

Project Summary

- Mission Definition
- Management
- Design
- Manufacturing
- Test & Evaluation

April 17th, 2020



Mission Profile



Robin Trindelle
*Biological,
 Administrator,
 Florida Fish and
 Wildlife*

UAV's are controversial when dealing with these species

Not to interfere with other wildlife



Lindsey Flynn
*Supervisor,
 Sea Turtle
 Conservancy*

Lighting is an issue

Ease of use



Dan Evans
*Senior Biologist,
 Sea Turtle
 Conservancy*

Can determine species with tracks

Endurance



Jennifer Winters
*Environmental
 Specialist,
 Volusia County
 Habitat
 Conservation Plan*

Tampering with eggs is a problem in high population areas



Setup
 <30 minutes

- Assemble aircraft
- Setup ground station
- Preflight checklists

Launch

- Takeoff on beach access driveway
- Autonomously ascends

Autonomous Search
 30 minutes

- Begins imaging along flight path with 14 CFR part 107 waiver
- Image processing offboard via LTE link
- Cruise altitude of 196-ft

Landing

Decrease altitude and land in predefined landing zone

Reserve
 15 minutes

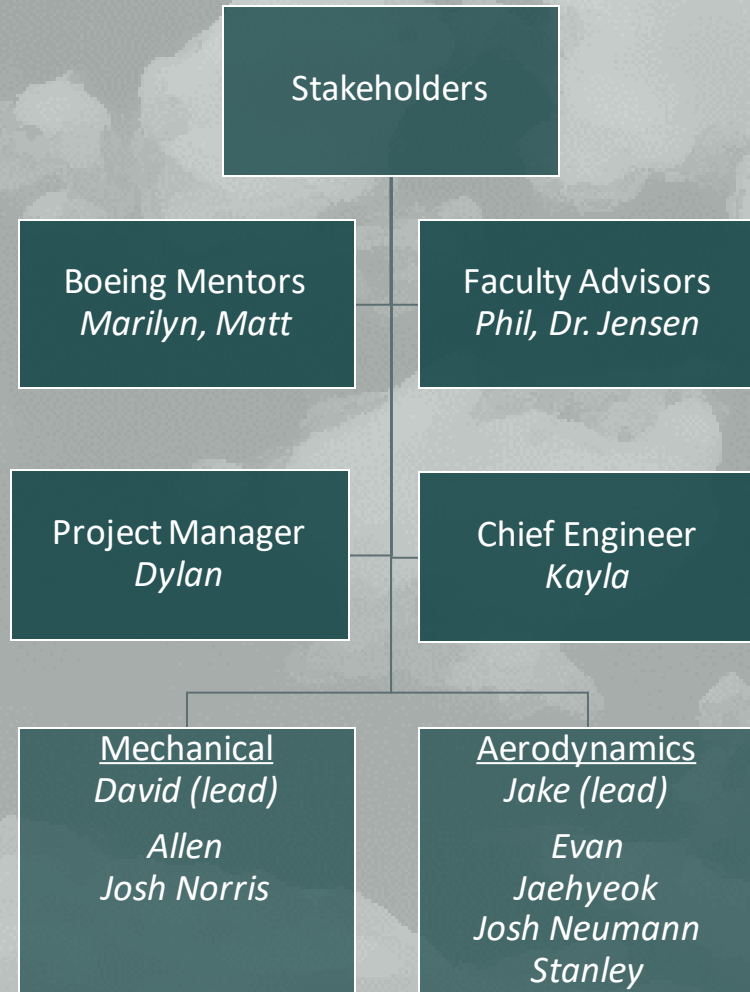
Extra flight time available

Takedown
 <30 minutes

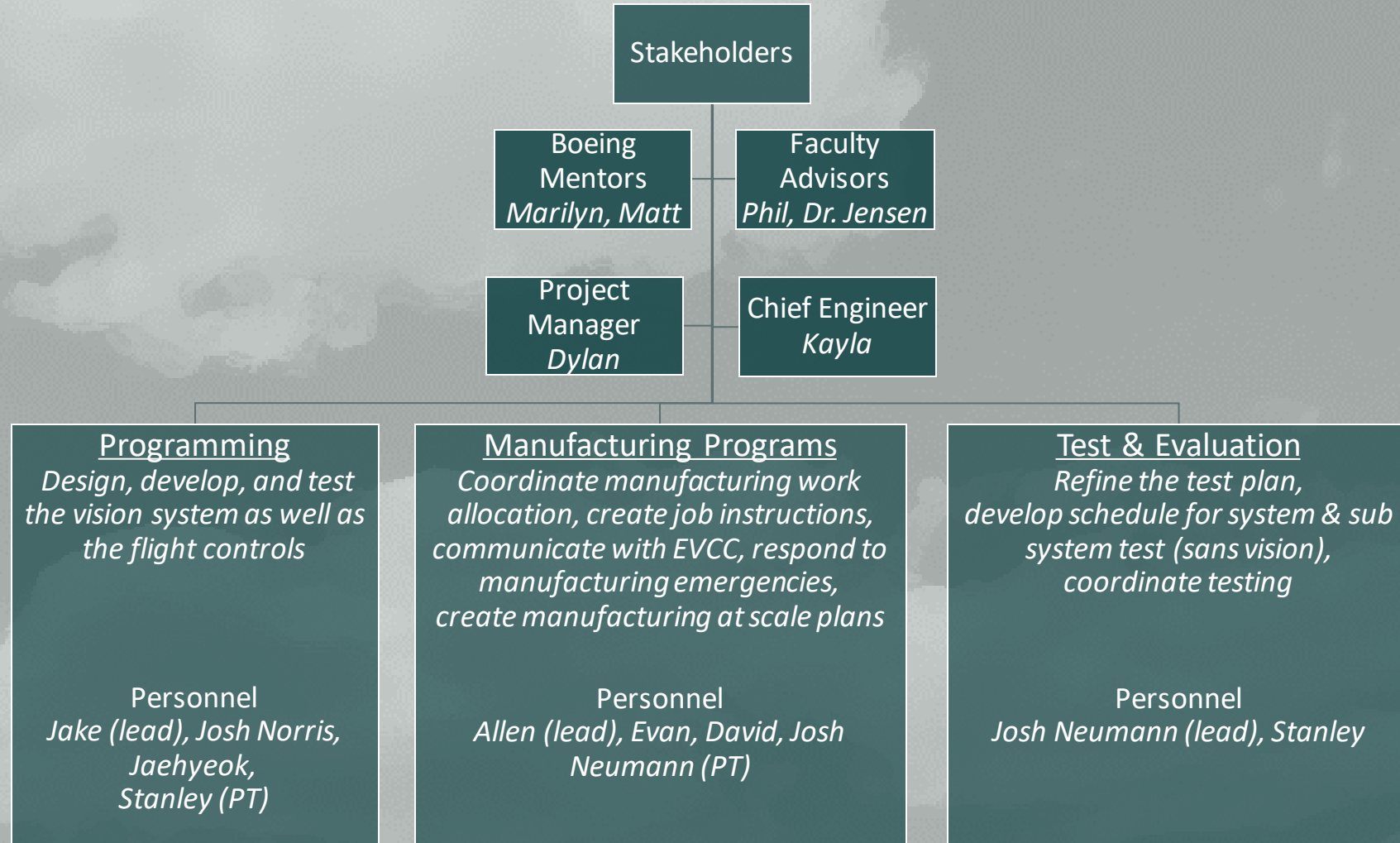
- Post flight checklists
- Wings are removed
- Ground station shut down
- Components packed in hard shell case for transport

Team organization

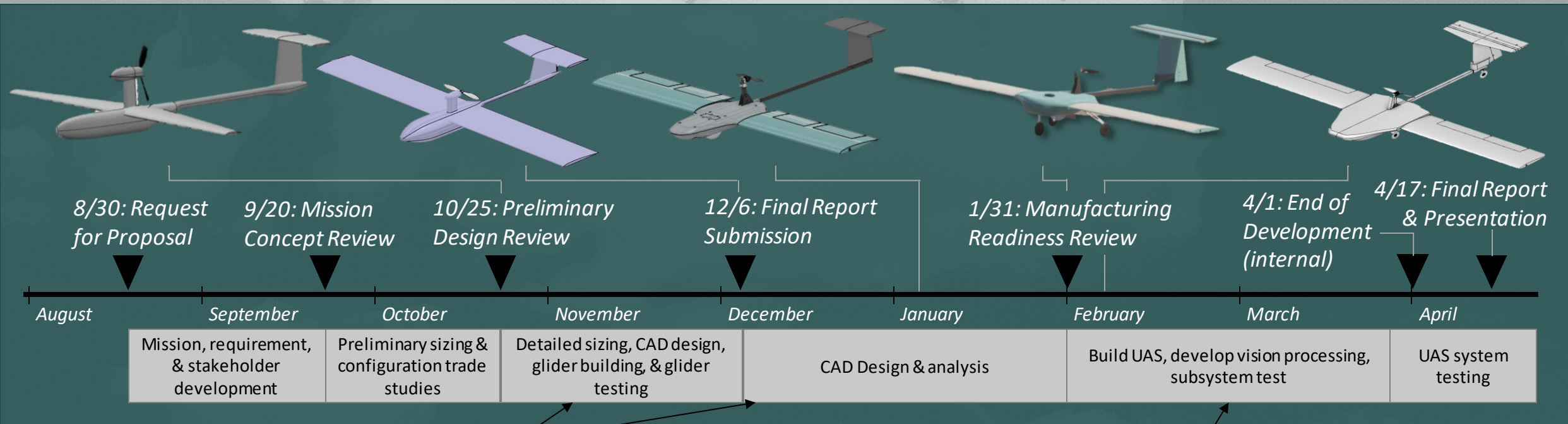
Semester 1 team organization



Semester 2 team organization



Project Schedule



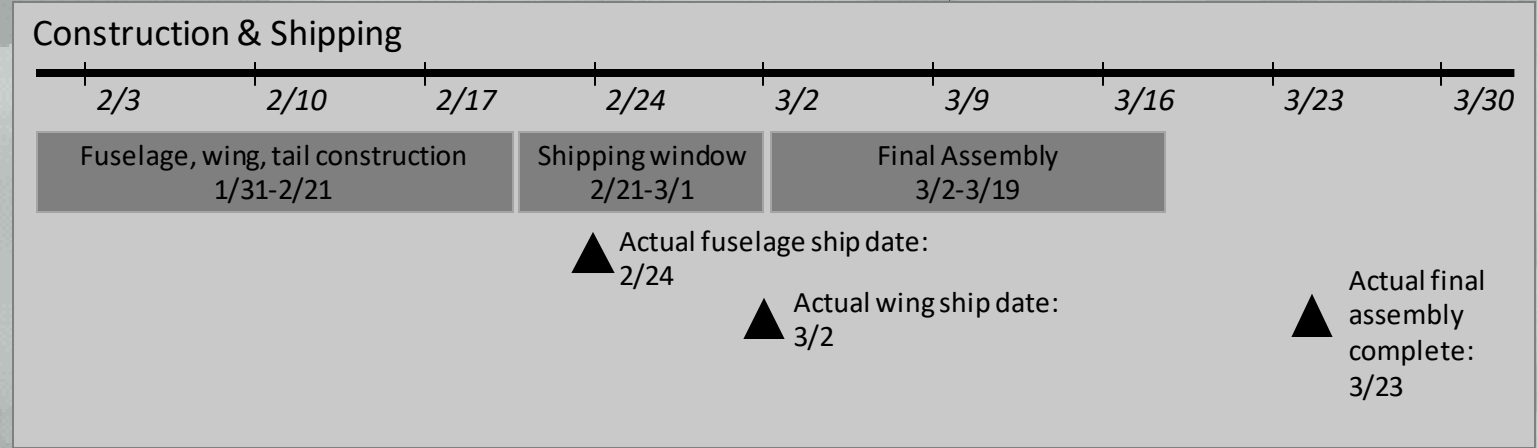
Detailed design decisions & CAD became behind schedule, stretching into Winter break.

Cause:

- Unfamiliarity with CAD software
- Understaffed CAD team
- Not understanding iteration as aero was developing

Result:

- Necessary to work over break
- Significant errors caught week of MRR
- FEA delayed until after MRR

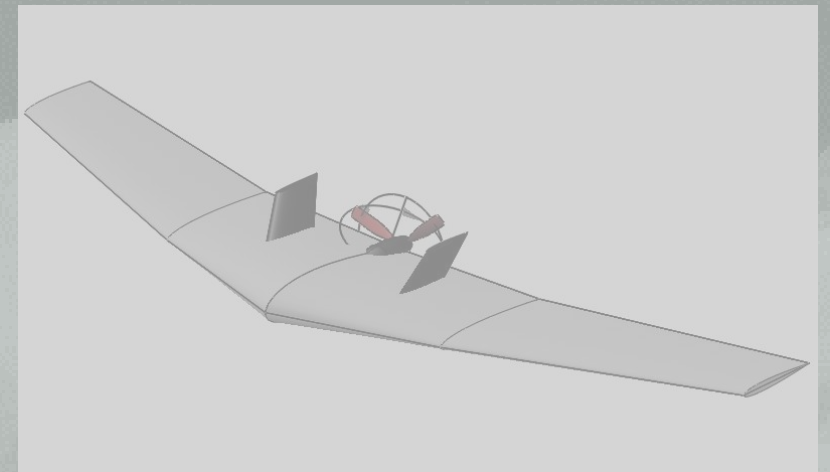
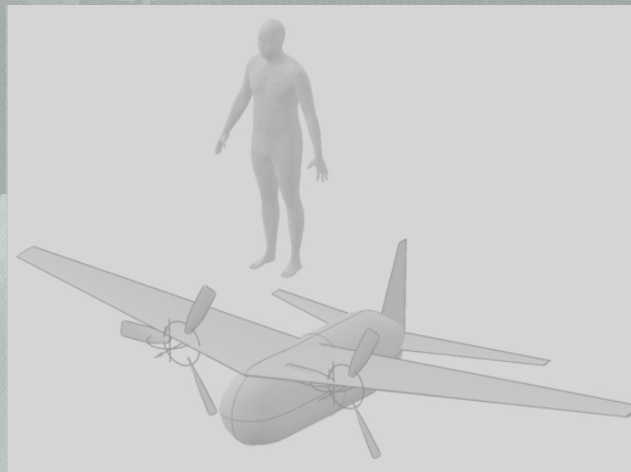
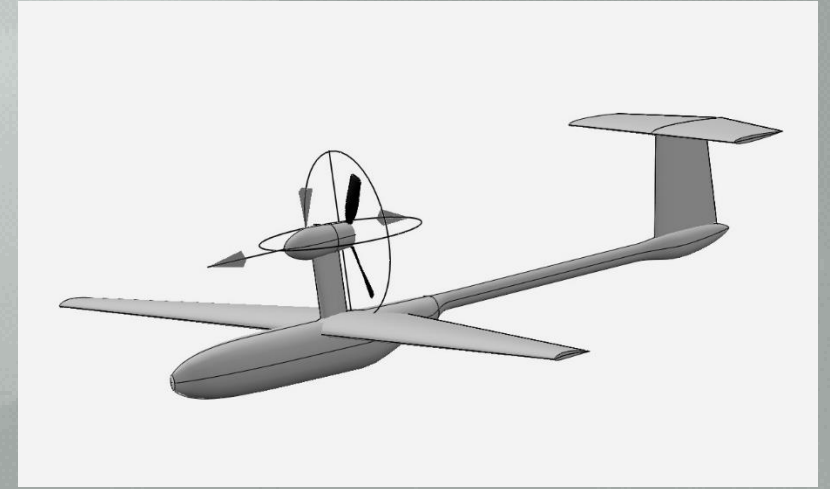
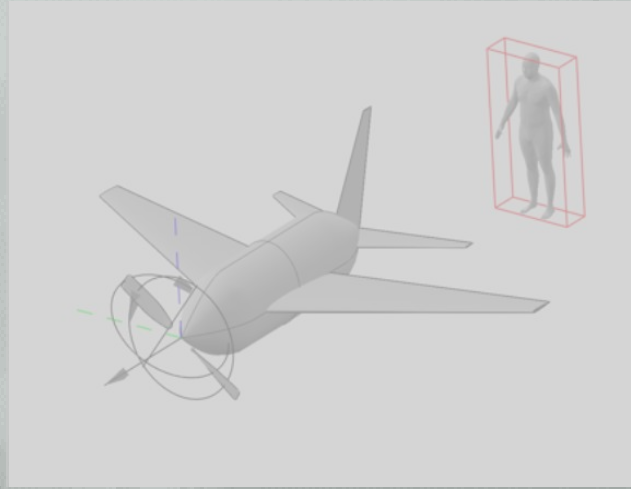


Requirements

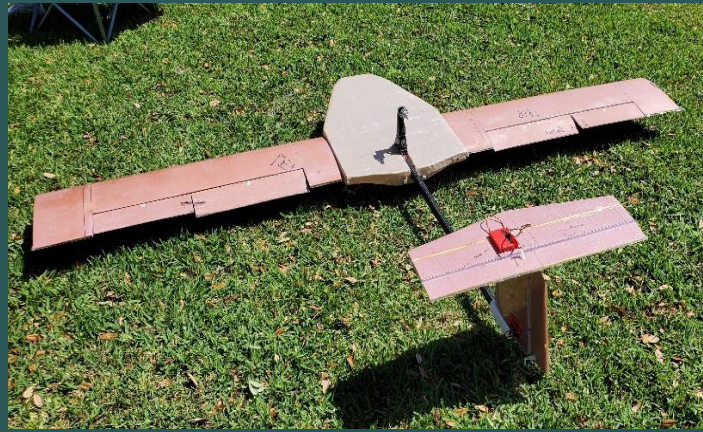
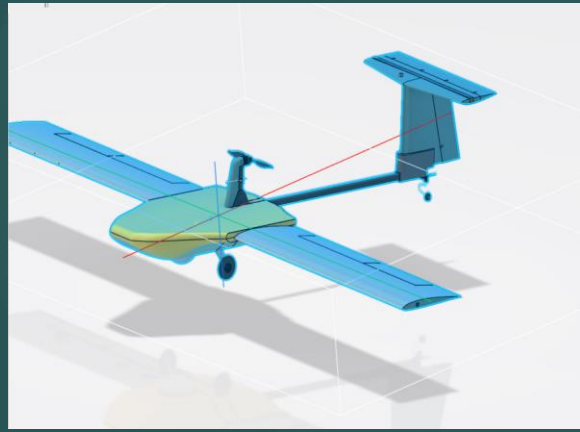
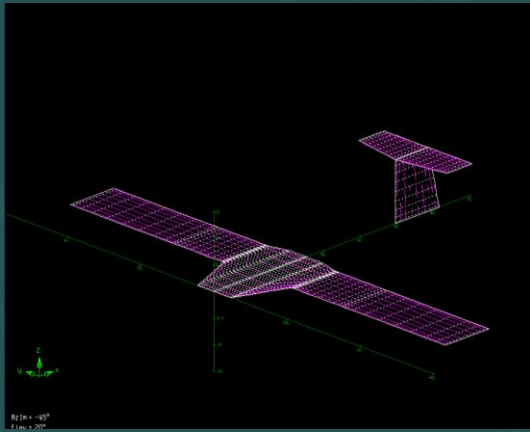
| | Title | Details |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Stakeholder discussions | SDR-003: Weight | Weight less than 12-lbs |
| | SDR-004: Transportation Size | The UAS shall be easily transportable (fit within a box 20" x 24" x 100") |
| Technical needs | SDR-005: Cost | Cost less than \$4,000 |
| | SDR-006: Autopilot | The UAS shall be able to fly with autopilot to established mission profiles |
| | SDR-009: Takeoff | Wheeled takeoff from surface <200-ft |
| System requirements | SDR-011: Detecting Sea Turtle Nests | The UAS shall carry a payload capable of aiding in detection of sea turtle nests |
| Subsystem requirements | SDR-014: Maintenance | The UAS shall be capable of handling multiple flights/operations without need for replacement or significant repair. |
| | SDR-021: Range-distance | The UAS shall have a range of at least 15 miles |
| Operational requirements | SDR-023: Setup Time | The UAS structure shall have a setup time (out of box to launch) of no greater than 30 minutes |
| | SDR-024: Setup Tools | The UAS structure shall not require more than 2 external tools to set up for flight |
| | SDR-026: Handbook | A detailed pilots operating (POH) & maintenance handbook shall be included with every UAS |
| Payload requirements | SDR-030: Noise | The UAS shall produce no more than 50 dB of noise at a distance of 200-ft altitude |
| | SDR-036: Stowing Time | The UAS shall have a stowing time (controls disarmed & disassembled) no greater than 30 minutes |

Determining Configurations

- All members created initial concept designs
- Narrowed selection to 4 primary designs
- Optimal design was identified using weighted decision matrix.
 - 10 criteria were considered
 - Criteria weights were taken as the average of each members' opinions
 - Designs scores were completed by all team members independently



Flight Performance and Stability



| Flight Performance | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Takeoff Speed (mph) | 20.00 |
| Stall Speed (mph) | 16.68 |
| Cruise Speed (mph) | 40.00 |
| Expected Flight Time | 30-minute mission + 15-minute reserve |
| | Total 57-minute 41-second |

| Stability Analysis Result | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Neutral Point (in) | 17.38 |
| Center of Gravity (in) | 15.58 |
| Chord Length (in) | 12.00 |
| Stability Margin | 15 % |

| Weight and Balance Result | | |
|------------------------------|--------|----------|
| | CAD | Aircraft |
| Total Mass (lbs) | 11.64 | 10.5 |
| Center of Gravity Coordinate | X (in) | 13.25 |
| | Y (in) | 2.75 |
| | Z (in) | 0.26 |
| | | -3.00 |

- AVL and 3D Experience used to conduct analysis
- Discrepancy observed for center of gravity
 - Change of mass distribution during final design and construction

Propulsion: Technical Specifications

Propulsion Performance

| Cruise | | | | Takeoff | | | |
|--------|----------|-------------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|--------|
| Thrust | 1.44 lbf | Current Draw (6s) | 8.6 A | Thrust | 3.59 lbf | Current Draw (6s) | 22.6 A |

Components:

Motor:

KDE 2814XF-515 (515 kv)

Propeller:

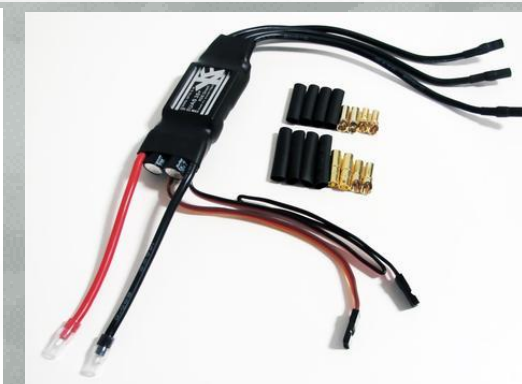
APC B11x8E (11x8)

ESC: KDEXF-UAS35 (35A+)

Battery:

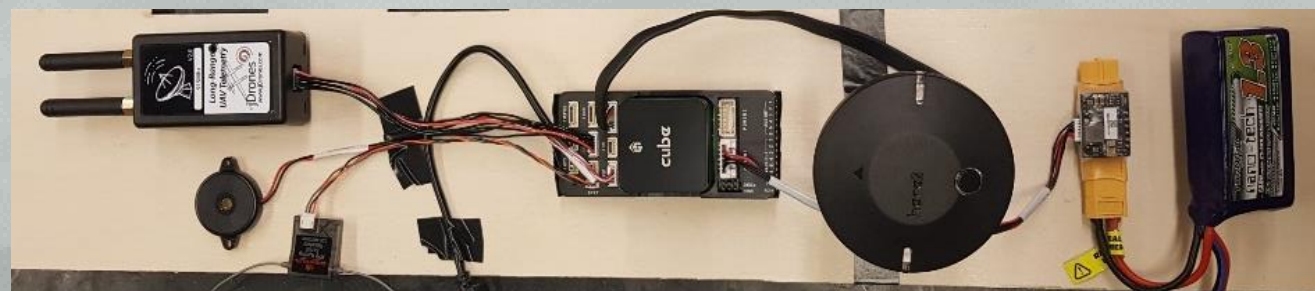
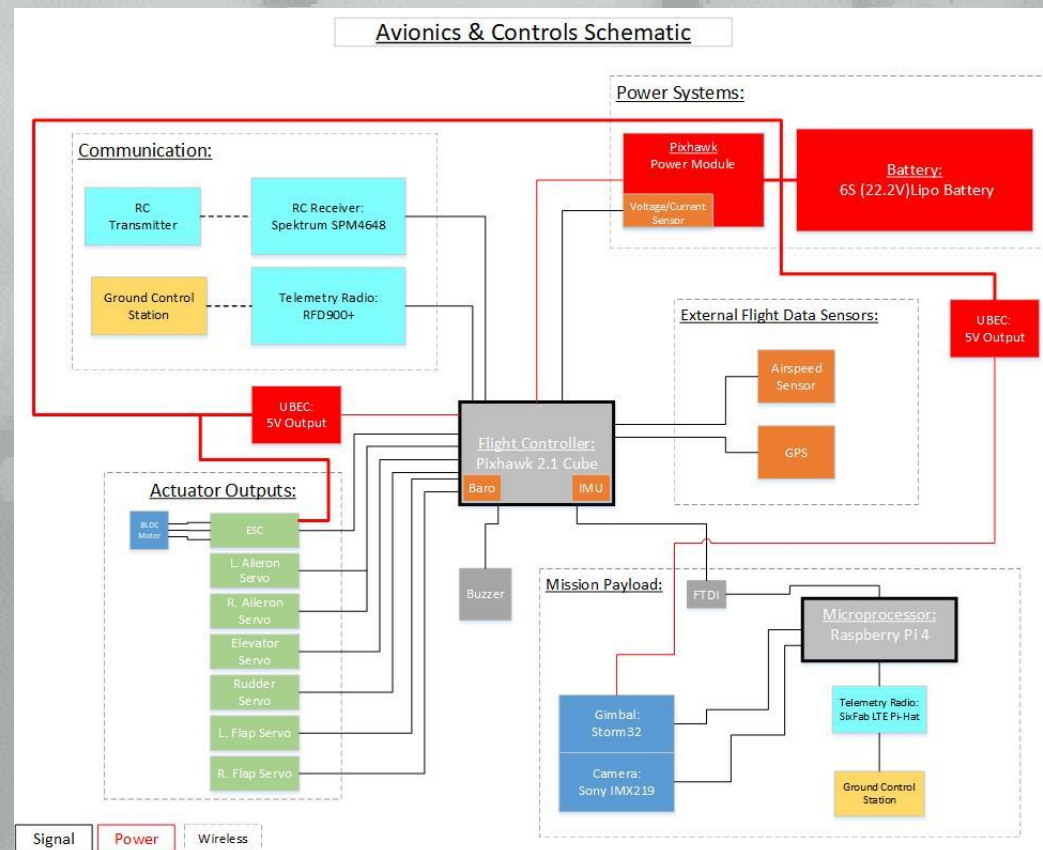
Lumenier 8000 mAh 6S 25C LiPo

Mission Required Current: 7690 mAh



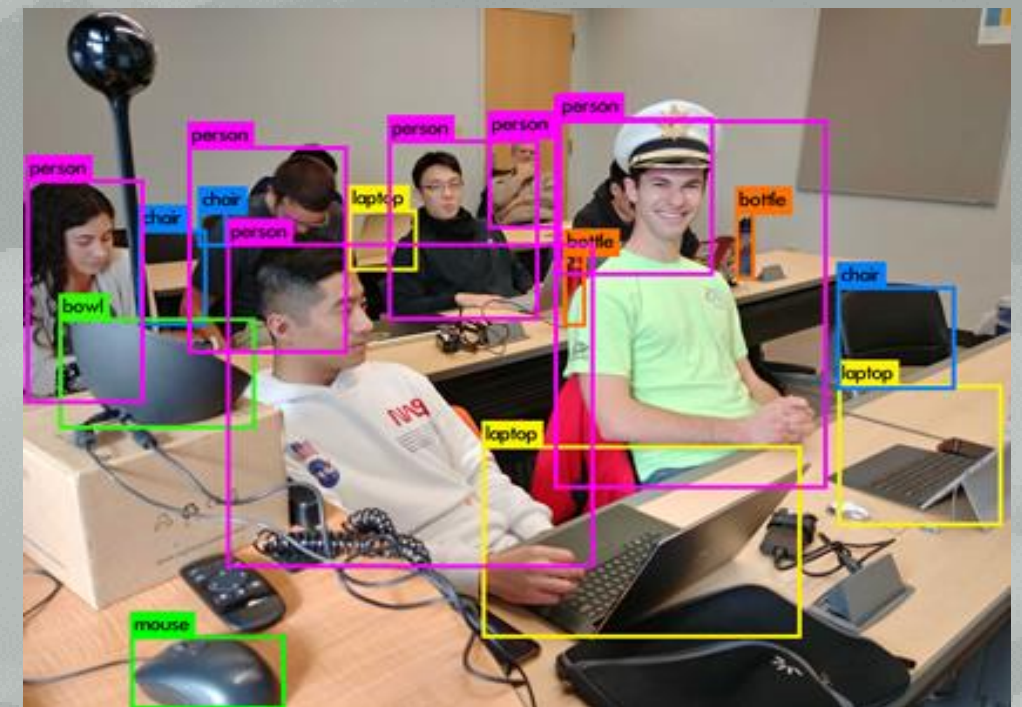
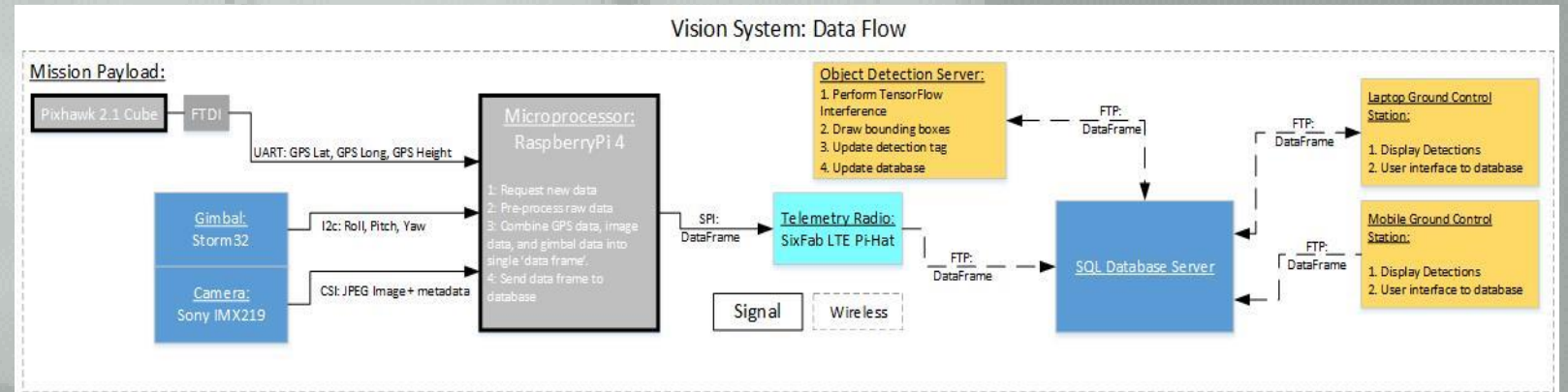
Detailed Design: Payload & Electronics

- Pixhawk based flight controller running PX4 firmware
- Standard fixed-wing aircraft flight data sensors
- Raspberry Pi 4 controls vision system data collection, pre-processing and storage
- Separate data streams for aircraft and mission data



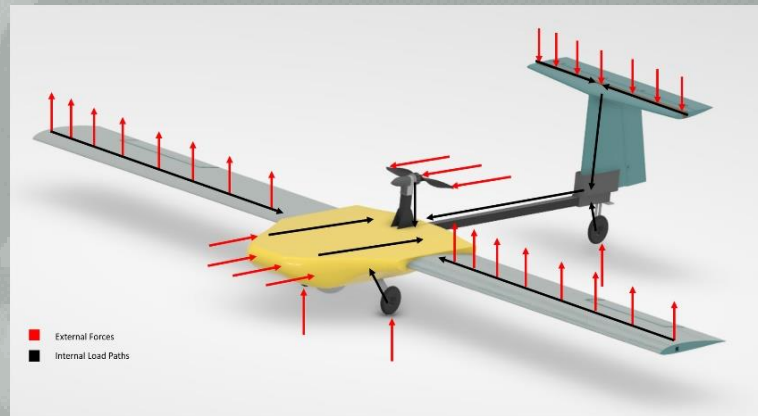
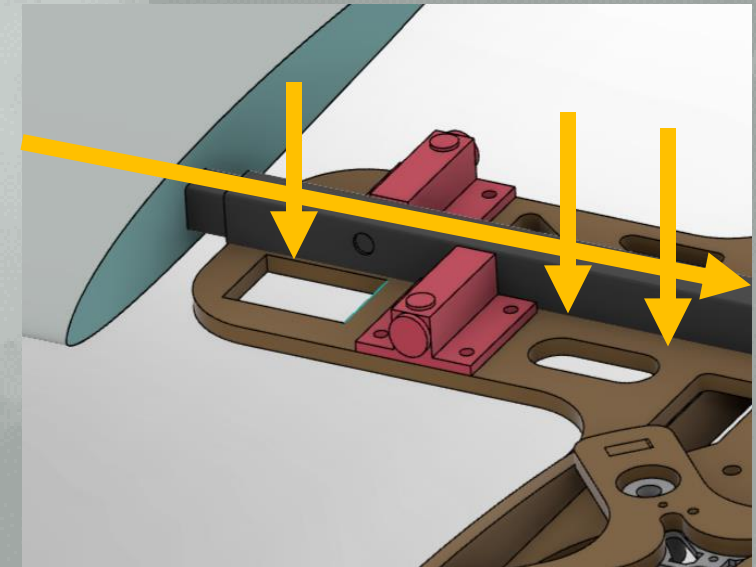
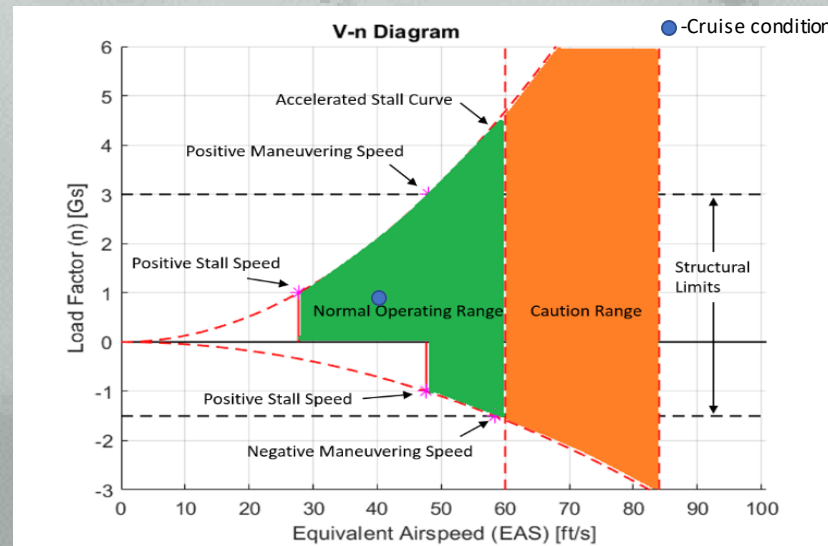
Detailed Design: Vision System

- Main function of vision system is to detect sea turtle using a convolutional neural network(CNN)
- Uses Tensorflow2.0 and YOLOV3 to implement the CNN
- Model to be trained on turtle test object(foam turtle)
- SQL database for scalability
- Sony IMX219 Camera:
Sensor: 1/4" CMOS
Resolution: 1920x1080 pixels
Field of view: 82'
Pixel ground width: 0.5"
(Turtle track width: 2.5-3.25')
Frame overlap: 93% at 15 FPS, cruise

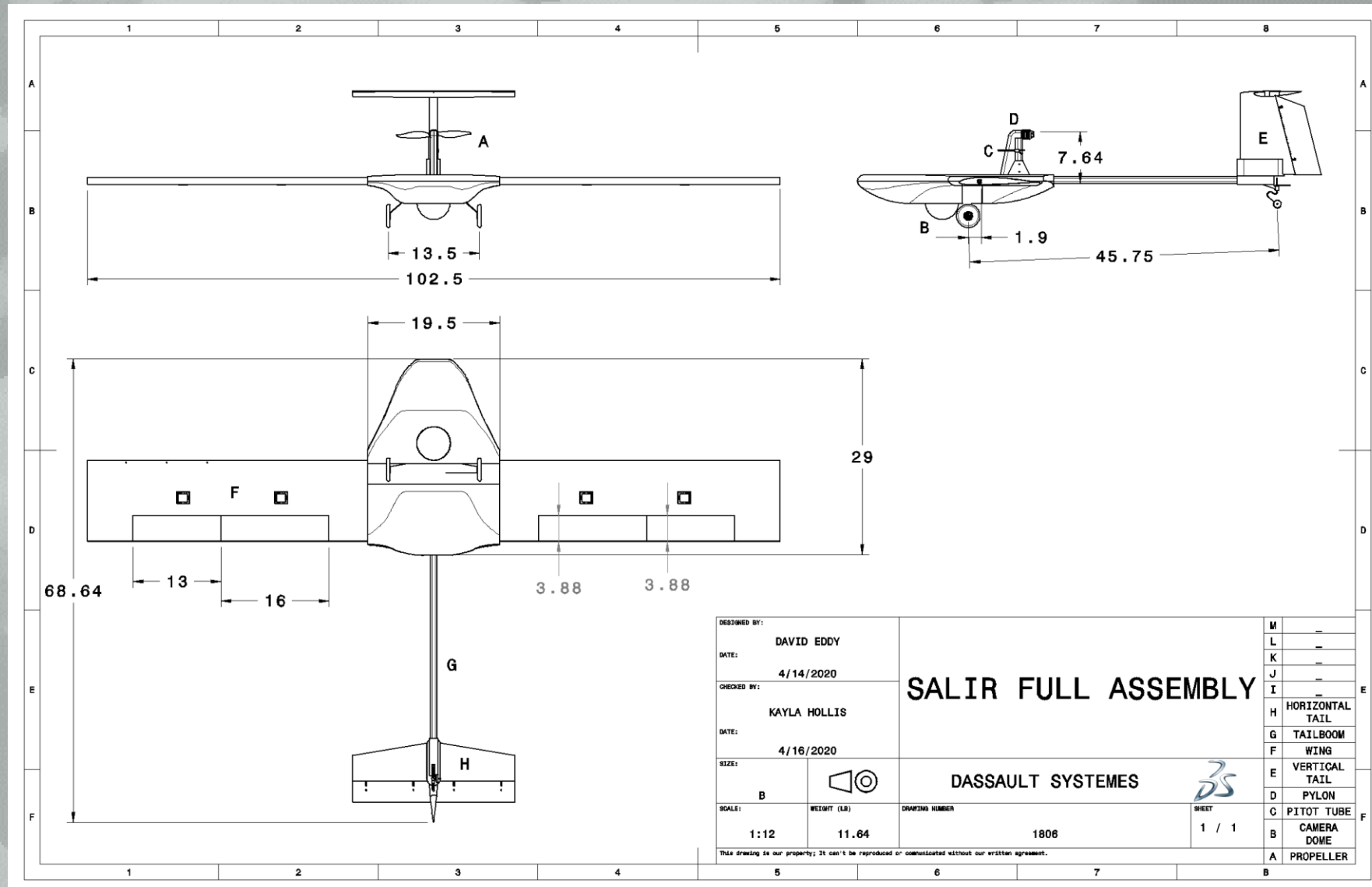


Detailed Design: Structural Design

- Hand-Calculations used for sizing and verified with SIMULIA FEA
- Wing – Main Structure Connection: Detents
- Aerodynamic cover fully removable.
- Integrated electronics board and main structure



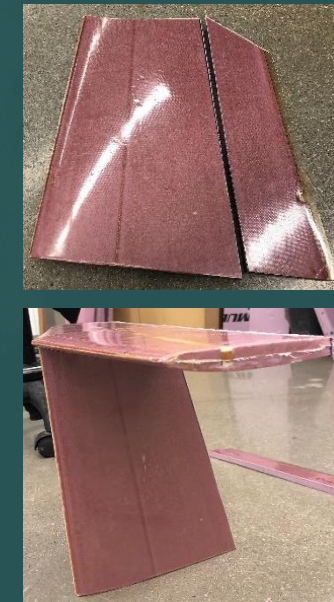
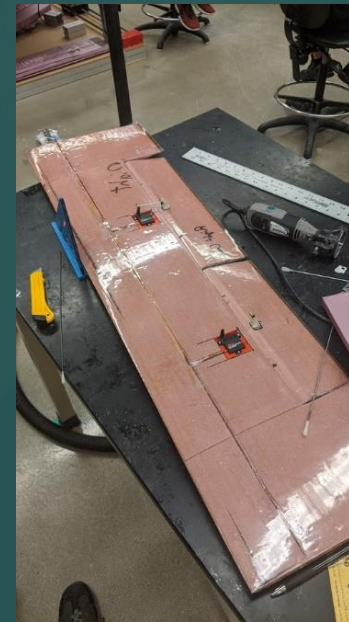
3-View Drawing



Manufacturing Plan and Execution

Glass Slipper Wings & Tail:

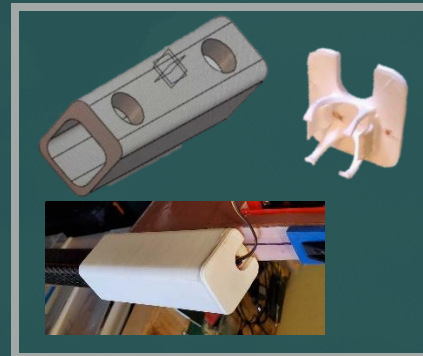
1. Foamular XPS 250 was cut using a CNC hot wire
2. Each wing was cut in 3 parts: root, control surfaces, and tip
 - a. Designed for manufacturability, moving the flaps out changed from needing 5 cuts to 3 cuts to shape the wing
3. Control surfaces were cut with CNC hot wire
4. 3oz plain weave fiberglass layup with epoxy and vacuum bag
5. 3 spars channels and 6 servo pockets were cut
6. Main spars were extended by combination of interference and tight tolerance fits.



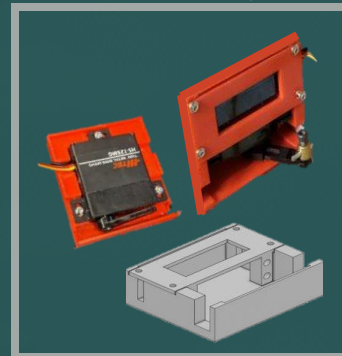
Additive Manufacturing:

- Parts were designed using 3DExperience
- Prints were executed on Qidi X Pro and Delta-style printers
- All prints were ABS or PLA plastics

Tail Connector



Servo Trays



Replicated DZUS Fasteners



Fairing



Manufacturing Plan and Execution

Fuselage:

1. 1/4-inch honeycomb and fiberglass were cut to size
2. Honeycomb was scored to allow for bending
3. 2 part (top and bottom) positive mold was created
4. Epoxy was applied with a brush to adhere the fiberglass to the honeycomb
5. The sandwich structure was vacuum bagged
6. Weight totaled 2 lb. 6 oz. (overweight)
 1. A less dense 1/8-inch honeycomb was used
 2. Epoxy was weighed before application
 3. **Final fuselage weight of 10.5 oz**
7. Cuts were made for fitting around the electronics board, wings, and landing gear



Motor Mount:

- Made from a 2"x 2" block of aluminum
- CNC milled
- Fit into carbon fiber pylon



Detents:

- Purchased to attach wings
- Spar hole tolerance of +0.025"



Electronics Board:

1. 1/4 inch Birch wood was purchased
2. The part was laser cut
3. Support beams on top and bottom were replaced to increase stiffness

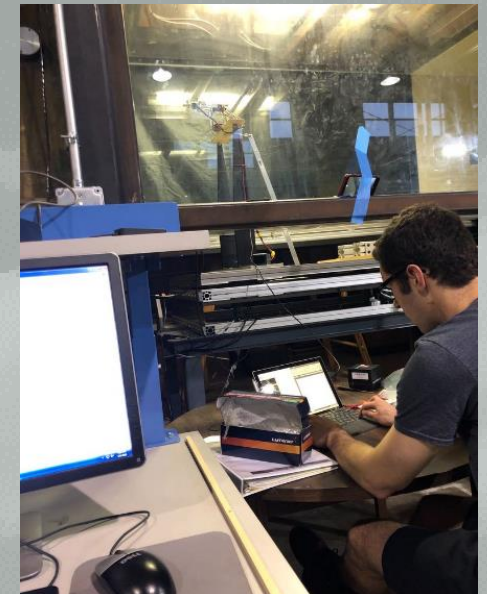
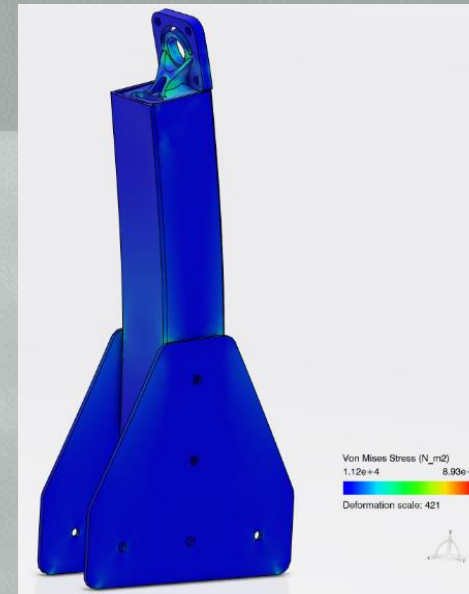
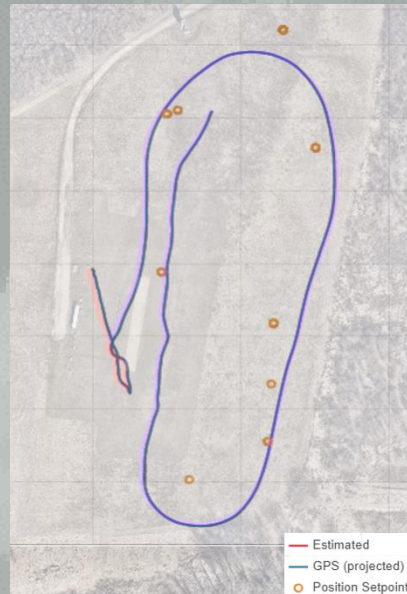
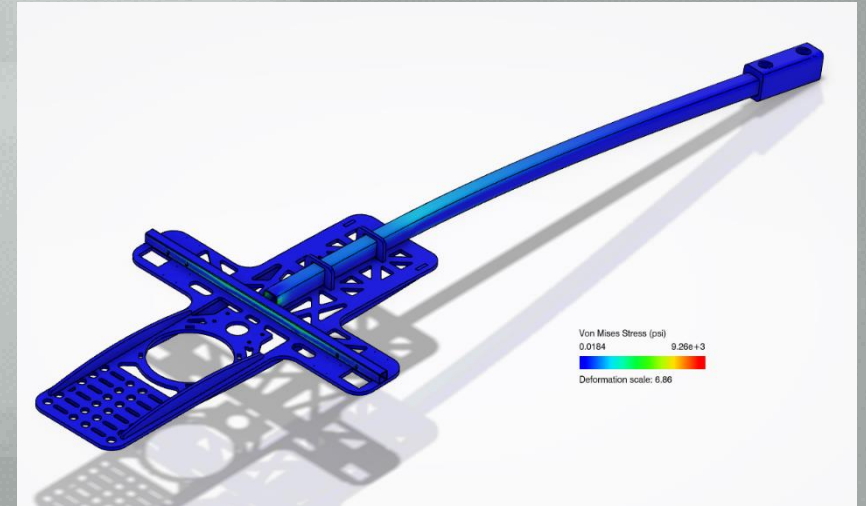
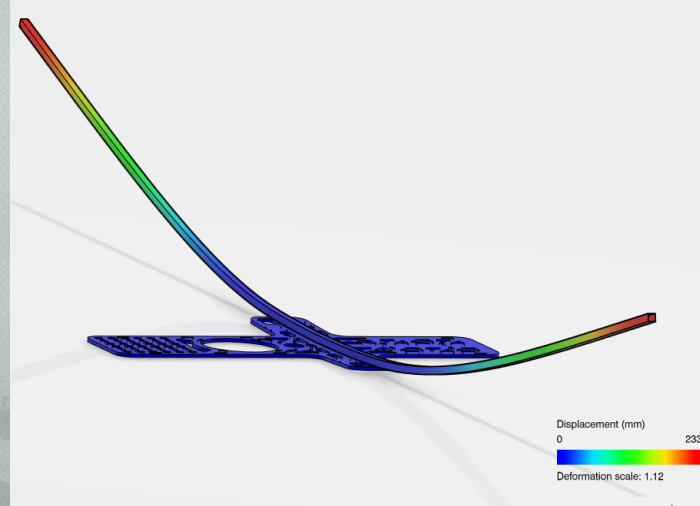


Testing Plan

- Preliminary Test Plans
 - Tail Bending – FEA ●
 - Tail Bending – Physical ●
 - Wing Bending – FEA ●
 - Wing Bending – Physical ●
 - Motor Pylon – FEA ●
 - Static Thrust ●
 - Dynamic Thrust ●
 - Noise Mitigation ●
 - Manual Flight Test ●
 - Autonomy Test ●
 - FRR Shake Test ●

Complete - ●

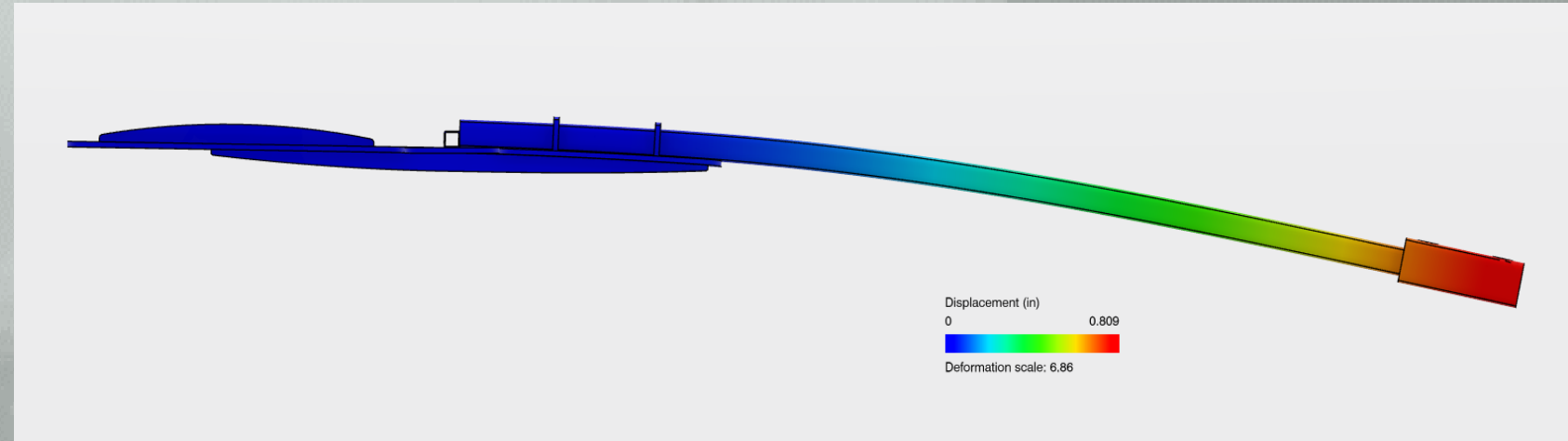
Incomplete due to COVID-19 - ●



Performance Results

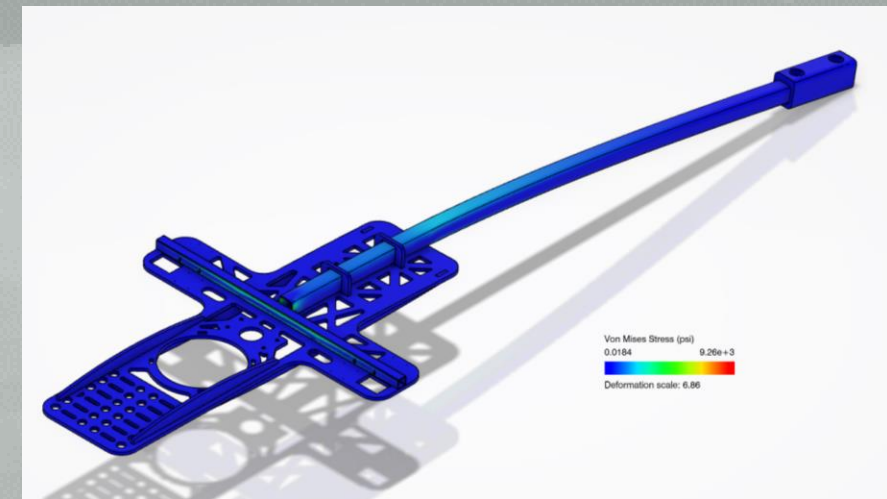
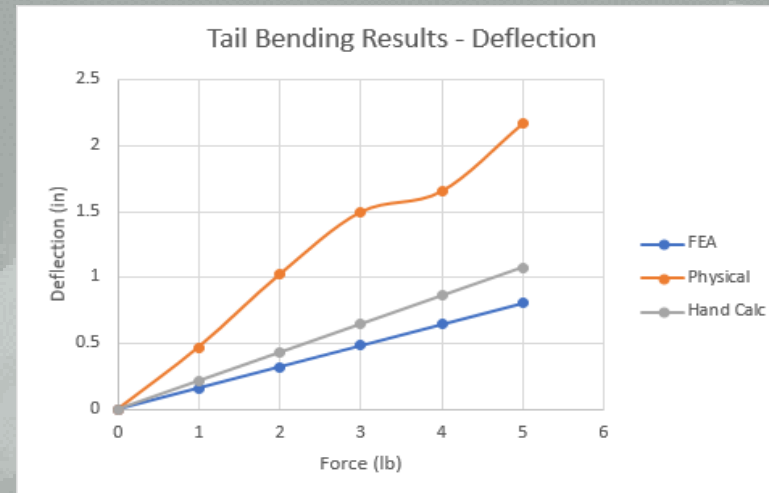
Tail Bending

- FEA w/ SIMULIA Static Study
- Physical test conducted
- Downward force applied on tail connector over range of 1-5 lbf



Results

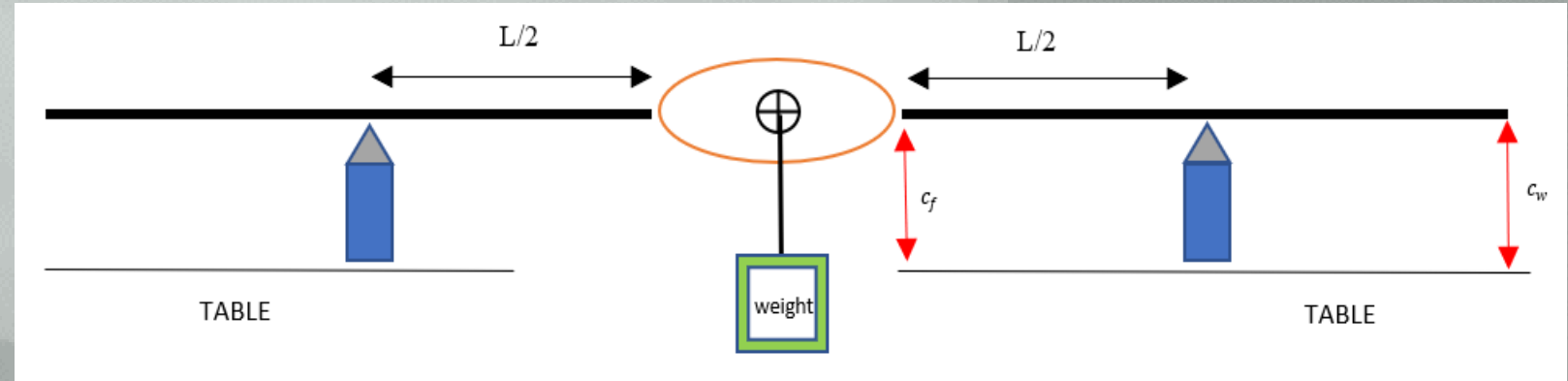
- Max Stress of 9.26 ksi
- Deflection greater by factor of 2.68 compared to FEA
- Possible Causes:
 - Constraints
 - Add'l flex in payload board in physical test



Performance Results

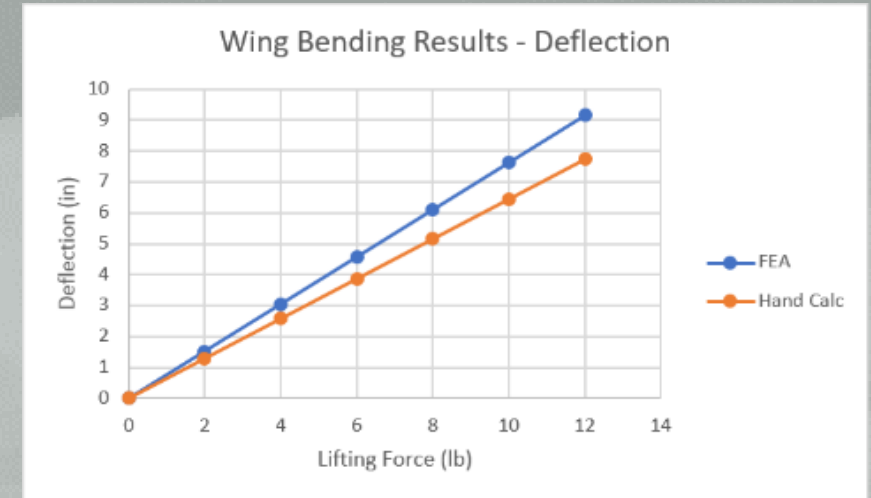
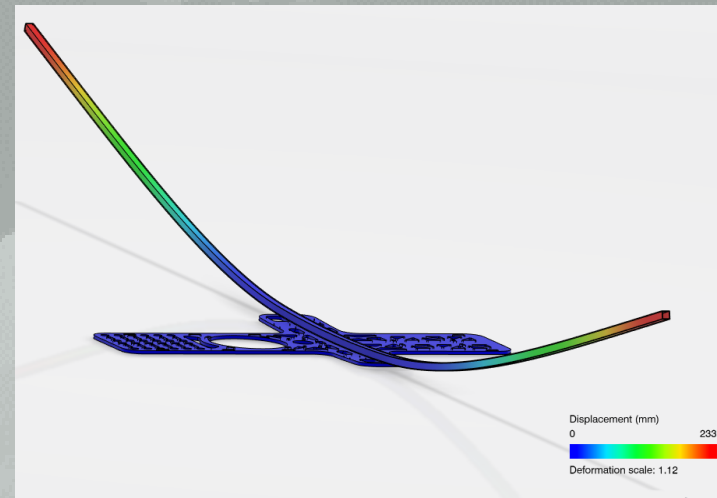
Wing Bending

- FEA w/SIMULIA Static Study
- Physical Test not complete due to COVID-19
- Fixed front and back edges of payload board



Results

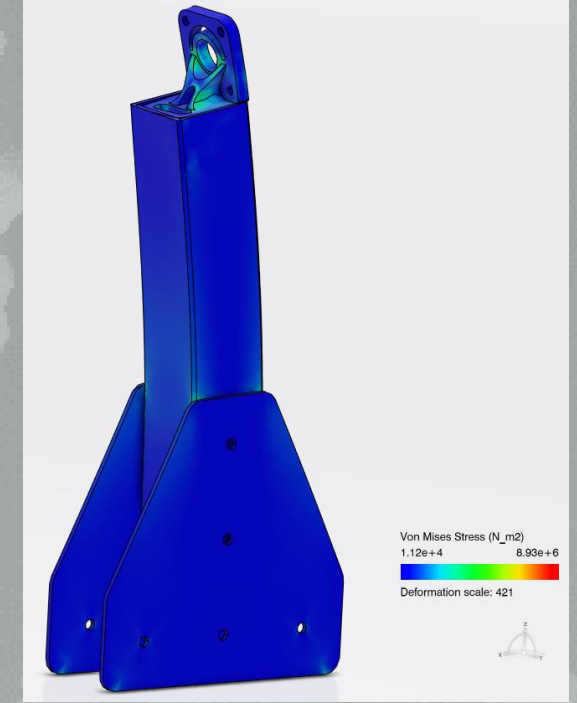
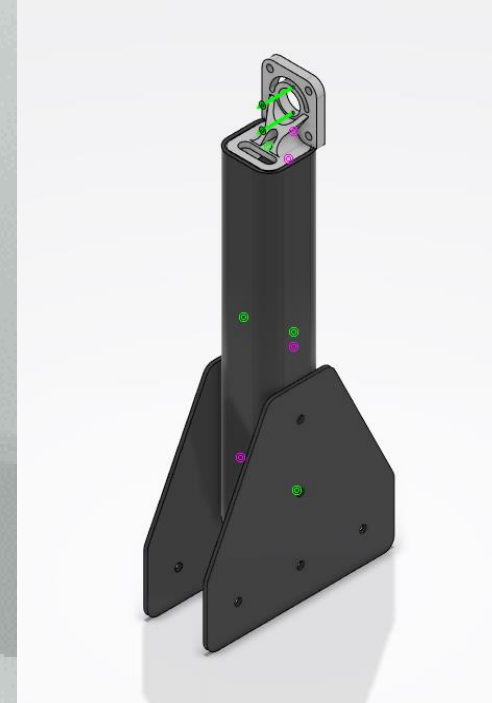
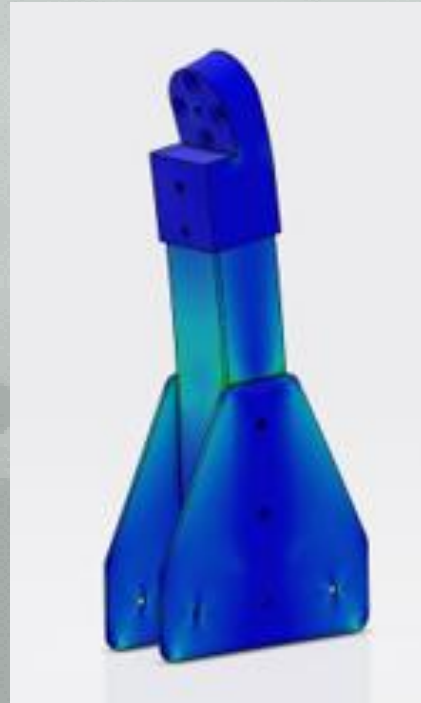
- Max deflection of 9.15 in. With 12 lb of lift
- Did not include fiberglass or foam from wing.
- Max stress of 12.76 ksi
- Factor of Safety = 23



Performance Results

Motor + Pylon

- Redesigned Mount after suggestions from MRR
 - Switched material from 3D printed ABS to machined Aluminum after concerns of heat and layer delamination
- Conducted FEA using Simulia Static Study
- Constraints
 - Base fixed to aircraft spine
 - 3.59 lbf force from propulsion thrust
 - Surfaces Fully Bonded using Hisol Applicant



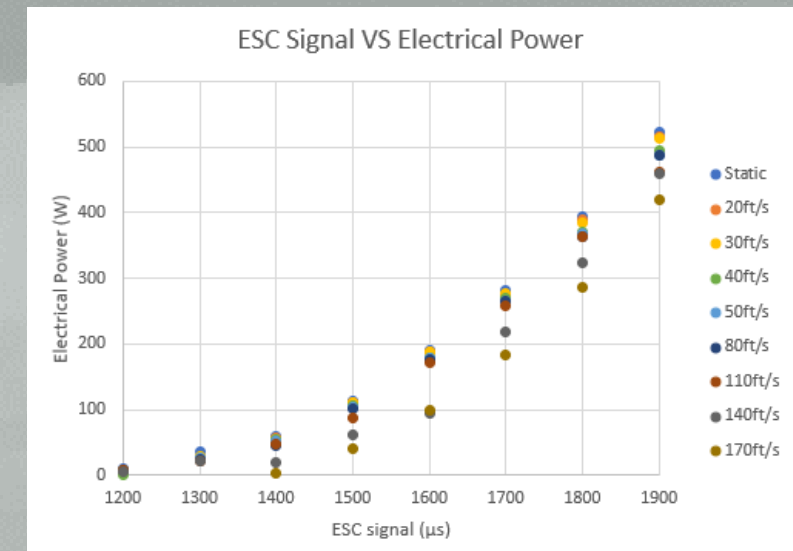
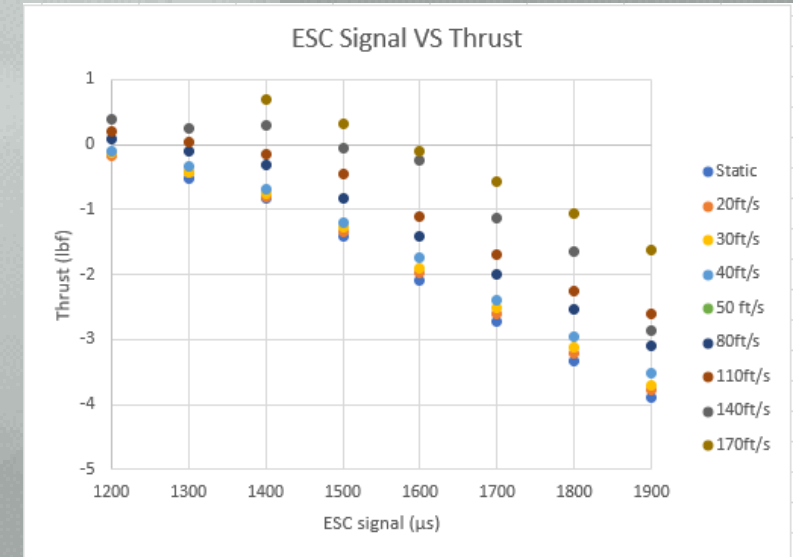
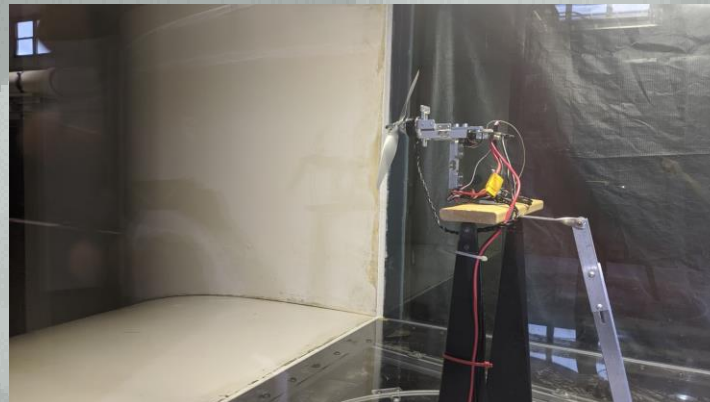
Results

- Stress in aluminum mount
 - 0.54 ksi
 - Factor of safety: 55

Performance Results

Thrust

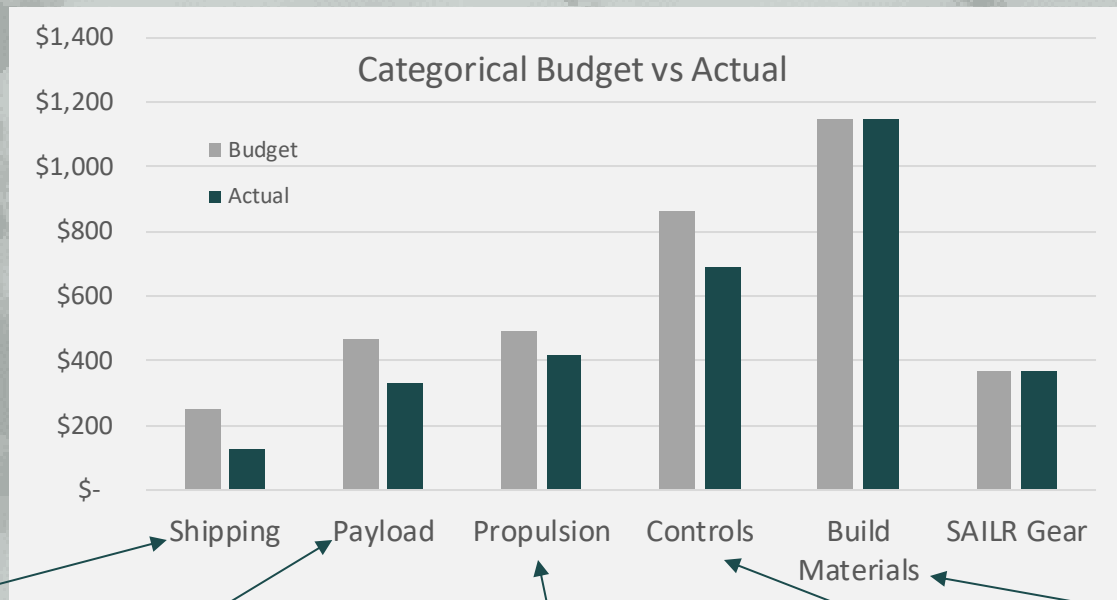
- Static testing
 - Static test maximum 3.9lbf
 - Static test maximum draw 521 watt
- Dynamic Testing
 - Increase free stream velocity significantly deduces thrust output & reduce power draw
 - Max output at cruise is 3.4lbf at 50 ft/s
 - Max power draw at cruise is 487.9 watt at 50 ft/s



Requirements Verification

| Title | Details | Verified | Reason |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| SDR-003: Weight | 12 Pound Maximum | Yes | Weight = 10.5 lb |
| SDR-004: Transportation Size | Easily transportable (fit within a box 20" x 24" x 100") | Yes | Measured to fit |
| SDR-005: Cost | Cost less than \$4,000 | Yes | Total Cost = \$2,579.00 |
| SDR-006: Autopilot | Fly with autopilot to established mission profiles | Yes | Shown to work with Bixler |
| SDR-009: Takeoff | Wheeled takeoff from surface in less than 200-ft | Yes | Calculated Takeoff Distance = 33.6 ft |
| SDR-011: Detecting Sea Turtle Nests | Carry a payload capable of aiding in detection of sea turtle nests | No | Not able to identify turtle specifically |
| SDR-014: Maintenance | Capable of handling multiple flights/operations without need for replacement or significant repair. | No | No Study Completed |
| SDR-021: Range-distance | 15-mile minimum range | Yes | Calculated Range = 36 Miles |
| SDR-023: Setup Time | Structure shall have a setup time (out of box to launch) of less than 30 minutes | Yes | Setup Time = 10 minutes |
| SDR-024: Setup Tools | No more than 2 external tools to set up for flight | Yes | Tools Needed = 1 |
| SDR-026: Handbook | A detailed pilots operating (POH) & maintenance handbook shall be included with every UAS | Yes | Documents Created |
| SDR-030: Noise | Produce no more than 50 dB of noise at a distance of 200-ft altitude | No | Unable to Verify due to COVID-19 |
| SDR-036: Stowing Time | Stowing time (controls disarmed & disassembled) not greater than 30 minutes | Yes | Stow Time = 10 minutes |

Money



Cost to build plane: \$2709

| Actual Expenses | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Cash Reserves | \$924 |
| SAILR Gear | \$367 (-1%) |
| Build Materials | \$1,146 (0%) |
| Controls | \$691 (-20%) |
| Propulsion | \$415 (-15%) |
| Payload | \$329 (-29%) |
| Shipping | \$128 (-49%) |

Shipping:

- FedEx actual cost cheaper than website quote
- No second wing set to ship

Payload:

- Could not develop LTE capabilities so data plan not purchased
- Unforeseen expenses include Raspberry Pi SD card and LTE antennae

Propulsion:

- Qualified for free shipping
- Purchased 2nd battery

Controls:

- Little margin used for wires, connectors

Build Materials:

- Expanded budget (\$200) 2/29 with shipping funds to reimburse ISU for lab supplies
- Overbudget on Wing foam and spars offset by unused margin for shipping & misc. fasteners

Progress Needs to Delivery

Current status:

- Flight test ready aircraft

Needs:

- Obtain controller
- Coordinate with pilot
- Complete ground test plans
- Complete air test plans
- Complete sea turtle recognition
- Develop LTE communication capabilities with database
- Integration of payload
- Entire system test & rework as needed



Lessons Learned

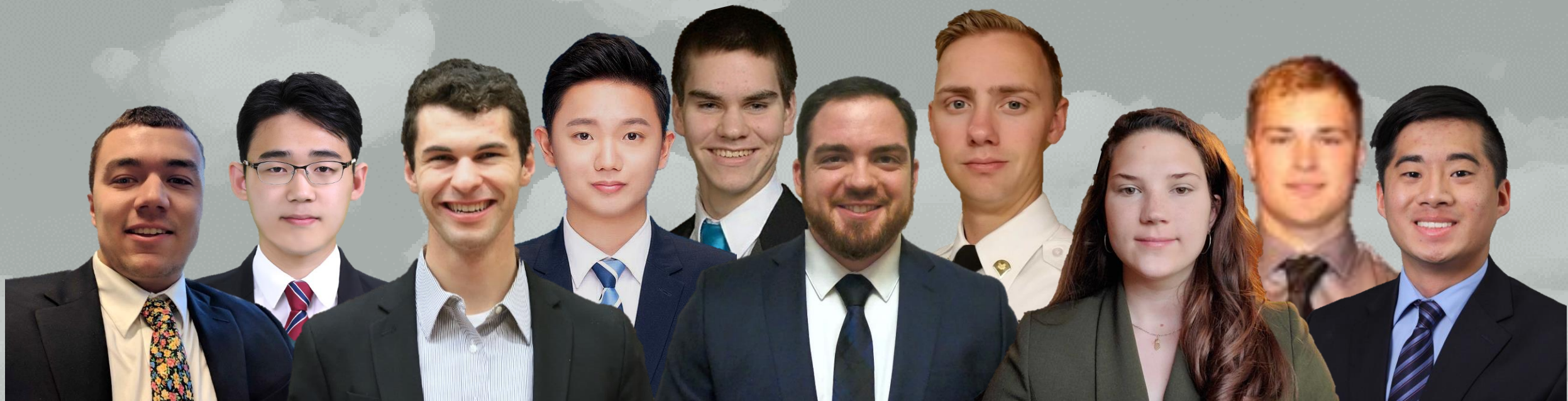
Working effectively across backgrounds & disciplines with people of differing technical strengths

Scoping the project and individual tasks when provided open ended instruction

Understanding the impact of schedule delays on subsequent work

Communicating clearly across time zones & backgrounds

Planning requires follow up





Discussion

Configuration Decision Matrix

| Criteria | Weighting | Pylon over wing | Conventional tractor | Conventional twin | Flying wing | Description |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Acoustic mitigation | 3.6 | 154.8 | 64.8 | 82.8 | 79.2 | Does the configuration have any noise reduction design traits? |
| Propeller airflow | 3.2 | 140.8 | 108.8 | 124.8 | 86.4 | Does the propeller get a clean, undisturbed airflow? |
| Adverse aerodynamic interactions | 4.2 | 117.6 | 134.4 | 147 | 96.6 | Does the configuration have any wing/tail/prop interaction that could negatively affect the stability? |
| Ease of C.G. placement | 4.8 | 163.2 | 192 | 177.6 | 72 | Does the aircraft have the ability to place the center of gravity in various locations to provide enough static margin? |
| Aero dynamic modelling complexity | 2.8 | 81.2 | 103.6 | 86.8 | 70 | Does this aircraft possess a wing or tail configuration that is more complex to aerodynamically model.? |
| Flight controller configuration complexity | 3 | 75 | 111 | 96 | 69 | Does the configuration have any special channel mixing that would need to take place or parameters that would need special tuning? |
| Hand & propeller clearance | 4 | 196 | 140 | 140 | 68 | Is it easy to design a propeller position that would give adequate clearance from launcher? |
| Propeller ground clearance | 1 | 50 | 25 | 36 | 16 | Is there enough clearance between the propeller and the ground? |
| Structural design complexity | 5 | 160 | 190 | 170 | 180 | Does this aircraft lend itself to a robust structure? Are there parts that will likely break off? etc. |
| Manufacturability | 3 | 99 | 117 | 90 | 114 | Does this aircraft require tools not available to our universities? How long would each part of the structure take to manufacture? |
| Total | | 1237.6 | 1186.6 | 1151 | 851.2 | |



Configuration of choice

Requirements Verification

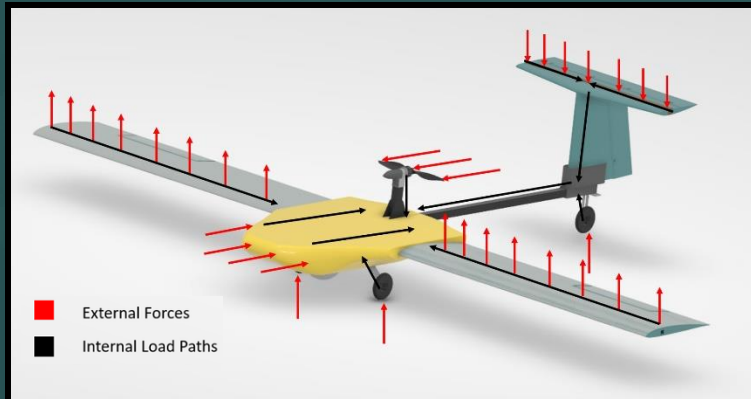
| Title | Details | Verified | Reason |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| SDR-001: Fixed Wing | Aircraft to have fixed wing design | Yes | Fixed Wing |
| SDR-002: Electric Propulsion | Aircraft will have electric propulsion system | Yes | Electric Motor |
| SDR-003: Weight | 12 Pound Maximum | Yes | Weight = 10.5 lb |
| SDR-004: Transportation Size | Easily transportable (fit within a box 20" x 24" x 100") | Yes | Measured to fit |
| SDR-005: Cost | Cost less than \$4,000 | Yes | Total Cost = \$2,579.00 |
| SDR-006: Autopilot | Fly with autopilot to established mission profiles | Yes | Shown to work with Bixler |
| SDR-009: Takeoff | Wheeled takeoff from surface in less than 200-ft | Yes | Calculated Takeoff Distance = 33.6 ft |
| SDR-011: Detecting Sea Turtle Nests | Carry a payload capable of aiding in detection of sea turtle nests | No | Not able to identify turtle specifically |
| SDR-012: Government Regulations | Aircraft complies with FAA, State, and Government Regulations | No | Waiver needed for BVLOS, operation from moving vehicle |
| SDR-014: Maintenance | Capable of handling multiple flights/operations without need for replacement or significant repair. | No | No Study Completed |
| SDR-015: Ease of Use | Easy to use and easy to setup | Yes | Intuitive access and design for easy use |
| SDR-016: GPS Accuracy | GPS accuracy of 5 meters or less | No | Not Verified |
| SDR-017: Location of Subject | GPS accurately pinpoints the location of camera subject matching mission criteria | No | Not Verified |
| SDR-018: Marine Disturbance | Make any attempt to avoid marine life in the area | Yes | Mission flight altitude |
| SDR-019: Flight Cycles | Withstand 200 flights | No | Not Verified |
| SDR-021: Range-distance | 15-mile minimum range | Yes | Calculated Range = 36 Miles |
| SDR-023: Setup Time | Structure shall have a setup time (out of box to launch) of less than 30 minutes | Yes | Setup Time = 10 minutes |

Requirements Verification

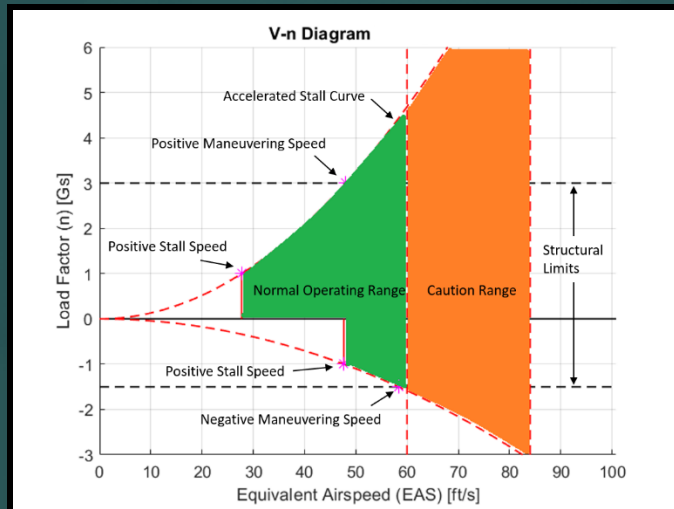
| Title | Details | Verified | Reason |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|--|
| SDR-024: Setup Tools | No more than 2 external tools to set up for flight | Yes | Tools Needed = 1 |
| SDR-025: Autonomous | Autonomous control for the entire mission profile | Yes | Bixler |
| SDR-026: Handbook | A detailed pilot operating (POH) & maintenance handbook shall be included with every UAS | Yes | Documents Created |
| SDR-027: Manual Control | Manual control override when in autopnomous flight | No | Manual Flight not Checked |
| SDR-029: Visible Lights | Aircraft should have no visual operating lights as viewed from the ground | Yes | No lights on underside |
| SDR-030: Noise | Produce no more than 50 dB of noise at a distance of 200-ft altitude | No | Unable to Verify due to COVID-19 |
| SDR-031: Reliability | 99% reliable with respect to component failure | No | Not Verified |
| SDR-033: Emergency Landing | Aircraft should have return-to-home emergency landing | No | Not Verified |
| SDR-036: Stowing Time | Stowing time (controls disarmed & disassembled) not greater than 30 minutes | Yes | Stow Time = 10 minutes |
| SSDR-001: Wing Removal | Wings shall be removable | Yes | Removable and attach with detents |
| SSDR-002: Bottom Facing Sensor Access | Fuselage allows bottom facing sensor | Yes | Sensor faces downward in aircraft |
| PR-001: GPS Accuracy | GPS accuracy of 5 meters or less | No | Not Verified |
| PR-002: Multimedia Capture | Aircraft can record video and/or capture images | Yes | Camera for image capture |
| OR-001: People Clearance | Aircraft shall not be flown within 5 meters of another person besides the operator | Yes | Safety plan put in place for operation |
| OR-002: Wildlife Clearance | Aircraft shall not be flown within 5 meters of wildlife | Yes | Safety plan put in place for operation |

Detailed Design & Engineering Analysis

Load Path Diagram



V-N Diagram



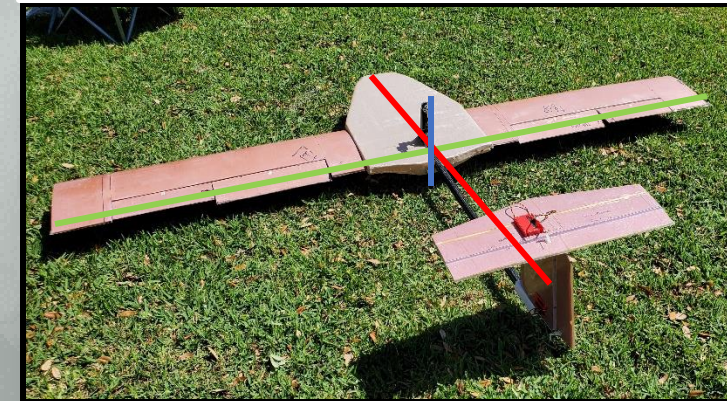
Systems and Subsystems

- Payload
 - Vision
 - Detection
- Electronics
 - Controls
 - Communication
- Tail
- Fuselage
- Wings
- Propulsion
- Landing Gear

Key Design Features:

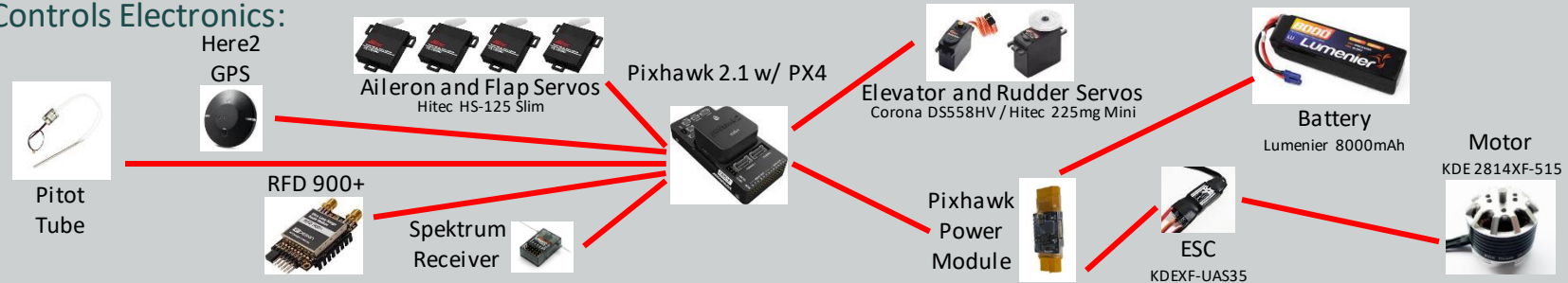
- Large battery for flight endurance
- Quick-release connections for rapid assembly/disassembly and ease of transportation
- Powerplant mounted above fuselage to block sound

Weight and Balance



X = 14.5 in Y = 0 in Z = -3 in
10.5lbs

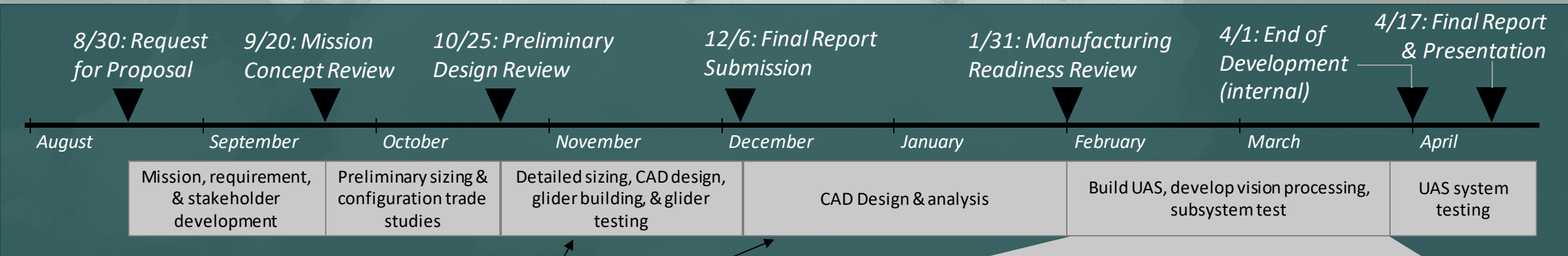
Controls Electronics:



Aircraft Cost

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Payload \$329 | Propulsion \$415 | Controls \$691 | Build Materials \$1,144 |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|

Project Schedule



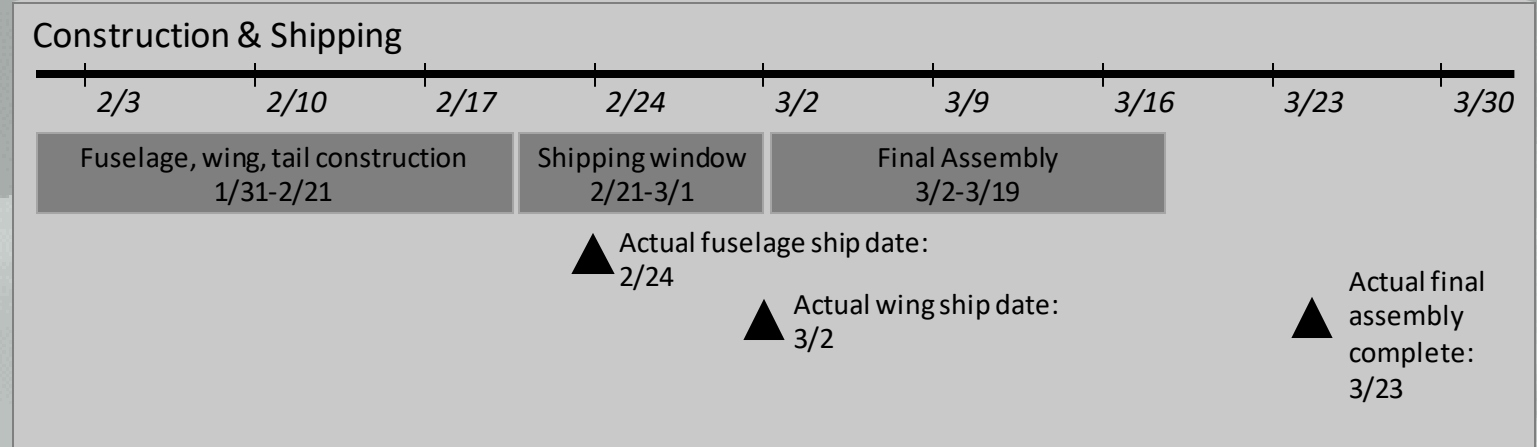
Detailed design decisions & CAD became behind schedule, stretching into Winter break.

Cause:

- Unfamiliarity with CAD software
- Understaffed CAD team
- Not understanding iteration as aero was developing

Result:

- Necessary to work over break
- Significant errors caught week of MRR
- FEA delayed until after MRR



Project Schedule

