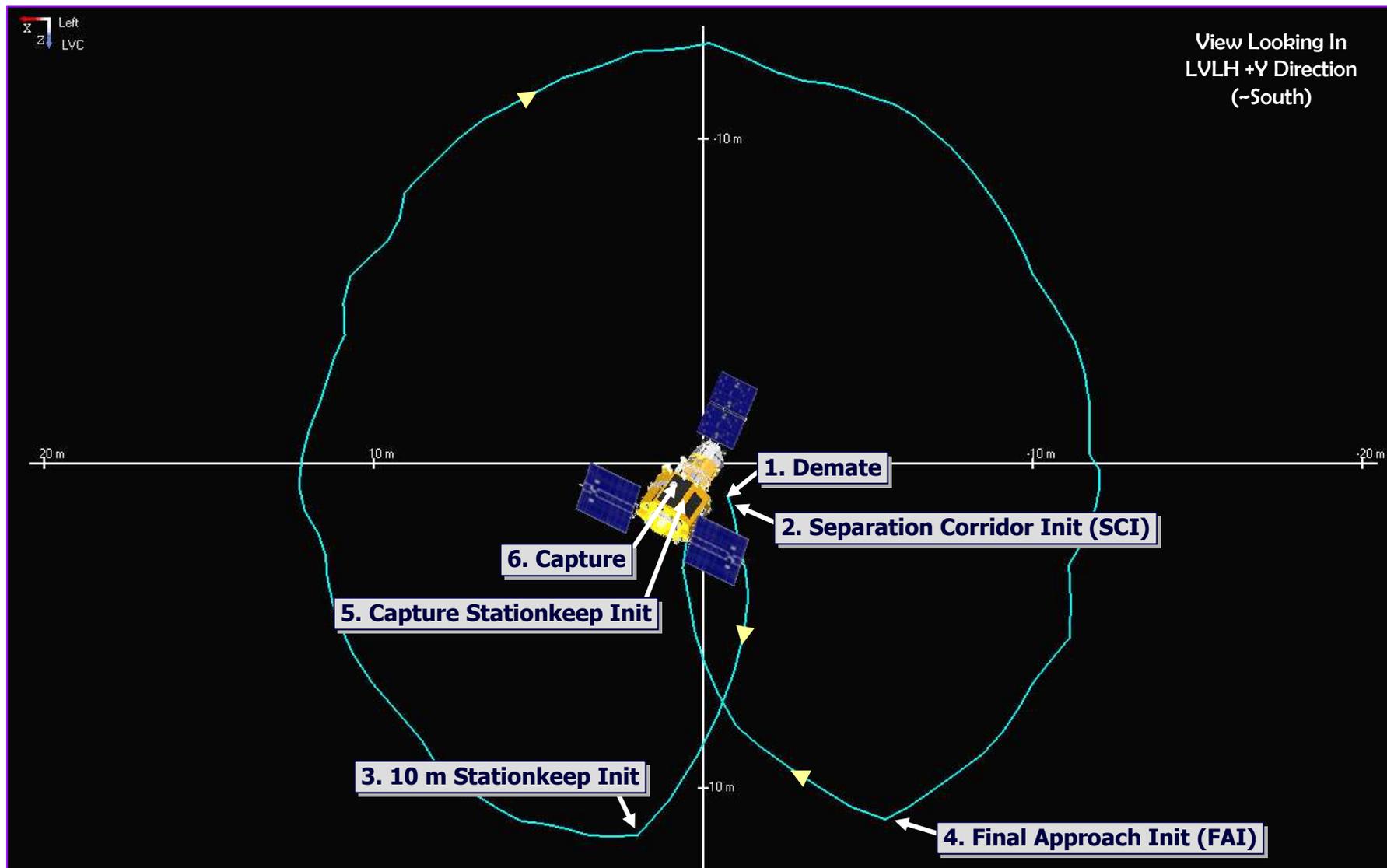


AR&C Exercise #1 (Scenario 2-1) Planned/Simulated Groundtrack





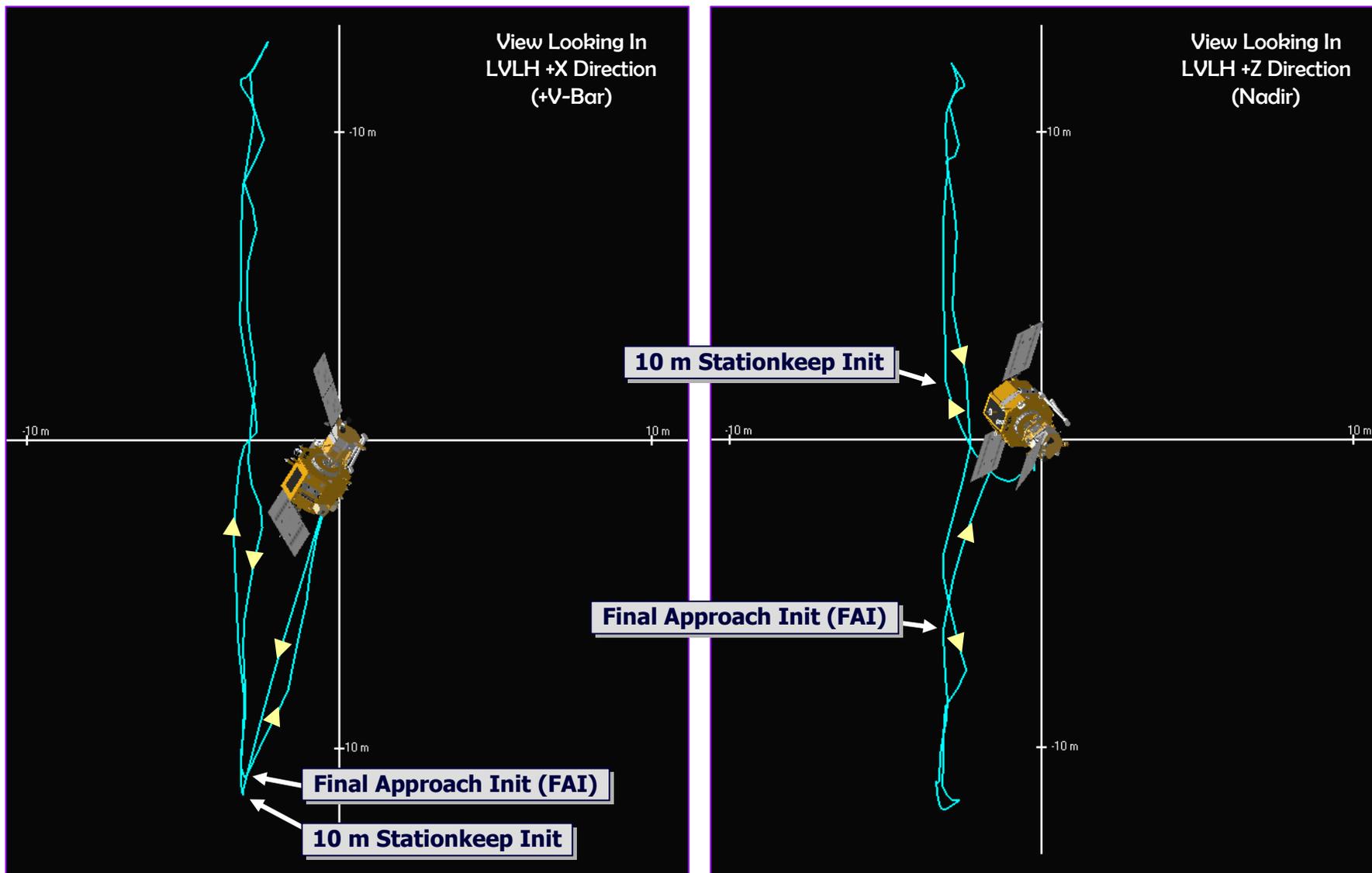
AR&C Exercise #1 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #1

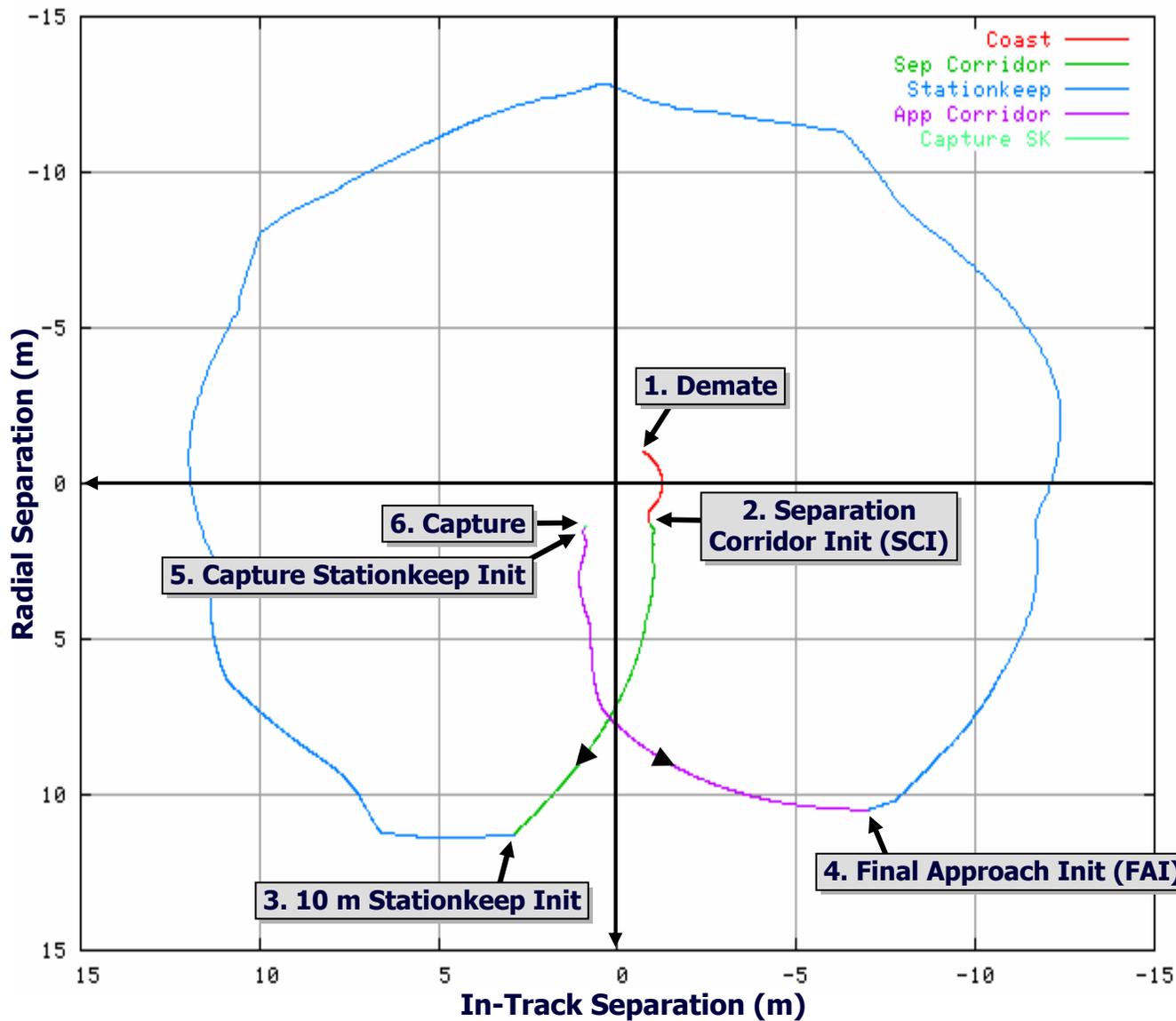
Planned/Simulated Out-of-Plane Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #1

Actual/Onboard In-Plane Trajectory



Note 1
 This and Subsequent
 Actual Plots Show
 ASTRO's Onboard
 State Relative to
 NextSat

Note 2
 Trajectory Changes
 Color at Each
 Translation Guidance
 Transition



AR&C Exercise #2 (Scenario 3-1) Detailed Results



- ❑ Sensor computer processor failed during 10 m stationkeep
 - ▶ Mission manager correctly commanded abort
 - ▶ Guidance executed flawless collision avoidance separation to 35 m, transfer to -120 m on NextSat v-bar (behind NextSat), stationkeep
 - ▶ As expected, AVGS continued track until short distance outside corridor
- ❑ During transfer, ground unable to recover sensor computer, ground booted backup computer, recovered camera tracking
- ❑ During -120 m stationkeep, Kalman filter rejected IR camera data
- ❑ Without sensor inputs, ground commanded guidance to coast & observed safe opening rate behind NextSat
- ❑ ASTRO coasted overnight to -2.4 km while Air Force tracked NextSat using PRN ranging
- ❑ Ground commanded single-pulse retrograde “nudge” burn to null opening rate, $\Delta v = -.01, 0, 0$ m/s
 - ▶ Resulted in large erroneous burn, $\Delta v = -.06, .14, .37$ m/s
 - ▶ Problem later traced to SIGI accumulated velocities added to guidance solution (diagnosed, fixed, & flight-tested prior to next exercise)
- ❑ Ground eventually determined ASTRO given fast closing rate
 - ▶ PRN ranging
 - ▶ NextSat appeared as disk in narrow FOV visible camera



AR&C Exercise #2 Detailed Results



- ❑ Exact orbit dimensions unknown, so ground allowed ASTRO to coast ahead of NextSat
 - ▶ No sensor tracking
 - ▶ Apogee above, perigee below, some out-of-plane
- ❑ ASTRO coasted to approx. +6 km, then ground commanded posigrade correction burn to null opening rate
- ❑ Over several days, ground iterated on sensor & Kalman filter inputs
 - ▶ Learned a great deal, given true imaging environment
 - ▶ Bad data incorporated into nav filter not a problem, since ASTRO coasting
 - ▶ Occasional ground updates of NextSat state vector reset nav filter
- ❑ Ground commanded burns to close on NextSat
- ❑ IR Camera tracking & laser track established



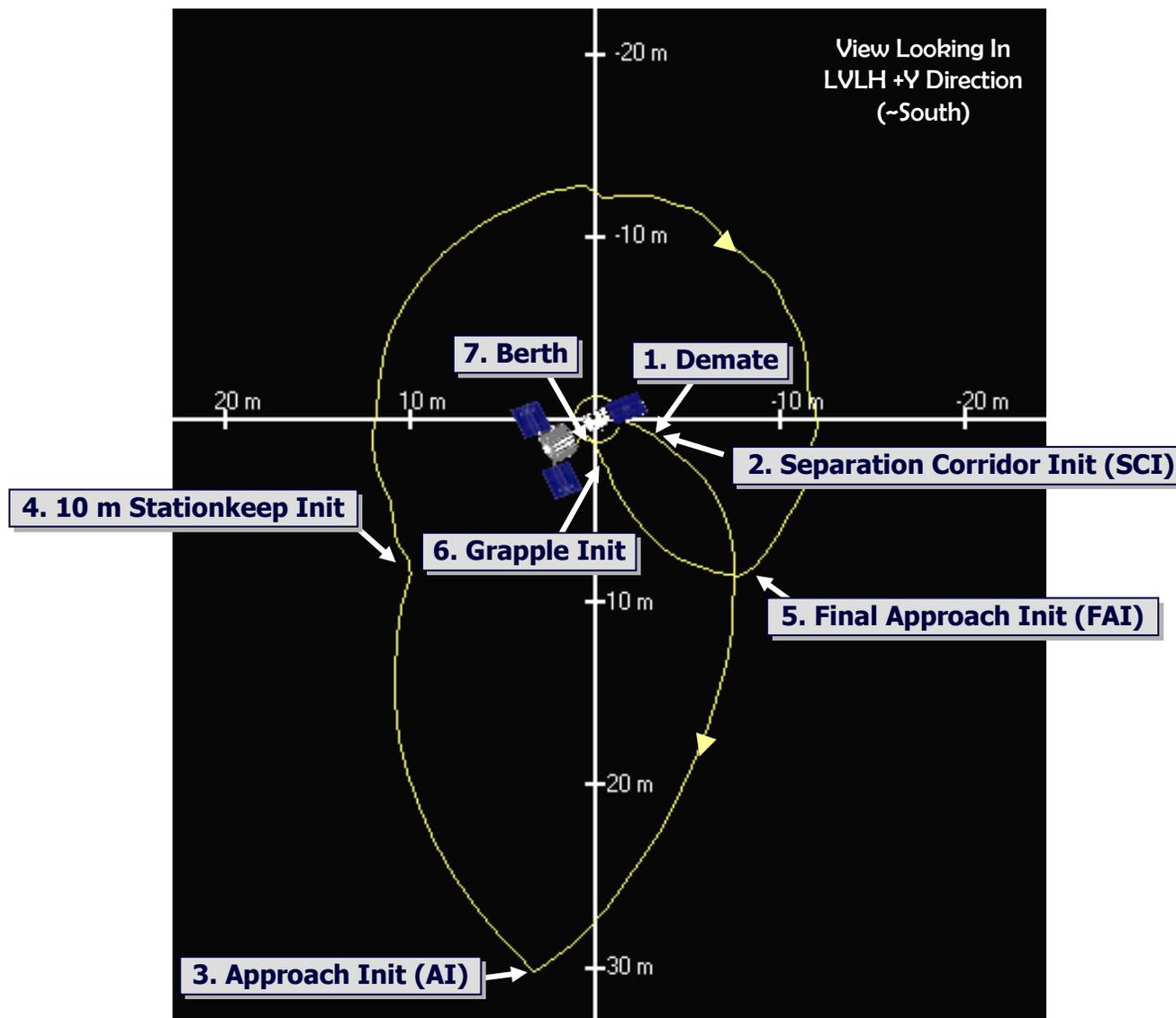
AR&C Exercise #2 Detailed Results



- Ground loaded new guidance inputs ending in successful AR&C (direct capture)
 - ▶ IR Camera track entire time
 - ▶ LRF track inside 2.5 km
 - ▶ AVGS track inside 150 m
- Improved ground understanding of relative navigation settings

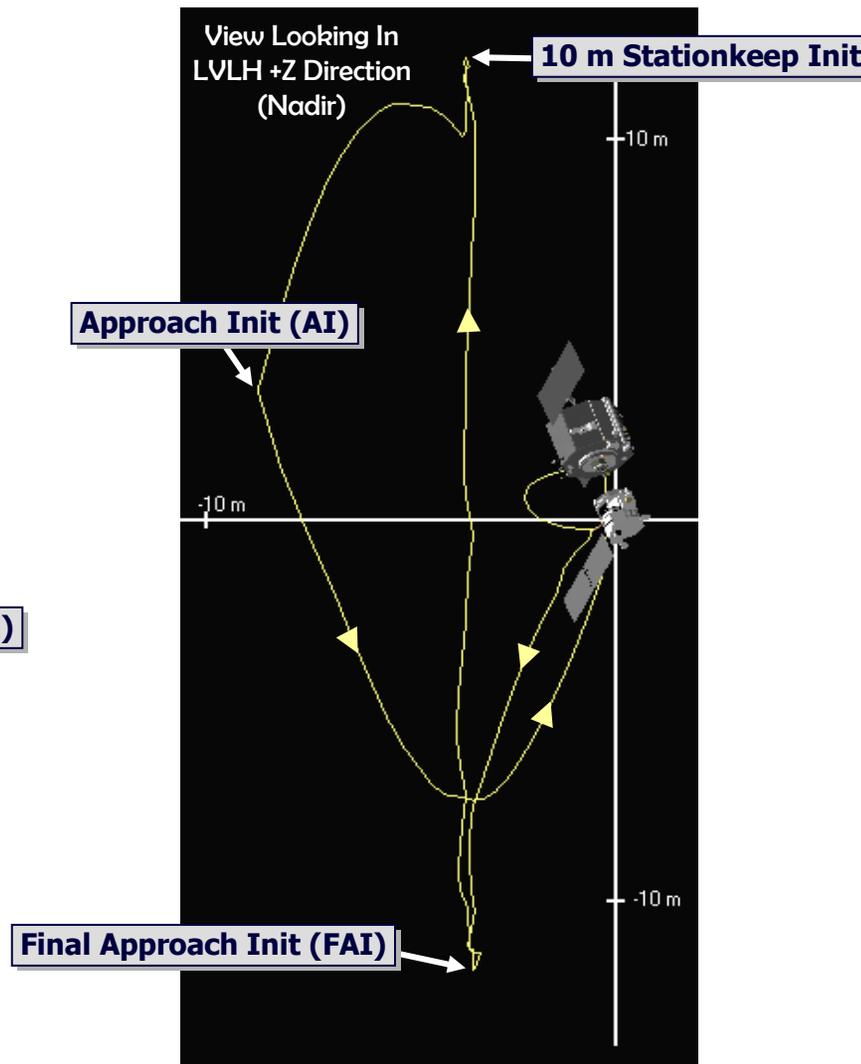
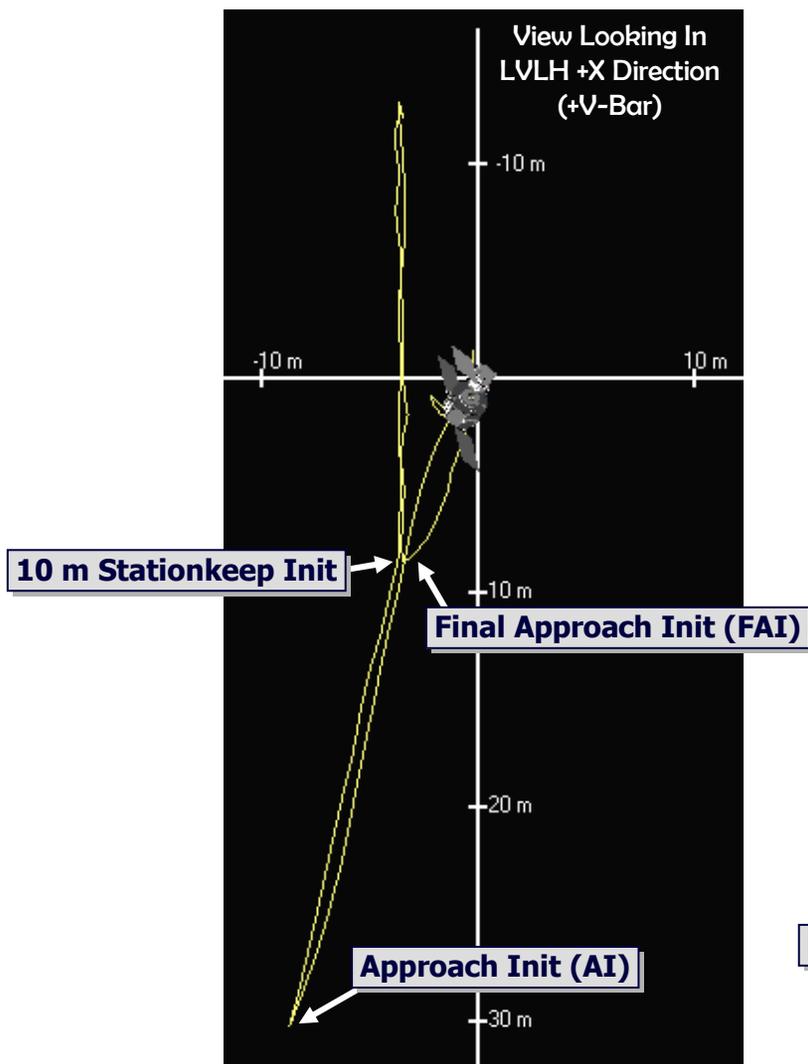


AR&C Exercise #2 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #2 Planned/Simulated Out-of-Plane Trajectory

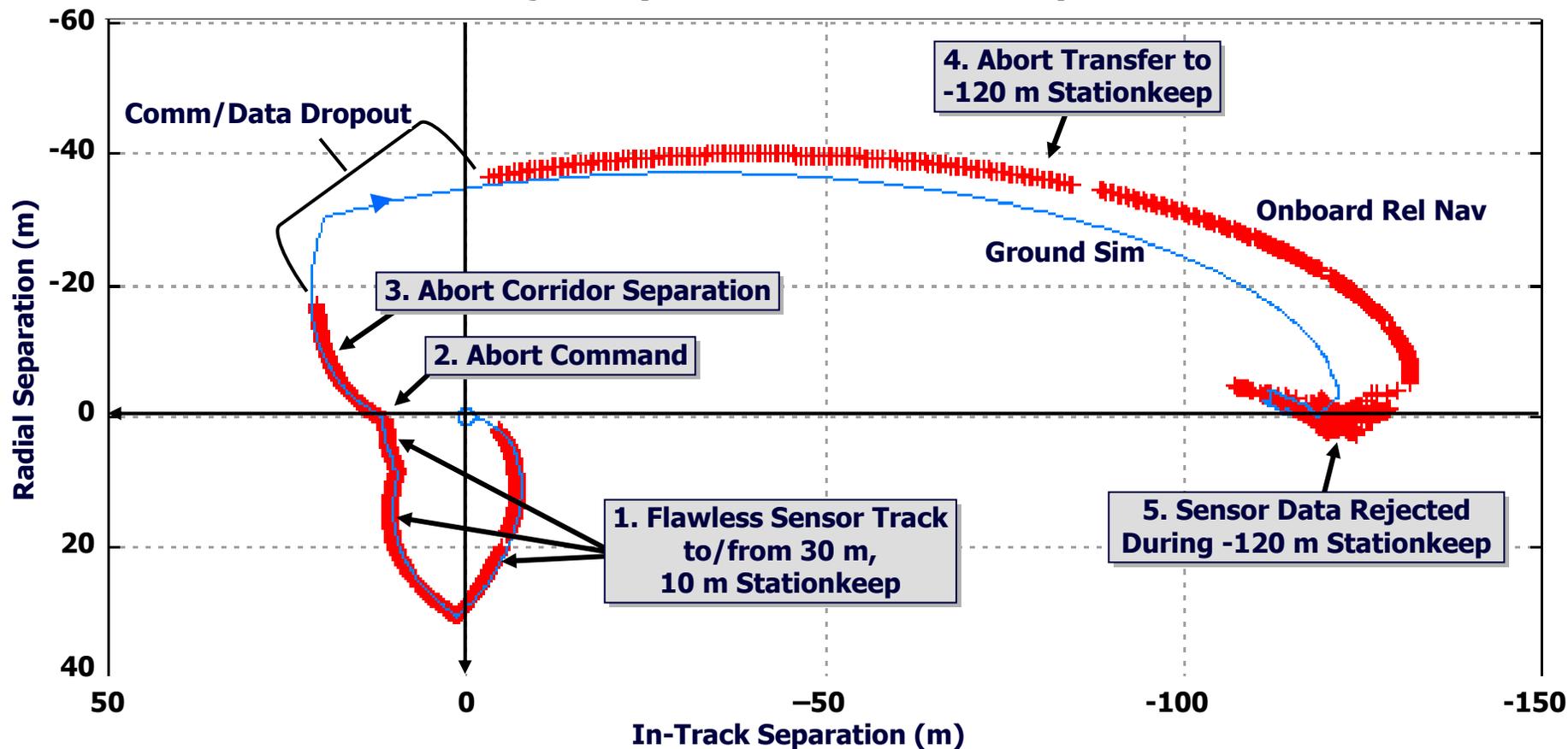




AR&C Exercise #2 Planned/Nominal & Actual/Abort Trajectories

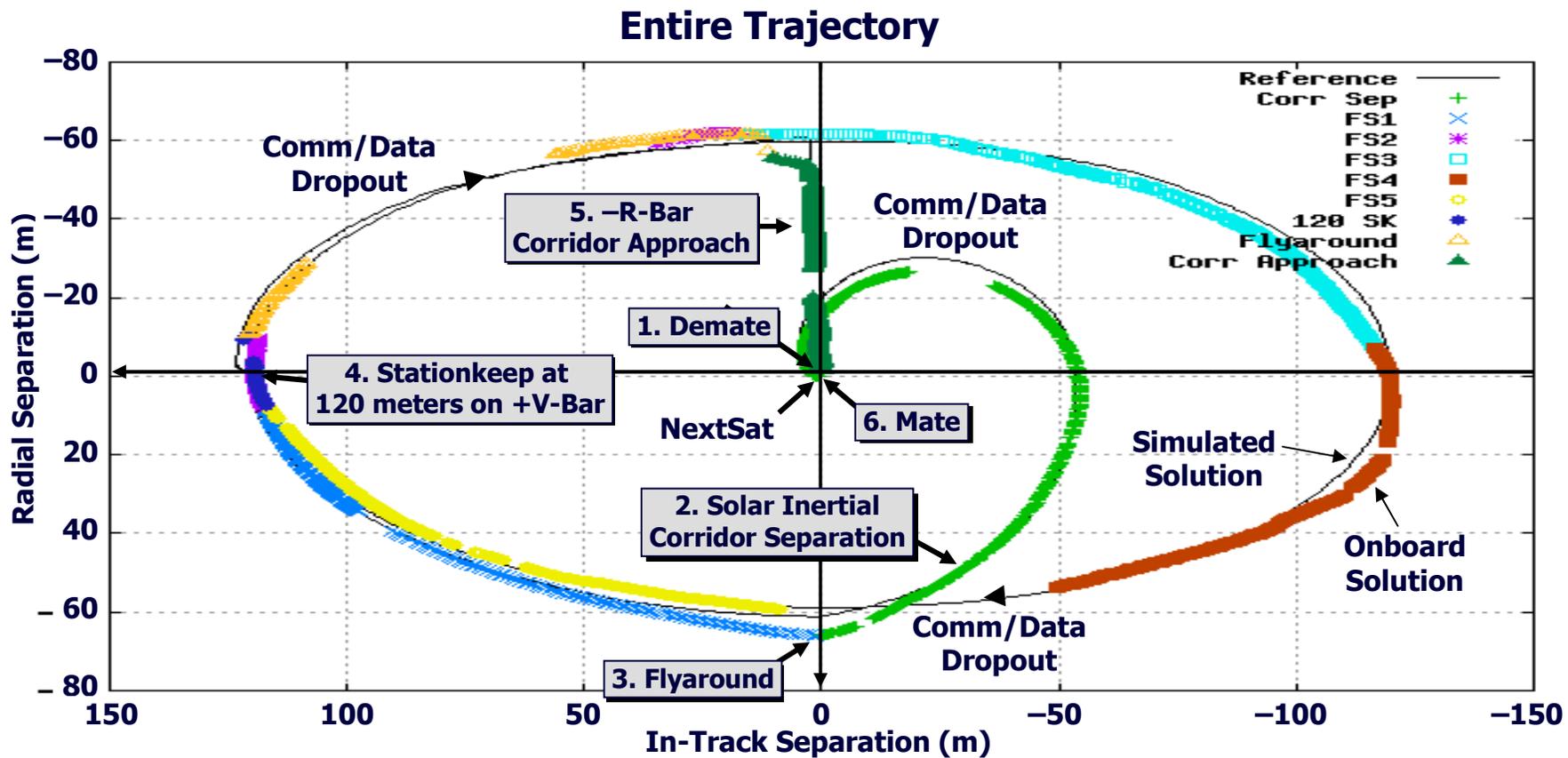


Trajectory to -120 m Stationkeep





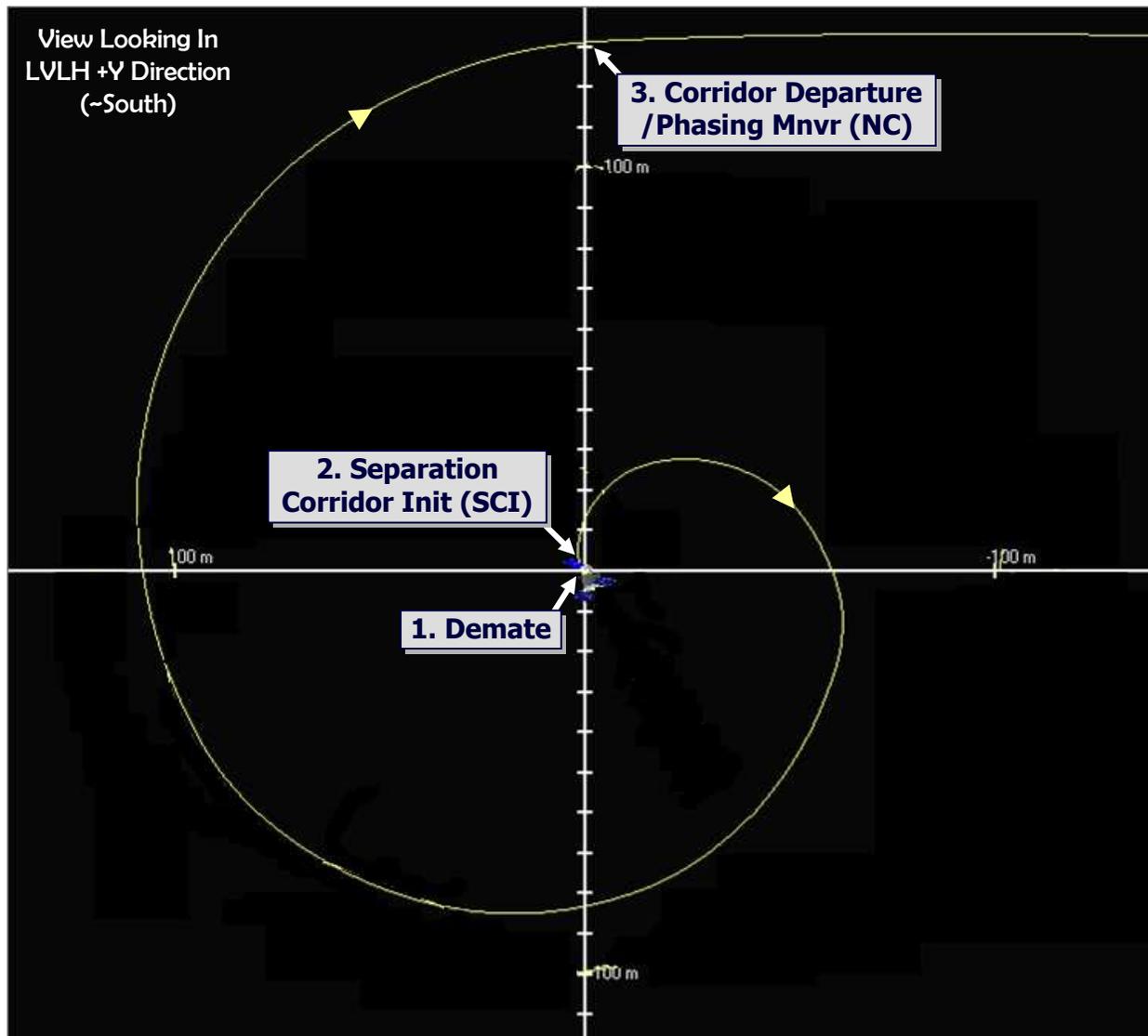
AR&C Exercise #3 (Scenario 5-1) Planned & Actual In-Plane Trajectories



Exercise #3 Onboard-Computed Trajectory Closely Matched Ground Simulation



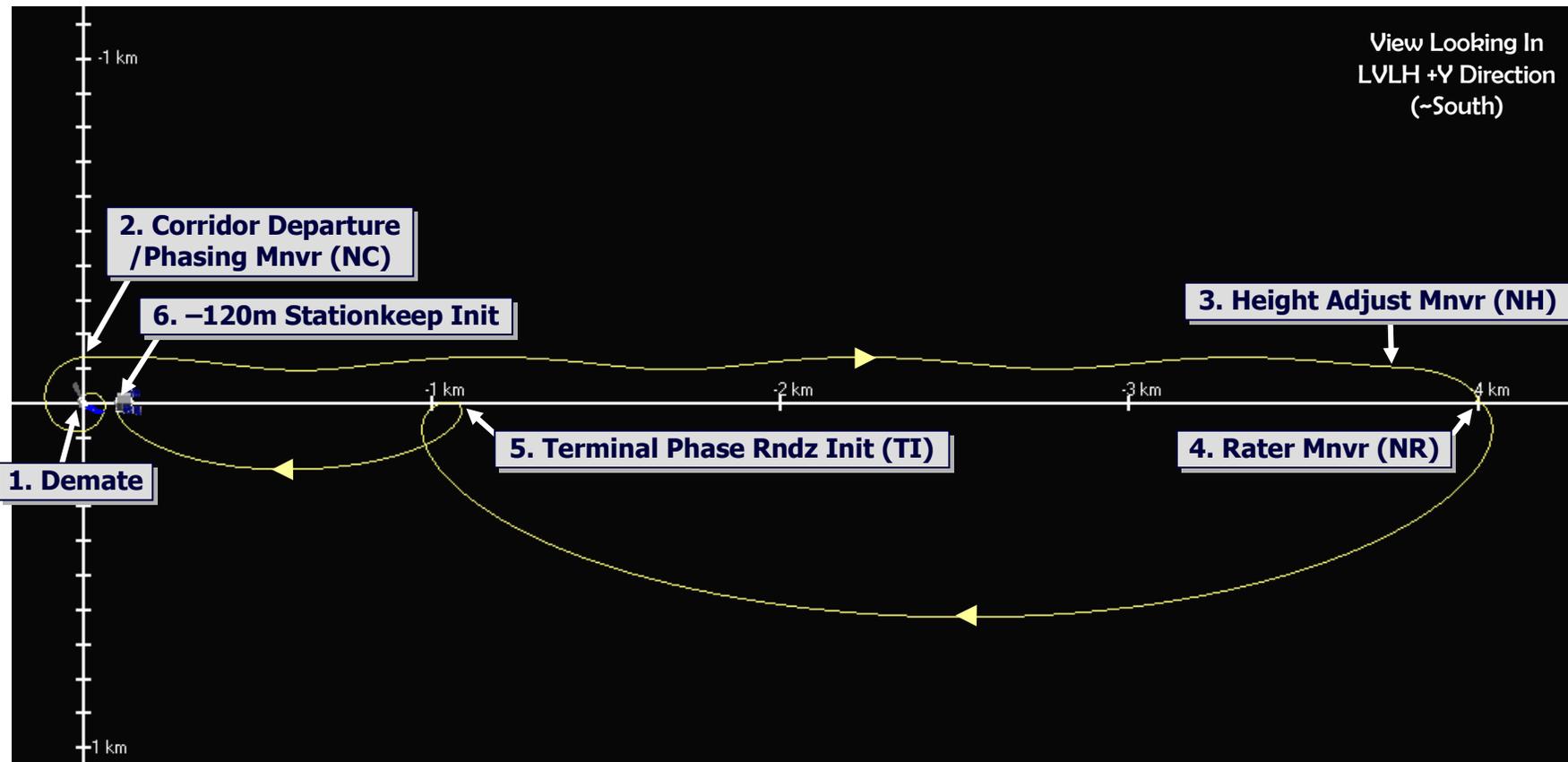
AR&C Exercise #4 (Scenario 7-1) Planned/Simulated In-Plane Corridor Separation





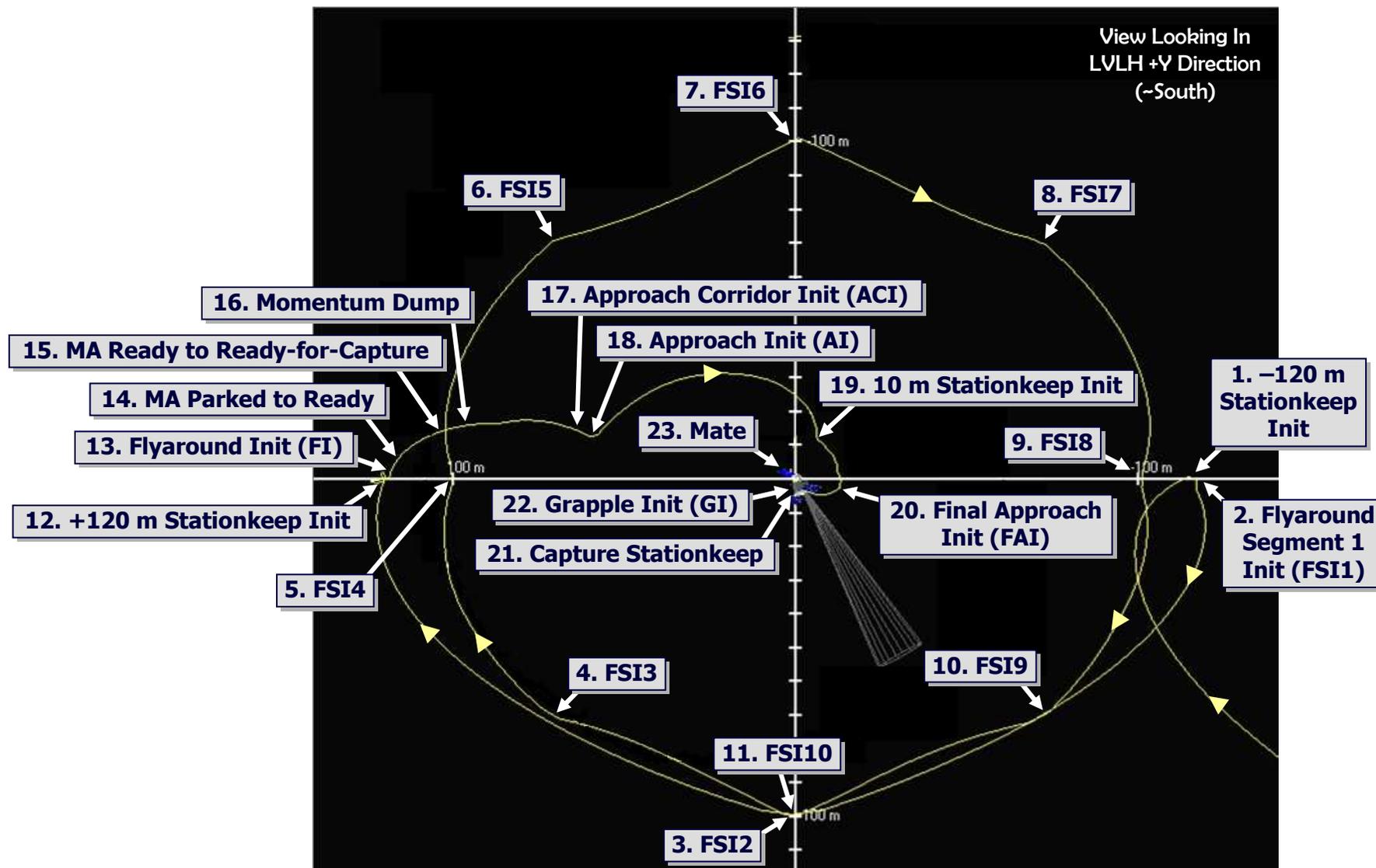
AR&C Exercise #4

Planned/Simulated In-Plane Rendezvous Trajectory





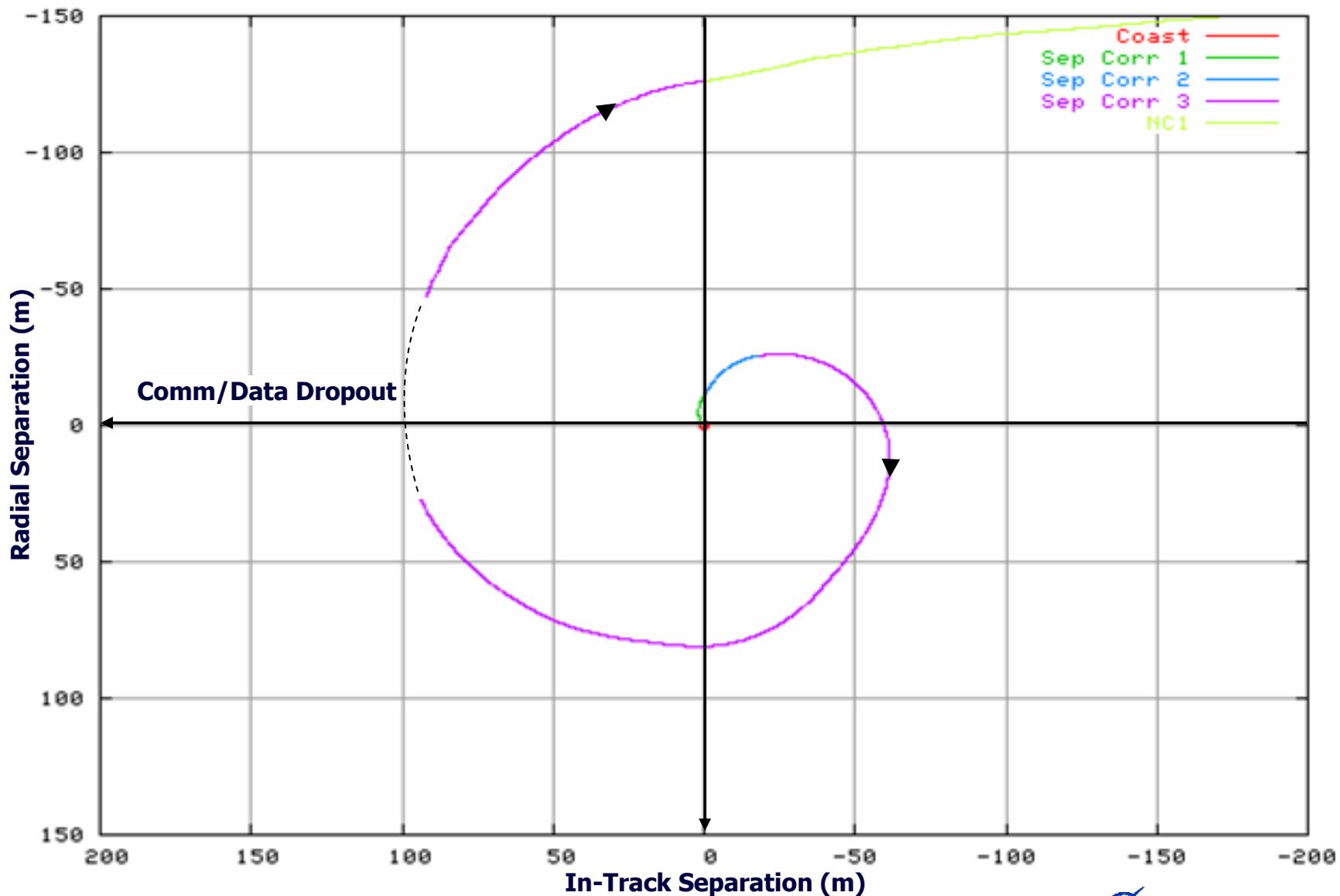
AR&C Exercise #4 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Prox Ops Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #4

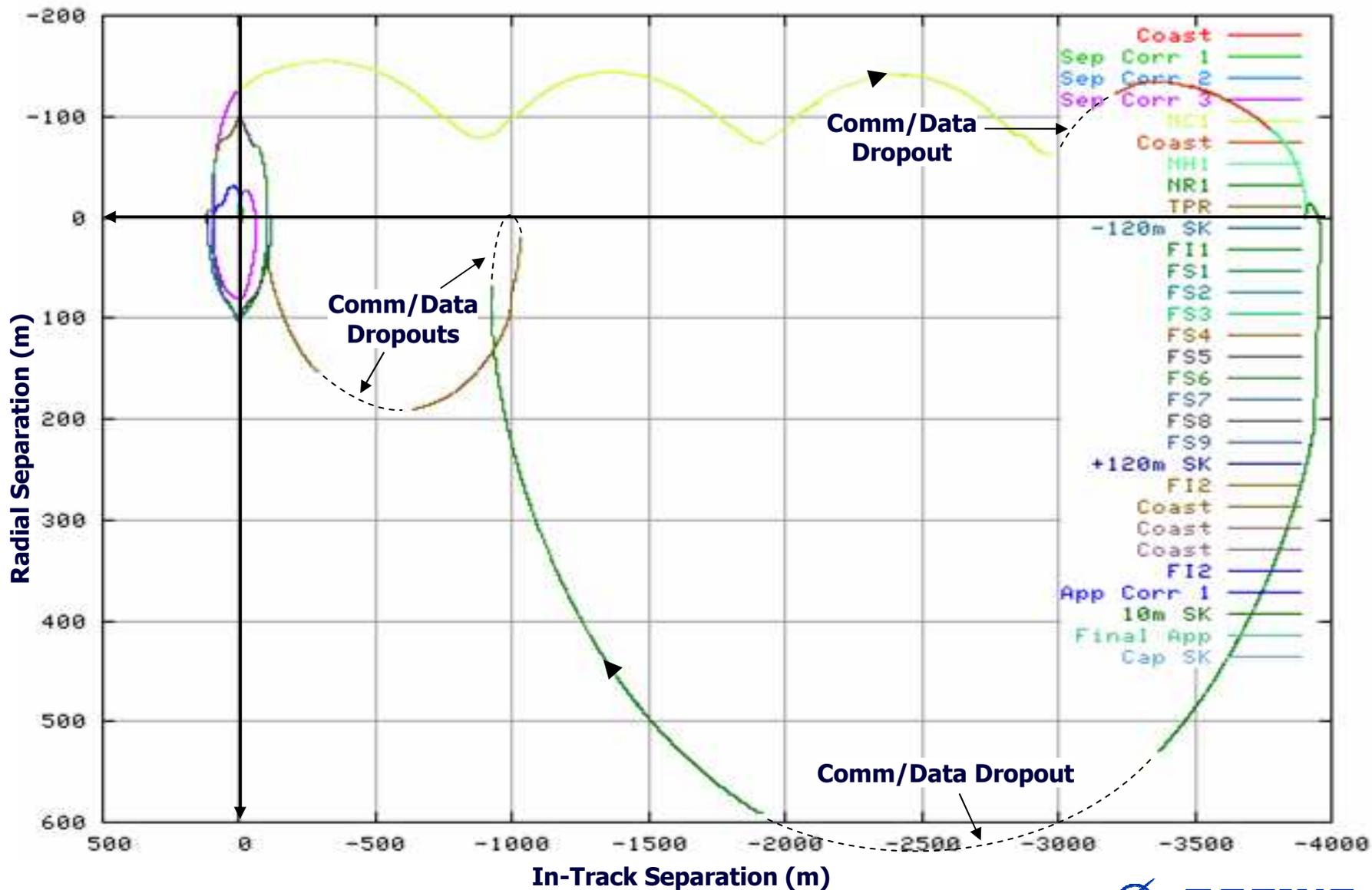
Actual/Onboard In-Plane Corridor Separation





AR&C Exercise #4

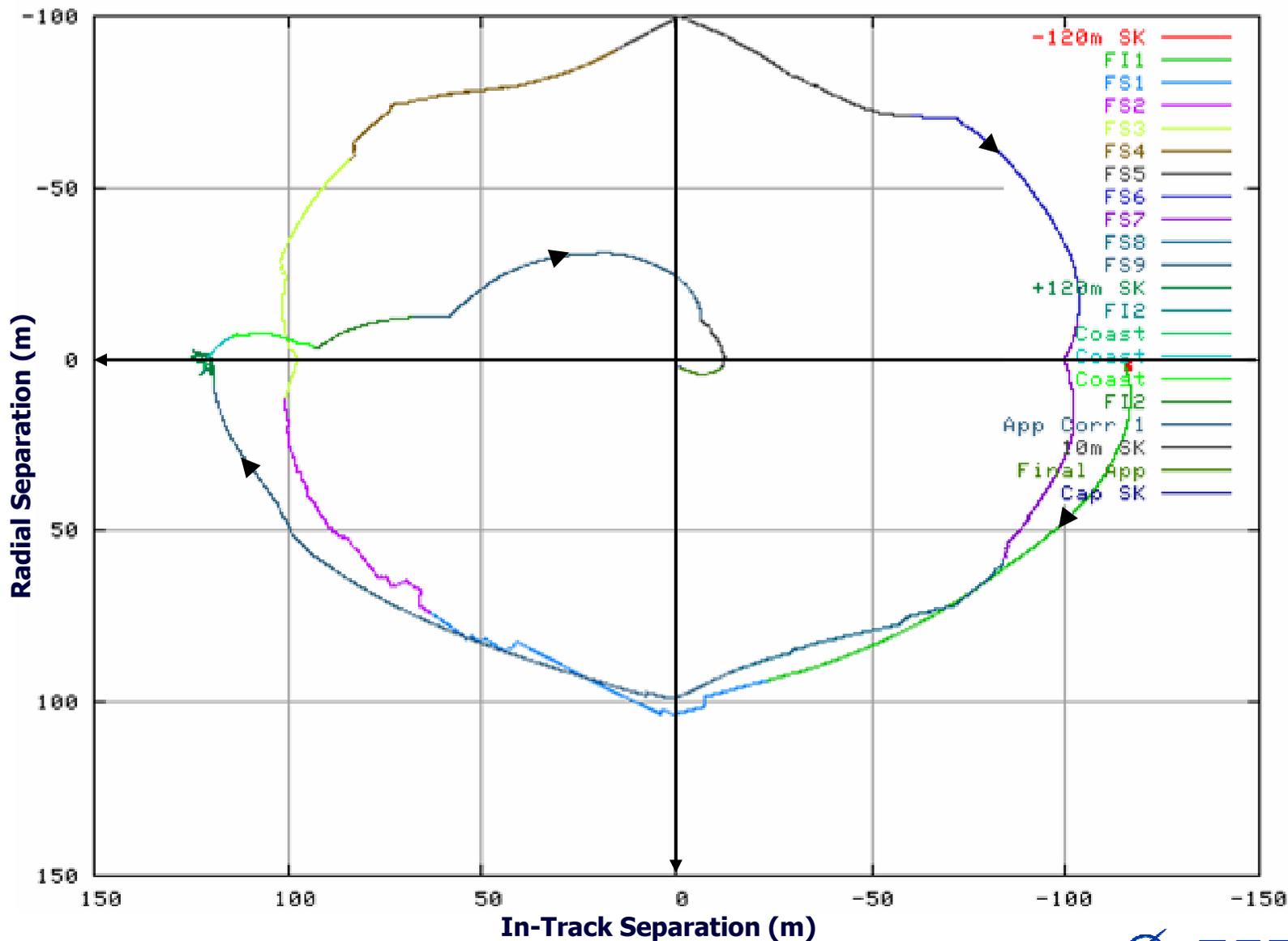
Actual/Onboard In-Plane Rendezvous Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #4

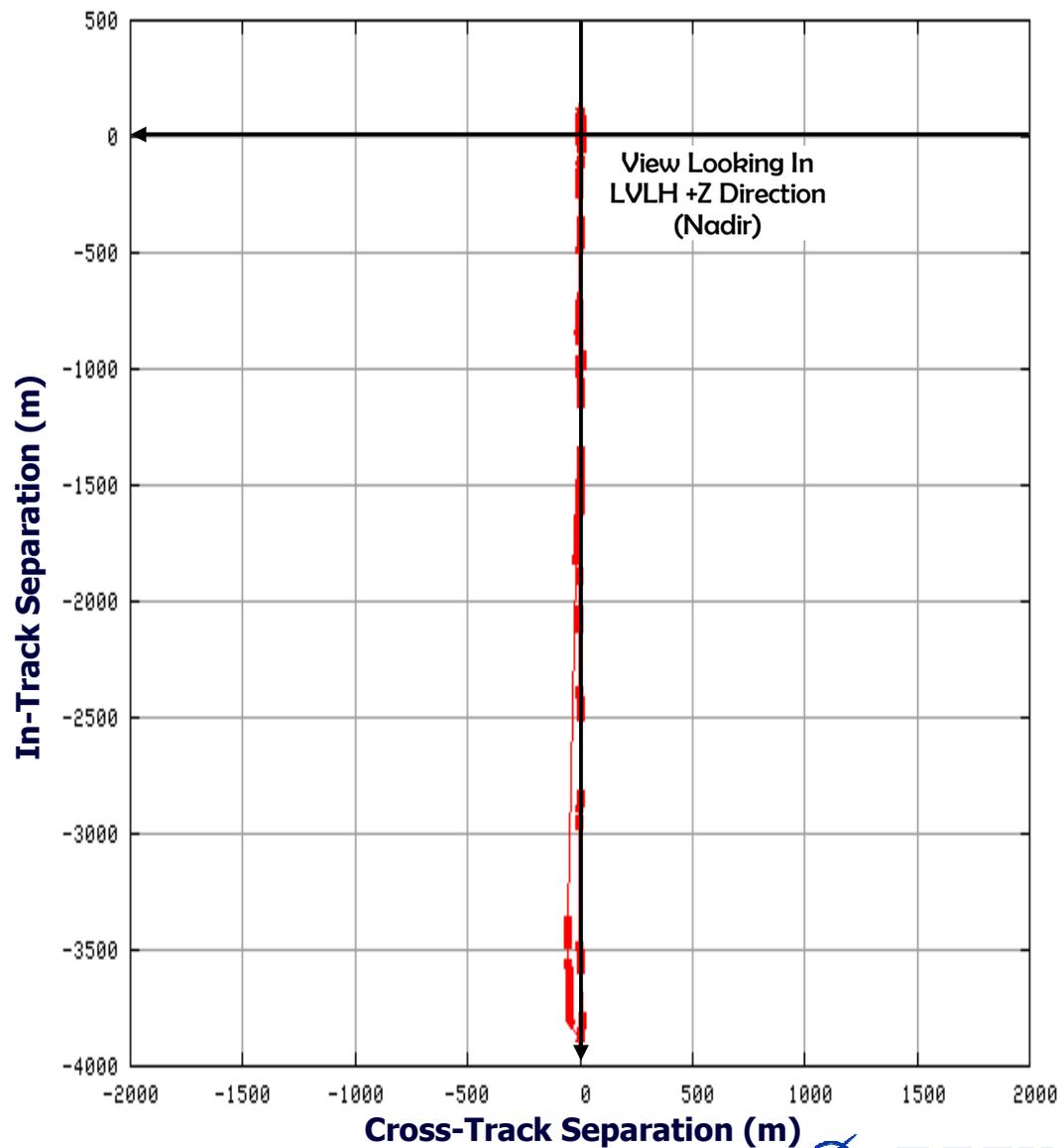
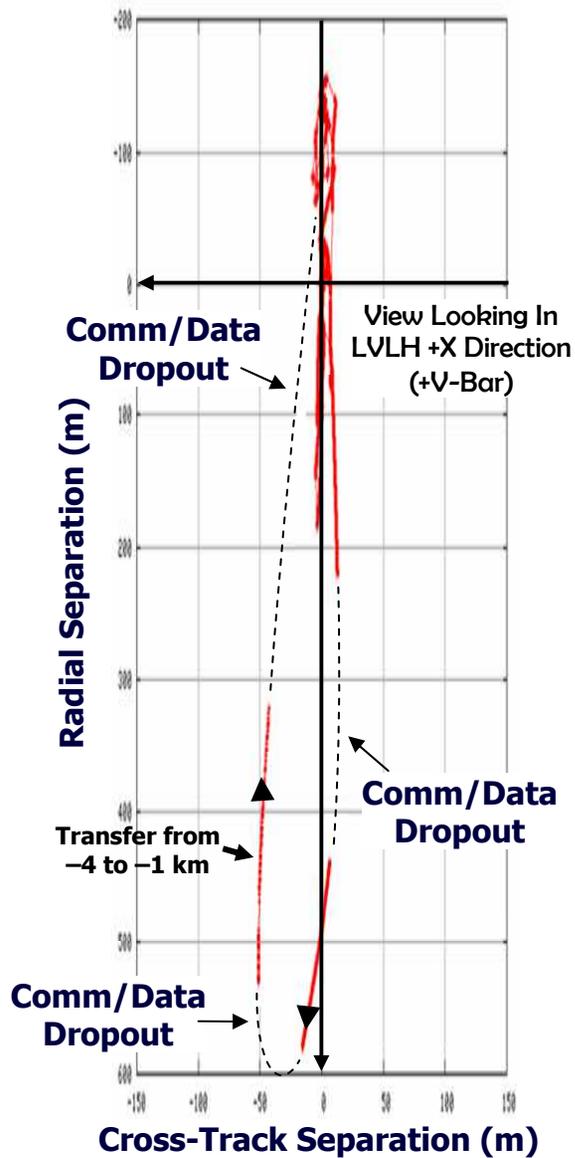
Actual/Onboard In-Plane Flyaround & Approach





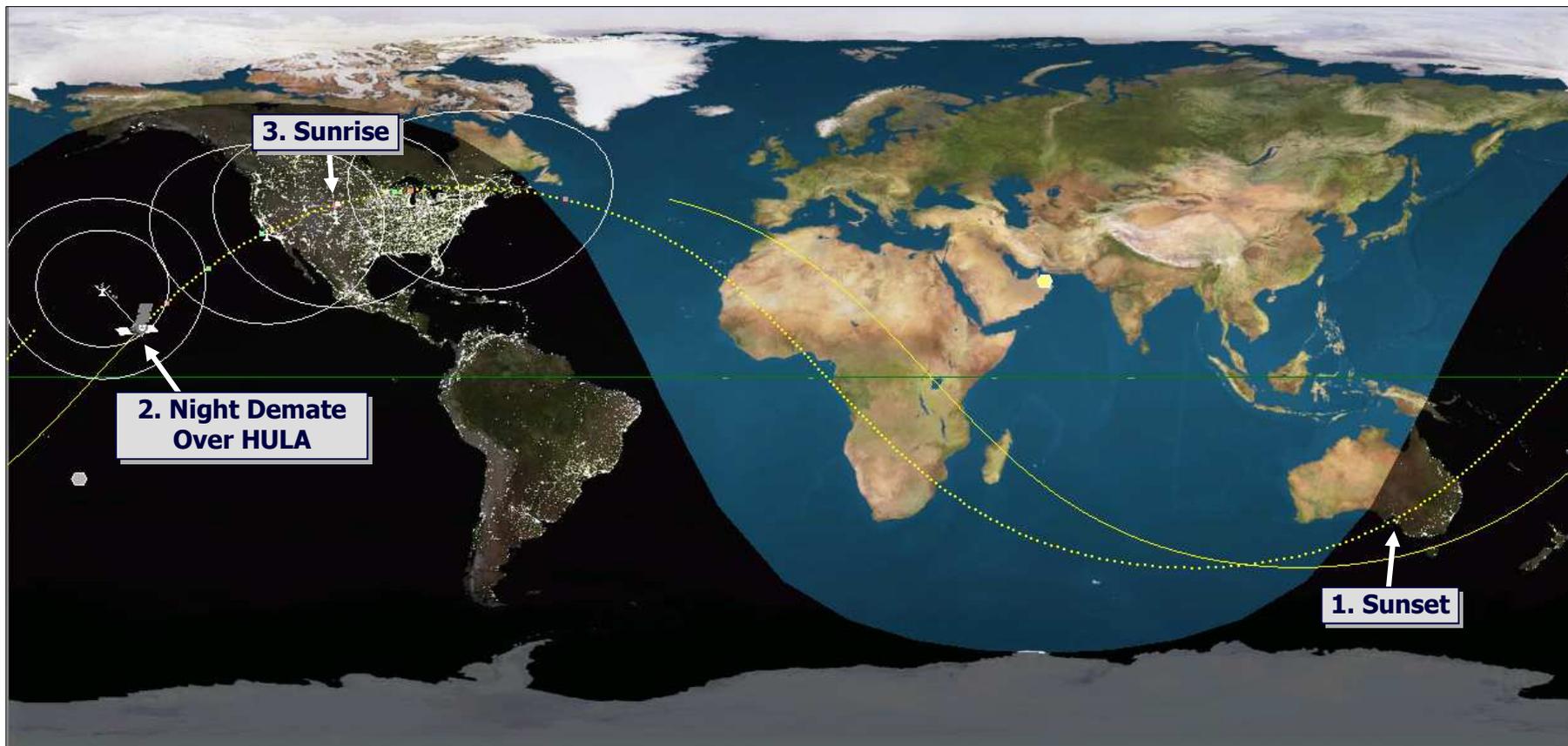
AR&C Exercise #4

Actual/Onboard Out-of-Plane Trajectory



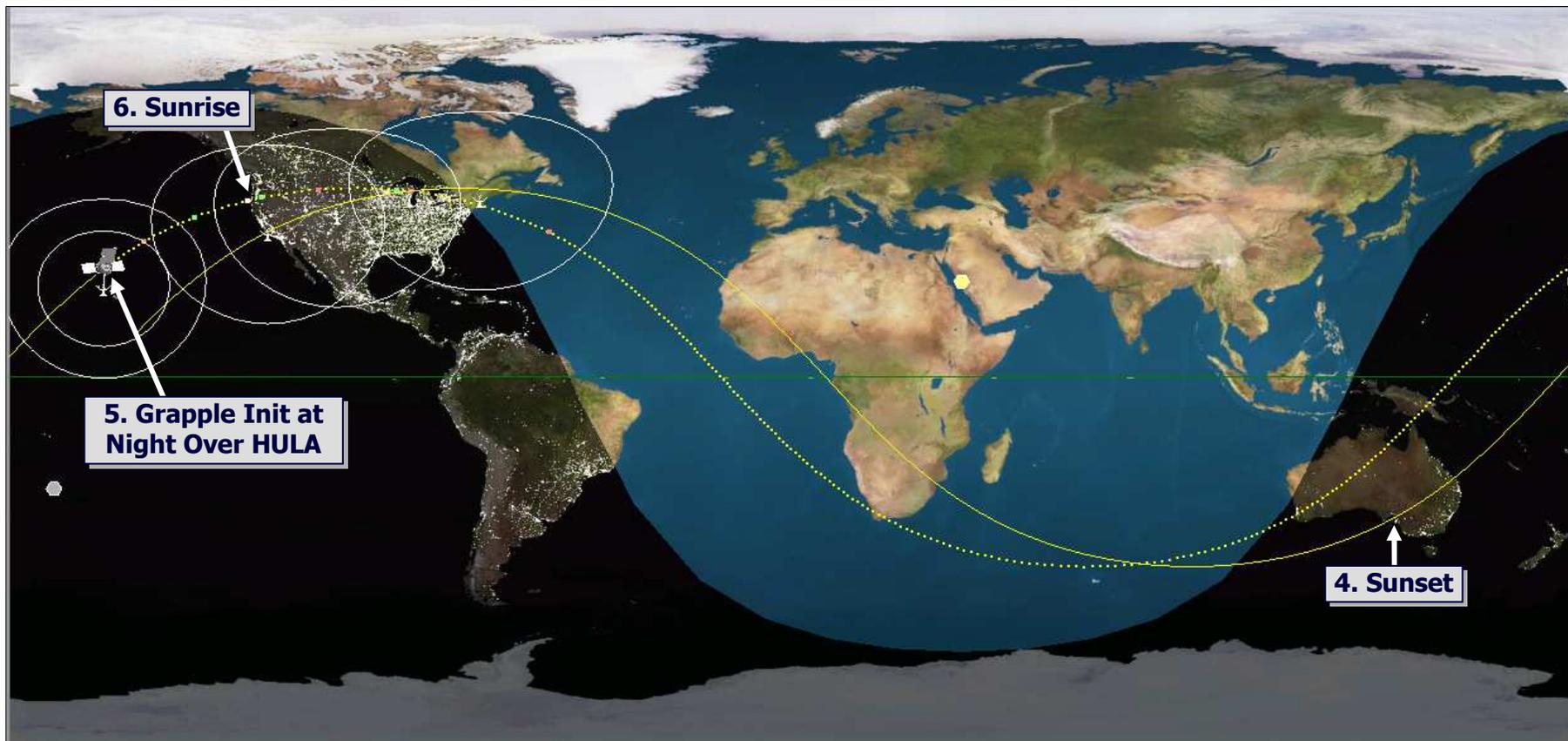


AR&C Exercise #5 (Scenario 8-2) Planned/Simulated Groundtrack at Demate





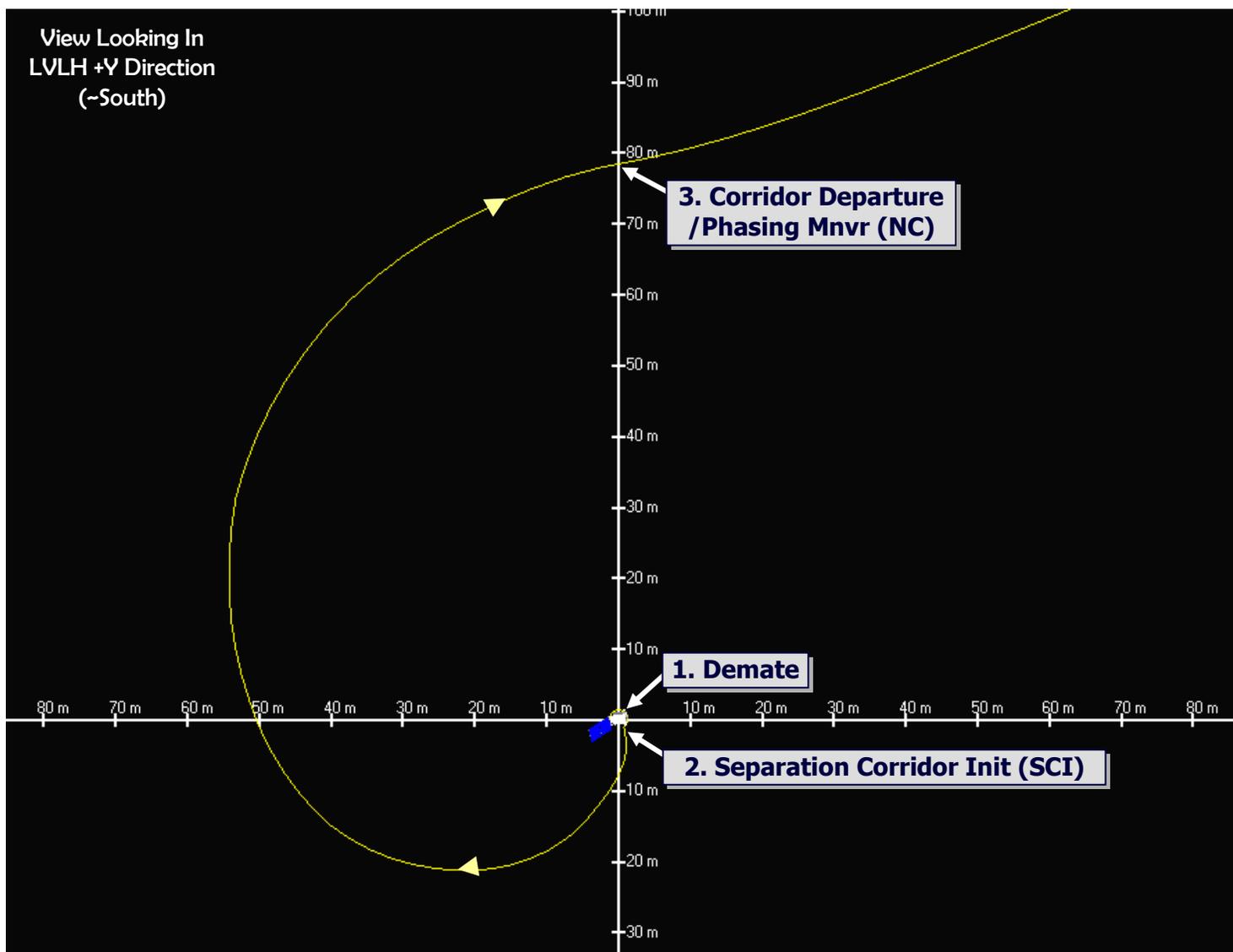
AR&C Exercise #5 Planned/Simulated Groundtrack at Grapple Initiation





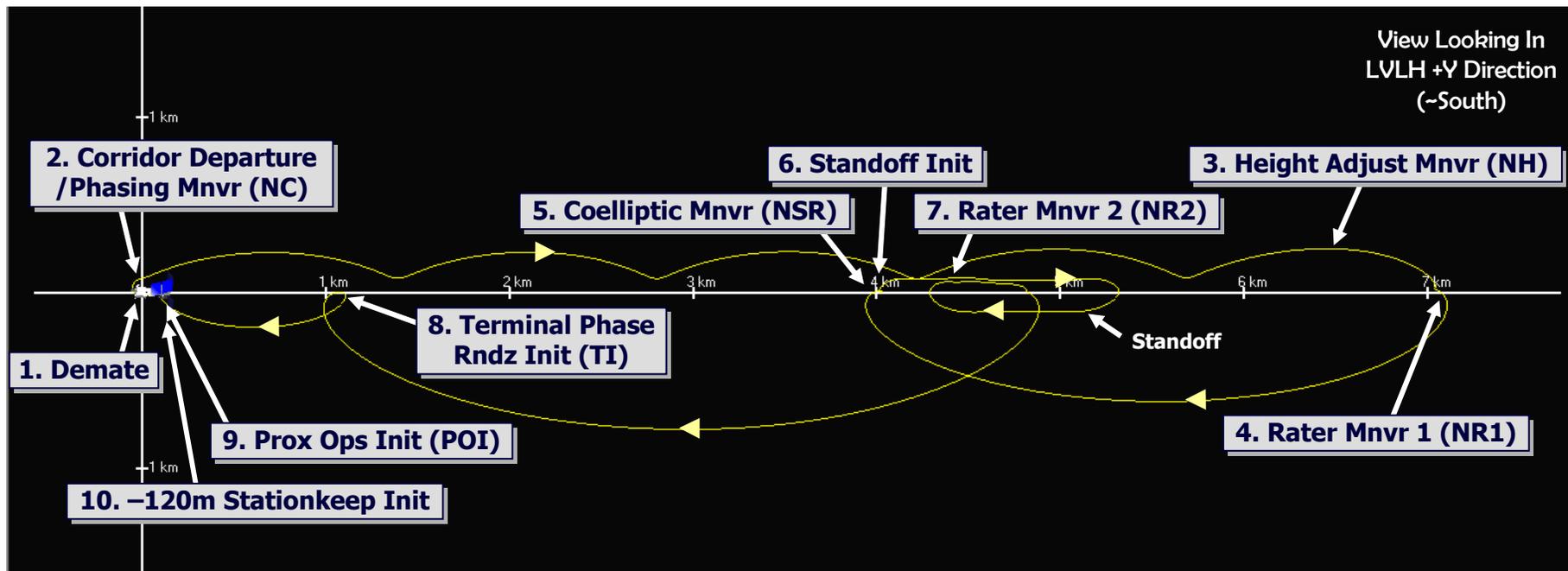
AR&C Exercise #5

Planned/Simulated In-Plane Corridor Separation



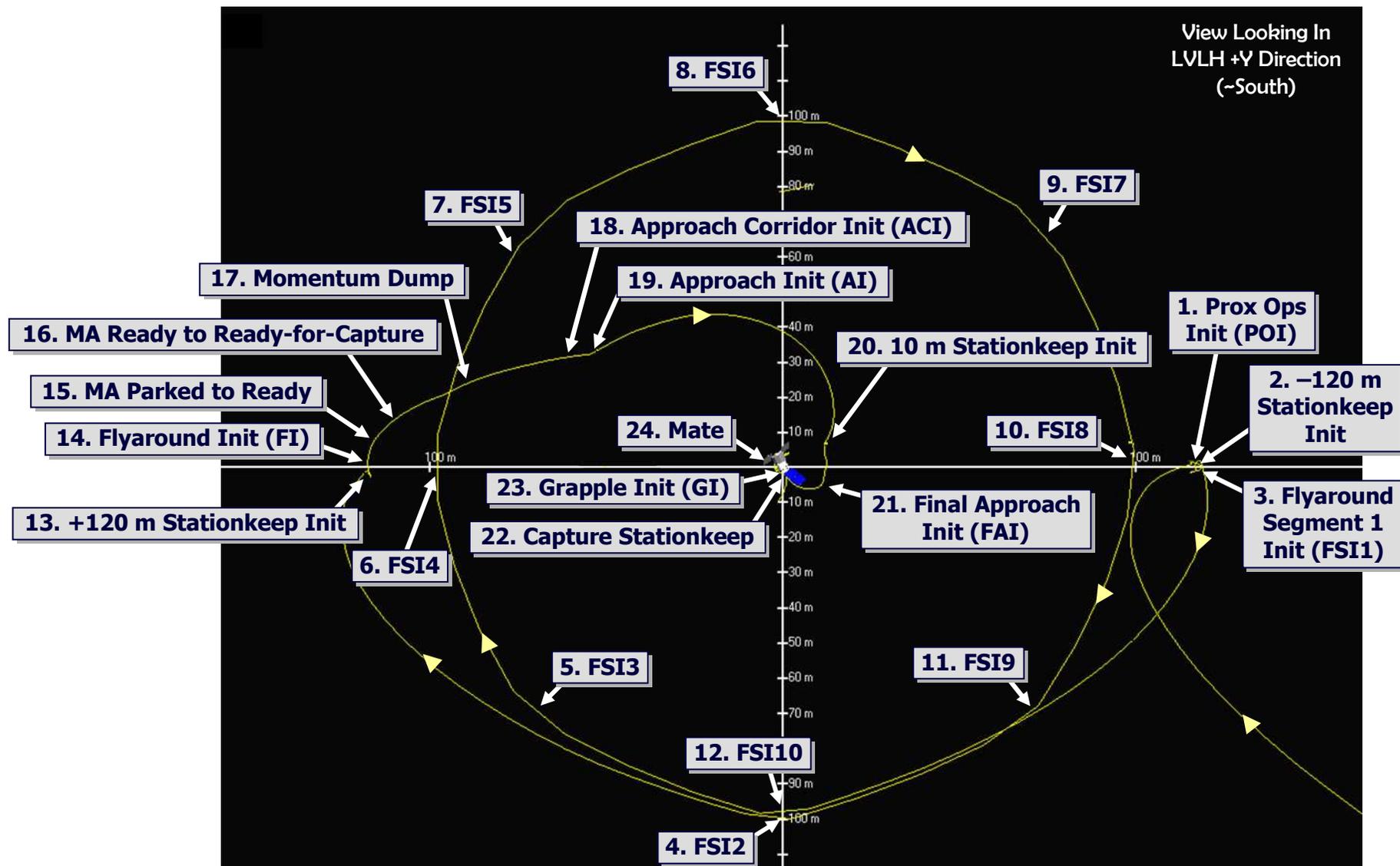


AR&C Exercise #5 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Rendezvous Trajectory





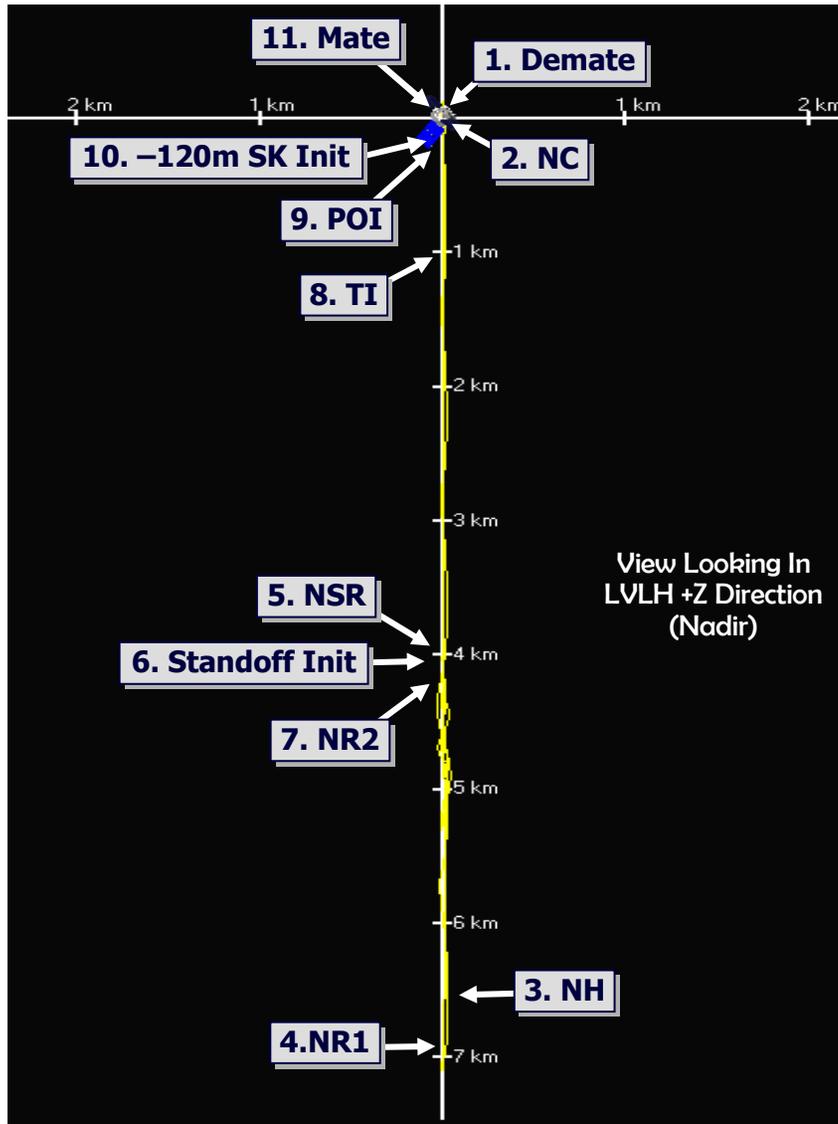
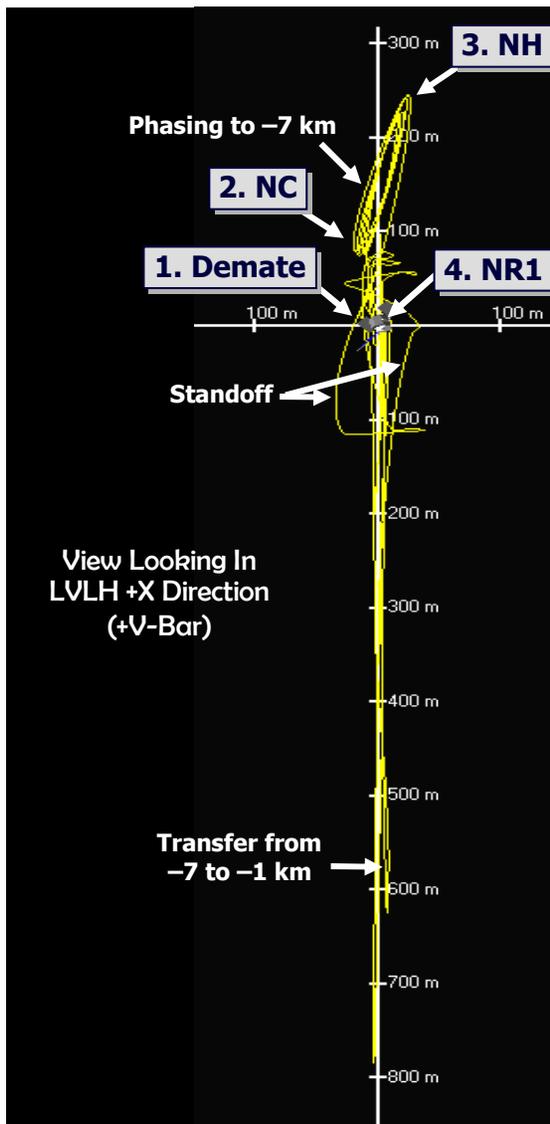
AR&C Exercise #5 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Prox Ops Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #5

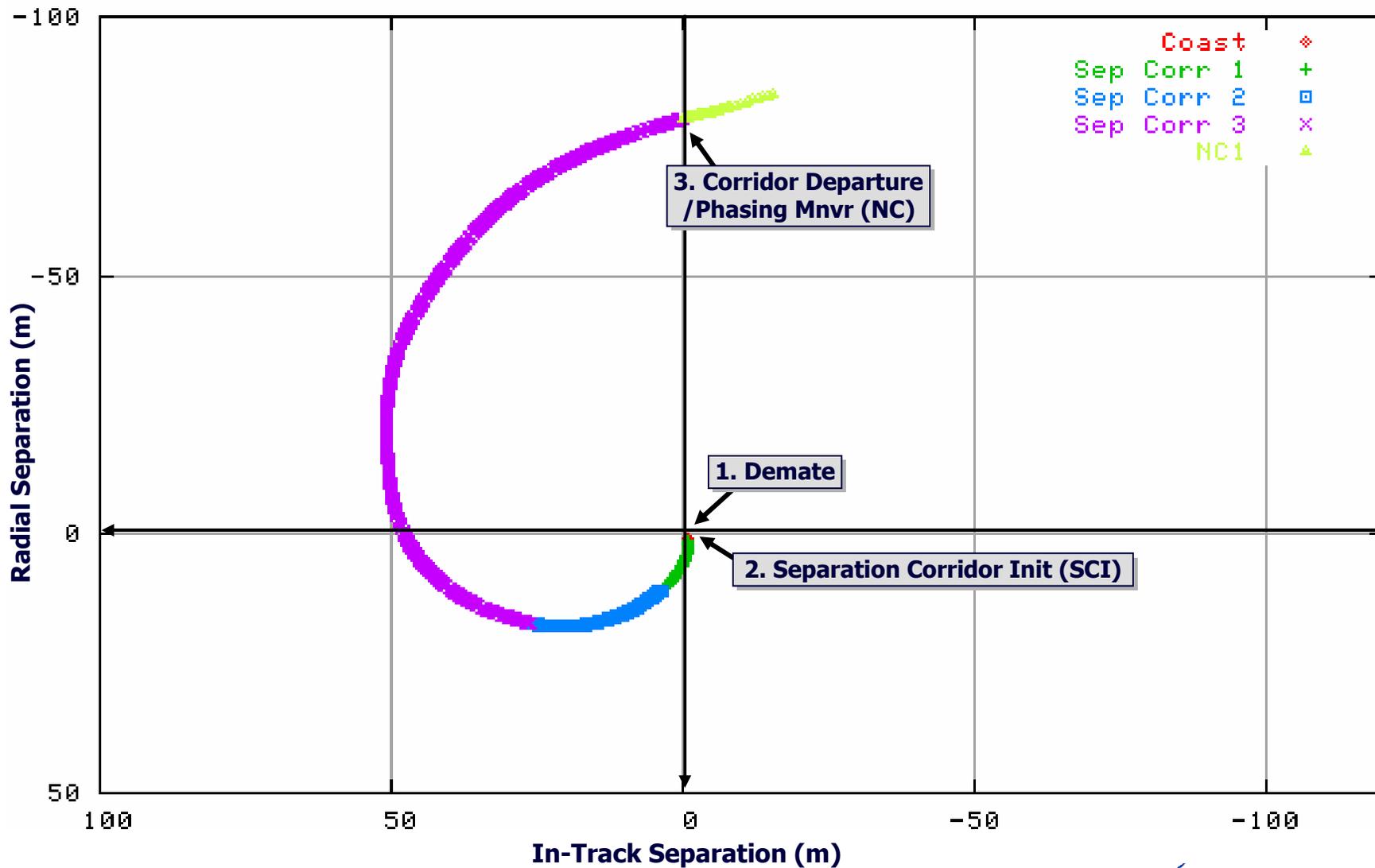
Planned/Simulated Out-of-Plane Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #5

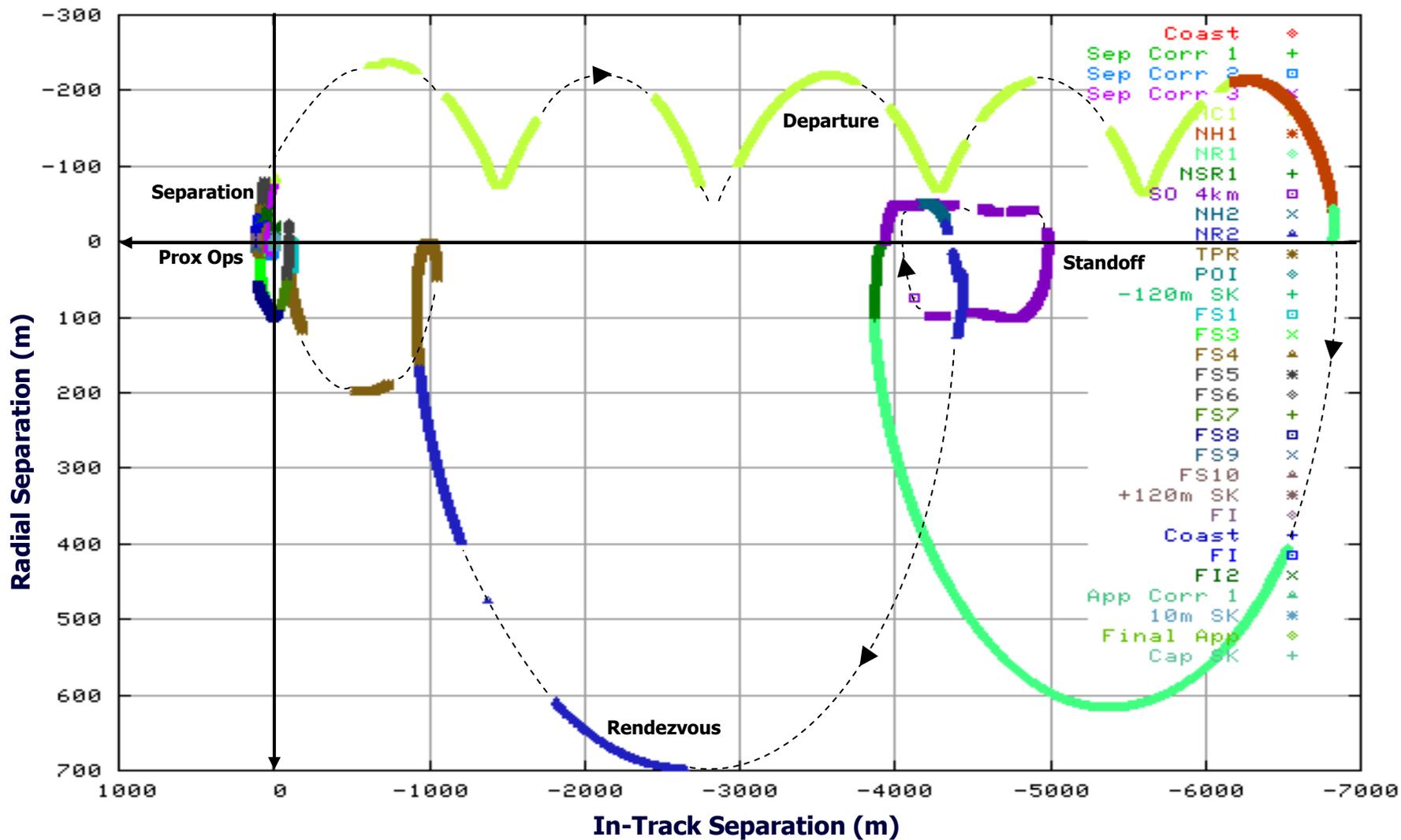
Actual/Onboard In-Plane Corridor Separation





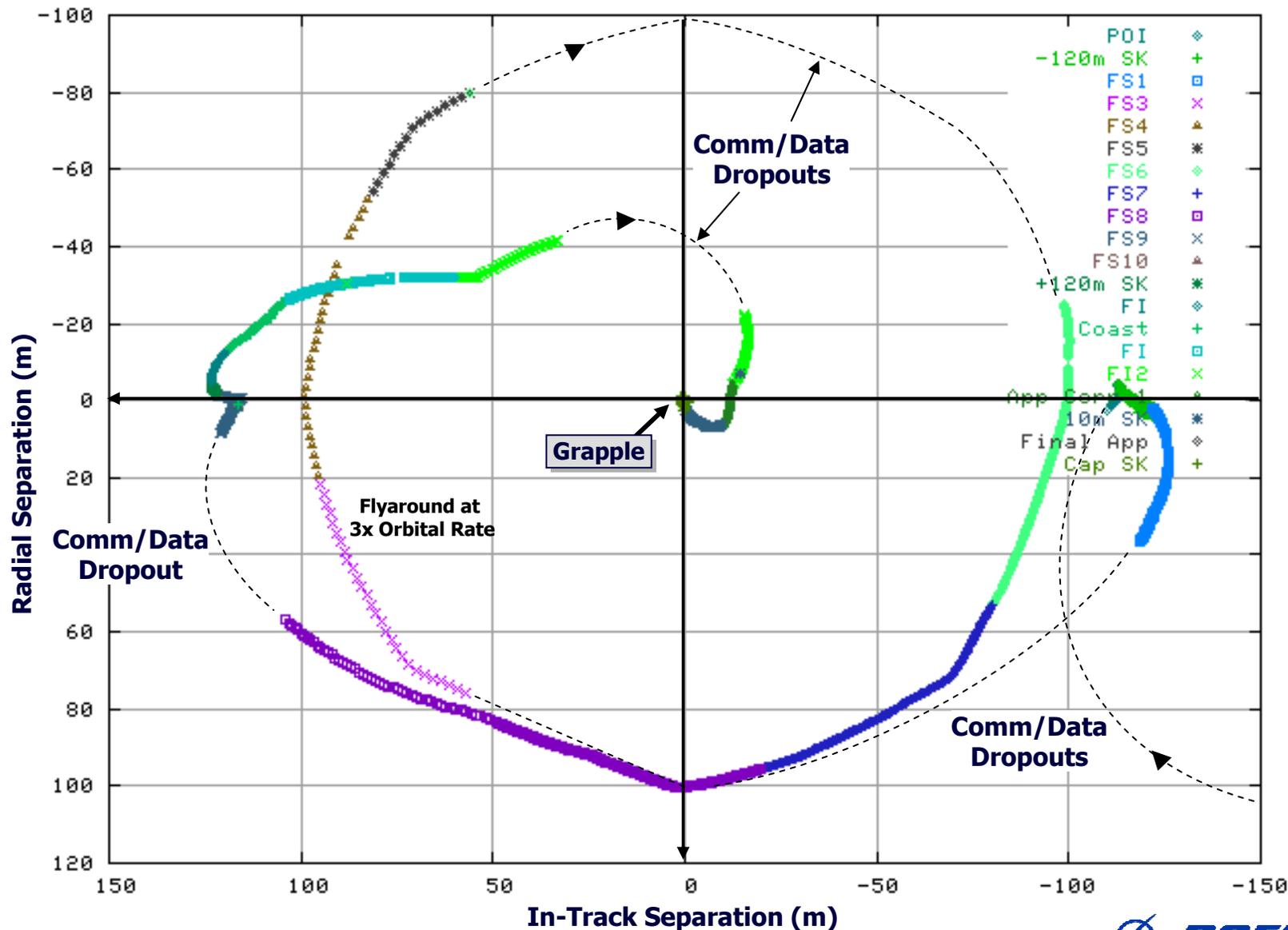
AR&C Exercise #5

Actual/Onboard In-Plane Rendezvous Trajectory





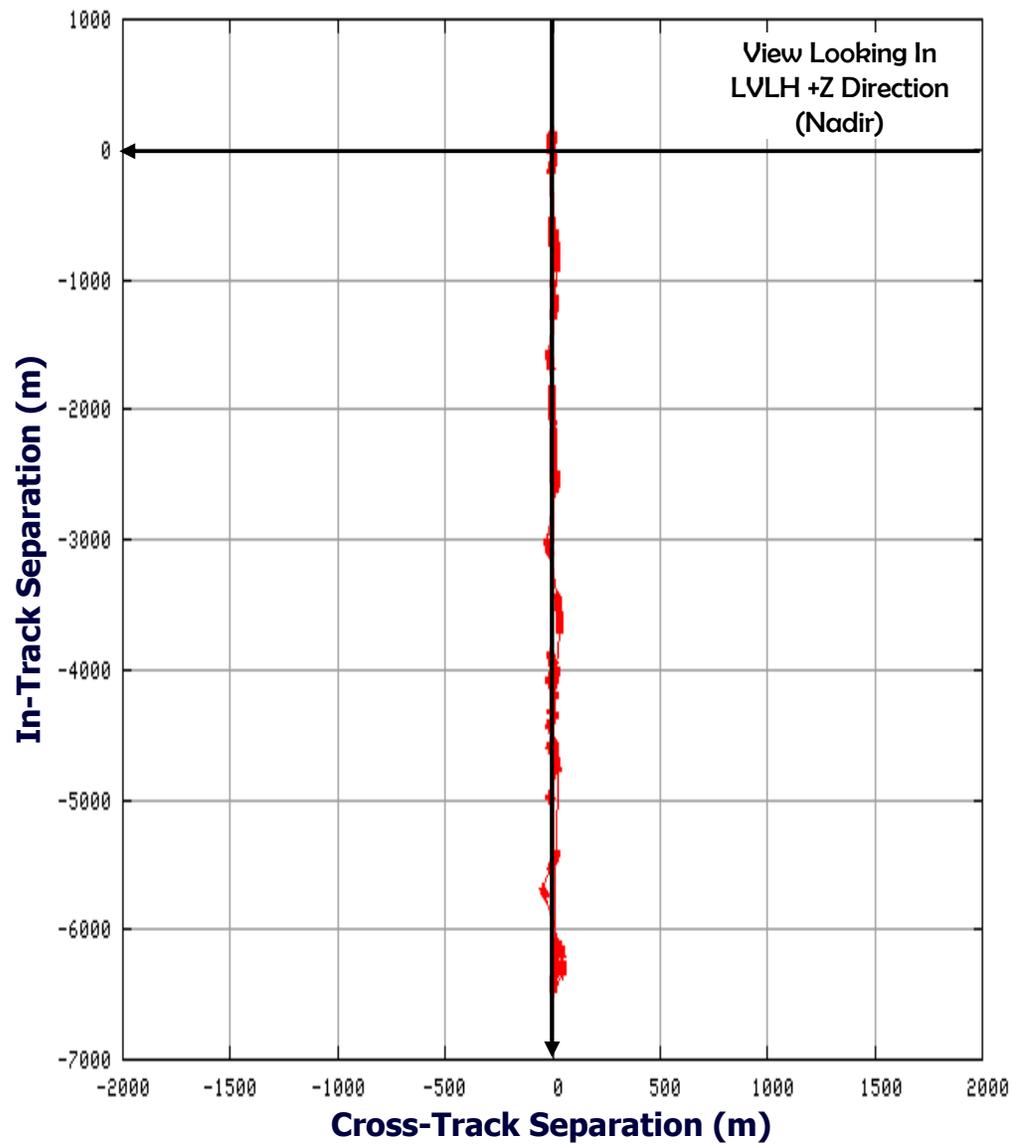
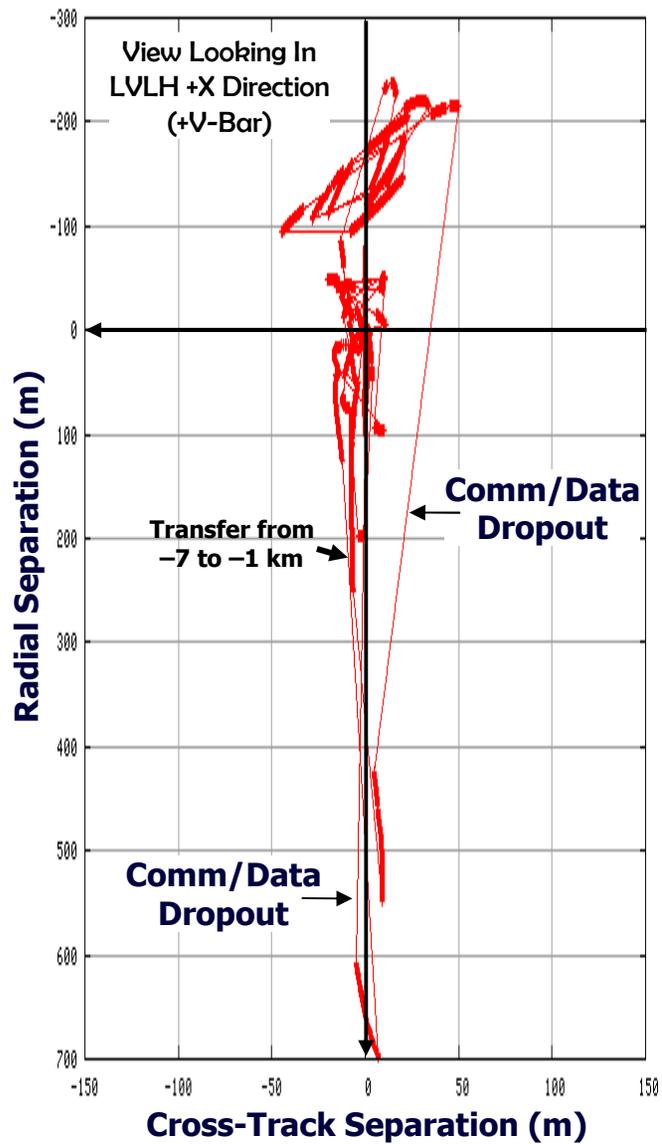
AR&C Exercise #5 Actual/Onboard In-Plane Prox Ops Trajectory





AR&C Exercise #5

Actual/Onboard Out-of-Plane Trajectory

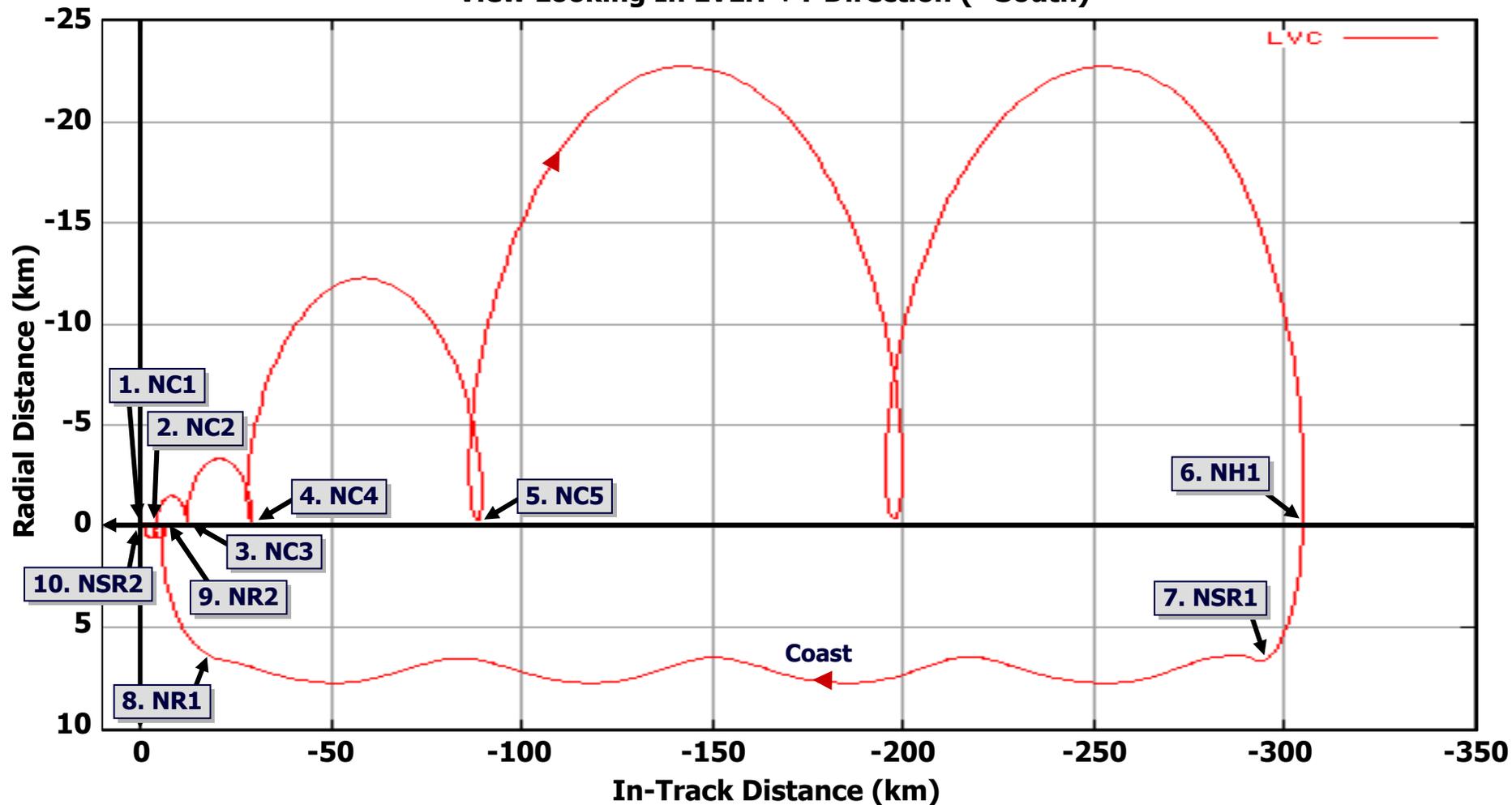




End-of-Life Exercise Part 1 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Outbound & Rendezvous

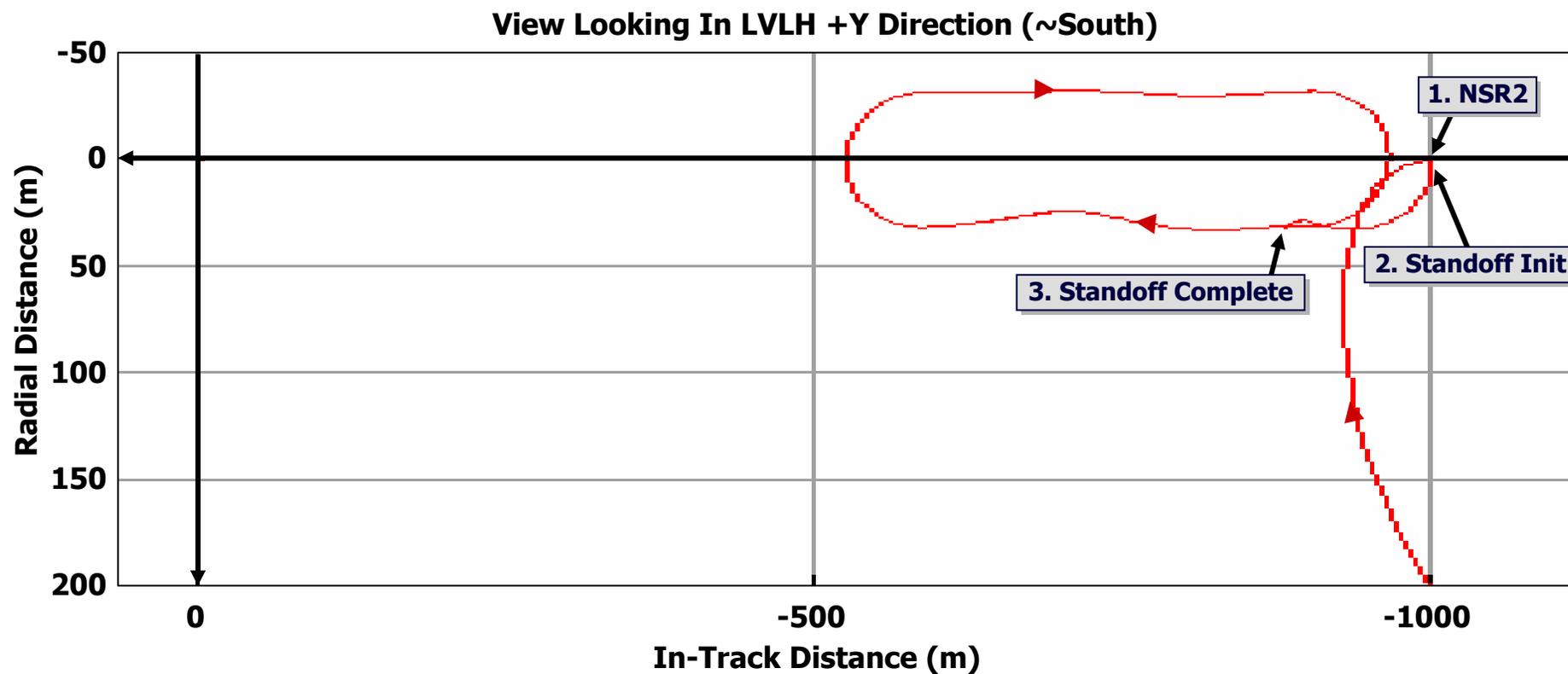


View Looking In LVLH +Y Direction (~South)





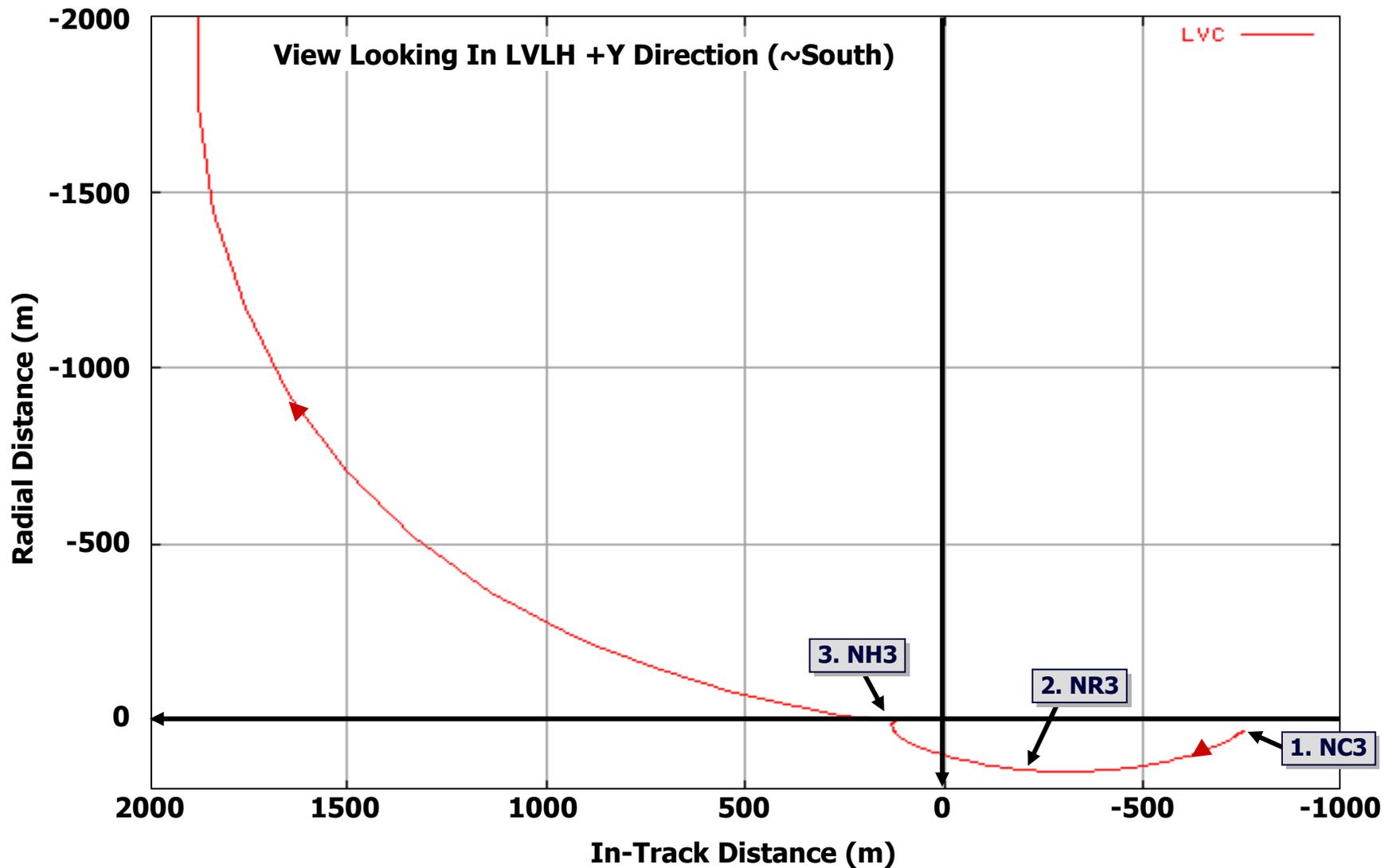
End-of-Life Exercise Part 1 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Standoff Trajectory



ASTRO Spent 4 to 6 hrs per Lap Around the Standoff Racetrack



End-of-Life Exercise Part 2 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Transfer & Early Departure

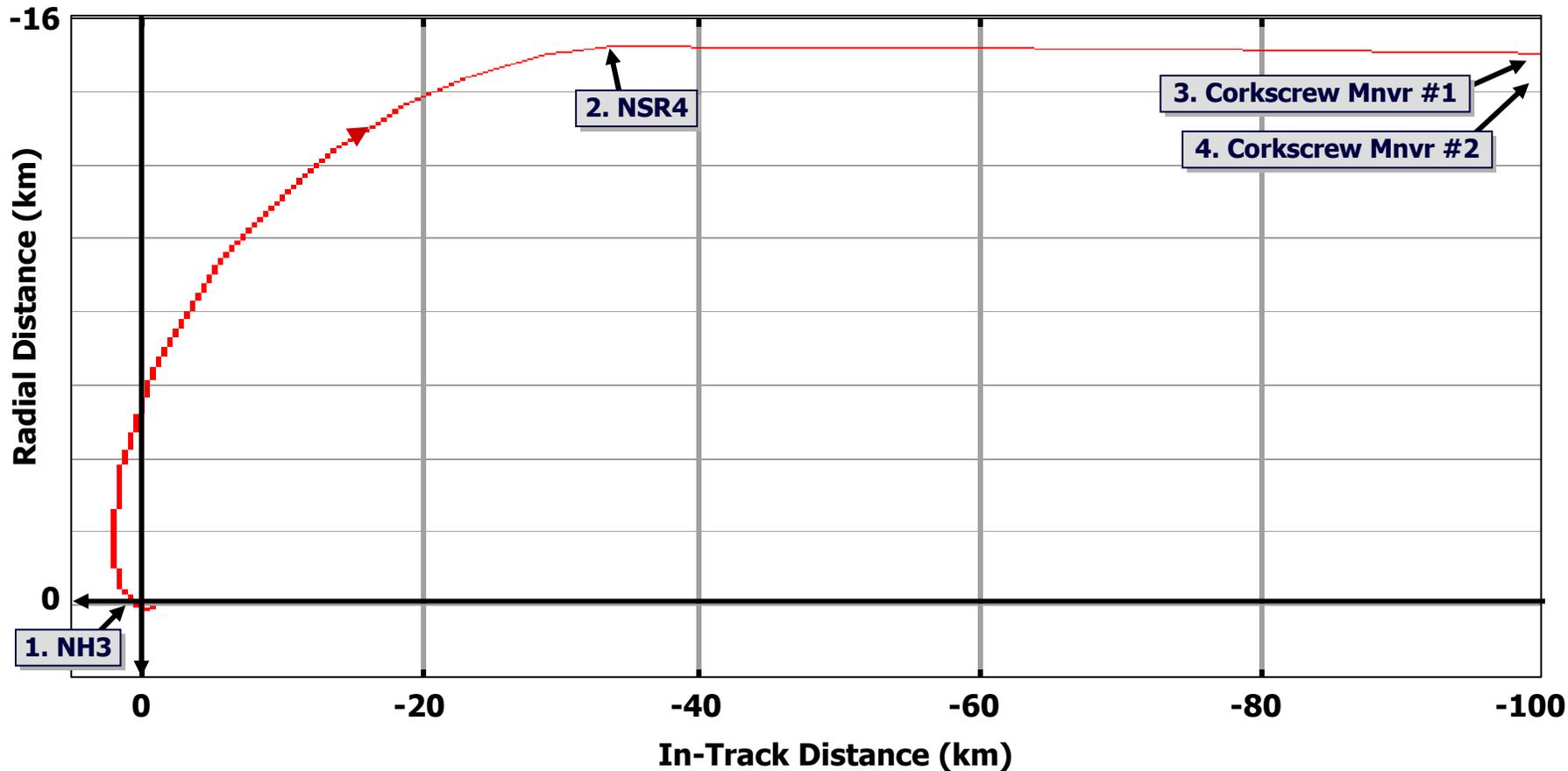




End-of-Life Exercise Part 2 Planned/Simulated In-Plane Departure Trajectory



View Looking In LVLH +Y Direction (~South)





End-of-Life Exercise Part 1 Actual/Onboard In-Plane Corridor Separation

