



# Threats and Security of Future Avionics Systems

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ADCSS 2024, 24 October 2024, ESTEC

# Cyber attack on TV channel BabyTV: Toddlers suddenly exposed to Russian propaganda

The TV channel BabyTV has been the victim of a cyber attack in which a Russian propaganda film was suddenly shown on the children's channel. Insiders are now worried that the hackers but "possibly a harbinger of more," NU.nl

On Thursday, March 28, BabyTV suddenly broadcast instead of the sound cut out and then s

sian propaganda was the incident clearly. First itren's channel, he told NU.nl

## December 16, 2021, Update:

NASA's Ingenuity helicopter does not run Apache or log4j nor is it susceptible to the log4j vulnerability. NASA takes cybersecurity very seriously and, for this reason, we do not discuss specifics regarding the cybersecurity of agency assets.

Source: <https://science.nasa.gov/blogs/flight-17-discovering-limits/>



SECURITY POLITICS GEAR THE BIG STORY BUSINESS SCIENCE CULTURE IDEAS MERCH

MATT BURGESS SECURITY AUG 10, 2022 10:00 AM

## The Hacking of Starlink Terminals Has Begun

It cost a researcher only \$25 worth of parts to create a tool that allows custom code to run on the satellite dishes.

## Want to pwn a satellite? Turns out it's surprisingly easy

PhD student admits he probably shouldn't have given this talk

[Iain Thomson](#)

Fri 11 Aug 2023 13:01 UTC

**BLACK HAT** A study into the feasibility of hacking low-Earth orbit satellites has revealed that it's worryingly easy to do.

Source: [https://www.theregister.com/2023/08/11/satellite\\_hacking\\_black\\_hat](https://www.theregister.com/2023/08/11/satellite_hacking_black_hat)



Apache - The ASF  
@TheASF

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Did you know that Ingenuity, the Mars 2020 Helicopter mission, is powered by Apache Log4j? [logging.apache.org](https://logging.apache.org) #Apache #OpenSource #innovation #community #logging #services



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## KA-SAT Network cyber attack overview

Viasat is providing an overview and incident report on the cyber-attack against the KA-SAT network, which occurred on 24 February 2022, and resulted in a partial interruption of KA-SAT's consumer-oriented satellite broadband service.

March 30, 2022 04:55 AM • Viasat, Inc. [Source: https://news.viasat.com/blog/corporate/ka-sat-network-cyber-attack-overview](https://news.viasat.com/blog/corporate/ka-sat-network-cyber-attack-overview)

**In this paper, we first provide a taxonomy of threats against satellite firmware. We then conduct an experimental security analysis of three real-world satellite firmware images. We base our analysis on a set of real-world attacker models and find several security-critical vulnerabilities in all analyzed firmware images. The results of our experimental security assessment show that modern in-orbit satellites suffer from different software security vulnerabilities and often a lack of proper access protection mechanisms. They also underline the need to overcome prevailing but obsolete assumptions. To substantiate our observations, we also performed a survey of 19 professional satellite developers to obtain a comprehensive picture of the satellite security landscape.**

Source: [Space Odyssey: An Experimental Software Security Analysis of Satellites](#)  
J. Willbold, et al, 44th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)

# Why we need to protect our missions and what has been changing

1. Space missions are part of our **critical infrastructure** (Galileo, Earth Observation, Meteo, IRIS2, etc.).

- The disruption of operation of these missions will affect our everyday life.

2. We have to **protect the investment** of ESA Member States.

- Implementing the appropriate security measures is certainly less costly than losing a mission, or its data, etc. due to a security incident.

3. We need to **protect our** (ESA and ESA Member States) **reputation**.

motivation



1. Importance/criticality of space infrastructure attracts the attention of potential adversaries with significant capabilities (e.g. state actors).

2. *Technology evolution* (e.g. Software Defined Radios) makes space “accessible” to wider “audience”.

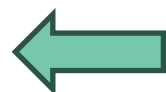
3. **Interconnectivity** trends (e.g. 5G NTN) will **increase the attack surface**.

4. Latest development trends (e.g. more reliance on COTS) “bring” “terrestrial” vulnerabilities to space.

5. **New technological threats** arise (e.g. Quantum computing threat to cryptography)

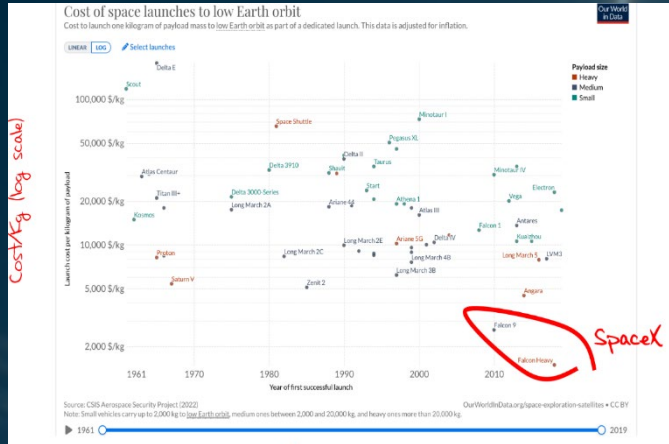
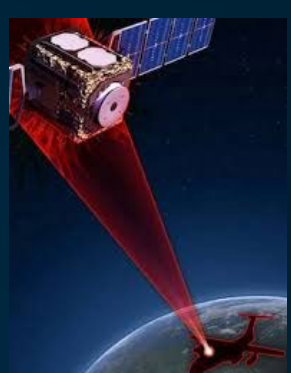
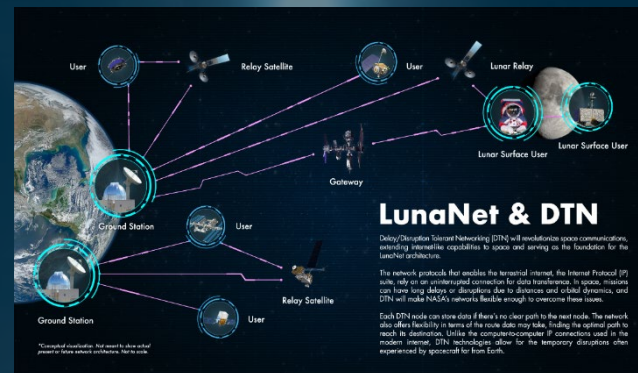
6. Space is “sexy”; hackers / crackers / security researchers will do everything to find vulnerabilities in space systems for self-advertisement / promotion.

motivation

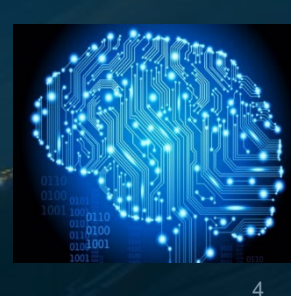
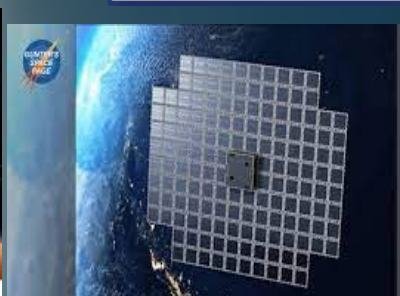


Increased exploitation opportunities

# Space Scenario 2040 - Key Elements



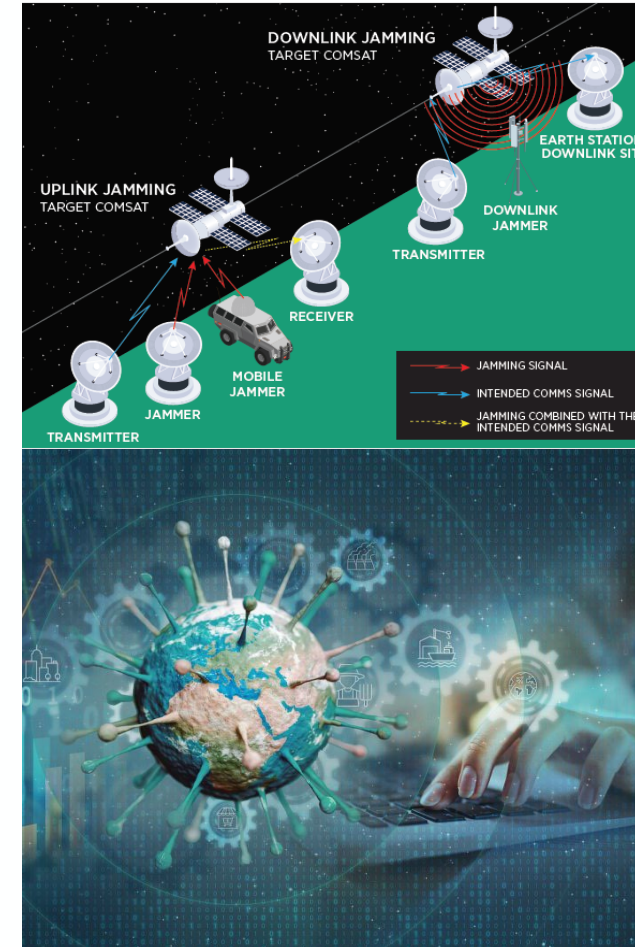
SpaceX Starlink Gen 1	4,408
SpaceX Starlink Gen 2	29,988
OneWeb, Phase 1	718
OneWeb, Phase 2	6,372
Amazon Project Kuiper	7,774
China Guowang	12,992
Astra	13,620
Boeing	5,842
Globalstar	3,080
Lynk	2,000
Telesat Lightspeed	1,969
Spin Launch	1,190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89,953</b>
<b>E-Space</b>	<b>337,323</b>



# The “traditional” challenges and security implications

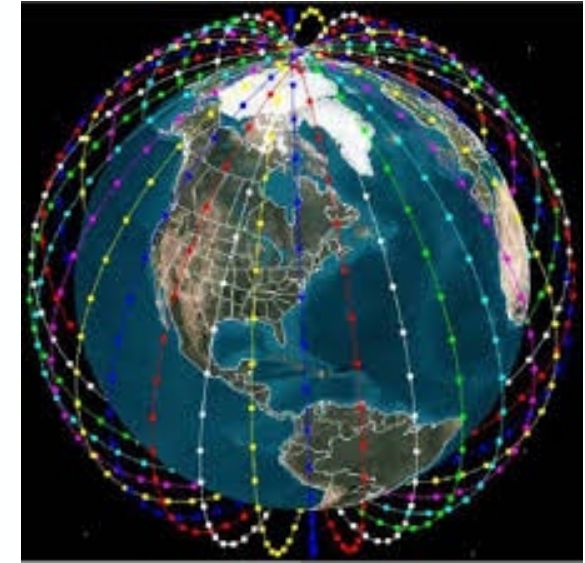
- Distributed architecture: ground / space / user
- Physical / Cyber hybrid systems
- Exposed communication links (space-ground, space-space)
- Massive service coverage area / Millions of users in footprint
- Constrained and harsh environment (weight, space, power, EM, etc.)
- Large distance / Long Comms delay / Intermittent communications
- Long development cycles / Long lifetime of the missions
  - ➔ / Obsolescence issues
- Lack of physical access (for space segment)

Large  
attack  
surface



# The new trends and their impact to security

- Large constellation → scalability challenges (in terms of key management, etc.)
- Integration with terrestrial networks (e.g. 5G NTN, )
- Emerging Quantum Threats for crypto
- New Space mindset
  - COTS solutions also onboard satellite
  - Faster development cycle → more streamlined security is needed
- Requirements for enhanced situational awareness
- Supply chain security
- Integration of new technologies:
  - AI and Security
  - Optical and Quantum Comms security





**Cyber security requirements** are  
flowed down gradually to more  
space missions

Started with Galileo, continued with IRIS2,  
other EC mission may follow

Baseline security measures will also be  
applied to other ESA missions



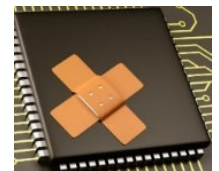
**A platform hosts more than one  
payload** (and not necessarily from  
the same stakeholder)

Platform sharing between governmental,  
semi-governmental and commercial

Platform sharing between different  
commercial actors; payload sharing

# What are the challenges specifically related to space Avionics ?

- New technologies for already applied security measures; examples:
  - Crypto boxes → we need to migrate to **quantum resistant solutions**
    - PQC is more resource demanding than typically used symmetric crypto → impact on avionics.
    - **Crypto agility** needs to be introduced.
    - On board True Random Number Generators
- Payload and platform sharing
  - **Segregation**
    - Software (e.g. hypervisors)
    - Hardware / platform (e.g. Avionics busses) → more research is needed
  - **On-board security detection** and protection mechanisms
- **On-board patching** → how to patch without “breaking” it (read: CrowdStrike case)
- **Remote attestation** mechanisms → **Recovery** is possible only remotely





# Already Ongoing Research and Developments Activities



- Coordination at ESA-wide level under ESA Cyber Coordination Board
- GSTP Cyber Security Compendia (2019, 2022) have been proven very successful
- As part of Basic Activities to complement ESA Cyber Resilience

GSTP Cyber Security Compendium 2022

- ✓ Modular security reference architecture
- ✓ Spacecraft digital forensics and incident handling

- As part of GSTP Cyber Security compendium 2022:

- ✓ Post Quantum Crypto with crypto agility
- ✓ Supply chain protection
- ➡ Security protocols building blocks (IPsec, BPsec)
- ➡ Software Defined Radio security
- ➡ On-Board Security (hardware, software, platform bus, etc.)
- ➡ RF Firewall

## GEN - Generic Technologies - Cybersecurity

### CD3 - Avionic Systems

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-601ES	Intrusion detection prevention module for secure avionics bus	2,500
GT1Y-602ES	Confidential computing: implementing spacecraft operations using trusted execution environments	2,000
GT1Y-603ES	Security segregation and isolation in a satellite	2,000
GT1Y-604ES	Agile post-quantum space data link security protocol hardware module	3,300
GT1Y-605ES	End-to-end supply chain protection	3,000
GT1Y-606ES	CCSDS delay-tolerant networking BPsec module	2,000
GT1Y-607ES	IP over CCSDS including internet protocol security module	1,200
<b>Total CD3</b>		<b>16,000</b>

### CD5 - Radiofrequency & Optical Systems and Products

Programme Reference	Activity Title	Budget (k€)
GT1Y-608ES	Low-cost resilient software defined radio platform for satellite applications	450
GT1Y-609ES	Radiofrequency firewall for satellites	4,000
<b>Total CD5</b>		<b>4.450</b>



# Our Vision for Securing our Space Systems

Mission specific

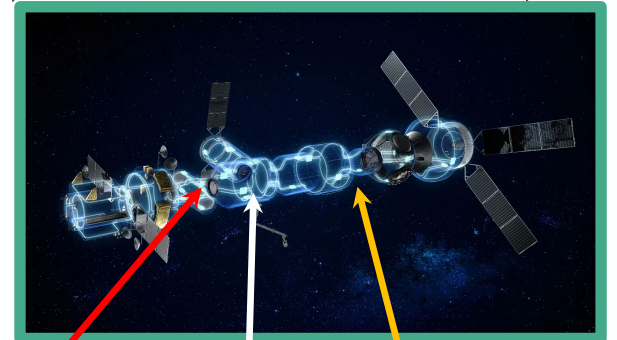
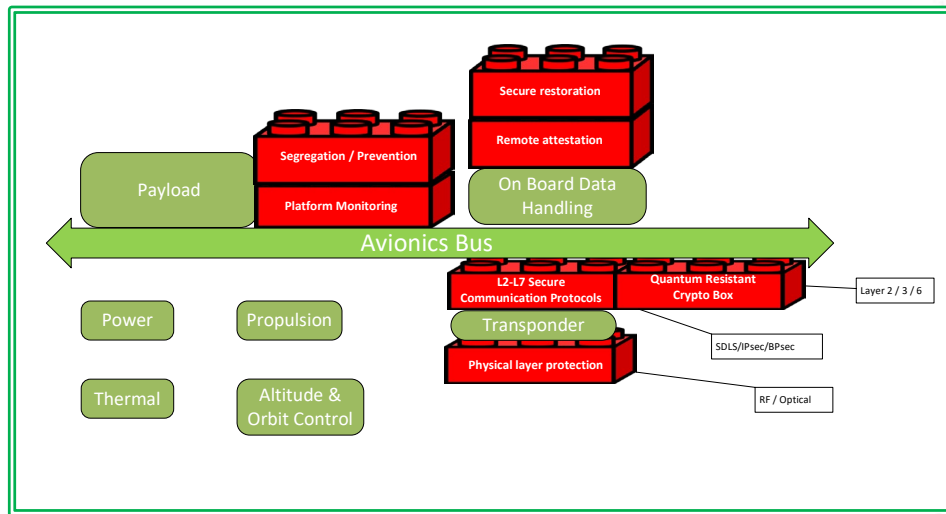
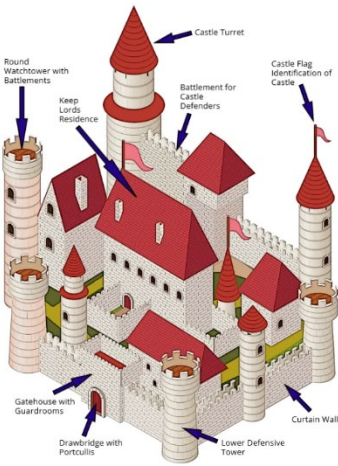
0. Basic Security Principles

1. Modular Security Reference Architecture

2. Identify Building Blocks and Create COTS products

3. Tailor the architecture to mission specific needs

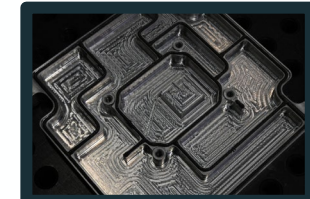
4. Select required COTS



On-board Security Protection



RF and Optical Security Protection

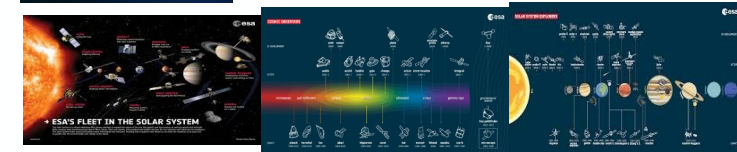
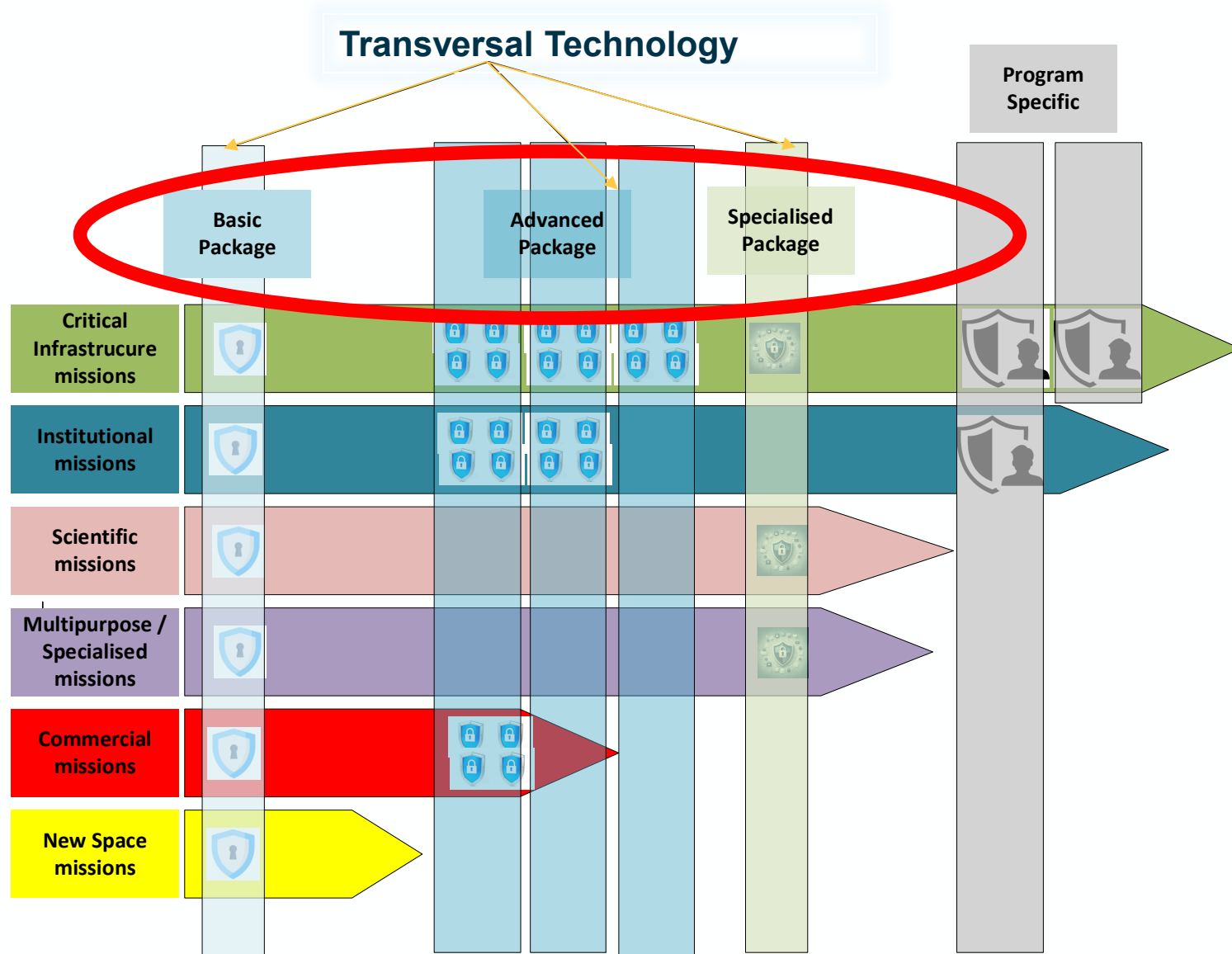


Quantum Resistant Crypto

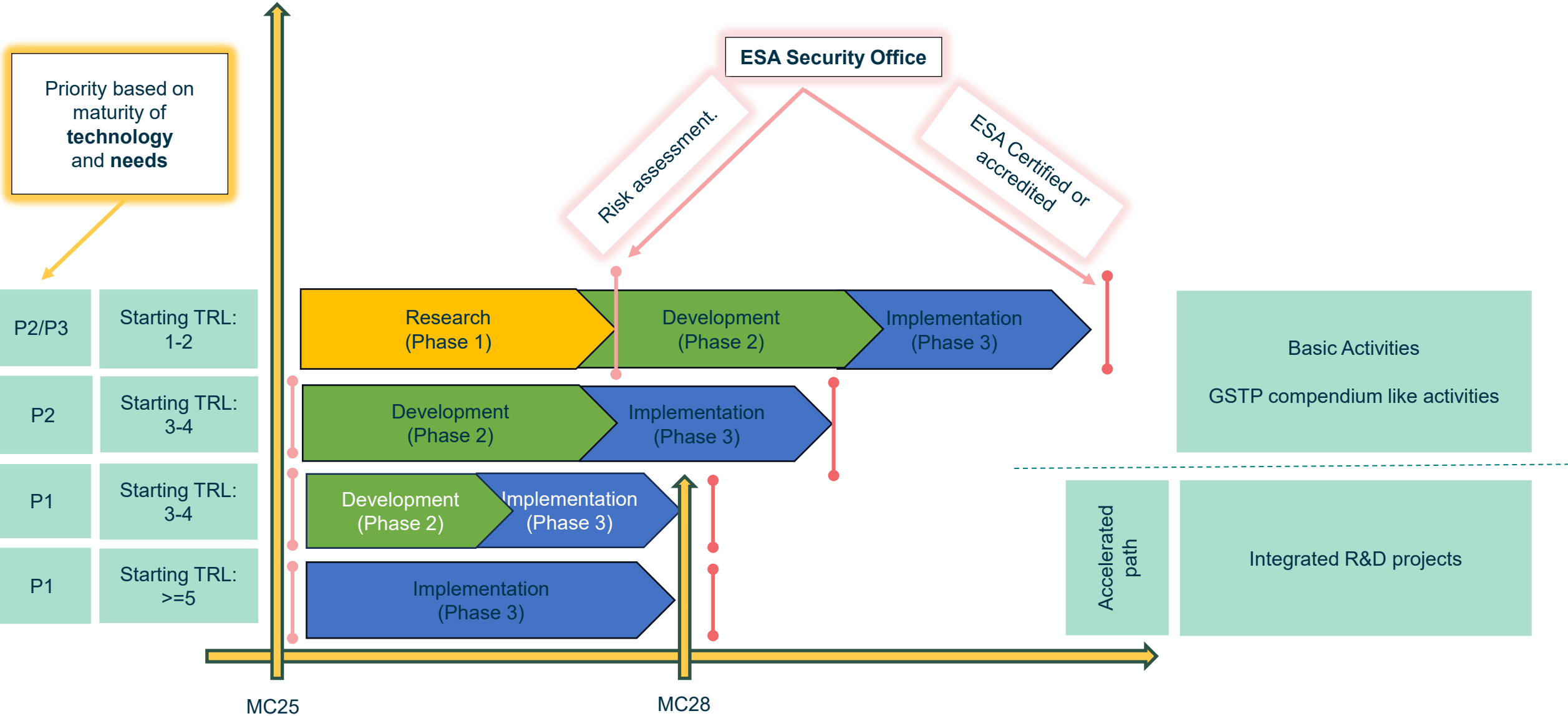


## Secure-by-design

# Security technologies coverage



# Development cycle and Programmatic element



## Space Security Technologies (Push)

Quantum Resistant Cryptography

RF Security Protection / Antijamming

Optical Security

Crypto Agility

Quantum Technologies for Security

Supply Chain protection

Physical / Hardware Security

High Speed TRNG

Trusted Platform Modules / Trusted Execution Environments

Zero-trust, cloud native & next gen access control

Segregated payload & ground segment ops

AI for Security / Security for AI

Satellite Active Défense

Homomorphic Encryption

Space Threat Intelligence / Situational Awareness

Secure Space Protocol Implementation

Space Digital Forensics and Spacecraft Recovery

## Space Security Technologies (Mission Pull)

High Speed Crypto (HydRON, IRIS2)

Avionics (hardware, software) segregation (HydRON, IRIS2)

(Asymmetric) PQC (IRIS2)

5G/6G Security (IRIS2, LEO PNT)

Quantum Resistant Space PKI (Lunanet)

BPsec, IPsec (Deep Space / Interplanetary Missions, Lunanet)

Quantum Security (EuroQCI)



## Objectives:

- Develop **products** of generic security technology **to be used transversally**, suitable to be picked-up as COTS by missions (Directorates participated in their definition).
- Make products available for all segments (space, ground, etc.), and technologies, across the full OSI stack, to allow **implementation of defence-in-depth** approach .
- Adhere to and promote standardised solutions (SAVOIR, CCSDS, ECSS, etc.) to **ensure interoperability and allow collaborations**.

## Programmatic considerations:

- Create the programmatic considerations **to go fast**.

The **security technology development roadmap** reinforced by the ESA Security Office, to become a security enabler for future ESA space missions.

# Questions ?

Space Security Technologies (Push)

