

# RPC 2020



## Virtual Research Presentation Conference

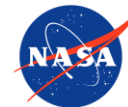
### Additive Manufacturing of Compliant Mechanisms for Deployable Structures

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**Co-Is:** Andre M. Pate (357) Kalind C. Carpenter (347)  
Cornelia Altenbuchner (347) Julian Rimoli (Georgia Tech)

**Program:** Spontaneous Concept

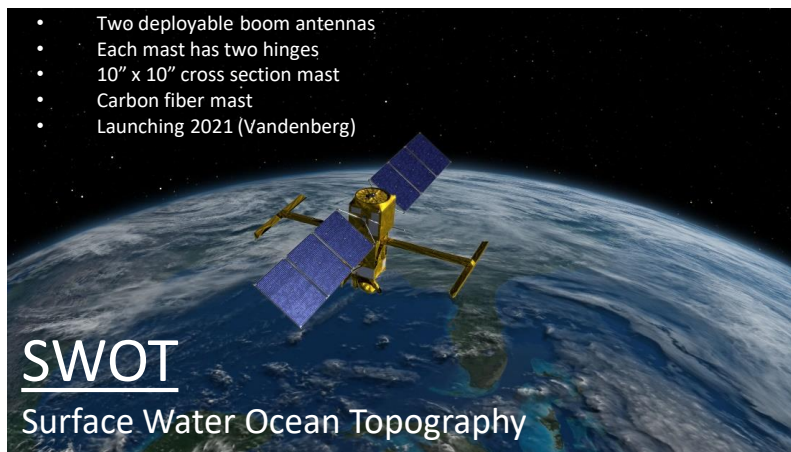
Assigned Presentation #RPC-165



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology

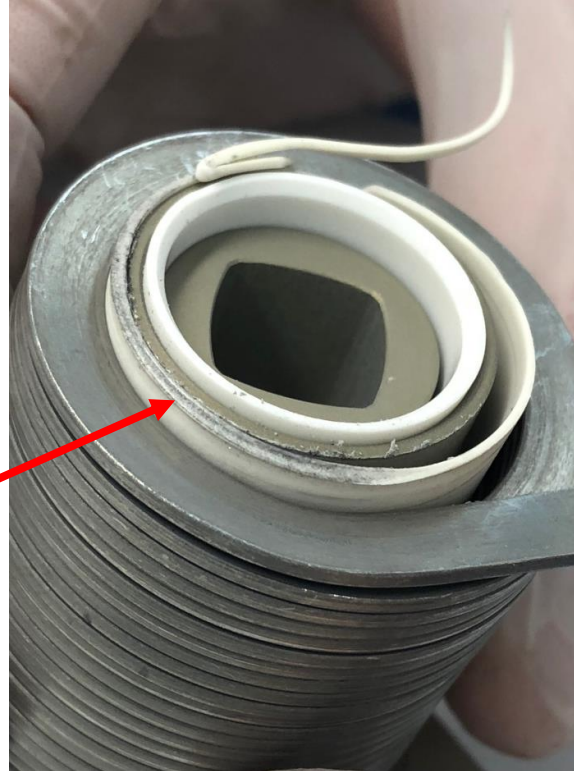
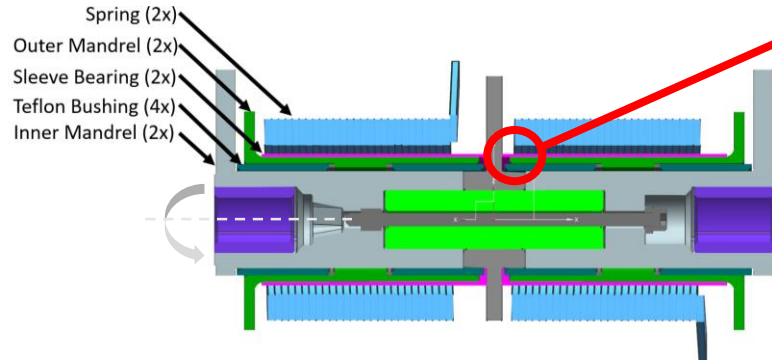
## Introduction

Complex deployable structures have become common on JPL CubeSats (e.g. RainCube, MARCO, ISARA) and large-scale spacecraft (e.g. SMAP, SWOT, NISAR, Starshade). As new, ambitious missions are pursued, there is an increased need for more mass and volume efficient deployments (higher packing density). Over the same timeframe, additive manufacturing (AM) has enabled the fabrication of new forms of flight hardware. However, AM of compliant mechanisms has not been leveraged to design deployable space structures. AM of compliant mechanisms within deployable structures (e.g. antennas, solar panels, booms), could drastically lower part counts, create novel structural tuning methods, and design previously impossible geometries. Utilizing AM would therefore lead to deployable spacecraft elements with higher mass and volume efficiencies.



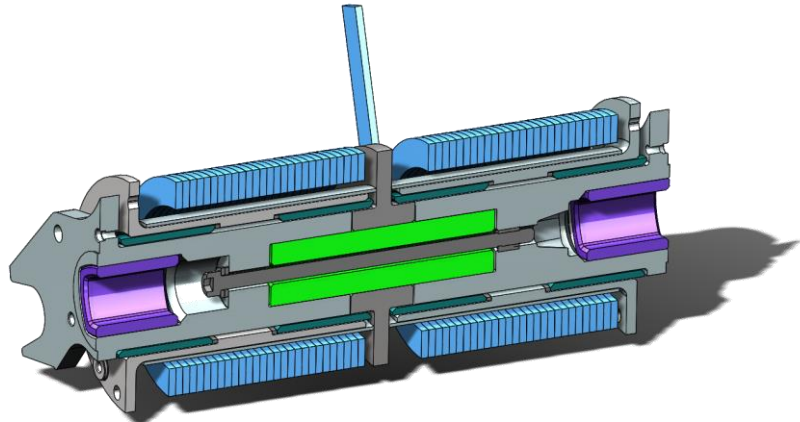
## Problem Description

- Spring rectangular cross section cut into Teflon sleeve bearing below spring.
- Generating unacceptable foreign object debris
- Spring winding and cycling propagates failure
- Resulted in length and expensive hardware failure investigation

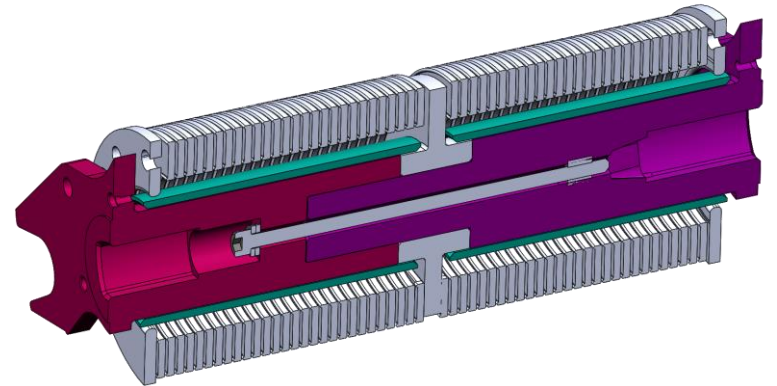
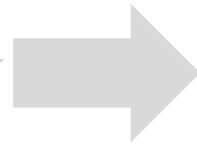


## Methodology

- a) Demonstrate that additive manufacturing can be effectively used to improve performance within compliant mechanisms and torsional springs.
- b) Demonstrate the additive manufacturing can be used to minimize part count in compliant mechanisms.
- c) Further develop the state of the art within JPL for developing flight drawings for additive manufacturing.



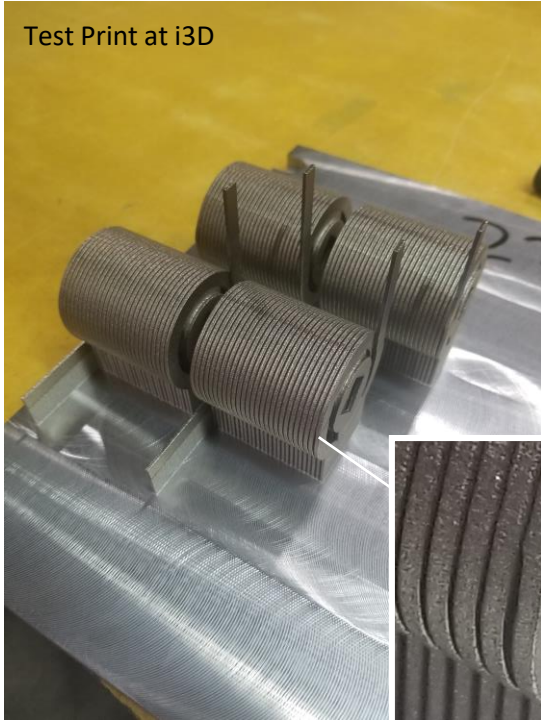
Original Mechanism (24 parts)



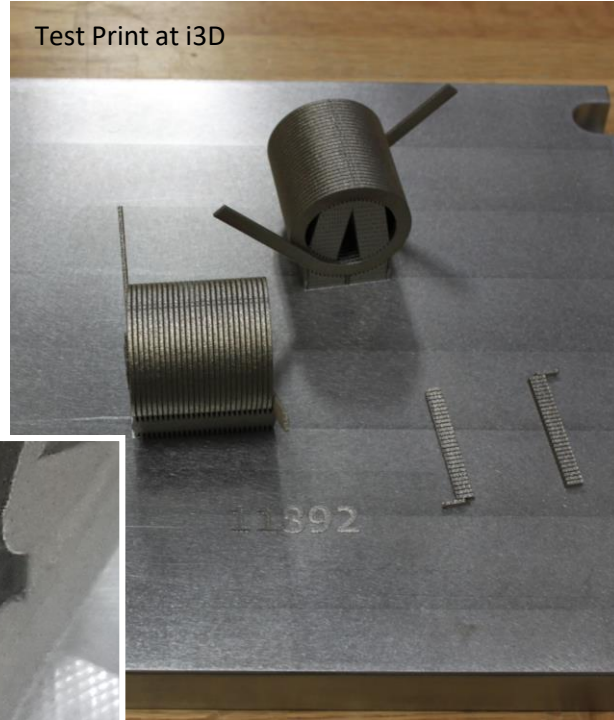
Spring performance enhancement (9 parts)

# Results

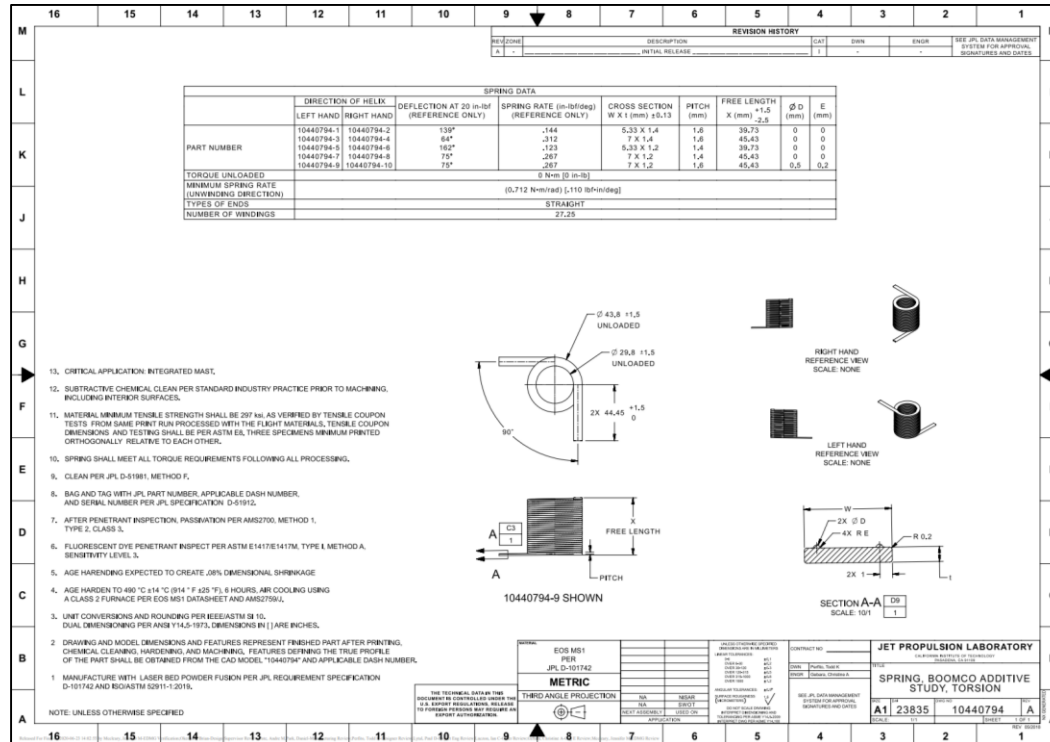
Test Print at i3D



Test Print at i3D



## Cat 1 Drawing for Additive Manufacturing



# Publications and References

