

NASA mission to study magnetic explosions passes major review

September 5 2012, by Karen C. Fox

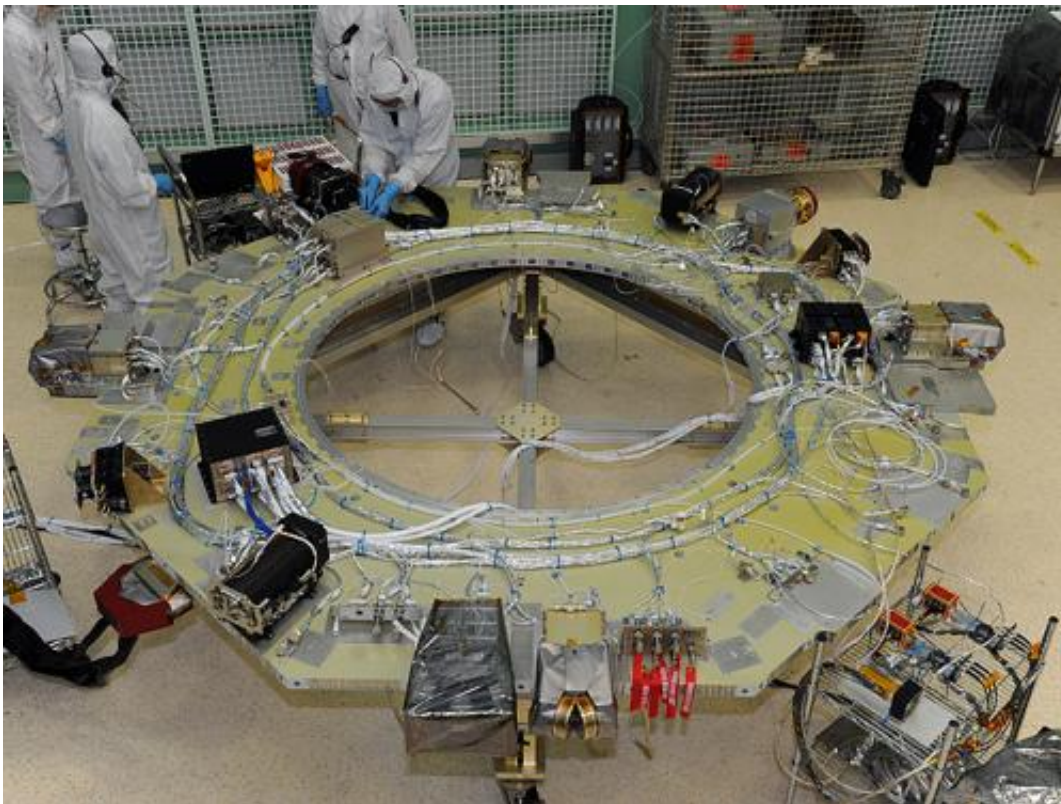


This image shows the first of four Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission spacecraft just moments after the flight electronics – seen wired into the lower deck -- were integrated. The center core holds the propulsion system. A second hexagonal deck with the scientific instruments will sit on top. Credit: NASA/B. Lambert

(Phys.org)—On August 31, 2012 , NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale

(MMS) mission proved it was ready for its next steps by passing what's called a Systems Integration Review (SIR), which deems a mission ready to integrate instruments onto the spacecraft.

The MMS mission is due to launch in late 2014. It will observe a mysterious process called [magnetic reconnection](#), which creates explosive bursts of energy and which powers a variety of space phenomena from the aurora to giant eruptions of radiation on the sun known as [solar flares](#). The images here show the spacecraft under construction, a process made all the more complex since MMS requires the building of four identical spacecraft.



Engineers work to install scientific instruments onto one of the MMS spacecraft decks. Credit: NASA/B. Lambert

For more information about NASA's MMS mission, go to:

mms.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Provided by NASA

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