

*With the trend towards miniaturisation and centralisation of on-board satellite functions, the Payload and Platform Sensor / Actuator Bus Nodes Contract undertook to investigate and demonstrate that this de-centralising of an RTU function is achievable within an intelligent unit. Through the use of the GR716 mixed signal LEON3FT microprocessor, a micronode architecture has been designed, developed and demonstrated to address the ATHENA Mirror Assembly Module Thermal Control System requirement and with it the use of the CanOpen protocol that in addition also meets the Advanced Data Handling Architecture concept.*