



# Radiation Qualification of Electronics in Space Applications

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

## Experience and Capabilities of Boeing Radiation Effects Laboratory (BREL-Seattle) to Support RSS Programs

Prepared for Reusable Space Systems Group,  
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# Brief Summary of Who and What is BREL

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **BREL, Boeing Radiation Effects Laboratory**
  - First established 35 years ago
  - Dynamitron and linear accelerator its first radiation effects simulators
  - Radiation facilities expanded with FX-75 Flash X-ray, Co-60, etc
  - Decades-long use of ATE test equipment (recent IMS tester) located adjacent to Co-60 and accelerators
  - For SEU: Cf-252 chamber, and 14 MeV neutron generator, Hi Level portable ETS and development of interface cards for automated testing
- **In-house equipment augmented by use of specialized test facilities**
  - Heavy ion accelerators
    - 88” Cyclotron at Lawrence Berkeley Lab (LB)-have dedicated beam line, vacuum chamber, dosimetry system; “Aerospace cocktail”
  - High energy proton beams
    - UC Davis (60 MeV), Mass Gen’1 (150 MeV), TRIUMF (500 MeV)
- **Primary role throughout 1970s-90s was to support Heritage Boeing space programs for which Boeing had key role**
  - Radiation effects parts selection/evaluation, survivability assessment



# Brief Summary of Who and What is BREL Cont'd

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **To augment BREL capabilities to fulfill space radiation effects needs of Boeing programs, BREL personnel have been**
  - **Heavily involved in the nuclear/space radiation effects community**
  - **Obtained numerous R&D contracts from government Labs and agencies, aerospace and electronics companies (Aerojet, Hughes, TRW, Lockheed M&S, Spectrolab, etc.)**
  - **Compiled test data into vast database of parts characterization results on the radiation response to TID, dose rate, displacement damage and SEE**
- **During the 1990s focus mainly on effects of the natural space environment**
  - **Major support for large programs such as Space Station, Sea Launch, IUS**
  - **Developed ancillary expertise such as capability to fully define the natural space radiation environment (done for NASA on Space Station)**
  - **Developed expertise/methodology to apply parts data to mission environments to calculate parts response to TID, dose rate, displacement damage and SEE effects**



# Major Radiation Effects Subgroups Within BREL

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **Overall Leadership**
  - W. Will, Mgr   E. Normand, Chief Scientist   J. Wert, Lead Test Eng.
- **TID and Dose Rate Testing and Analysis**
  - J. Wert, R. Edwards, G. Perry, R. Kennerud (Engineers) , C. Vick and J. Beymer, (Techs)
- **SEE Testing and Analysis**
  - Dr. E. Normand, J. Wert, Dr. D. Oberg, Dr. P. Majewski, L. Stevens (Engineers), C. Vick (Tech)
- **Compilation and Maintenance of Radiation Response Databases**
  - Dr. P. Majewski, R. Kennerud, G. Perry (Engineers)
- **Calculation of Space Radiation Environment**
  - Dr. P. Majewski, Dr. D. Oberg, Dr. P. Measel, Dr. T. Criswell, Dr. E. Normand
- **Radiation Application Analyses**
  - D. Egelkrout, Dr. E. Normand, Dr. P. Majewski, Dr. D. Oberg, R. Edwards, Dr. T. Criswell



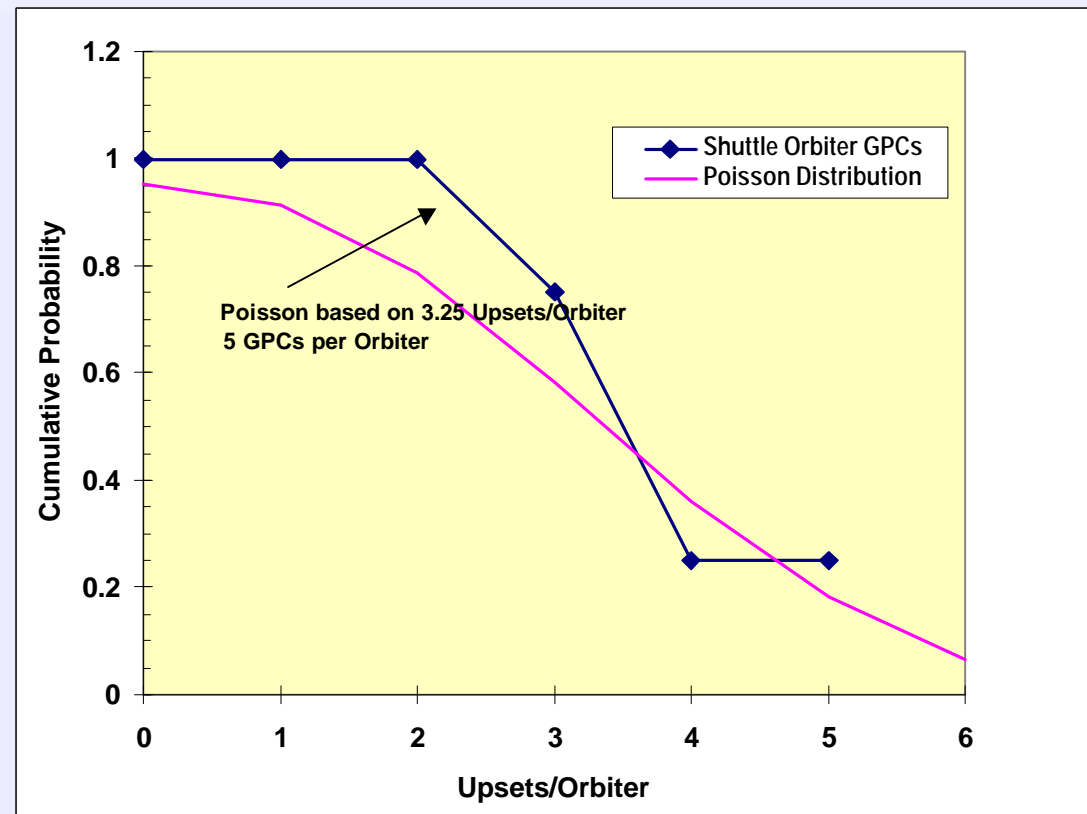
## **BREL Has Good Working Relationships w/ NASA Center Personnel**

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **Radiation experts at all the major NASA centers**
  - **GSFC**    **K. LaBel, J. Barth, Stass**
  - **Langley Research Center**    **J. Wilson, J. Shin**
  - **MSFC**    **J. Watts, T. Parnell, J. Howard, B. Kaufman**
  - **JSC**    **P. O'Neill, W. Culpepper, G. Badhwar**
  - **JPL**    **C. Barnes, J. Coss, G. Swift**
  - **Ames**    **S. Scimemi (SOFIA)**
  - **KSC**    **K. Milon (SEUs in GPCs)**

# Upsets in Shuttle Orbiter GPC Computers on Ground

- Ground upsets in Shuttle Orbiter GPCs on the ground (during simulations) are randomly distributed among the GPCs, therefore they are SEUs





## **BREL Personnel Have Long Established Relationships in Rad Effects Community**

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **All major institutions within the radiation effects community**
  - **Space Parts Working Group**      **W. Will, Secretary, last 8 years**
  - **IEEE NSREC**      **W. Will, E. Normand, D. Oberg, J. Wert have been session chairs, reviewers, Short Course lecturers, etc.**
  - **DTRA (formerly DSWA)**      **Lou Cohn: One BREL contract, one SSED contract BREL assisted with, many proposals submitted**
  - **NRL**      **One BREL contract, continuing interactions w/ personnel: J. Ritter, A. Campbell, C. Marshall, S. Buchner**
  - **DOE Labs**      **Sandia annually contracts use of radiation sources**
  - **Los Alamos - BREL leader in use of WNR beam**
  - **AF Labs**      **Continuing interactions w/ personnel: G. Mullen, R. Frederickson, R. Pugh, C. Brothers**



# BREL Experience in Space Radiation Qualification of Electronics

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

<b>Radiation Effect</b>	<b>Test Facilities</b>	<b>Programs Supported</b>	<b>Methods to Utilize Test Results</b>
<b>TID (Total Ionizing Dose)</b>	<b>Co-60 (3- High rates and 2-Low Rate) Oven (Annealing) ATE (Testers)</b>	<b>Space Station (ISS) Advanced Projects MILSTAR, DSP Contractors: Hughes, Aerojet, UTMC</b>	<b>Extensive file/retrieval system of test reports extending over decades Relational database of IC responses w/web retrieval front end with both device results and physics analysis Concerted effort to stay current w/ vast data in open literature</b>
<b>SEE (Single Event Effects)</b>	<b>Cf-252 Chamber Dedicated vacuum chamber at LBL Special eqpt for NSCL testing in air (MSU) Proton tests at UC Davis, Harvard, etc</b>	<b>Space Station (ISS) Advanced Projects SSED, IUS Contractors: UTMC, COMDEV, Hughes</b>	<b>ISS file system of radiation test reports/procedures Created/maintain web-based Access database of all ISS test results Via industry contacts, concerted effort to stay current w/ vast data in open literature</b>
<b>Displacement Damage</b>	<b>Dynamitron (1 MeV protons) 14 MeV neutrons UW Van de Graaf (10 MeV protons) Sandia SPR reactor (1 MeV eq neutrons)</b>	<b>Space Station IUS Advanced Projects IR&amp;D</b>	<b>Lead ISS effort to assess effects in optocouplers Extensive file/retrieval system of test reports and relational database of IC responses w/web retrieval Via industry contacts, concerted effort to stay current w/ data in open literature</b>



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in Intel 87C51 Microcontroller on ISS

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **BREL identified ISS-PG-3 parts susceptible to SEU, 12/ 91**
- **Authorized to carry out initial heavy ion SEU testing of devices including 87C51**
- **First tests, 2/92, at U of Washington Van de Graaff, (in conjunction w/ SEU testing for 777), showed SEU and “lockup” in 87C51**
- **Space Station program apprised, concerned, more tests warranted**
- **2nd test, 3/92,**
  - **Circuit included watchdog timer to avoid errors**
  - **AMD version of microcontroller tested with Intel devices**
  - **SEE results the same as first test, watchdog timer not the answer**
- **Other ISS SEU group, IBM Fed. Sys. (McDac sub) questioned results**
  - **BREL determined need to use higher energy/LET ions to test for SEL**
  - **3rd test, 6/92 at 88” Cyclotron at LBL, higher LET ions**
  - **Microcontroller latched up; good agreement w/ IBM results on 80386**



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in Intel 87C51 Microcontroller - Cont'd

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **BREL put ISS in contact w/ SSED group at Boeing developing design for ASIC-based “rad hard” version of the microcontroller**
  - **ISS PG-3 group (Huntsville) determined best approach was SSED**
  - **PG-3 funded SSED to complete design of replacement microcontroller chip**
  - **Part of process was for BREL to test ASIC version w/ heavy ions**
- **BREL also carried out proton SEU/SEL tests (Harvard, TRIUMF) SEU, no SEL**
  - **Report issued documenting all tests and conclusions**
  - **Space Station program accepts test report, SSED approach to make “rad-hard” version of microcontroller**
- **Final heavy ion tests on SSED designed rad-hard version, 80C51FC Processor, (made by UTMC) verified very low SEU, no SEL**



# Case Study: Space Qualification of Power MOSFETs

Boeing Radiation Effects Lab

- **Two different radiation effects involved**
  - **Single event effects (SEE, energy from charged particle destroys the part)**
  - **TID (total ionizing dose causes part's electrical parameters out of spec)**
- **Two different SEE effects**
  - **Single event burnout (SEB): destructive pulses in the main epi layer due to an avalanche feedback mechanism**
  - **Single event gate rupture (SEGR), charged particle tunneling through thin gate causes it to rupture**
  - **Higher the voltage rating of the MOSFET, the more likely it is susceptible to SEB and/or SEGR**
- **SEB first reported on by A. Waskiewicz et al (Rockwell) in 1986**
- **First method of nondestructively testing for SEB developed by Oberg and Wert (Boeing) in 1987**
- **BREL first to show high energy neutrons also can induce SEB; test of current parts w/ protons gave agreement w/APEX satellite data**



# Case Study: Space Qualification of Power MOSFETs-Cont'd-2

Boeing Radiation Effects Lab

- **Boeing, Rockwell and JPL develop guidelines for qualifying power MOSFETs for use on Space Station in 1992 (incorporated in ISS docs)**
  - **Test MOSFETs with heavy ions normal to device, LET of 26 MeV-cm<sup>2</sup>/mg and having range of 35μm in silicon**
  - **As increase voltage across the drain,  $V_{ds}$ , of MOSFET, look for**
    - **Burnout pulse (test circuit protects against permanent damage)**
    - **Increase in gate leakage current (precursor of gate rupture)**
  - **Determine minimum passing voltage,  $V_{ds}$  at which no SEB or SEGR is seen**
  - **Allowable  $V_{ds}$  that may be used in application is minimum passing voltage multiplied by 75% derating factor (accounts for part-to-part variations)**
  - **For MOSFET applications in which the 75% derating is not high enough, can increase to 80-85% by carrying out SEB/SEGR lot acceptance testing using 10 samples**
- **Many power MOSFETs tested for SEB/SEGR on ISS, D. Oberg of BREL compiled all of this data**



# Case Study: Space Qualification of Power MOSFETs-Cont'd-3

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- On Teledesic program (BREL involved since 1995) total dose levels much higher (~100 Krad) compare to ISS (5 Krad)
- On Teledesic, power system design being developed by Rocketdyne using large quantity of power MOSFETs
  - Need to meet both TID and SEB/SEGR criteria
- Use of special rad-hard MOSFETs (~\$1K each) prohibitively expensive
- BREL working with Rocketdyne and small microelectronics vendor
  - Develop, test and verify commercial MOSFET designs
  - Meet both TID and SEB/SEGR criteria for Teledesic orbit



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **BREL supporting EXPRESS Rack (independent program in Huntsville related to ISS) for more than 4 years**
  - Review of parts lists
  - Brief assessment of the susceptibility of parts to SEU and SEL
  - Small effort, ~ 100 hours/year, but valuable to the program
- **Previous to 1998, BREL assisted on two testing efforts**
  - Testing of Aitech developed computer using Motorola 68020  $\mu$ controller
    - Latchup circumvention circuit was designed since they could not obtain SEL-immune version of  $\mu$ controller from SG-Thompson
    - BREL performed heavy ion testing of circuit at LBL 88" Cyclotron, but circuit had some problems
    - BREL performed simpler latchup test of modified circuit using our Cf-252 system; test showed new circumvention circuit worked properly
  - Single event burnout testing and evaluation of test data of power MOSFETs for Hughes-Scotland (sub of MacDac subcontractor)



## Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-2

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- Early 1998, BREL asked to evaluate 2 types of COTS boards:
  - Advanced Aitech computer board with MPEG-2 Encoder
  - Commercially available hard drives
- Heavy ion SEE testing of such boards presented a huge challenge
  - Using LBL not feasible; each board with 3-8 devices needing testing; would have to delid each device on board, still have board 100% functional
  - All devices are PEMs (plastic encapsulated microelectronics); have to be delidded by use of nitric acid
  - Individual PEMs can be easily delidded (success rate ~80%, bond wires may be accidentally destroyed), but entire COTS board is not feasible
  - Similarly, no way to replace all of the parts that are soldered onto the board, with sockets into which delidded parts could be placed
- As alternative, BREL suggested doing testing with ions of high enough energy so they could penetrate the package lid and reach the die
- Since the BEVALAC accelerator closed at LBL in early 1990s, no US accelerator facility available for this work, only 2 in Europe



## Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-3

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- E. Normand learned that National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) at Michigan State was looking for outside customers
- BREL contacted NSCL for use in testing of the COTS boards; ion beams available appeared to have enough energy to penetrate PEMs
- BREL needed to understand operation of NSCL to adapt for our test
  - Other SEU groups also became aware of the NSCL; NASA-GSFC organized a multi-party test program (8 separate groups) on April 1-2, 1998
  - BREL only industrial participant, mainly NASA and National Labs
  - We tested two devices, in both an ordinary and a delidded PEM package, as a trial of our approach, and found that it worked successfully
    - Measured cross sections consistent from two packages
    - Could calculate backwards, knowing thickness of plastic cover, to find degraded energy (and LET) of the degraded ion when it strikes the die
  - Test very valuable in providing an understanding of what services could be easily provided by NSCL, and which we would have to provide ourselves



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-4

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- **Special equipment designed to make testing at NSCL feasible**
  - **X-y stage (moving up-down and left-right)**
  - **Cards had up to 8 separate parts to be exposed to beam; we had to remotely move the card so that the desired part was within the 1'' diameter beam**
  - **Other unconventional features were also incorporated**
    - **Laser alignment systems**
    - **Our own real time dosimetry system**
- **Procedures developed for testing all of the boards lead by J. Wert and D. Oberg of BREL, in conjunction w/Aitech and EXPRESS Rack engineers**
- **Testing carried out at the end of June 1998**
- **7 different boards (34 devices) were exposed to heavy ions to measure the susceptibility to single event induced functional interrupt and latchup**



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-5

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **4 Aitech boards were used to test 13 different devices for SEE (SEL and SEFI) susceptibility**
  - **Of 13 parts, two parts have high enough rates to be of potential concern**
    - **Video encoder**
    - **Analog Devices DSP**
  - **Heavy ion induced functional interrupts in the video encoder manifested themselves in a variety of malfunctions during recording**
  - **DSP was prone to one single event latchup event as well as to functional interrupts**
  - **Relatively high SEL and SEFI rates calculated for the DSP based on outside SEE data for related Analog Devices DSPs, thus to be regarded as conservative**



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-6

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

Part #	Part Type	Vendor	Results	Est'd SEE Rate Space Station, Effect/day
<b>Yellowknife Board</b>				
PPC106A RX66CD	PCI Bridge/ Memory Controller	Moto- rola	SEUs, LET > 14; Avg X- Sctn~2E-5	1.4E-06
MPC750A RX266xx	Microproces sor	Moto- rola	SEUs, LET > 16;Avg X- Sctn ~1E-5	5.0E-07
<b>C2300 Board</b>				
CA91C042 -40	VME Interface Chip	Tundra	SEL at LET=30; Avg X- Sctn ~2E-4	2.0E-06
AM29F01 6-120EC	Flash EEPROM	AMD	No Effect	No Effect
<b>Symbios Logic Controller Board</b>				
SYM53C8 85	PCI SCSI-2/ Ethernet Controller	Symbios Logic	SEFI at LET 23, 32; No effect LET< 18; Asymp X- Sctn ~1E-3	4.0E-05
DP83840A VCE	Ethernet Phys. Layer	Nat'l	No effect for LET < ~15,	
DP83223V	10/100 Twist	Nat'l	No effect for LET < 8-10	



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-7

Boeing Radiation Effects Lab

Part #	Part Type	Vendor	Results	Est'd SEE Rate Space Station, Effect/day
MVision10	Video Encoder	VISIO N-Tech	SEFI at $\sim 1E4$ p/cm <sup>2</sup> ; assumed worst case SEFI $\leq 10$ times this, $1E-3$ cm <sup>2</sup> , lowest LET for SEFI $\sim 4.3$	SEFI $\sim 2E-3$ event/day
SAA7111A	Digitizer	Philips	SEFI seen at LET 15-17 w $\leq 1E-5$ ; Asympt $\leq$ taken as $1E-4$ at $\sim$ LET=13;	SEFI $\sim 1E-5$ event/day
ADSP-2185	DSP	Analog Devices	SEL: Measured- $\sim$ LET=18.5; $\leq 2E-5$ cm <sup>2</sup> but SEL data on similar ADSPs (others) is LET <sub>th</sub> =12 and $\leq 1E-2$ ; SEFI: Measured- $\sim$ LET $\sim 3$ ; $\leq 2E-5$ but also used SEU data on similar ADSPs (others) $\leq 1E-3$	SEL: $\sim 1E-3$ LU/day upper bound rate based on SEL in other DSP; SEFI: $\sim 1E-2$ † SEFI/day based on our/other SEU in related DSPs



# Case Study: SEU/SEL in COTS Boards for EXPRESS Rack-Cont'd-8

Boeing Radiation Effects Lab

Part #	Part Type	Vendor	Results	Est'd SEE Rate Space Station, Effect/day
V360EPC-50LP	PCI Interface	V3	SEL at ~LET=15; $s \sim 1E-5 \text{ cm}^2$ , used $\sim 3E-4$ ; SEFI seen at ~LET~16; $s$ taken as $\sim 5E-3$	SEL: $\sim 2E-5$ LU/day SEFI: $\sim 3E-4$ event/day
D42280GU-30	FIFO	NEC	SEU effect mainly transients, but ~15% lead to SEFI; transients down to LET~3; $s \sim 3E-3 \text{ cm}^2$	Single event transient rate $\sim 1.4E-2$ event/day; SEFI $\sim 2E-3$ is conservative
AD1877	ADC	Analog Devices	Induced SEFI (LET ~20) was hissing noise in video; $s$ for this effect $\sim 1E-5 \text{ cm}^2$ , used $s$ as $1E-4 \text{ cm}^2$	SEFI rate for hissing noise $\sim 3E-6$ event/day



# BREL Experience in Displacement Damage Studies

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

- **Variety of devices tested**
  - Electronics (many different types as required by weapons specs)
  - Solar cells (Si, GaAs, CdTe, CIS) (many different types)
  - Optocouplers (many different types, mainly InGaAs)
  - GaAs MMICs
  - LiNbO<sub>3</sub> optical waveguide
- **Three different local sources available**
  - Dynamitron (1 MeV protons, 16 μm range in Si)
  - 14 MeV neutrons (no range limit)
  - U of Washington Van de Graaff (18 MeV protons, 1.9 mm range)
- **Long experience in using external sources**
  - Sandia SPR reactor (1 MeV equiv. Neutrons)
  - High energy protons (UC Davis - 60 MeV, Mass Gen'l -150 MeV)
- **Availability of NIEL cross sections for Si, GaAs, InP to correlate measured effects to spectra for specific orbits/missions**



# Other Boeing Groups with BREL Long-Term Cooperative Relationships Supporting Radiation Qualification Issues

*Boeing Radiation Effects Lab*

Group	Function	BREL Relationship
<b>SSED (Solid State Electronics Development)</b>	<b>Provides state-of-art ASIC design services with mature capabilities. Has specialized capabilities for advanced digital VLSI and other ASIC designs. Experienced in designing ASICs to meet high radiation (rad-hard commercial process hardening by design), temperature, and reliability environments.</b>	<b>Planning and performing radiation testing, developing rad-hard strategies, etc.</b>
<b>Shock Physics Group</b>	<b>Expertise in experimental and theoretical techniques for the study of dynamic response of materials and structures to mechanical &amp; thermal shock loading. Shock Physics Lab has facilities for hypervelocity impact and explosion testing. Program experienced in impact and explosion cratering, hazard analysis of space debris impact, etc.</b>	<b>Utilizes BREL radiation sources for specific testing; coordinates micrometeoroid, debris and cratering impacts with radiation environment.</b>
<b>Materials and Processes Technology (MAPT)</b>	<b>Responsible for developing technical expertise for evaluation &amp; analysis of electronic packaging for all components/systems on Boeing defense &amp; space programs. Prepares &amp; coordinates documentation &amp; specifications for engineering requirements related to procurement, use, etc. of program components.</b>	<b>Coordinates radiation testing activities in accord with specs in hardness survivability and assurance plans.</b>