

# Space Processors

ADCSS 2017

ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

DEFENCE AND SPACE

Olivier Notebaert  
2017, October 19<sup>th</sup>

**AIRBUS**

# F P G A S I C P U

Flexibility Performance Green Autonomy Smart Intelligence Communications User  
 Friendly Products Generic Availability Sustainable Integration Costs Useful  
 Fast Productivity Global Affordable Simple Innovative COTS Universal



## Space Processors

?

needs



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# Avionics Technology Trends

@ ADCSS 2015



## Space systems on-board processing technologies

**Future needs and technology development strategy**

On-board processing technology trends

Main research targets for Airbus Defence and Space



Philae landing on the comet

# Avionics Technology Trends

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- + in Orbit Servicing
- + Deep Space Gateway

...



Research & Technology activities in on-board data processing domain

## Future missions

### In development

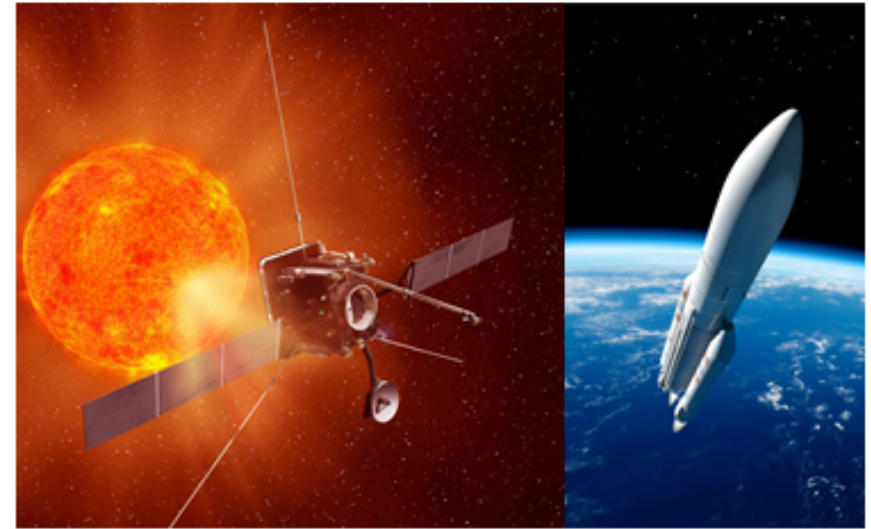
- Space science and exploration program  
– Bepi-Colombo, Solo, Euclid, Juice...
- Metop-SG
- Next generation telecom
- Ariane 6
- Human Flight: ORION
- Large constellations (OneWeb)

### Longer term

- Machine to Machine services
- Multi-service payloads
- Highly flexible and autonomous systems
- Space exploration robotic systems
- Vision based navigation
- Reusable launchers
- Space plane
- ...

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ADCSS 2015 Workshop on avionics technology trend  
October 21st, 2015, ESA/ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands



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# Avionics Technology Trends

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Research & Technology activities in on-board data processing domain

## Future Needs



### Challenging requirements...

- New on-board functions, autonomy and flexibility
- Missions with high availability requirements
- High data throughput increasing with instruments technology
- Payload with many instruments...
- ➔ Rapidly growing on-board data processing performance requirements

### Constraints

- Ground space communications limited bandwidth
- Limited power, volume & mass
- Harsh environment (mechanical, thermal, radiations...)
- ➔ Cost and competitiveness

### Context

- Increasing technology gap between space and ground electronics
- Limited choice of space-grade components
- Space is a niche market (business model)
- ➔ Limited Budget for technology development

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# Avionics Technology Trends

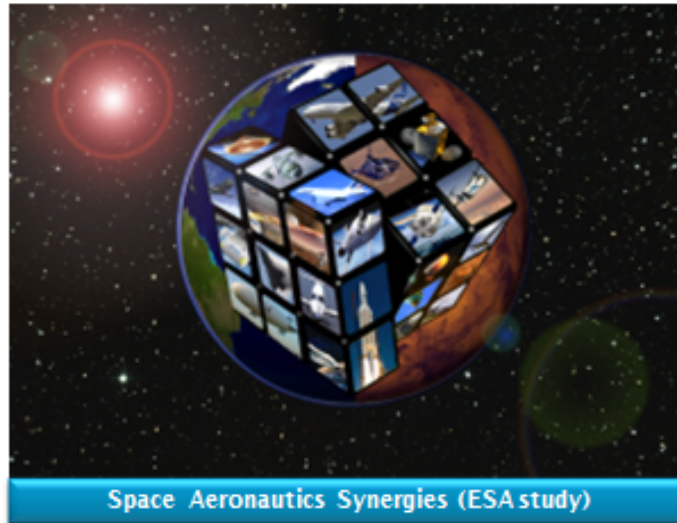
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Research & Technology activities in on-board data processing domain

## Space technology development strategy

- Fill the technology gap **without re-inventing the wheel for space**
  - Synergies between Space, Aeronautics and other domains
  - Enable use of commercial electronics (COTS)



- Technology developments focus on **competitiveness and Non dependency**

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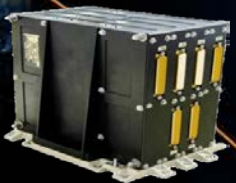
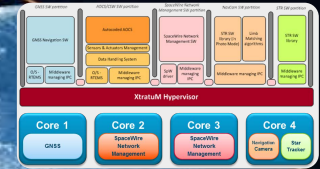
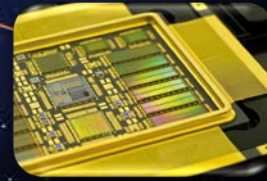
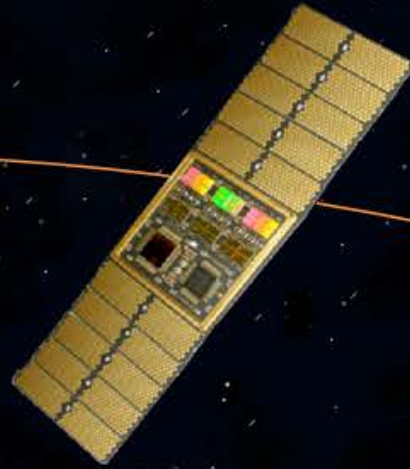
Targets

Technology

COTS components

Software

Products



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Targets

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# Targets

Avionics



Market



Instruments



 Technology

 Integration

 Products

Targets

Technology

COTS components

Software

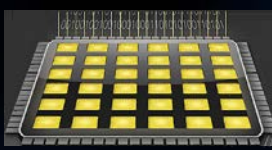
Products



*The problem with multicore*

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# Technology



OPEN

Multicore

Performance

Constraints

Game change



Is not  
a  
requirement

Is  
an  
enabling  
Technology  
for  
Performance  
&  
Integration

Size  
180nm  
150nm  
90nm  
65nm  
28nm  
24nm  
16nm

Power  
more  
GHz  
Gbit/s  
GFLOPS  
per Watt

Resources  
shared  
Memory  
cache  
I/Os  
FPU

Software  
parallelism  
SMP  
AMP  
MTAPI  
OpenMP  
OpenCL



# Orbit

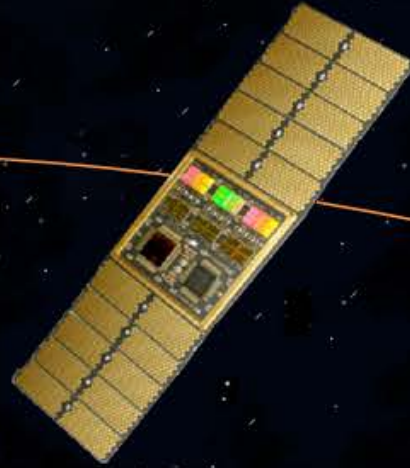
Targets

Technology

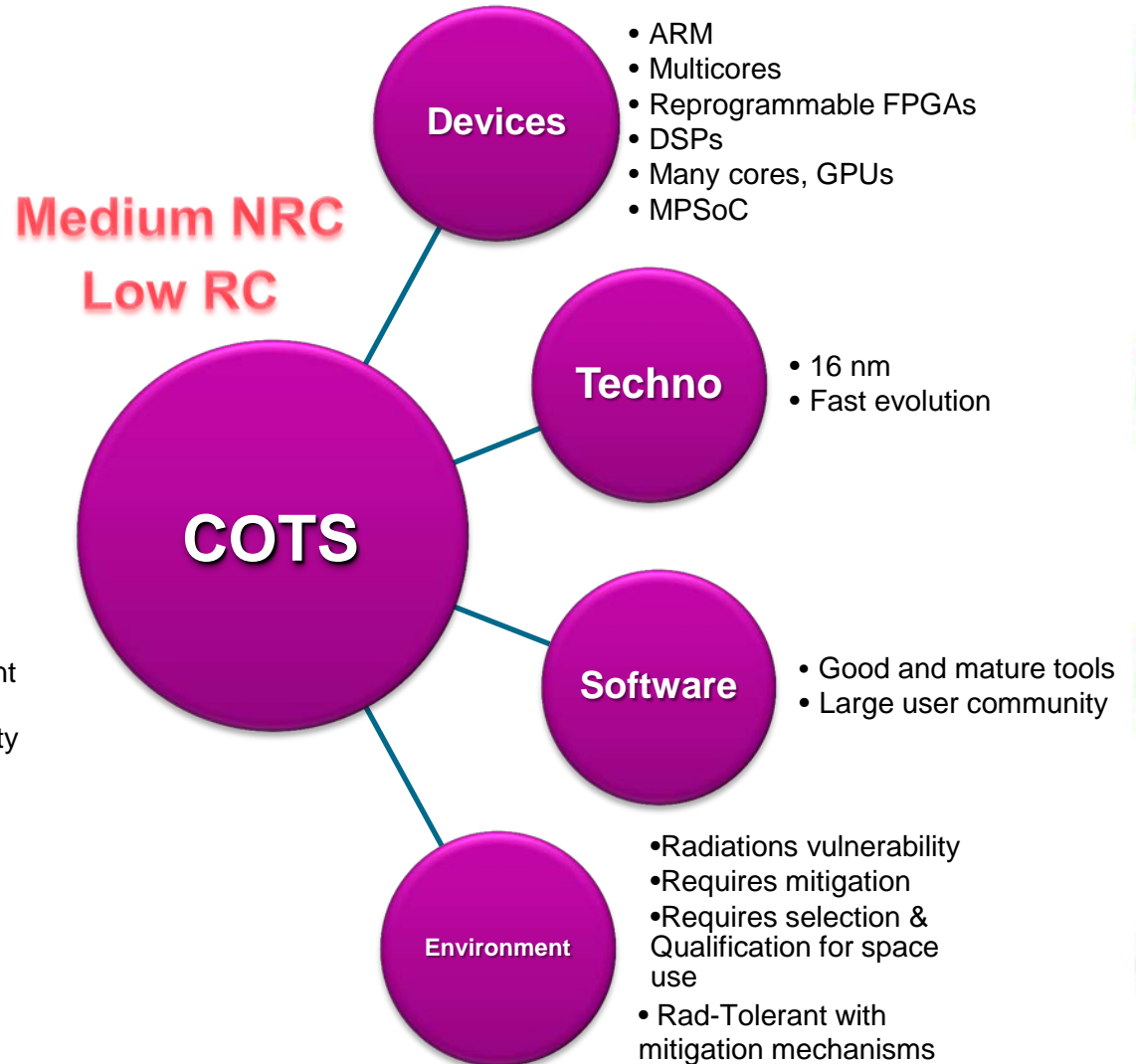
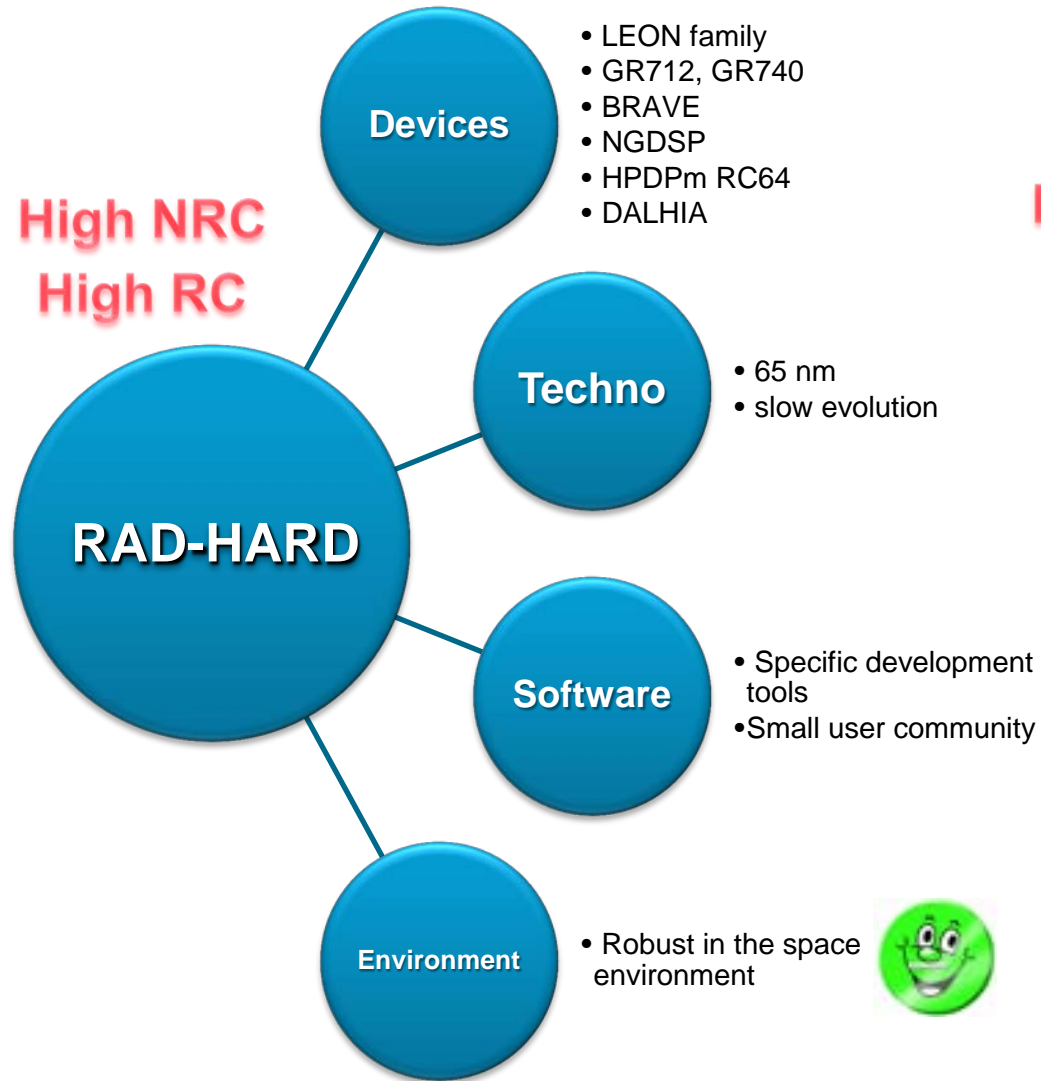
COTS components

Software

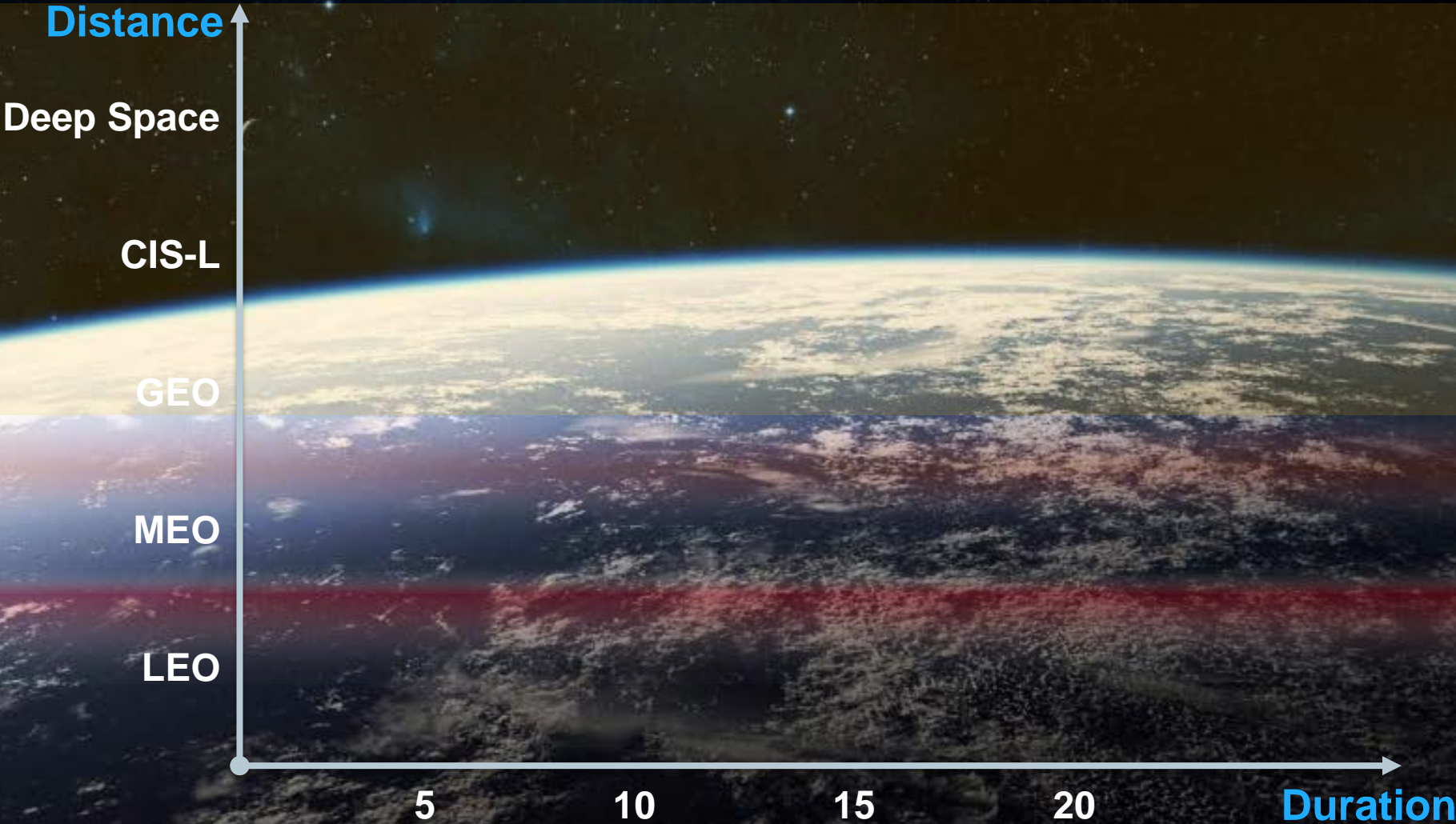
Products



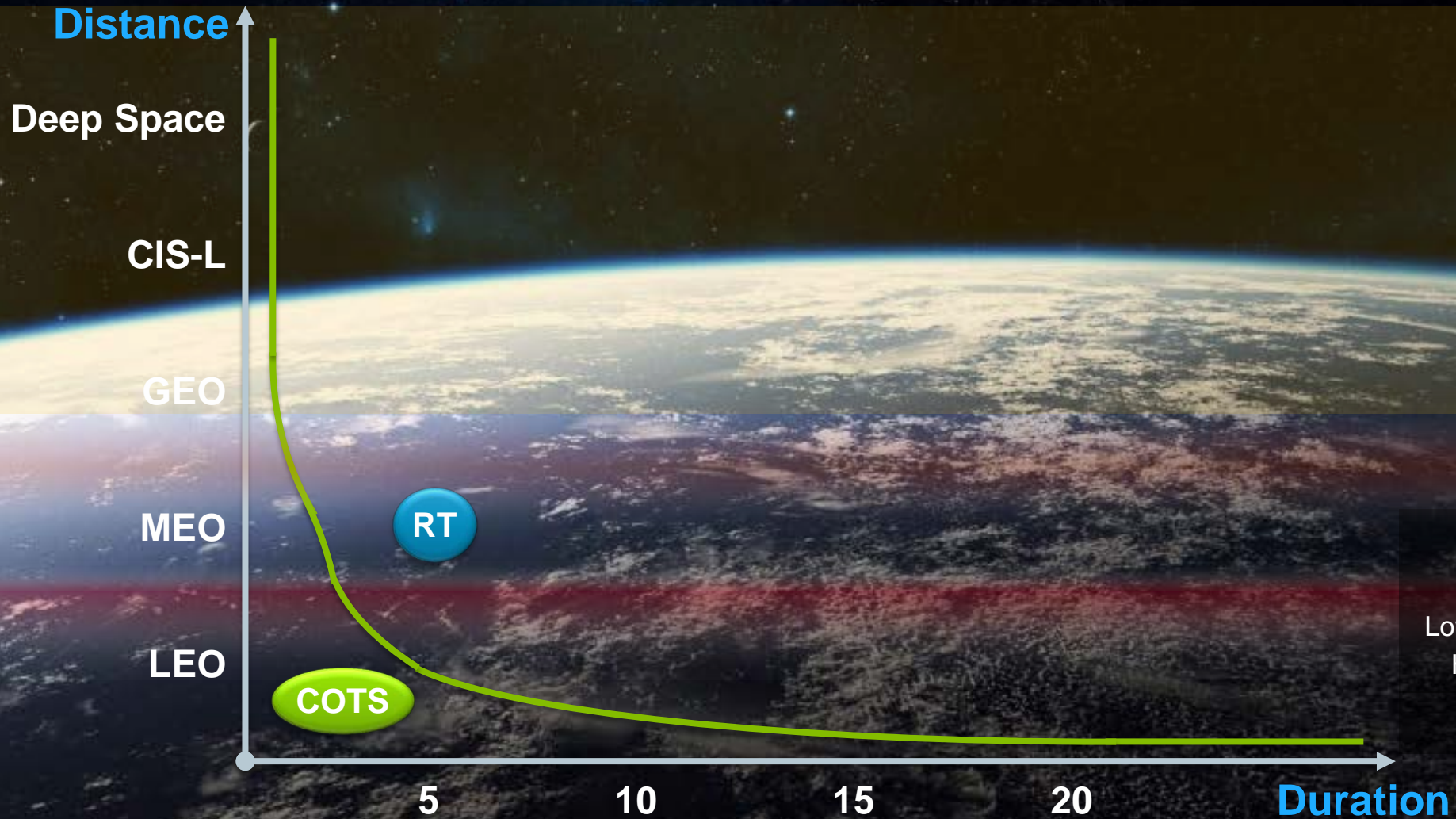
# Why COTS ?



# Radiations



# Low Earth Orbit applications

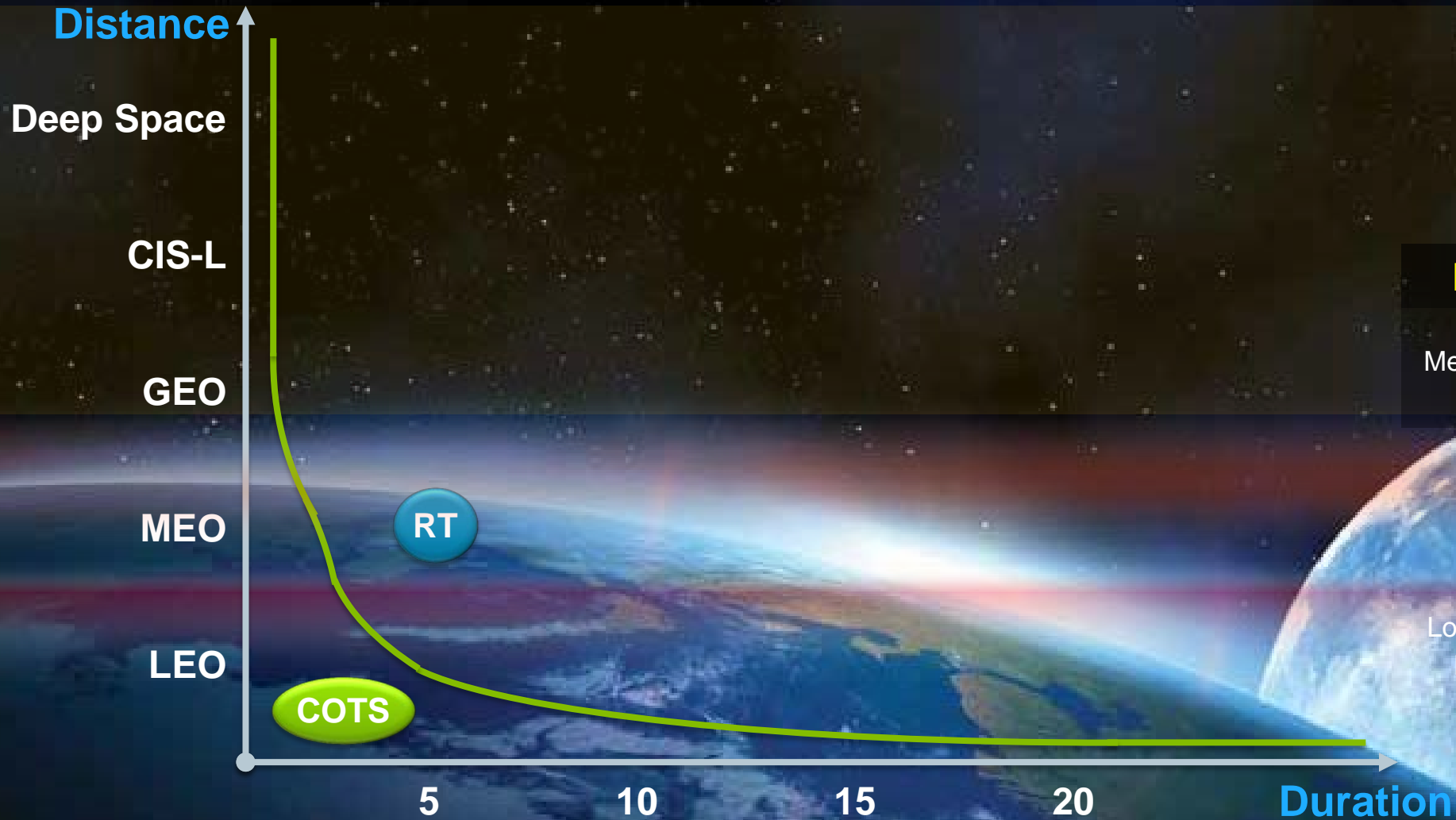


## LEO applications

Low to Medium duration  
Low to Medium exposure to radiations  
High commercial market pressure

→ **COTS** or **Rad-Tolerant**

# Medium Earth Orbit & Geostationary applications

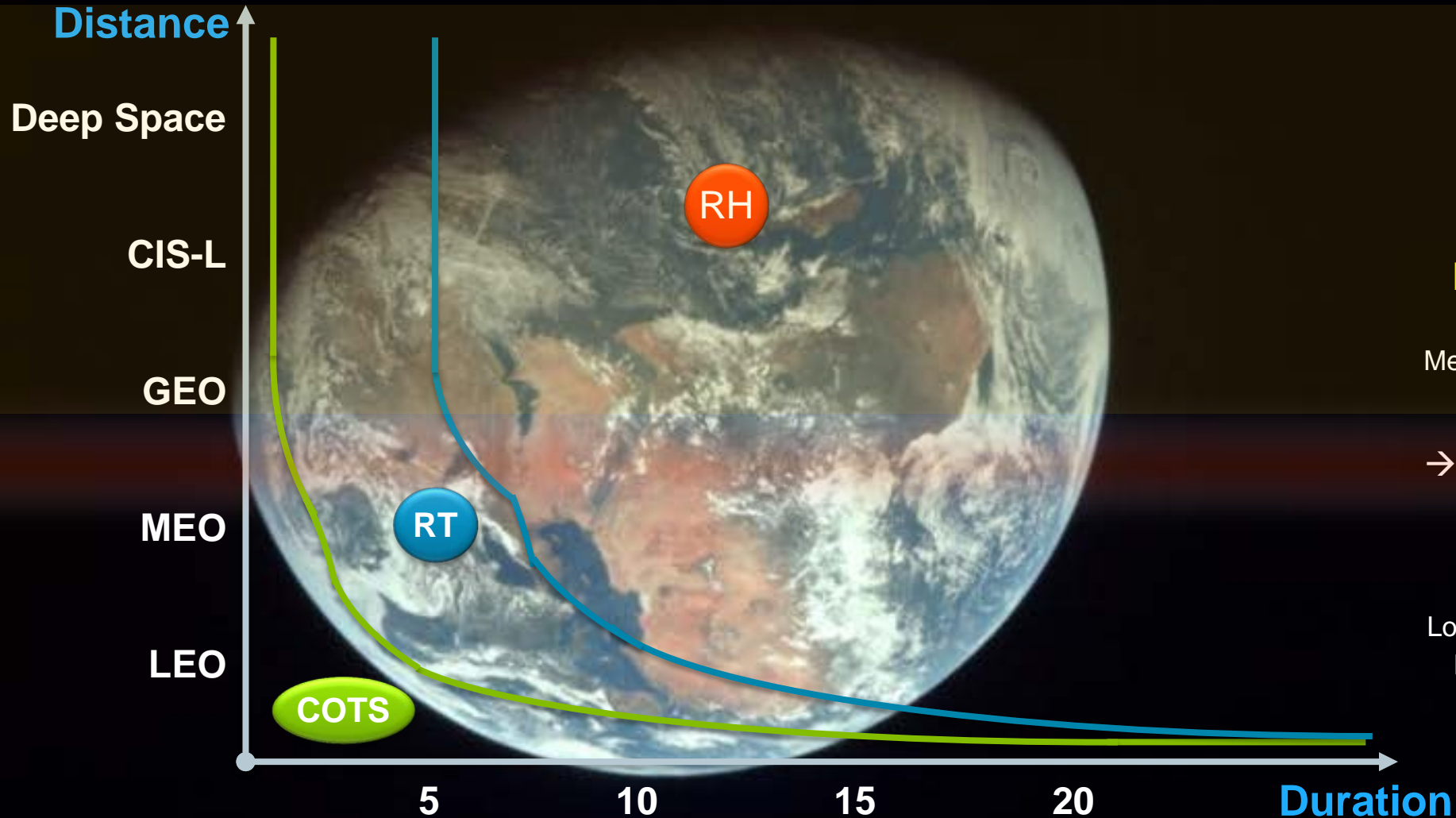


**MEO/GEO applications**  
Medium to Long duration  
Medium to High exposure to radiations  
Commercial market pressure

**LEO applications**  
Low to Medium duration  
Low to Medium exposure to radiations  
High commercial market pressure  
→ **COTS** or **Rad-Tolerant**



# Medium Earth Orbit & Geostationary applications



## MEO/GEO applications

Medium to Long duration  
Medium to High exposure to radiations  
Commercial market pressure

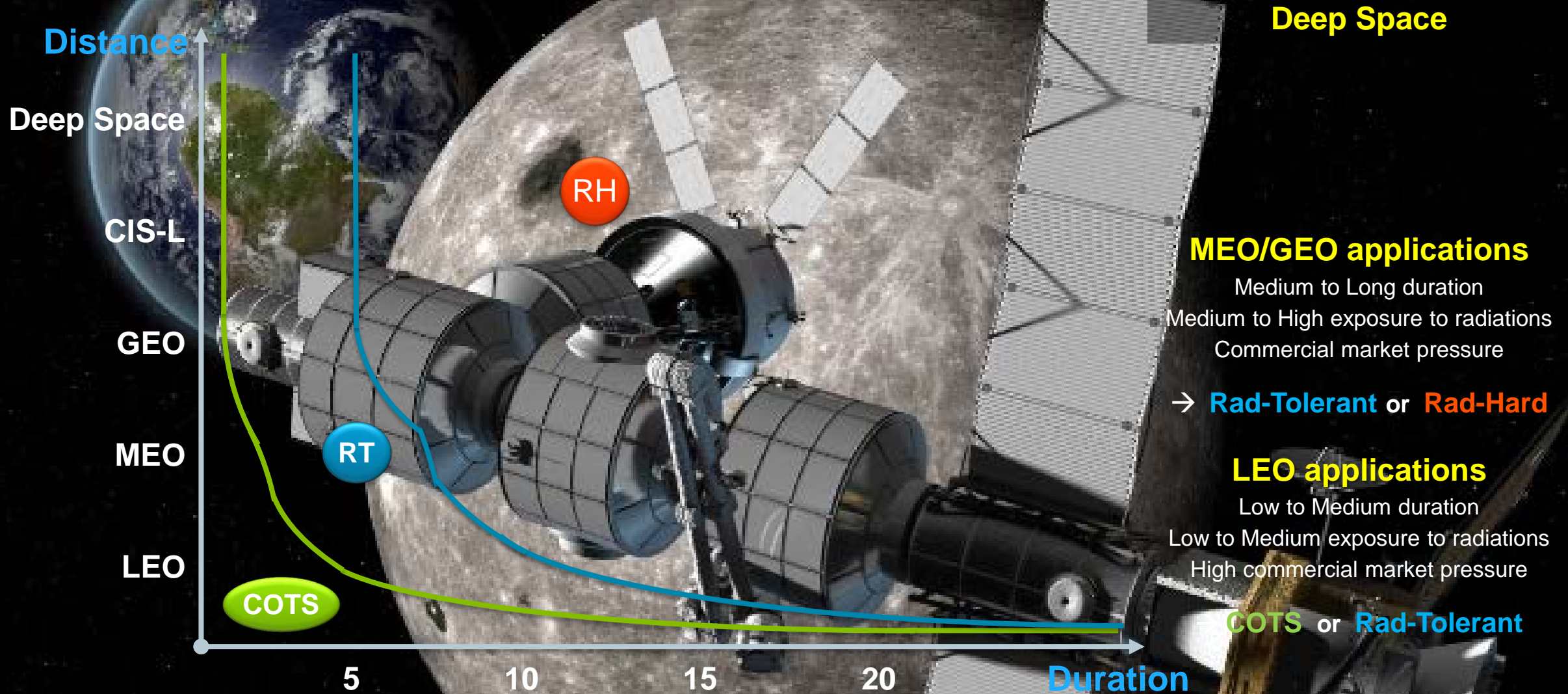
→ **Rad-Tolerant** or **Rad-Hard**

## LEO applications

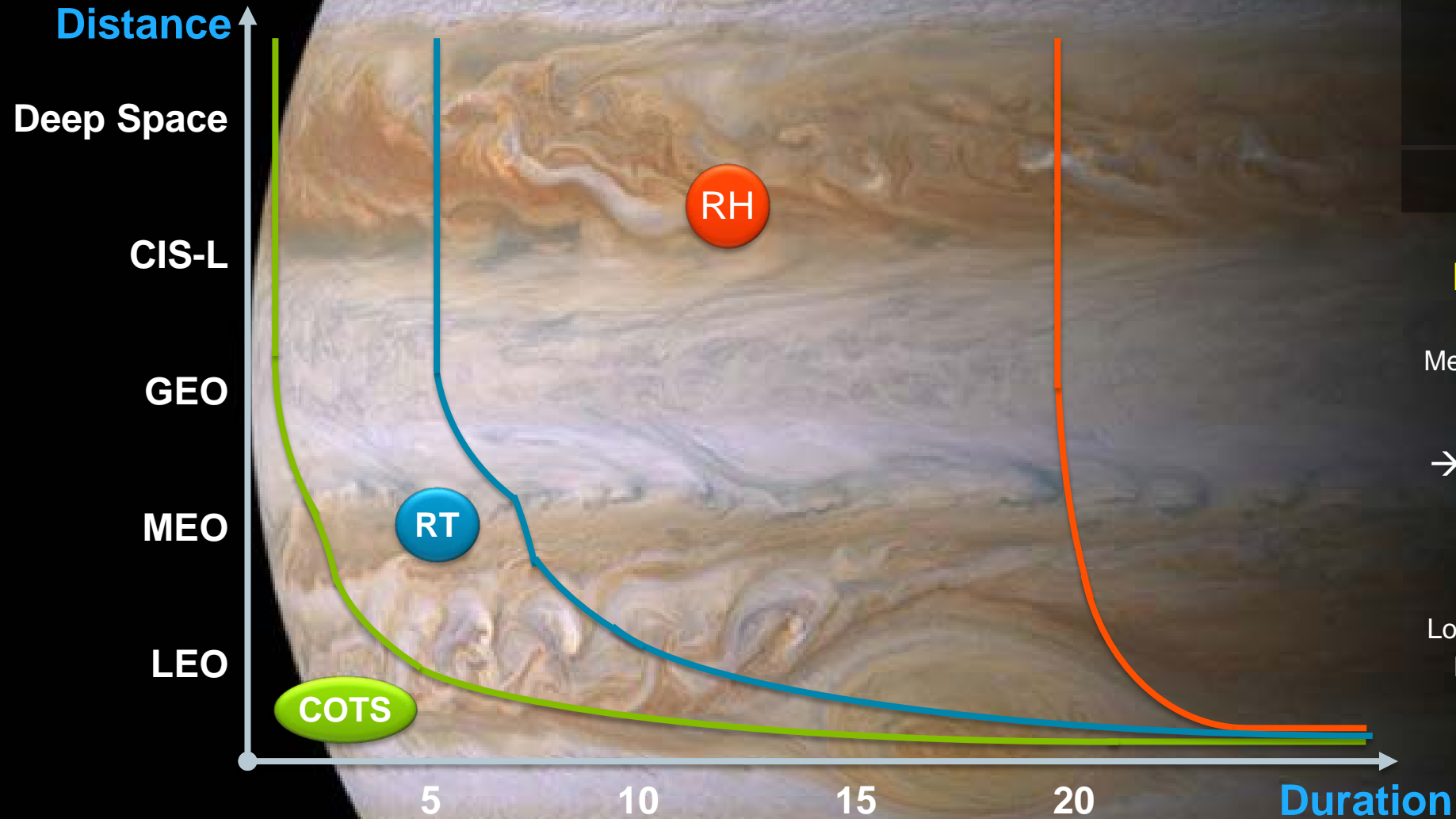
Low to Medium duration  
Low to Medium exposure to radiations  
High commercial market pressure

→ **COTS** or **Rad-Tolerant**

# Deep Space applications



# Deep Space applications



## Deep Space

Medium to Very Long duration  
High exposure to radiations  
Mostly institutional

→ **Rad-Hard**

## MEO/GEO applications

Medium to Long duration  
Medium to High exposure to radiations  
Commercial market pressure

→ **Rad-Tolerant** or **Rad-Hard**

## LEO applications

Low to Medium duration  
Low to Medium exposure to radiations  
High commercial market pressure

→ **COTS** or **Rad-Tolerant**



# Software with Multicores

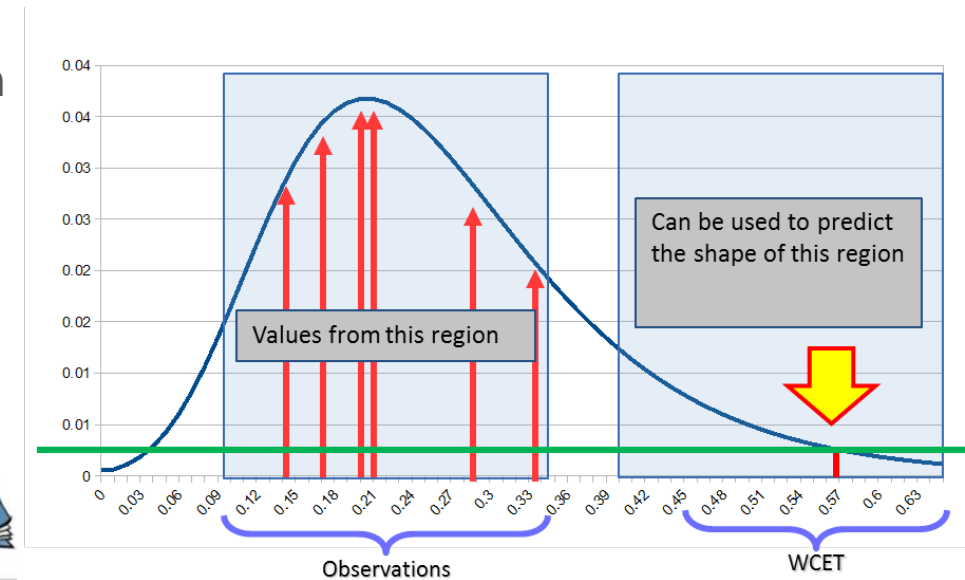
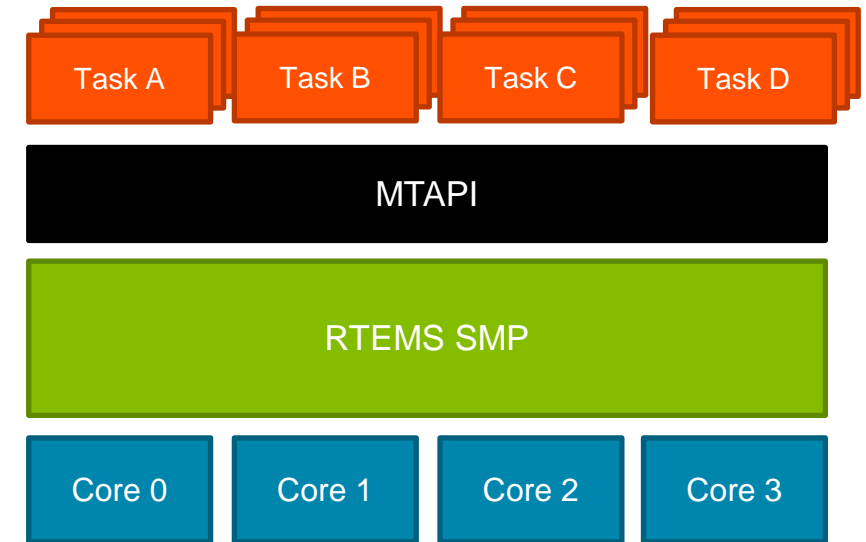
Efficient programming of a multicore processor is tricky

- Performance is actually limited by our ability to effectively load all processing cores
- applies both for RTOS and at application level
- hard real time and deterministic execution is difficult to achieve

Adaptation of methodology, engineering tools, development environment, Software Execution Platform

- Operating Systems and Hypervisors
- Methods and tools to facilitate and optimise software parallelisation on several cores
- Development of runtime libraries for parallel programming
- Schedulability and timing analysis, WCET estimation vs. proof

Support by EU, ESA and National Agencies R&T programs



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# Software

## Instrument Data Processing Performance

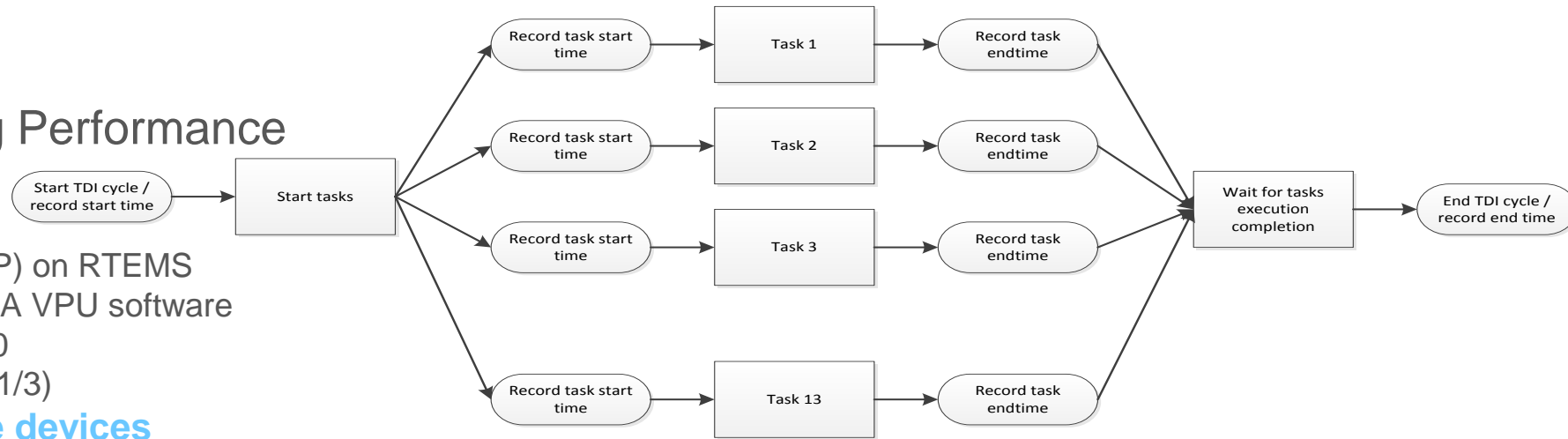
### ➤ Software parallelization

#### GR740: GAIA VPU benchmark

- Symmetrical Multi Processing (SMP) on RTEMS
- With a GR740 @ 250 MHz the GAIA VPU software runs as fast as on Maxwell SCS750 with much better power efficiency (1/3)

#### Data processing on many core devices

- Use of OpenMP, OpenCL with
  - HPDP
  - RC64
  - GPUs
  - SPDP

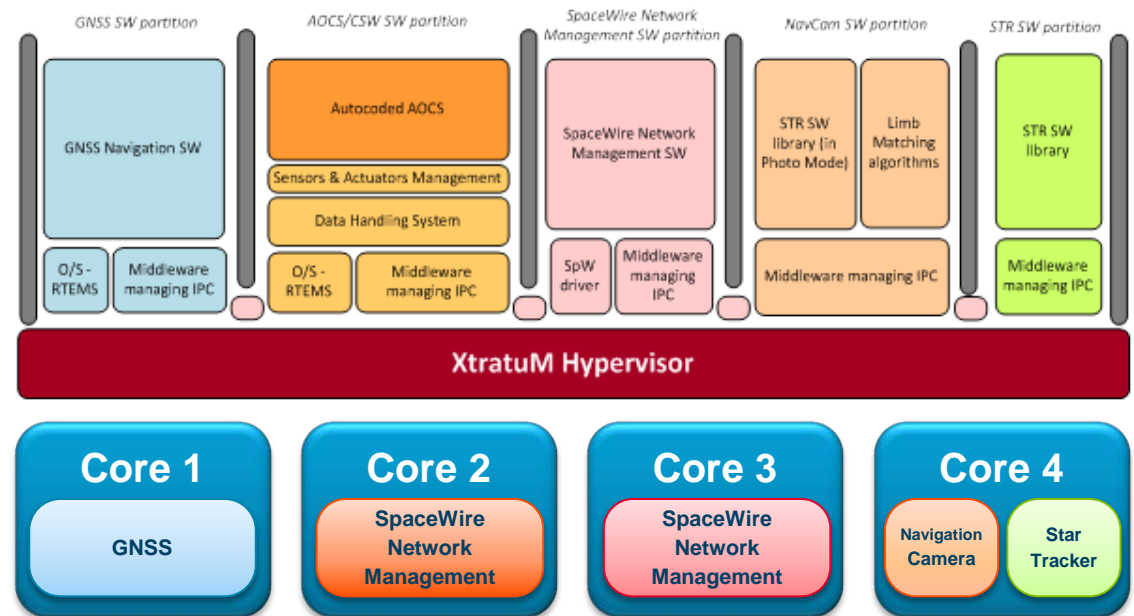


## Satellite Avionics Integration

### ➤ Functional integration in the central computer

#### esa study « AOCS SpaceWire Prototyping »

- Quad-Core LEON4FT processor (GR740)
- XtratuM Hypervisor for Time and Space Partitioning
- Asymmetrical Multi Processing with static mapping of the partitions on the 4 processing cores



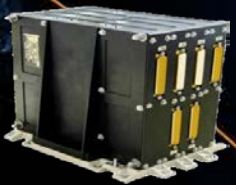
Targets

Technology

COTS components

Software

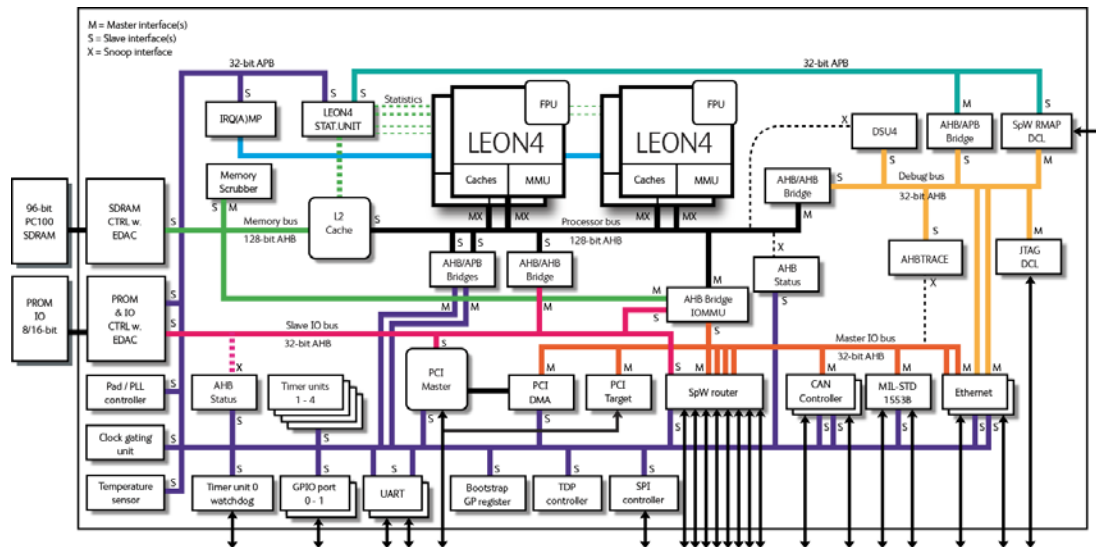
Products



# Processor Products

## Existing devices (RH, RT or COTS)

- GR712 – Dual-core Leon3FT, 180nm → Juice
- GR740 – Quad-core Leon4FT, 65nm → IOS
- Several ARM® devices, including RT and RH
- ARM® dual-cores used in dual-core lock step  
→ Ariane 6 + “new space” in LEO



## Devices in development (not exhaustive)

- **Computer systems**
  - JUICE DPU (GR712)
  - OMACS4S (GR740, ARM)
  - Compact Reconfigurable Avionics Data Handling Core (GR740 and BRAVE)
- **Demonstrators**
  - AOCS SpaceWire Prototype (GR740)
  - Compact Reconfigurable Avionics
- **Processing devices based on ARM® processor cores**
  - TCLS ARM® 4 Space
  - DAHLIA
  - COTS MPSOCs with embedded FPGA (e.g. Zynq® Ultrascale™)
- + **Many-cores / NoC / Arrays of processors**  
(for high performance digital signal processing)
  - HPDP
  - MPPB/SSDP
  - RC64
  - MPPA 256, MPPA 64 (Kalray)



# Conclusion

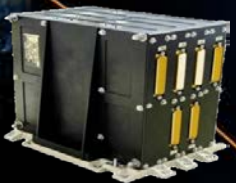
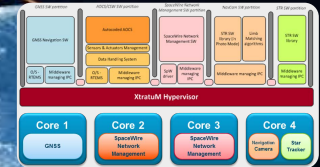
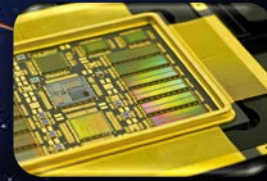
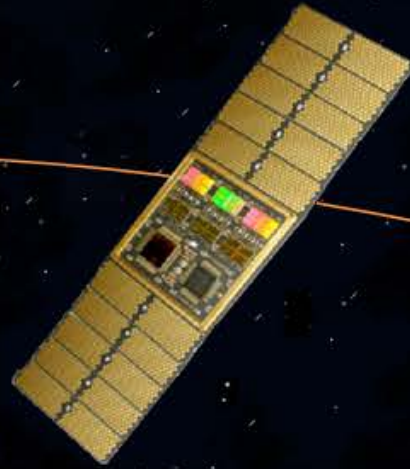
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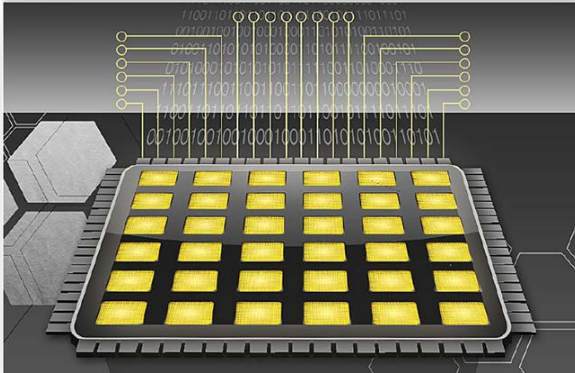
Products



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# Detailed Summary

## On-board processing



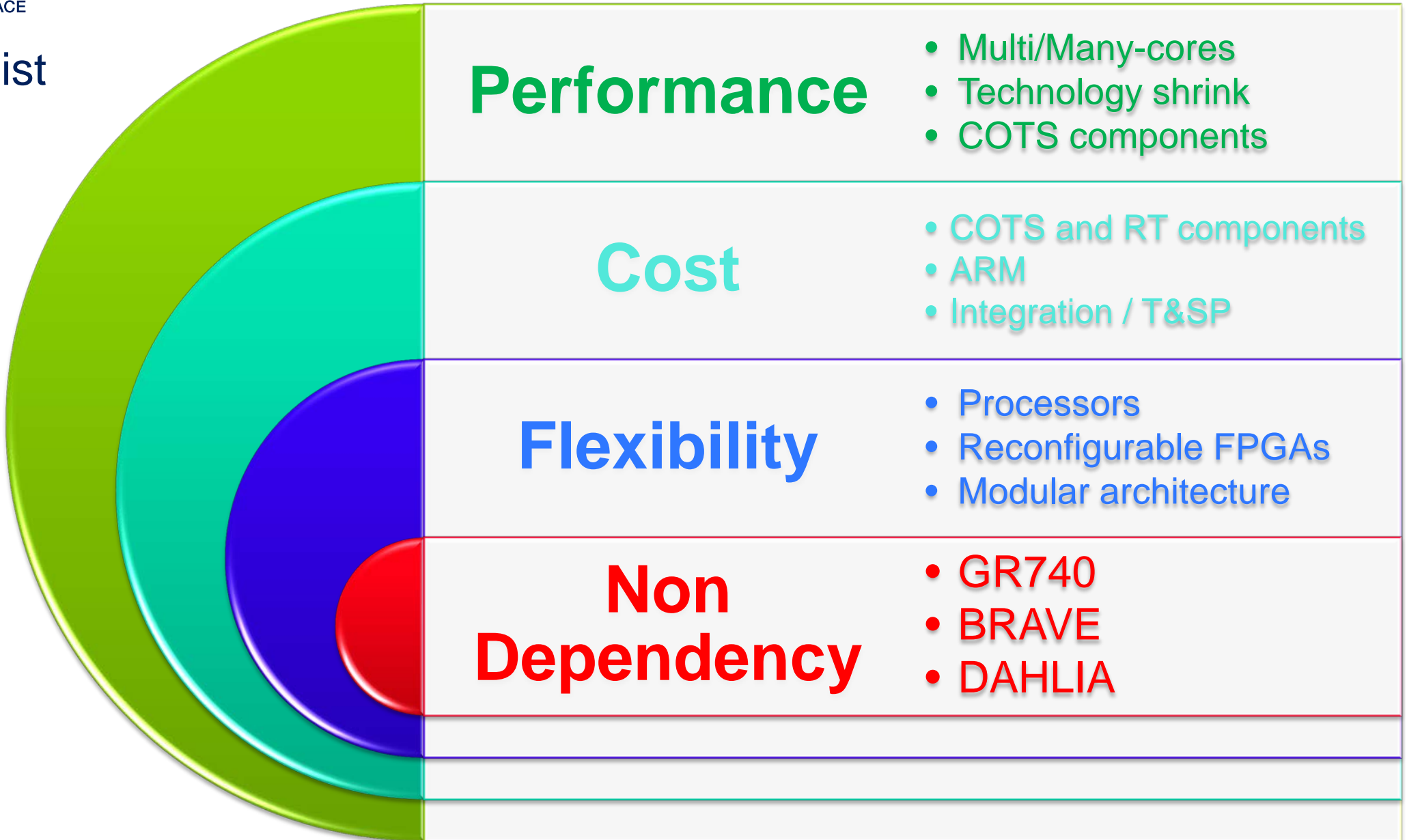
## opportunities

- ▶ **High flexibility and data processing performance for instruments**
  - ▶ enabling **new advanced space missions**
- ▶ **Overall reduction of cost, mass, volume and energy consumption through**
  - ▶ high **integration of on-board computing functions**
  - ▶ increased development of **ARM based products**
  - ▶ evolution towards **Integrated Modular Avionics**

## challenges

- ▶ **Development of generic products (multicore or not)**
  - ▶ **compact and reconfigurable** on-board computers
    - ▶ **Spacecraft Controllers** and **Payload Data Processing Units**
    - ▶ Including **reconfigurable FPGA's** with **efficient Support Software**
  - ▶ **Rad-Hard for deep space** / missions with harsh radiation conditions
  - ▶ **COTS based** at very low recurring cost for **new space** markets
    - ▶ **Selection Process**
    - ▶ **radiation mitigation techniques**
- ▶ **Development/adaptation of software engineering framework**
  - ▶ Efficient use and **control of Multi Core Processing resources**
  - ▶ Support for efficient **software parallelisation**
  - ▶ Low level software **execution platform** products
  - ▶ Adapted software **engineering methods and tools**

## Check list



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Thank you for your attention