



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



NASA's

Moon to Mars Architecture

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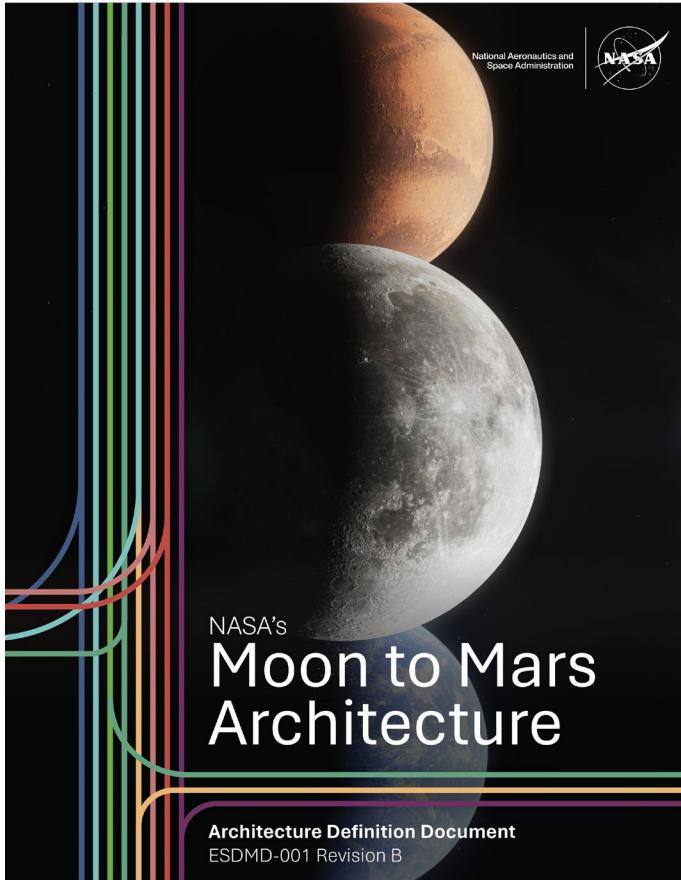
Space Technology Industry-Government-University Roundtable

August 13, 2025

Nujoud Merancy
Deputy Associate Administrator
Strategy and Architecture Office
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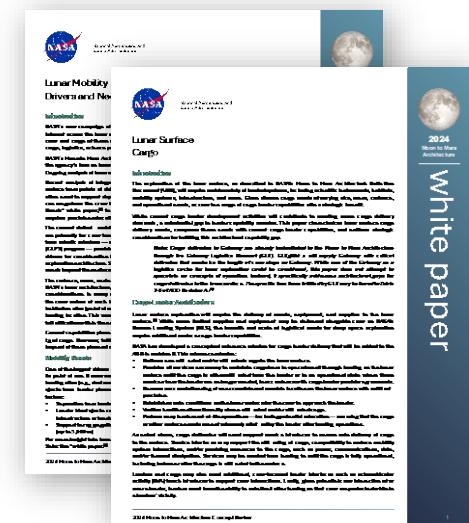


2024 Architecture Products



NASA's Architecture Definition Document Revision B

Architecture White Papers



Executive Overview



NASA documents its roadmap for deep space exploration in the Architecture Definition Document (ADD).

The agency updates the ADD yearly and publishes it alongside other public-facing products including white papers on relevant topics and an executive overview of the architecture.



Expect 2025 Architecture Products in mid-December

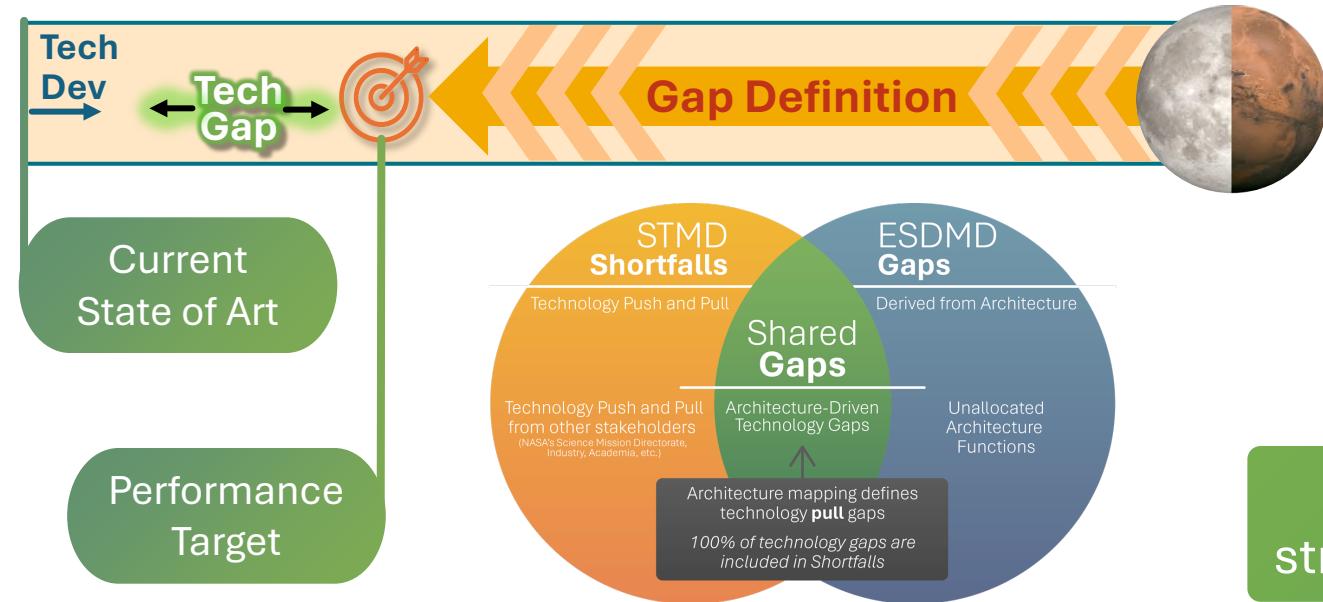


NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture Website
nasa.gov/architecture

Architecture-Driven Technology Gaps



An **architecture-driven technology gap** is a capability that requires technology to be invented or significantly matured to enable the architecture



- Technology gaps are **solution-agnostic**; capture a need but do not prescribe a solution
- Demand signal used globally to inform technology investments that align to NASA's Moon to Mars Architecture
- Integrated with NASA technology development, providing technology pull from the architecture for Moon to Mars missions
- Gaps are prioritized based on four criteria: criticality, urgency, depth, and breadth

Systems engineering process & tools governed by strict principles to enable rigorous, repeatable results



White Paper:
**Architecture-Driven
Technology Gaps**
<https://go.nasa.gov/4goQ9iq>

Feedback received highlights how architecture technology gaps definition is being used across NASA, industry, and international partners to prioritize investments in research & development

Example Technology Gap - Details



- Gap number, title, and description
- **Architecture impact and benefits** from architecture teams
- Current **state-of-the art** metrics sourced from technology development domain experts
- **Target performance metrics** sourced from architecture teams to specify needs
- **Traceability** to sub-architectures, segments, UC/Fs and decisions
- **Priority bin** based on Gap Overall Prioritization Rating sourced from architecture teams
- Related **Child Gaps** are more specific

| Gap ID | Gap Title | Priority |
|--|---|---|
| ESDMD #0301 | Systems to Survive and Operate through Extended Periods of Lunar Shadow | |
| Gap Description | Assets on the surface of the Moon will be subjected to large variations in natural and induced environments. The ability to survive and operate through these extreme variations is required to enable long-duration surface operations. New or improved power, thermal management, and actuation technologies are required and will need to work together to accomplish this goal for science experiments, mobility assets, habitats, and more. | Architecture-Driven Child Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0301-01: Freeze-tolerant thermal components• 0301-02: Extreme temperature-tolerant mechanisms and electronics• 0301-03: Energy storage for extreme temperatures• 0301-04: Heat rejection systems for the lunar thermal environment |
| Architecture Impact and Benefits | Without gap closure, the inability to survive extended periods of lunar shadow will impact the operating lifespan of surface assets. There may also be an inability to reuse surface assets if systems cannot survive shadowed periods. | Architecture Traceability UC/Fs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UC-H-105 L -- FN-H-201 L Key Decision |
| Metrics Current State of the Art Small spacecraft have survived extended periods of lunar shadow with damage to subsystems and degraded capability. There is currently no state of the art for any human-scale elements successfully functioning through extended lunar shadow periods. Performance Target Survive continuous shadow for 150 (TBR) hours or more several times a year for 10 years. | Sub-Architecture(s)    Campaign Segment(s)   | |



Architecture-Driven
Technology Gaps in ADD
nasa.gov/architecture

The Architecture Definition Document includes a prioritized list of technology gaps.

2024 Technology Gap Catalog



| Gap ID | Gap Title | Priority Ranking | Priority Bin |
|--------|---|------------------|--------------|
| 0801 | Lunar Dust Tolerant Systems and Dust Mitigation | 1 | 1 |
| 0301 | Systems to Survive and Operate through Extended Periods of Lunar Shadow | 2 | |
| 0103 | High-bandwidth, High-reliability Surface-to-Surface Communications | 3 | |
| 1104 | Mars Transportation Propulsion | 4 | |
| 0201 | Extreme Environment Avionics | 5 | |
| 0805 | Autonomous Surface Mobility and Navigation | 6 | |
| 0305 | Food and Nutrition Capabilities for Missions with Long-duration Storage | 7 | |
| 1103 | Mars Entry, Descent, and Landing for Human Exploration | 8 | |
| 0806 | Payload Offloading, Handling, and Manipulation for Surface Assets | 9 | |
| 0304 | Habitat Environmental Monitors Capable of Supporting Deep Space Missions | 10 | |
| 1107 | Cryogenic Fluid Transfer | 11 | |
| 1105 | Mars Ascent Propulsion for Human Exploration | 12 | |
| 0901 | Scalable Lunar Surface Power Generation | 13 | |
| 1001 | High-performance Actuators, Sensors, and Interfaces | 14 | |
| 0807 | Docking and Berthing between Surface Elements on the Moon and Mars | 15 | |
| 0303 | Dormancy Recovery for Habitat Water Storage, Distribution, and Reclamation | 16 | 2 |
| 0307 | Radiation Monitoring and Modeling | 17 | |
| 1003 | Integrated System Fault/Anomaly Diagnosis, Decision Support, and Response | 18 | |
| 0804 | Robotic and Mobility Systems in Extreme Cold Environments | 19 | |
| 0101 | Lunar Surface Position, Navigation, and Timing Systems for Extreme Temperature, Radiation, Dust | 20 | |
| 0702 | Waste Management | 21 | |
| 0302 | Fire Safety Upgrades for Surviving Exploration Mission Environments | 22 | |
| 0903 | Power Management and Distribution between Surface Elements | 23 | |
| 0808 | Relocation of Large Assets on the Lunar Surface | 24 | |
| 0202 | High-Performance Onboard Computing | 25 | |
| 0701 | Packaging, Transport, and Use of Conditioned Supplies and Commodities | 26 | |
| 1005 | Safe Human-Robot Interaction and Teaming | 27 | |

| Gap ID | Gap Title | Priority Ranking | Priority Bin |
|--------|--|------------------|--------------|
| 0803 | Extravehicular Activity (EVA) and Intravehicular Activity (IVA) Suit System Capabilities for Mars Missions | 28 | 4 |
| 1101 | Lunar Precision Landing and Hazard Avoidance for Human Exploration | 29 | |
| 1004 | Trustworthy Autonomy for Planning and Decision-making | 30 | |
| 1002 | Autonomous Monitoring for Exploration Missions | 31 | |
| 0802 | Mars Dust-Tolerant Systems and Dust Mitigation | 32 | |
| 0501 | Robotic and Human-Robot Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair | 33 | |
| 1102 | Mars Precision Landing and Hazard Avoidance for Human Exploration | 34 | |
| 1201 | In-Situ Sample Storage and Processing | 35 | |
| 0402 | Sensorimotor Countermeasures to Support Extended Habitation in Space | 36 | |
| 0401 | Crew Exercise Countermeasures to Support Extended Habitation in Space | 37 | |
| 0403 | Physiological Countermeasures for Extended Habitation in Space | 37 | |
| 0404 | Behavioral Countermeasures for Extended Habitation in Space | 37 | |
| 0406 | Spacesuit Physiology for Deep Space Missions | 40 | |
| 1202 | Planetary Protection Technologies for Human Exploration | 41 | |
| 0405 | Exploration Medical Capabilities for Deep Space Missions | 42 | |
| 1106 | Cryogenic Fluid Storage | 43 | |
| 0308 | Radiation Countermeasures | 44 | 5 |
| 0902 | Scalable Mars Surface Power Generation | 45 | |
| 0104 | Earth-Independent Surface Positioning, Navigation, and Timing for Deep Space Missions | 46 | |
| 0306 | Advanced Structures and Materials to Enable Mass-Efficient Habitats | 47 | |
| 0602 | In-Situ Resource Identification, Characterization, and Mapping | 48 | |
| 0503 | In-Space & Surface Transfer of Earth Storable Propellants | 49 | |
| 0102 | High-bandwidth, High-reliability Deep Space Communications | 50 | |
| 0606 | Mars ISRU to Support Human Exploration | 51 | |
| 0605 | Lunar Regolith Excavation, Manipulation, and Transportation | 52 | |
| 0601 | Oxygen Extraction from Lunar Regolith | 53 | |
| 0603 | Water Recovery from Lunar Regolith/Ice | 53 | |
| 0604 | Metal Extraction from Lunar Regolith | 55 | |
| 0502 | In-situ Manufacturing of Spares, Repairs, and New Parts | 56 | |



Architecture-Driven
Technology Gaps in ADD
nasa.gov/architecture

Technology gaps prioritized according to Moon to Mars
Architecture benefit and reassessed yearly for updates.

Looking Forward

Updates to gap definition and priorities occur annually in our strategic analysis cycle

- As architecture evolves (new functions, decisions, priorities)
- As technologies are developed (gap closure)
- Coordinated with NASA technology development organizations



In December, NASA plans to publish a preliminary list of **architecture-driven data gaps** in revision C of the Architecture Definition Document

These data gaps communicate a specific demand signal for data products the agency needs that could be provided by industry, academia, or international partners.



Architecture Website
nasa.gov/architecture



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NASA's

Moon to Mars Architecture

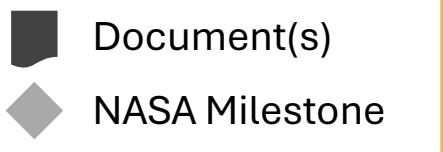
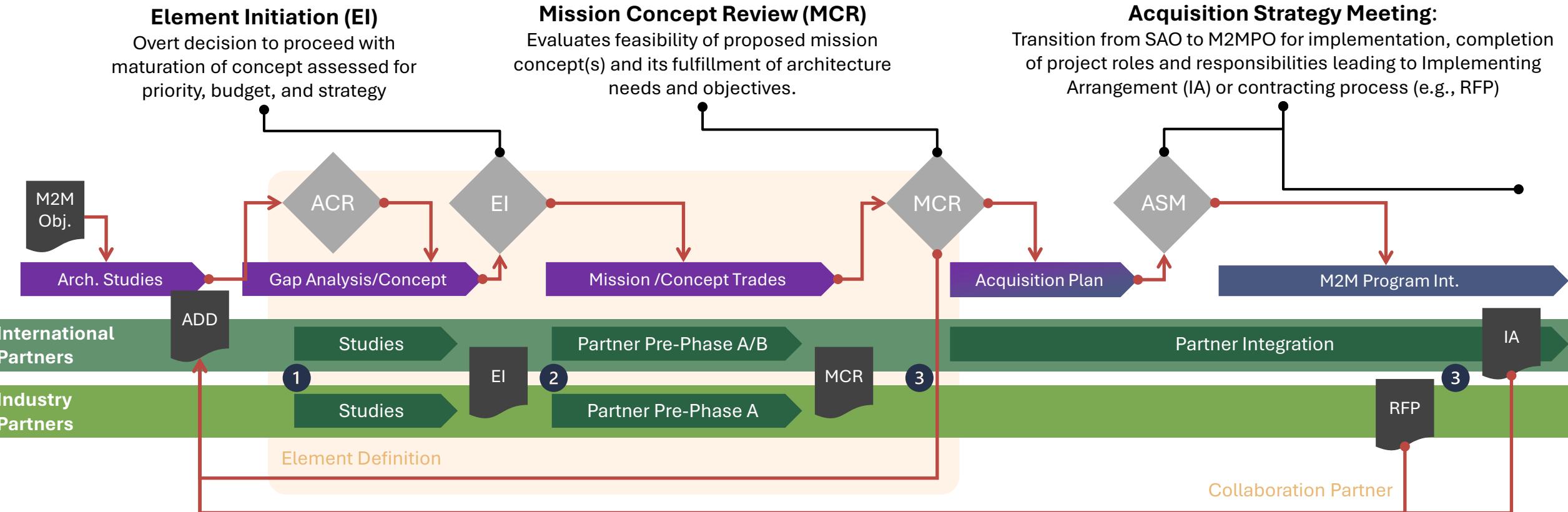
Questions?

Nujoud Merancy
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Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate



Partner Pre-formulation Process

Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate



- 1 Feasibility studies and collaboration identify potential concept.
- 2 Mission refinement to optimize for strategic value and functional achievement, using study mechanisms to better inform planning.
- 3 Feedback incorporated into architecture products as milestones occur.

