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European Space Agency

# THE CHALLENGE OF ENSURING QUALITY IN A NON-INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN



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## Integrated Supply Chain

- *Supply chain, EEE parts Manufacturer case*

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## The Space Transformation

- *Market requirements, SWAP-C*

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## New Requirements

- *Non Integrated Supply Chain, Solutions*

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## Procurement issues

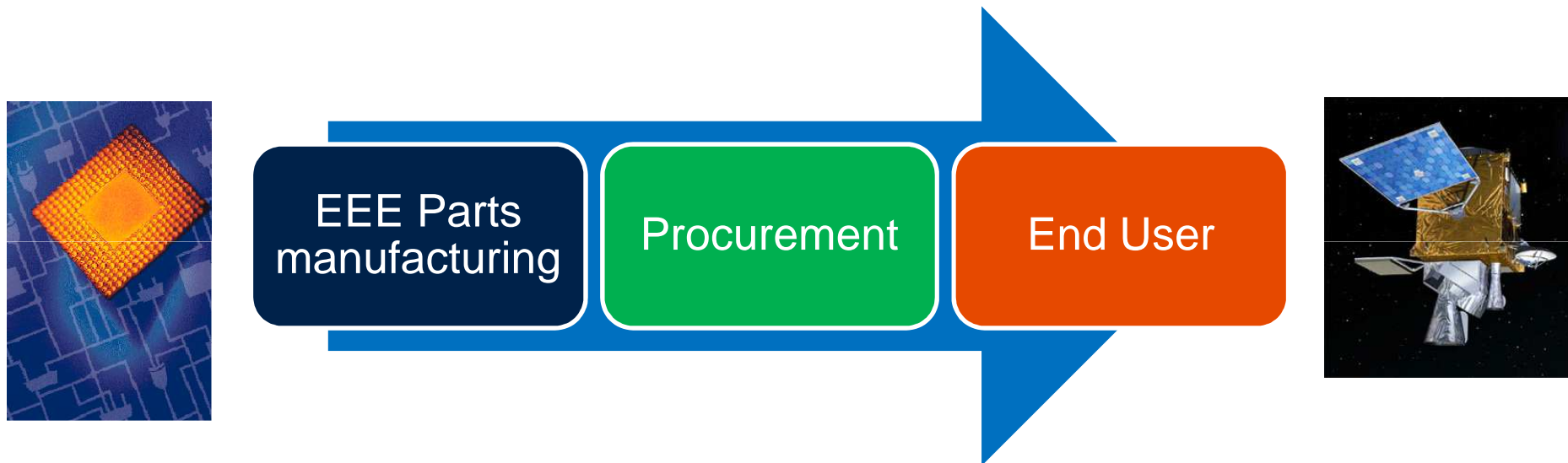
- *Integrated vs Non-Integrated supply chain*

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## Conclusions

# INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN

The complete supply chain for a EEE part  
links the Manufacturer to the End User



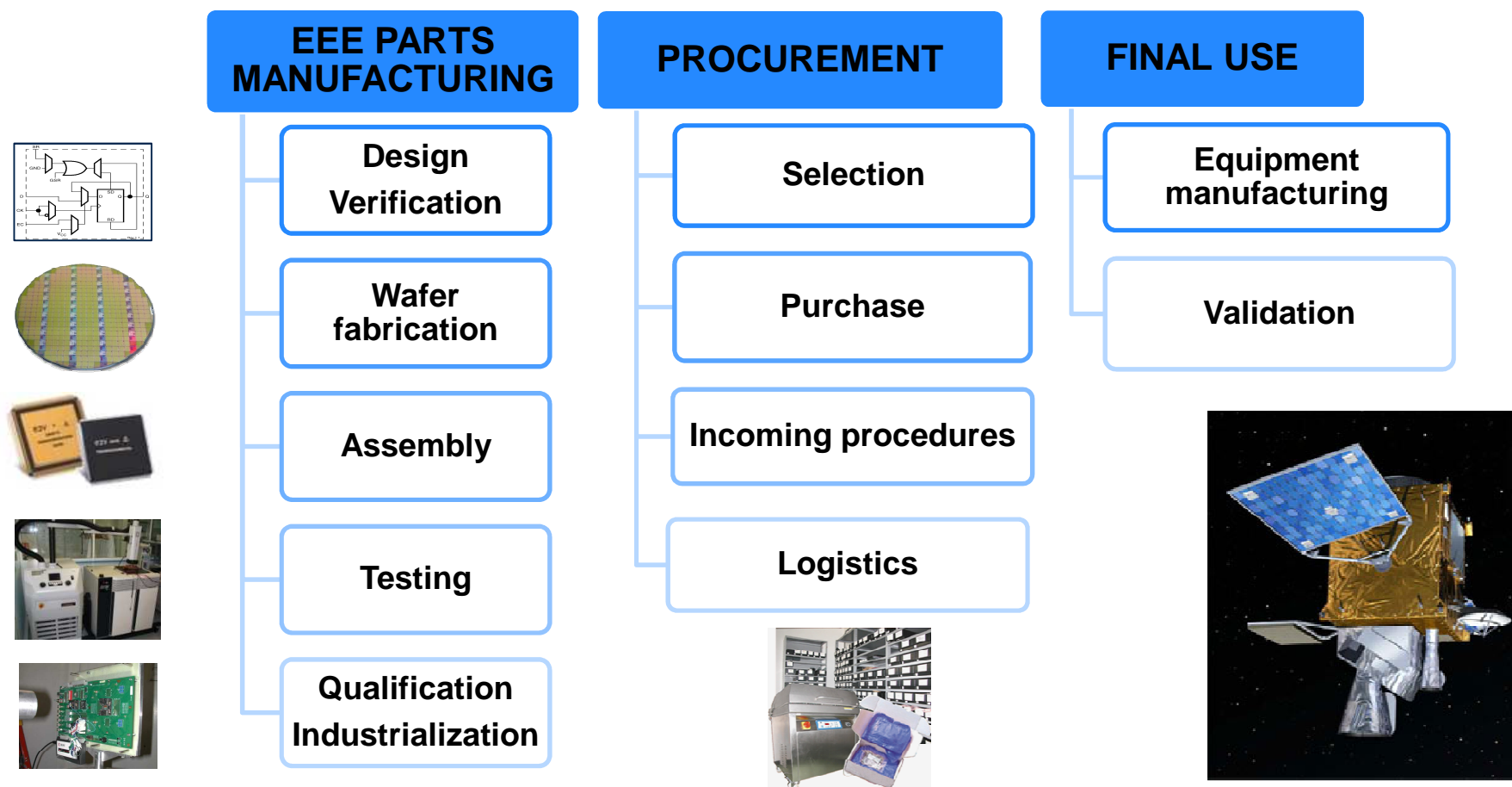
The **Quality Assurance** function must be implemented  
along the entire supply chain process,  
from the electronic functionality identification stage  
till the EEE component is installed and operating  
in the final hardware / application



# SUPPLY CHAIN

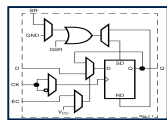
Each step of the supply chain requires specific **Quality Assurance** steps to be considered and the **proper data transfer** between all the different elements

➡ *This integrated process is well established and known by the Space community.*



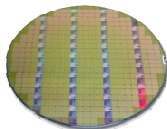
## EEE PARTS MANUFACTURING STEPS

Most manufacturing steps are managed / controlled by a single interface, with a deep technical knowledge of the overall process



### Design Verification

Dedicated Design Rules for Space: spacing, layout ...  
Design aligned with PVT/Radiation performance target,  
NPE & NPI checklists, Design For Quality, DFM etc...



### Wafer fabrication

Total control on wafer fabs and technologies (SPC)  
Probe test: BIST, Highest Test coverage, Maverick lots



### Assembly

Validated and controlled processes  
Defined rules in accordance with existing standards



### Testing

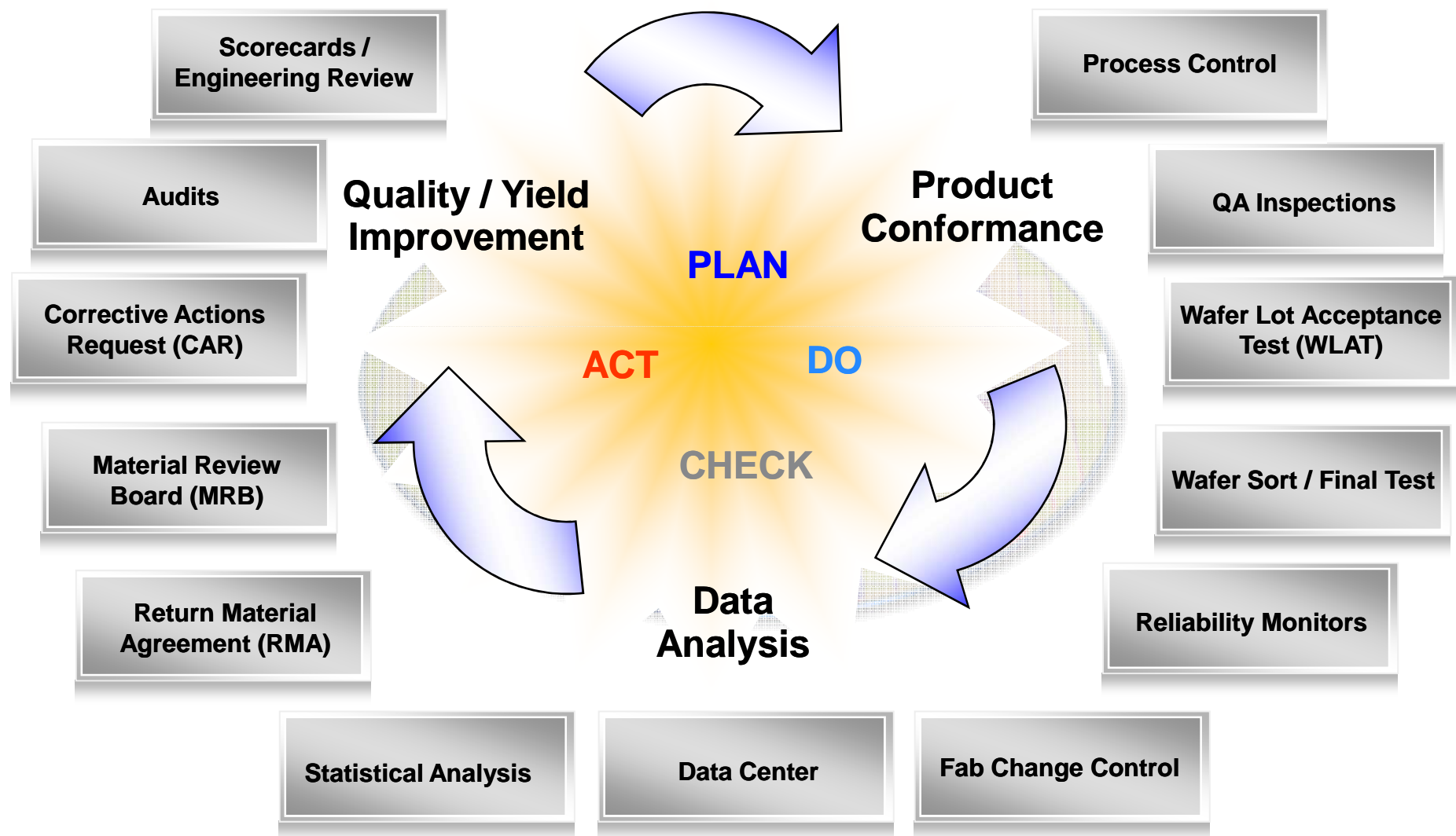
Maximum Test coverage: target 100%  
Manufacturability (> min Test yield),  
Defined rules in accordance with existing standards



### Qualification Industrialization

Product Qualification: HTOL, TC, THB, ESD, Latch-up...  
Reliability / Radiation monitoring  
*Unique point of contact for technical and logistic needs*

## Example: EEE part Mfr Quality Systems



## SINGLE INTERFACE FOR MANUFACTURING

This approach generates obvious advantages being all **Quality Assurance** requirements properly defined and controlled.

### Customers

- Parts are provided as finished products
- Quality is under control
- Liabilities and warranties are clearly defined

### Agencies and primes

- Minimize the number of required controls
- Simplify the validation process

### Manufacturers

- Standard rules are applied
- All actors recognize their roles



## THE SPACE TRANSFORMATION

### ⊕ Today's Space platforms must be

- *Precision guided,*
- *Rapidly deployable,*
- *Joint service,*
- *Modular,*
- *and Secure.*

### ⊕ So, Space System engineers are looking for

- *Flexible and re-useable platforms,*
- *Integrating complex signal processing algorithms on-board,*
- *System On Chip (SoC) capabilities (feeds SWaP-C)*
- *Time to Market (TTM),*
- *Security of HW vs SW.*



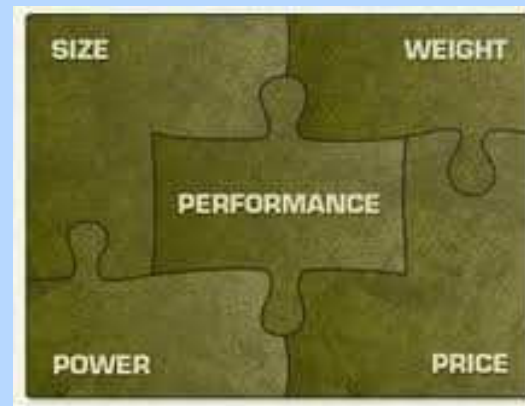


## ➡ SWaP-C

➡ ***Stands for Size, Weight and Power + Cost***  
*(Budget sensitive)*

## ➡ Systems must be

- ➡ ***Smaller***
- ➡ ***Lighter***
- ➡ ***Using small batteries***



## ➡ Systems must fit with limited budget

- ➡ ***Generic platforms***
- ➡ ***Re-useable platforms***
- ➡ ***Longer life cycle***



## NEW REQUIREMENTS

These requirements might render the existing Integrated Supply Chain **insufficient** to provide **the required response** to the current market demands



In a Non Integrated EEE Component supply chain, the final product is generated by a number of different entities, specialised in specific disciplines, who contribute to a portion of the final device process, but without a unique overall responsible.

## NON INTEGRATED SUPPLY CHAIN

**The answer to these demands can be found sometimes making use of a Non-Integrated Supply Chain for manufacturing**

**Among others, the most typical solutions will be:**

- 1. Space dice in special configurations*
- 2. Specific developments*
- 3. Commercial dice on hermetic or space compatible packages*
- 4. Use of COTS*

**Whenever these solutions are provided by a manufacturer as a «product», such product is considered as coming from an integrated supply chain, being that manufacturer the unique responsible for the final product**

# SPACE DICE IN SPECIAL CONFIGURATIONS

Design and wafer acceptance based on the manufacturer

Package and configuration are customized

*How is assembly house selected?*  
*How are performances guaranteed?*

Testing

*In accordance with which specification (DC / AC, 100%, Temp.range)?*  
*In case of failure, is it die/Mfr or packaging/Assembly house related?*

Industrialization

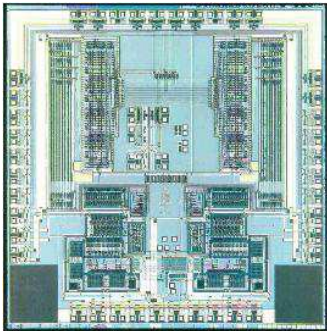
*How is guarantee provided?*  
*How is liability transferred from one step to the next?*



### SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENTS

#### Custom Design (ASIC)

*Experience on Radiation Tolerant design?  
Liability on final product performance?*



#### Package and configuration customized

*How is assembly house selected?  
How are performances guaranteed?*

#### Testing

*In accordance with which specification (DC/AC, 100%, Temp.range)?  
In case of failure, is it die/Mfr or packaging/Assembly house related?*

#### Industrialization

*How is guarantee provided?  
How is liability transferred from one step to the next?*

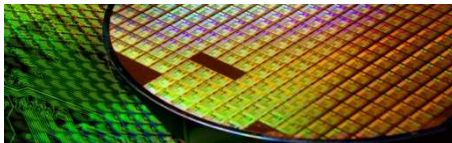
# PACKAGING OF COMMERCIAL DICE

Commercial Design, not done in accordance with space rules

Wafer Lot Acceptance done on a custom basis

*Die manufacturer accepts no liability on performance  
Are standard WLAT rules applicable?*

Package and configuration customized



*How is assembly house selected?  
How are performances guaranteed?*

Testing

*In accordance with which specification (DC/AC, 100%, Temps.range)?  
In case of failure, is it die/Mfr or packaging/Assembly house related?*

Industrialization

*How is guarantee provided?  
How is liability transferred from one step to the next?*



### USE OF COTS

Commercial Design / not done in accordance with Space rules

*From which Waferfab location? With SPC? Die selection?*

Testing

*In accordance with which specification (DC/AC, 100%, Temp.range)?*

*In case of failure, is it die/Mfr or packaging/Assembly house related?*

Industrialization

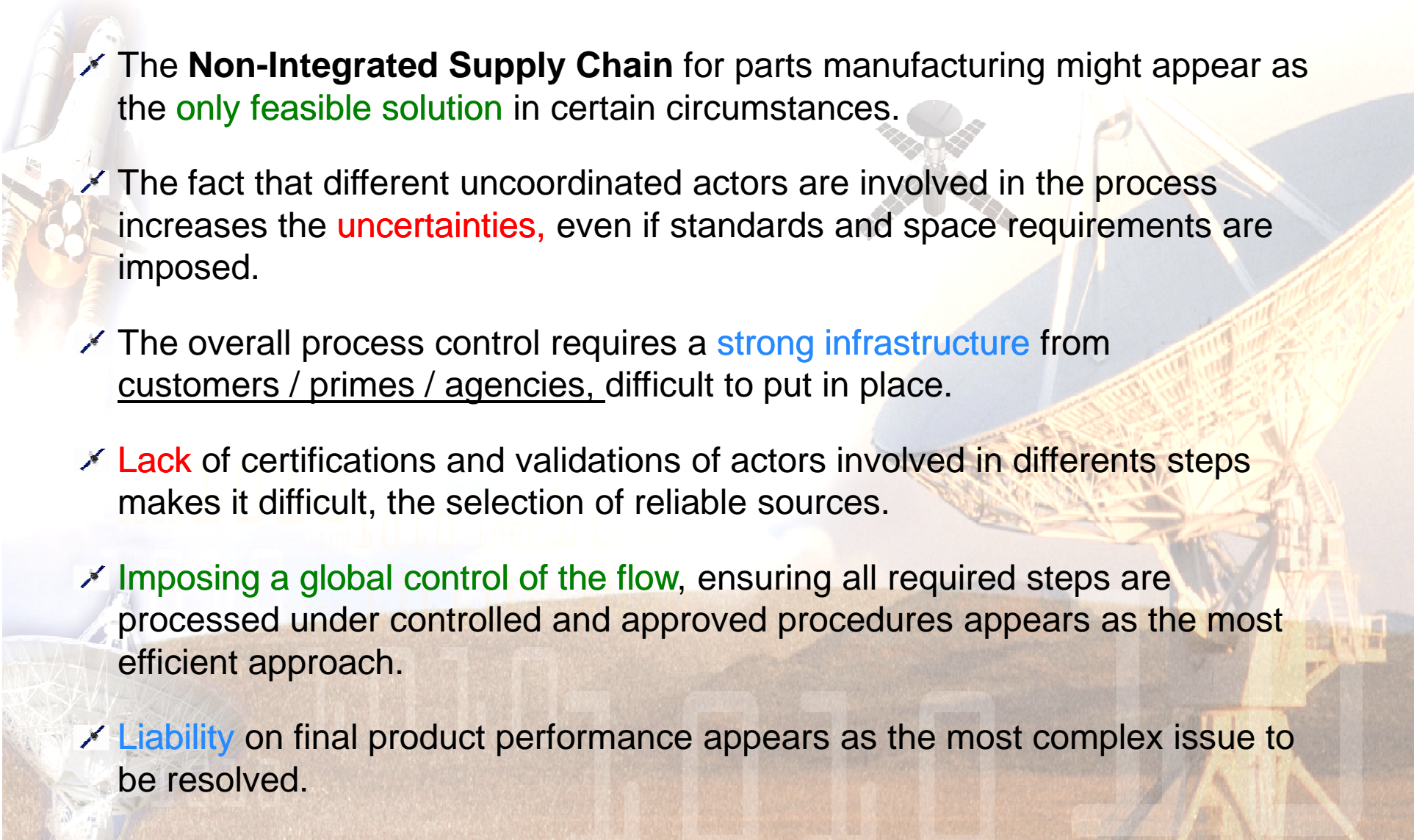
*How is guarantee provided?*

*How is liability transferred from one step to the next?*

*Are results predictable and repeatable?*



## SUMMARY FROM NEW REQUIREMENTS

- 
- ✈ The **Non-Integrated Supply Chain** for parts manufacturing might appear as the **only feasible solution** in certain circumstances.
  - ✈ The fact that different uncoordinated actors are involved in the process increases the **uncertainties**, even if standards and space requirements are imposed.
  - ✈ The overall process control requires a **strong infrastructure** from customers / primes / agencies, difficult to put in place.
  - ✈ **Lack** of certifications and validations of actors involved in different steps makes it difficult, the selection of reliable sources.
  - ✈ **Imposing a global control of the flow**, ensuring all required steps are processed under controlled and approved procedures appears as the most efficient approach.
  - ✈ **Liability** on final product performance appears as the most complex issue to be resolved.

## INTEGRATED CHAIN BY CUSTOMER

Parts selection

Direct purchasing from  
Manufacturer

Follow-up and export control

Acceptance and validation

Internal logistics

## NON INTEGRATED CHAIN

**External**  
parts selection support

Purchasing through  
**buying channels**

Follow-up and export control  
linked to **buying channel**

Incoming procedures  
**subcontracted**

Logistics **externalized**



Both methodologies should live together to provide the users with the right options to cover their EEE Components demands.

## PROCUREMENT 2

- ✈ Procurement of **Space level parts** requires additional steps, compared to standard parts purchasing
- ✈ There are **no** specific procedures and standards detailing many of the activities to be performed
- ✈ The **Lack** of certifications and validations of actors involved in the different steps makes it difficult the selection of reliable sources
- ✈ These **drawbacks** are particularly evident during the acceptance and validation tests
- ✈ Non Conformance management (NCR) can be a **tremendously** time consuming activity.
- ✈ **Confidence** that all steps are properly covered requires prior and after activity controls

## CONCLUSIONS

Current market demands require the adoption of new processes and activities.

Space market requires normalized procedures sometimes difficult to apply to new activities and technologies

The lack of procedures, standards and certifications require additional steps to guarantee reliability of some of the solutions provided

Market needs are evolving faster than normalization procedures so we need to be ready to adapt our behaviour to the new environment

Reduction on Quality Assurance requirements cannot be a response to this demand

Liability and final results controls appear to be the weakest points of every solution provided

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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## ACRONYMS

ASIC	Application Specific Integrated Circuit
BIST	Built-In Self-Test
CAR	Corrective Actions review
COTS	Commercial On-The-Shelves
DFM	Design For Manufacturability
EEE	Electrical, Electromechanical and Electronic
ESD	Electro-Static Discharge
HTOL	High temperature Operating Life
MRB	Material review Board
NCR	Non-Conformance Review
NPE	New Product Evaluation
NPI	New Product Introduction
PVT	Process, Voltage and Temperature
RMA	Return Material Agreement
SOC	System On Chip
SPC	Statistical Process Control
SWAP	Size, Weight and Power
TC	Thermal Cycling
THB	Temperature Humidity Bias
TTM	Time-To Market
WLAT	Wafer Lot Acceptance Test

