EO-1 Testbed Overview 6-8-03

The purpose of using EO-1 as a testbed is to validate some key concepts necessary to implement sensor webs in the future. The key capability is to create a mission wide, end-to-end information bus that performs like the internet. A user should be able to send a message to any software task used on the mission (whether space or ground) by naming it and the sensor web system should take care of the details. Once this end-to-end information bus is available, then progressive mission autonomy is easily created by writing scripts and using various autonomy applications on top of this messaging system. To optimize this messaging system mission-wide, the space to ground interface must be seamless and the spacecraft-to-spacecraft interface must be seamless. An important concept is that the messaging system sits on top of any protocol whether it is TCP/IP or any other protocol For example, if you make a phone call, all that you care about is that the phone call gets to the targeted party. The phone call may be routed through the internet and two other phone systems. Finally, we can use these capabilities to group a set of unrelated satellites and for some arbitrary time declare them a functional constellation such as is the case for the "Morning Constellation" with the key difference being that they act functionally uniform as is the case with many disparate functions on the internet.

For the purposes of these activities, we are calling the messaging system a "Dynamic Software Bus". It is built on top of the existing EO-1 software bus which is a static software bus. The key added feature that we are adding is the "Dynamic" ability to plug new applications in, whether on the satellite or on the ground and have the system recognize the application by name. Applications added to this system, such as the CASPER onboard planning system, enable the larger concept of Dynamic Resource Management whereby this distributed constellation system takes care of many of the details of allocating and managing resources. In our initial demonstration, a part of the EO-1 tasking process will be handled onboard by CASPER which will plugged into the dynamic software bus that we have implemented on EO-1.

One other problem that we are trying to solve is that of limited contacts for low earth orbiting satellites. If a user wants to message a low earth orbiting satellite at present, there is a limitation of 4 –8 ea. 10 minute passes for satellites such as EO-1. This does not lend itself well to the concept of having a messaging system that can access a satellite from anywhere in the mission at any time. Therefore, we are also trying the develop a concept of inexpensive, ground phased array antennas that would be placed around the country and perhaps the world to provide as close to total coverage as possible, thus making the dynamic software bus for a mission more of a reality. This is especially essential if true progressive autonomy is desired whereby functionality is inserted into an ad hoc constellation mission while on-orbit.

The activities structured thus far in the "testbed" phase of EO-1 attempt to validate some of these concepts. Figure 1 shows the activities thus far initiated with color coding to show which activities are funded and which are proposed:

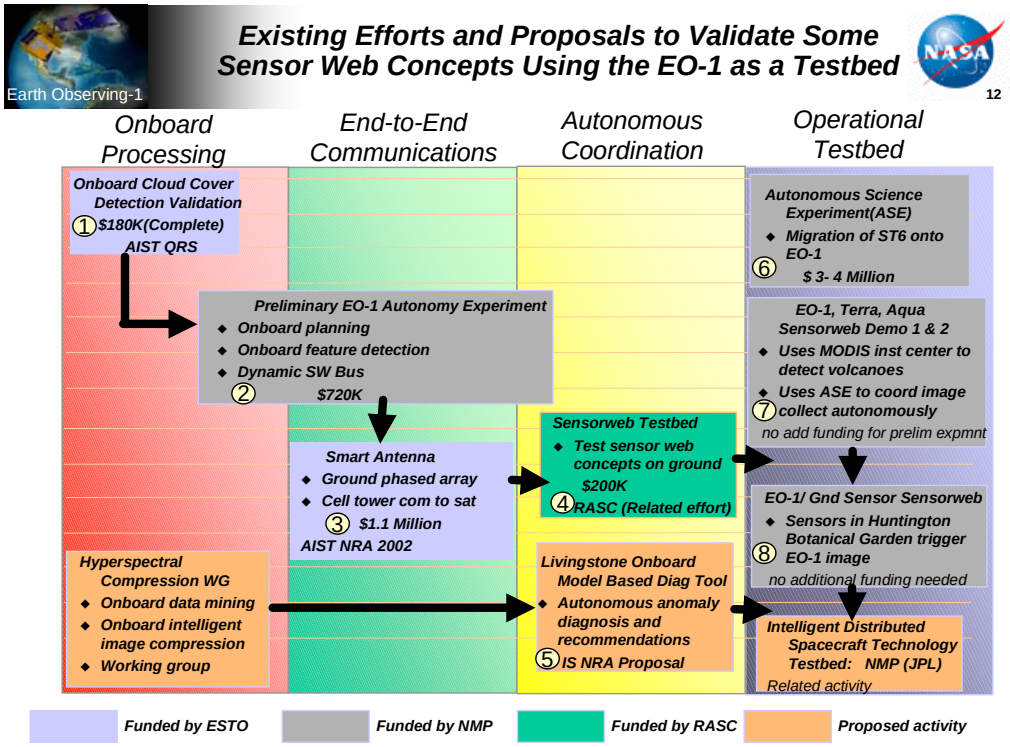

Figure 1 EO-1 Testbed activities with color coding to indicate funding source or whether the activity is proposed

Figure 2 shows the conceptual layout of a mission-wide dynamic software bus. Color coding cross correlates activities related to figure 1.

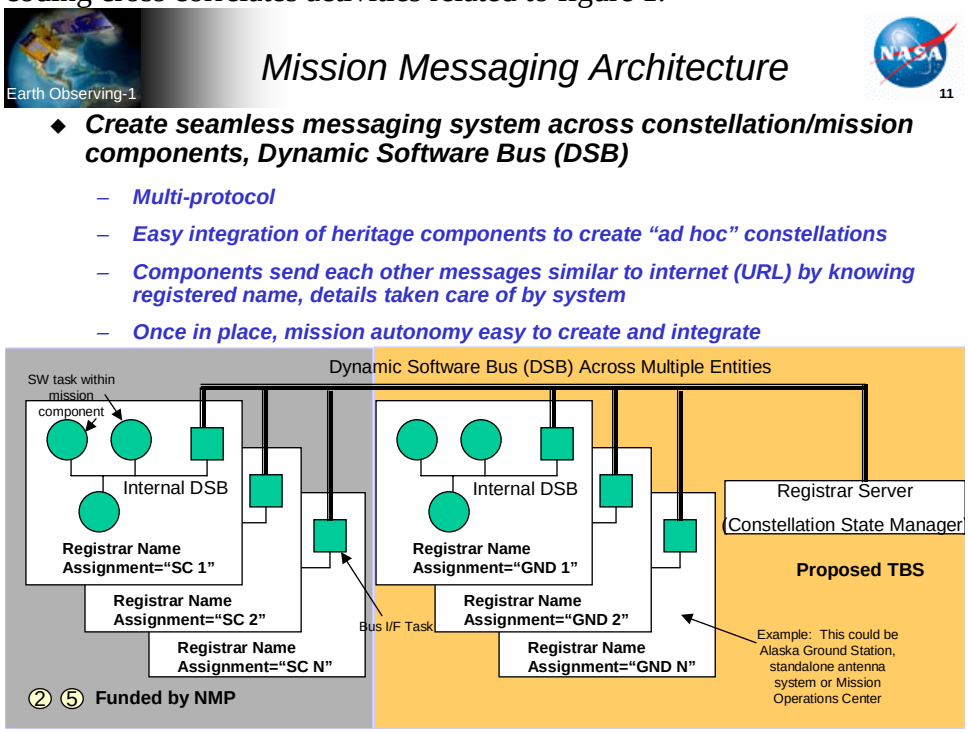

Figure 2 Mission-wide messaging system to enable progressive autonomy

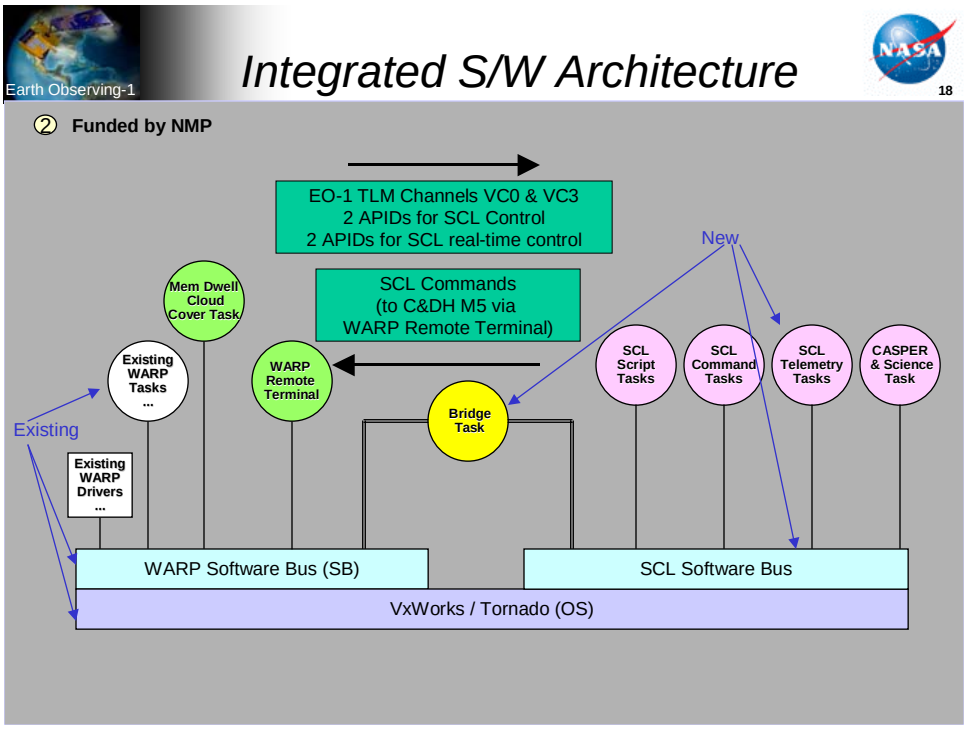

Figure 3 Depicts how we are adding software to create a dynamic software bus on EO-1

Figure 3 shows how we are adding software to convert the EO-1 software bus into a dynamic software bus, being performed by Spacecraft Control language (SCL). The key capability is the ability to easily plug in new applications while EO-1 is on-orbit and having the EO-1 flight software recognize the software. Figure 4 shows the top level architecture of how we are "plugging-in" CASPER, the onboard planner into the dynamic

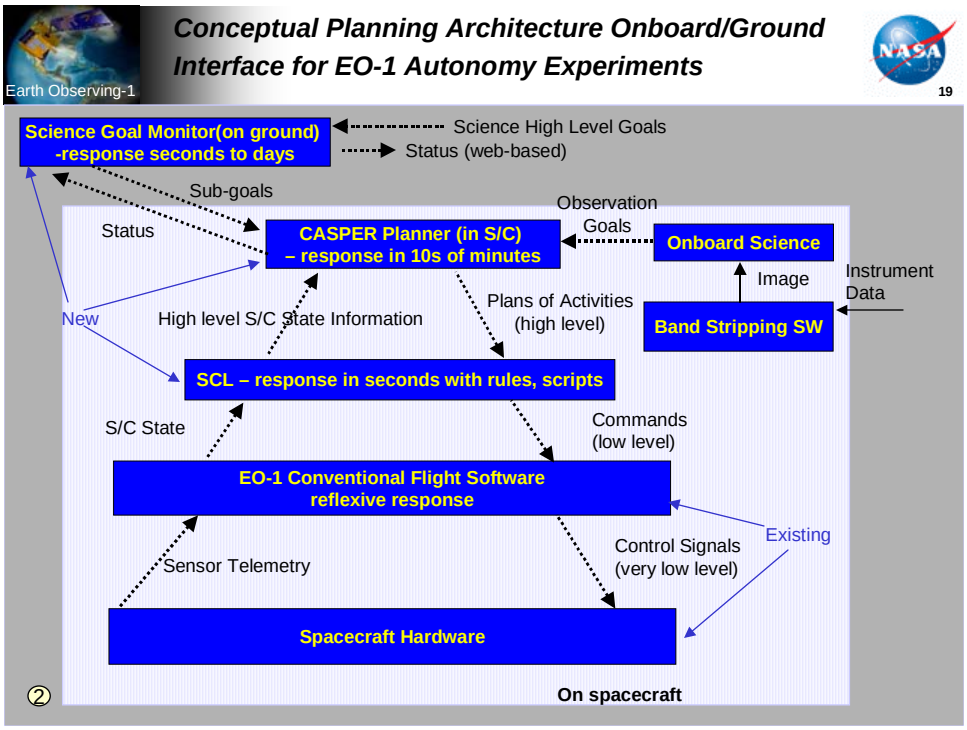

Figure 4 Depicts planning architecture being developed on top of dynamic software bus.

software bus.

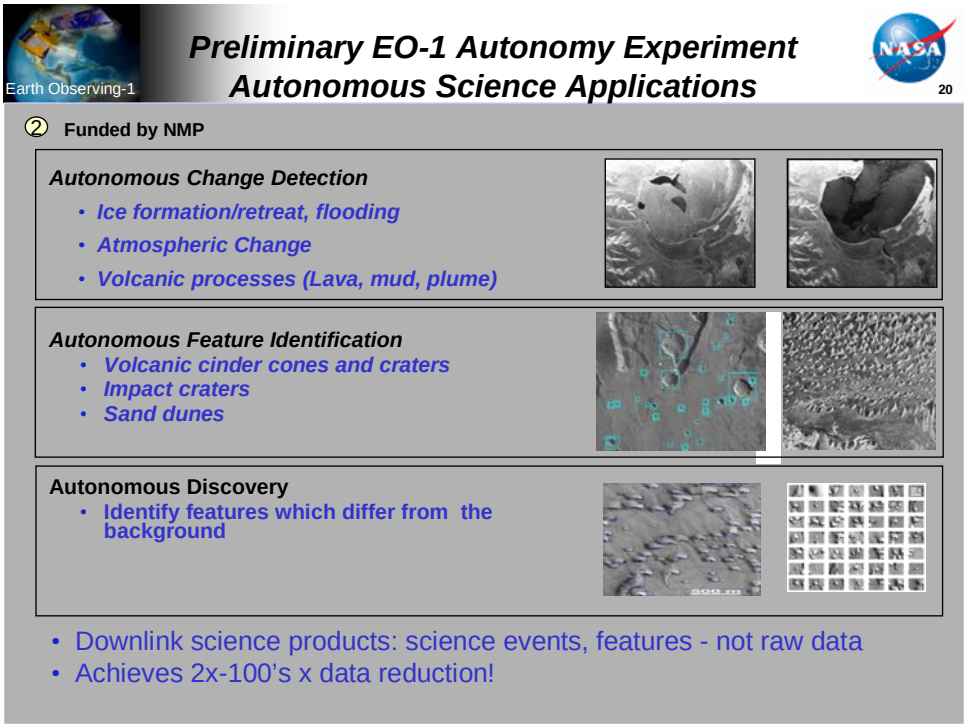

Figure 5 Some of the planned types of experiments once CASPER installed on EO-1

Figure 5 is a representative set of types of experiments that will be conducted once the CASPRE system is installed on EO-1. Furthermore, once CASPER is onboard, we are attempting to run some rudimentary sensor web experiments whereby obwervations on EO-1 are triggered by some key MODIS instrument observation such as forest fires and volcanoes. EO-1 would be triggered to semi-autonomously trigger take a closer look. We are also working with someone at JPL to have an EO-1 observation be triggered by a ground sensor web if certain flood conditions occur.