



NASA Airborne Science Program



Derek Rutovic
September 2026



ASP Current Status



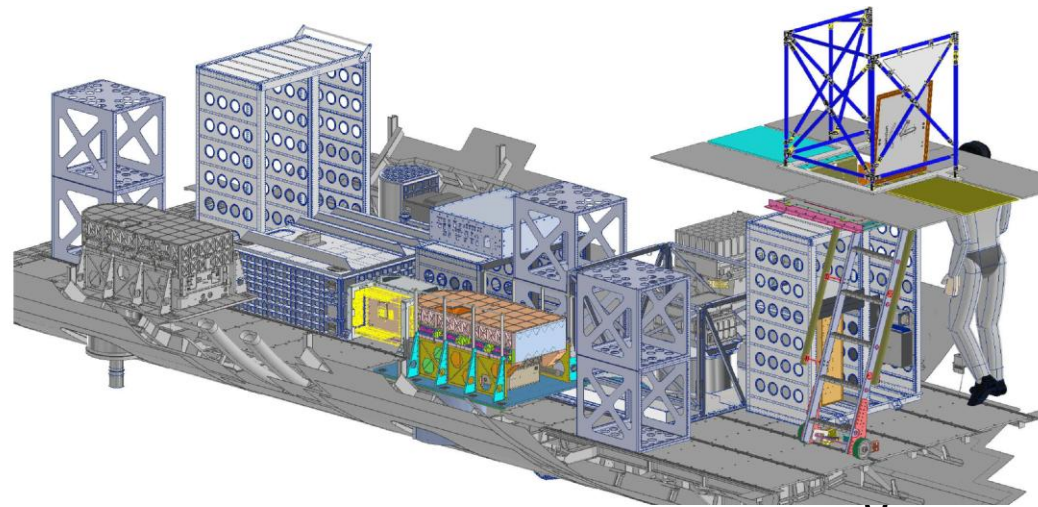
- Slow mission start to the FY (furlough) but increased operations tempo over the summer, 1200+ flight hours for FY26 reported to date
- B777, final modification stages and first payload integration ongoing
 - First mission: NURTURE, January 2027
- GV purchased at the end of FY25, accelerated efforts to modify
 - First mission: LVIS GEDI Southeast Asia, Spring 2027
- P-3 coming back online from FY26 flyable storage
 - Operational in FY27 to support FarmFlux, February 2027
- G-IV replacing UAVSAR G-III to support SAR operations



B777



- Busy FY26
 - Major structural modification completed, February 2026
 - Aircraft paint and schedule maintenance completed, August 2026
 - Majority of “in-house” modifications and installations completed
 - Major engineering design effort for the first payload installation
- First mission, North American Upstream Feature-Resolving and Tropopause Uncertainty Reconnaissance Experiment
 - January 2027, LaRC-based with suitcase flights to Goose Bay
 - Most comprehensive and advanced airborne weather observing system ever assembled
- SARP 2027 following NURTURE





B777





B777



- Purchased and received on the final day of FY25 to provide dedicated GV remote sensing platform to Earth Science
- Completed nadir portal and electrical systems CDR
 - “Same” modification as Nike GV at JSC
- Scheduled to be flown to vendor for modification next week, ~8 SEP
- Targeting first mission Spring 2027 for LVIS GEDI Southeast Asia



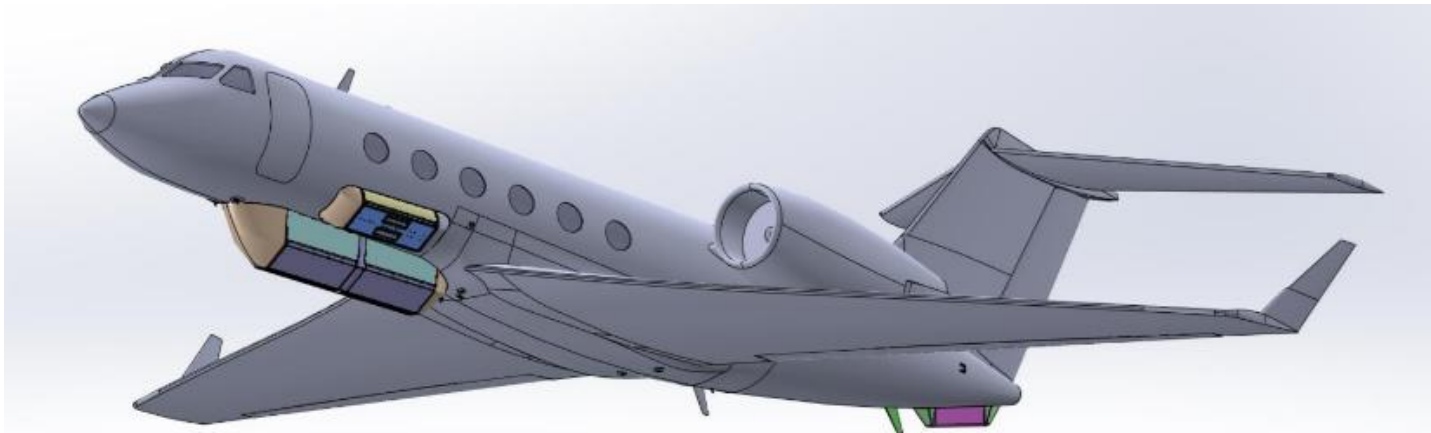


P-3



- Transferred to Langley Research Center after the closure of the Wallops aircraft office and placed into “flyable” storage in FY26
- Retained significant core personnel from Wallops supporting other ASP priorities
 - Transitioned back to the P-3
- Condition-based maintenance program has been restarted, propeller maintenance ongoing
 - Full core aircraft in FY27
- Flying to KSC for MAXPOWER to be a static display in November
- Preparations for FarmFlux in February 2027 are ongoing, technical kickoff meeting for payload integration recently held

- UAVSAR operations on the C-20A will end in FY26
 - Fully focus on delayed G-IV AirSAR-NG project
 - G-IV is in modification at Phoenix Air in Cartersville, GA, installing large canoe to house two SAR antennas to provide-multifrequency capability
 - Third antenna designed to be installed as a fuselage blister, modification not funded
- Aircraft set to return to NASA, October 2026
- In-house modifications then required for June 2026 ready-for-mission date to support LACCE





Questions?