

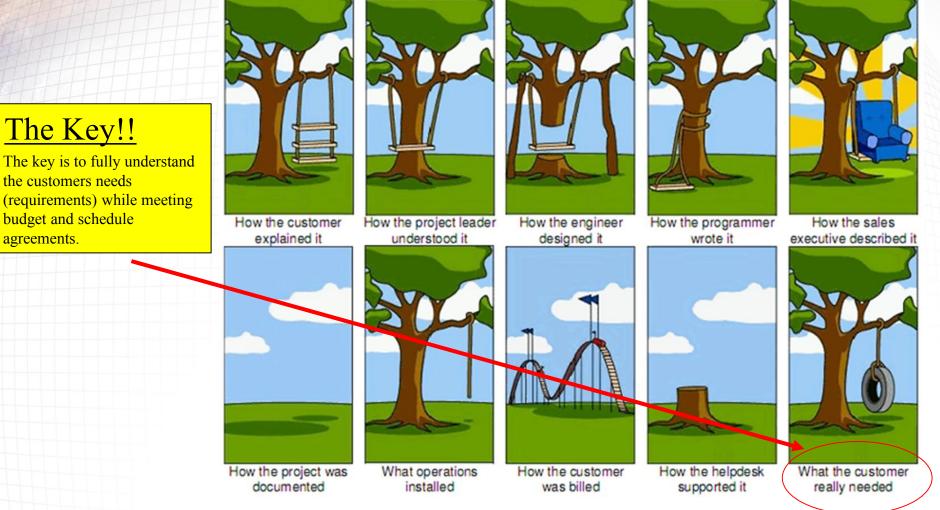
# **Considerations in the Modular Design of Complex Systems**

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### **Common Mistakes on Most Projects**

### Most projects start with a perceived assumption...



Reference: <u>http://www.tamingdata.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/tree-swing-project-management-large.png</u>

www.nasa.gov

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### Part 1 - Identify the Concept of Operation

- A concept of operation (abbreviated ConOps) is a document describing the characteristics of a proposed system from the viewpoint of an individual who will use that system.
  - <u>Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concept\_of\_operations</u>
- At NASA-JSC it is also acceptable to use high level diagrams and/or pictures to describe what you are developing and how it will be used.
- The ConOps is also the mission plan or roadmap of what is Going to Happen, Who is doing what, Where or when will the events occur, etc.
  - The ConOps is critical in explaining what needs to be done.
  - > The ConOps is the framework/outline/basis of establishing the customer's requirements.

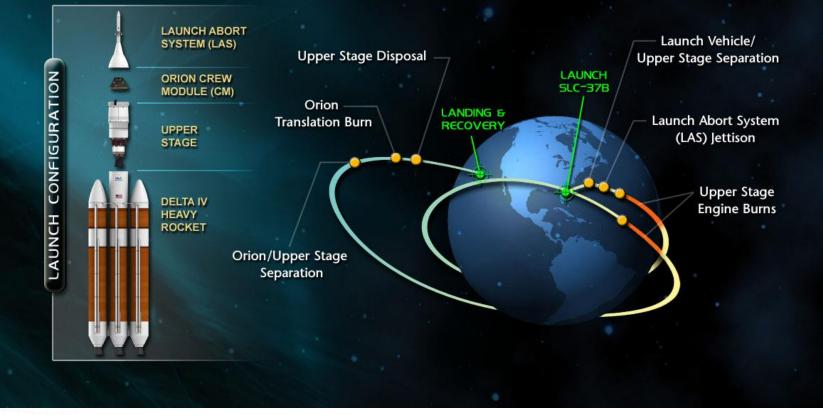
ConOps should drive the trade studies on what technologies are available.

## Example ConOps – Orion EFT-1 Mission

#### **EXPLORATION FLIGHT TEST ONE**

#### **OVERVIEW**

TWO ORBITS 💿 20,000 MPH ENTRY 💿 3,671 MILE APOGEE 💿 28.6 DEGREE INCLINATION

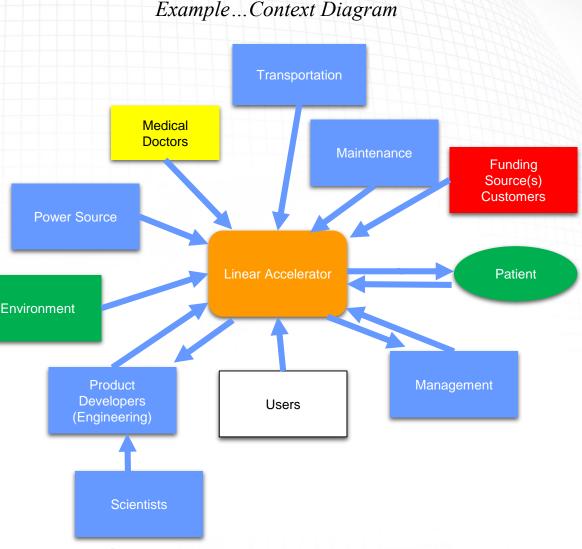


Reference: https://fpd.larc.nasa.gov/assets/eft-1\_mission\_diagram.jpg

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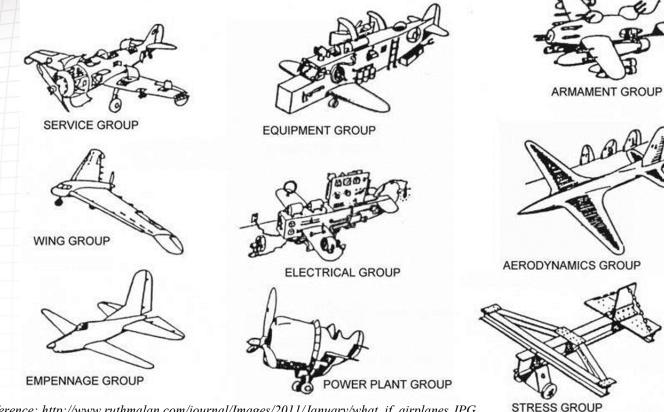
# Part 2 - Identify the Stakeholders

- A system context diagram in systems engineering is a diagram that defines the boundary between the system, or part of a system, and its environment, showing the entities that interact with it.
- Stakeholders can/will influence the requirements of the Project.
- Not knowing all of the stakeholder has the risk of impacting design, cost, schedule, etc.



# **Working with Different Groups**

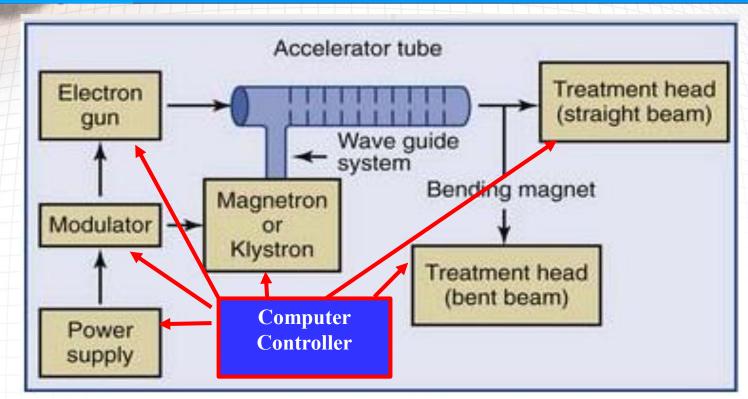
#### **Everyone** has a different way of doing things!



Reference: http://www.ruthmalan.com/journal/Images/2011/January/what if airplanes.JPG

- System Engineering involves identifying the entire system, identifying roles and responsibilities on the team, and getting everyone to work together towards a common goal.
- One of the reasons for doing Trade Studies...Allows everyone to develop consensus!

# Part 3 – Identify the System



Reference: http://clinicalgate.com/radiotherapy-for-head-and-neck-cancer-radiation-physics-radiobiology-and-clinical-principles/

#### **Breaking down the system into subsystems**

- What subsystem(s) already exist or need to be developed?
- How will the entire system be powered?
- What computer system is needed to monitor/control the entire system?

### Part 4 – Define the Project Life Cycle

- The Project Life Cycle refers to a series of activities which are necessary to fulfill project goals or objectives. (Reference: <u>https://www.uakron.edu/pmo/plc/</u>)
- Every project, whether large or small, has a process that governs the project life cycle from inception, delivery, and usage.
  - "Learn the Process so that you can <u>wisely</u> deviate from it!", (NASA-JPL/Gentry Lee)
  - Main Thoughts:

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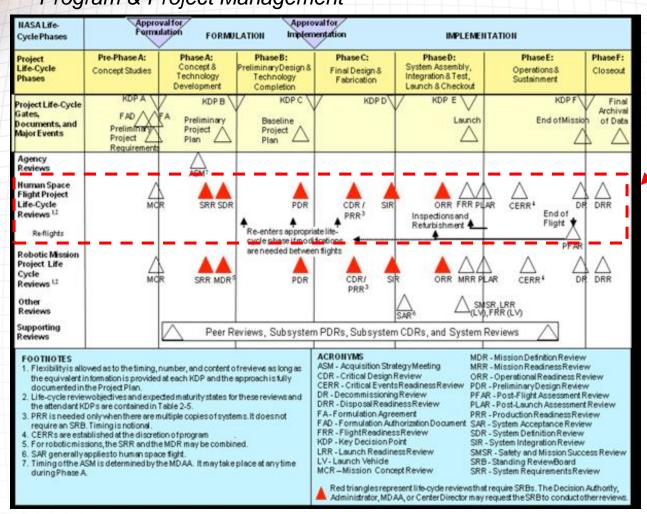
- > Every Project is "tailorable" based on the needs of the stakeholder(s) and development team.
- In order to effectively tailor the project process, you need a Project Manager/Engineer/Developer with Knowledge, Skill(s), and Experience who understands what events should and need to occur in order to meet the stakeholder(s) requirements.

#### Most Project Life Cycles are directly related to a Project Schedule.

- Most NASA Agencies use the NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR 7120.5, Rev. E) as a guide.
  - The NPR is used to establish Technical Reviews to ensure the project has met entrance and exit criteria for success.
- The Project Manager establishes and maintains the project schedule!
  - Schedules are tools that are used to communicate to the Stakeholders and to the Team what has been completed and what needs to happen next.

### Part 4 (Continued) - Example Project Milestone Schedules

From NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR) 7120.5, Rev. E, NASA Space Flight Program & Project Management

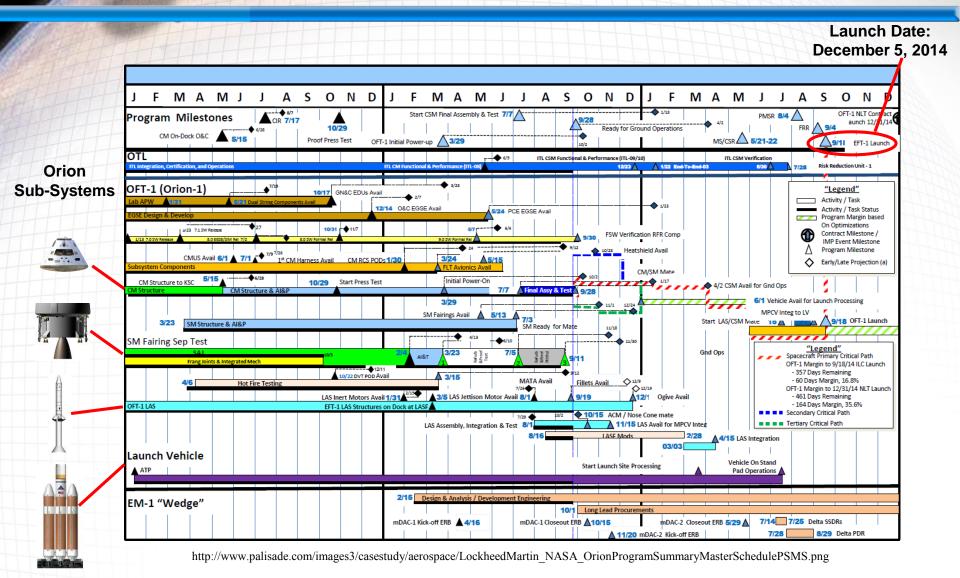


NASA-JSC usually follows something similar to this profile.

Reference: NPR 7120.5E, Figure 2-5



### Part 4 (Continued) – Define the Project Life Cycle (Example - Schedule for Orion EFT-1)

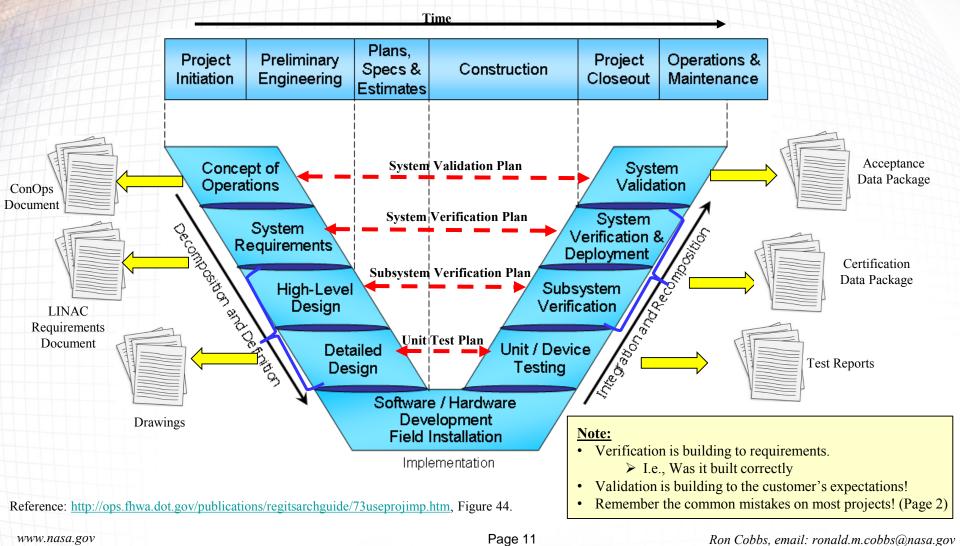


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## **Part 5 – Start the Process**

Regardless the level of "Schedule Tailoring" and Design Characterization, most projects will follow the Systems Engineering "V-Model" process.



# Summary

The Space Shuttle is one of the most complex machines ever built and has more than 2.5 million parts...(Reference: http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/shuttle/upgrades/upgrades5.html)

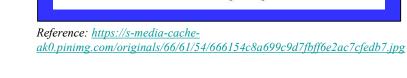
- All projects whether small or large have their own levels of complexity!
- The key to success in Design, Development, Test, & Evaluation (DDT&E) on any project is to:
  - Part 1: Identify the Concept of Operation How will the system be used in the field.
  - Part 2: Identify the Stakeholders Who will be involved?
  - > Part 3: Identify the System
  - > Part 4: Define the Project Life Cycle Project Schedule
  - Part 5: Start the Process

Don't forget about the Paperwork!

- "We can lick gravity, but sometimes the <u>paperwork</u> is overwhelming!" (by Werner Von Braun)

Questions & Answers





Reference: http://www.jobinterviewtools.com/blog/wpcontent/uploads/2010/01/dreamstimemedium 19473030-300x300.jpg



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