



# **NASA Instrument Cost Model: Version VIII Major Improvements**

2018 NASA Cost and Schedule Symposium

Joseph Mrozinski, NICM Task Lead

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**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
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# NICM Stakeholders

- Sponsor: NASA HQ OCFO/SID/CAD/IPAO
- Legacy Co-Sponsor: JPL Cost Estimation & Pricing Section
- Development Team
  - JPL Systems Modeling, Analysis & Architectures Group
  - JPL Engineering Cost Estimation Group
  - JPL Technical Division Experts
    - Science
    - Communications, Tracking, and Radar
    - Instruments and Science Data Systems
    - Mechanical Systems
  - Last but not least, all of the NASA Centers, Contractors, Universities and others who have built instruments and contribute data to NICM

# NICM Team

## NICM VIII Team

- Gary Ball
- Luther Beegle
- Justin Boland
- Robert Cesarone
- Mike DiNicola
- Michael Fong
- Hamid Habib-Agahi
- Joe Mrozinski
- Kamrooz Parchamazad
- Al Nash
- Matthew Ramirez
- Michael Saing
- Marc Walch
- Keith Warfield

# Agenda

- NICM VIII Major Improvements
  - Mission Class-based CERs vs. NICM-E
  - Telescope Cost as a Subsystem vs. “Telescope Instruments”
  - New Visualizations Features
  - New Cryocooler Cost Estimations

# Agenda

- NICM VIII Major Improvements
  - **Mission Class-based CERs vs. NICM-E**
  - Telescope Cost as a Subsystem vs. “Telescope Instruments”
  - New Visualizations Features
  - New Cryocooler Cost Estimations

# NICM and Mission Class: Introduction

- From 2004 through 2013, NICM collected and normalized data from as many missions as possible.
- Examining the missions that were collected during this period showed that Class B missions were the majority, followed by A and C.
  - This led to 2004-2013 CER's which serviced A and B missions quite well, as well as some, but not all, C class missions.
- While these CER's have evolved and improved over time, they will be referred to herein as the "Traditional NICM CERs"

# 2004-2013 Mission Class Service Matrix

	Optical Earth Orbiting	Optical Planetary	Particles Earth Orbiting	Particles Planetary	Fields	Active Microwave	Passive Microwave
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	X
D	X	X	X	X	X	N/A*	N/A*

- The green checkmarks indicate where the Traditional NICM CERs serviced well.
- There was not enough C class mission data for Optical, Fields or Microwave instruments to conclude whether or not the Traditional NICM CER's would apply to these instruments.
- Similarly for D class missions.

\*Note we found 0 instruments for D class microwave instruments.

# NICM-E Introduction

- In 2012-2013, the NICM team received feedback that the NICM CER's were overestimating instrument costs for Explorer Concepts – C class missions.
- We found that we had several instruments on C Class missions that, one-by-one over years of data collection, had been deemed as outliers for the Traditional NICM CERs.
  - Exploring further found that the majority of these instruments flew on Explorer Class missions, but also had the following three criteria in common that separated them from the bulk of the data used in developing the Traditional NICM CERs:
    1. Flew on Class C Missions
    2. Designs had significant inheritance
    3. Were built at Universities



# NICM-E Introduction

- These instruments thus formed their own separate family and were used to derive the NICM-E CER.
  - In 2014, NICM-E was released as part of NICM VI
- 
- Trivia: NICM-E was originally named “NICM-Explorer”, but was shortened to NICM-E as two instruments flew on missions that were not technically part of the Explorer Program.

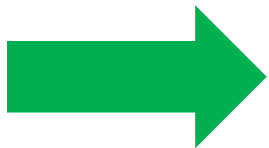
# 2014-'18 Mission Class Service Matrix

	Optical Earth Orbiting	Optical Planetary	Particles Earth Orbiting	Particles Planetary	Fields	Active Microwave	Passive Microwave
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
C: NICM-E	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
D	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A	N/A

- The inclusion of NICM-E allowed NICM to service a few more instrument types for Class C missions, but only for those instruments with high inheritance and be university built.
- Note NICM-E did not service D class missions.
- This was an improved service matrix, but we wanted less X's!

# Evolving NICM-E

- Hoping to further improve the Service Matrix, the NICM Team performed new data collection, analysis and CER development, hoping to **grow** NICM-E's abilities to cover more instrument types.
- Instead, the NICM Team observed that instruments meeting criteria #1 of NICM-E (C Class) alone fall in family with the original NICM-E instrument set.



## ***CONCLUSION:***

NICM can drop the #2 and #3 NICM-E criteria and focus on Mission Class alone.

# NICM VIII Improved Mission Class Service Matrix

	Optical Earth Orbiting	Optical Planetary	Particles Earth Orbiting	Particles Planetary	Fields	Active Microwave	Passive Microwave
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	✓	✓	✓	X	X	N/A	N/A

- NICM VIII's new CERs deliver the best service matrix to date.
- Newly collected C and D class data showed that we could retire the NICM-E requirements of high inheritance and university build for the new NICM VIII CERs
- Future work: more data needed for Class D Mission Fields and Planetary Particles Instruments.

# NICM VII vs. VIII Mission Class Service Matrix

VII

	Optical Earth Orbiting	Optical Planetary	Particles Earth Orbiting	Particles Planetary	Fields	Active Microwave	Passive Microwave
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
C: NICM-E	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
D	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A	N/A

VIII

	Optical Earth Orbiting	Optical Planetary	Particles Earth Orbiting	Particles Planetary	Fields	Active Microwave	Passive Microwave
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	N/A	N/A



**CONCLUSION: NICM VIII services more Instrument Types and Classes**

# Mission Class Conclusions

- NICM VIII provides estimates for more instruments types and more mission classes than NICM VII.
- Future estimates that would have relied on NICM-E will get similar results with the new Class-based NICM CERs.
- And instrument type/classes that were left without an estimate before now have a home.

# Agenda

- NICM VIII Major Improvements
  - Mission Class-based CERs vs. NICM-E
  - **Telescope Cost as a Subsystem vs. “Telescope Instruments”**
  - New Visualizations Features
  - New Cryocooler Cost Estimations

# Telescope Lingo

Telescope by itself + Backend = Instrument



# Telescope Lingo

Telescope by itself + Backend = Instrument

**Telescope by itself  $\neq$  Instrument**

# Telescope Lingo

In NICM VII, we treated the Telescope by itself as a SYSTEM

Instrument Name  2017 \$K Cost Base Year

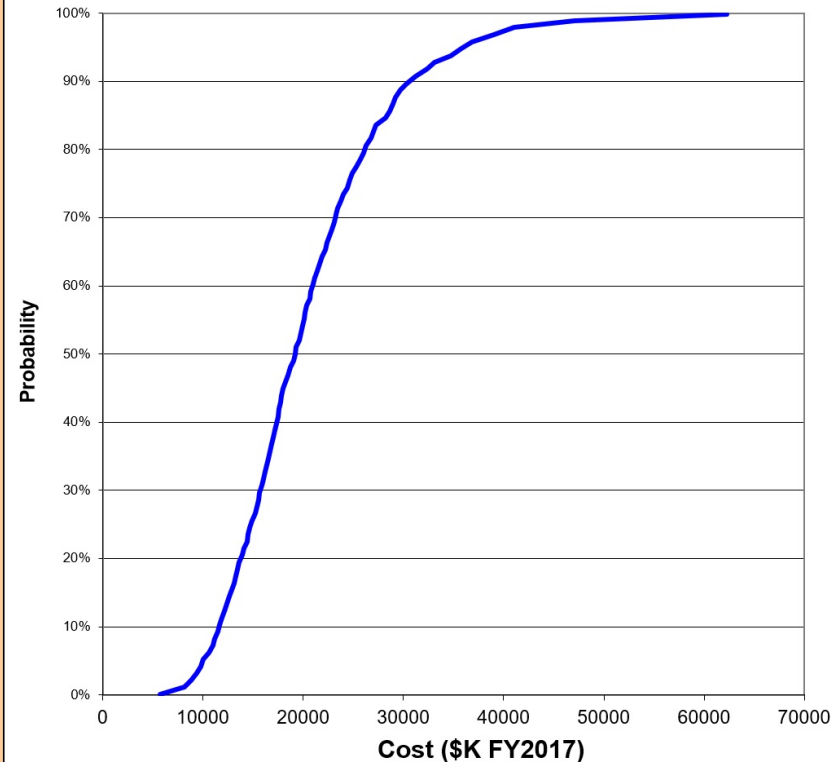
Instrument Type  Remote Sensing  
Remote Sensing Type  Telescope ONLY  
Telescope Type  Infrared

	Minimum	Most Likely	Maximum	Units
Aperture	<input type="text"/>	30.0	<input type="text"/>	cm

Total B/C/D Cost  \$19,190  \$23,216

Monte Carlo # Iterations  1,000  
Automatic Monte Carlo  On  
NICM Help  Off

### Total B/C/D Cost S-Curve



# Telescope Lingo

In NICM VII, we treated the Telescope by itself as a SYSTEM

But wait a minute... in NICM “Systems” are Instruments.

**Telescope by itself  $\neq$  Instrument therefore:**

**Telescope by itself  $\neq$  System**

Rather, a telescope by itself is more of a (super) Subsystem.

# Telescope by Itself = Subsystem

In NICM VIII, we treat the Telescope by itself as a SUBSYSTEM

## Inputs

This document has NOT been reviewed for export control. Not for distribution or access to foreign persons.

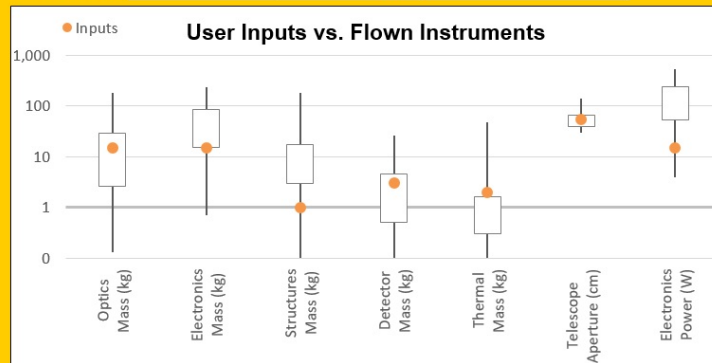
Instrument Name	<input type="text"/>	Include Telescope?	TRUE
Costs in \$K FY	2020	Telescope Type	Infrared
Instrument Type	Optical	Cryocooler?	FALSE
Environment	Earth Orbiting	Detector Type	Fields/Ion Detector

## Model Cost Estimates

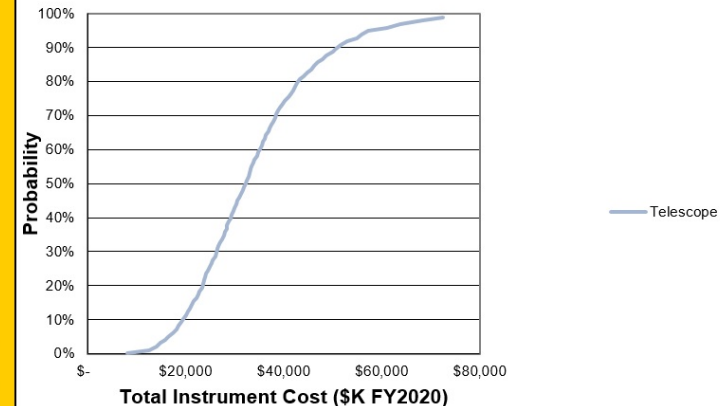
Probability	S-curve	30%	50%	70%
Total Instrument	Off	\$49,444	\$65,739	\$86,619
Management	Off	\$3,485	\$5,216	\$7,247
Sys. Engrg.	Off	\$3,575	\$5,252	\$7,422
Prod. Assurance	Off	\$2,112	\$3,032	\$4,400
I & T	Off	\$4,618	\$6,744	\$10,054
<b>Total Sensor</b>	<b>Off</b>	<b>\$35,654</b>	<b>\$45,495</b>	<b>\$57,497</b>
Optics	Off	\$4,348	\$5,913	\$8,304
Telescope	On	\$26,270	\$32,175	\$38,446
Electronics	Off	\$2,597	\$3,656	\$5,063
Mech/Structures	Off	\$407	\$643	\$980
Detectors	Off	\$1,015	\$1,543	\$2,353
Thermal/Fluid	Off	\$602	\$885	\$1,285
Software	Off	\$414	\$681	\$1,067

## Exclude Telescope's Mass & Power

	Minimum	Most Likely	Maximum
Optics Mass		15.0 kg	
Telescope Aperture		55.0 cm	
Electronics Mass		15.0 kg	
Structures Mass		1.0 kg	
Detector Mass		3.0 kg	
Thermal Mass		2.0 kg	
Max Power:		15.0 W	



## Cost Estimates S-Curves



Monte Carlo # Iterations:	1000
Automatic Monte Carlo	On
NICM Help	Off

Copy Inputs to Search Engine

Copy Inputs to System Tool

Go to Search Engine

Go to System Tool

# Telescope + Backend = Instrument

And, in the NICM VIII System Tool, we now provide an estimate for a “Telescope Instrument” rather than just a Telescope by itself.

Instrument Name

\$K Cost Base Year

Instrument Type

Environment

Mission Class

Remote Sensing Type

Instrument Includes Telescope?

Telescope Aperture Bin

Telescope Type

	Minimum	Most Likely	Maximum	Units
Total Mass		150.0		kg
Aperture		50.0		cm

X-axis

Y-axis

Monte Carlo # Iterations

Automatic Monte Carlo

NICM Help

Model Cost Estimates			
Probability	30%	50%	70%
Total Instrument	\$65,760	\$76,091	\$88,933

Total B/C/D Instrument Cost S-Curve

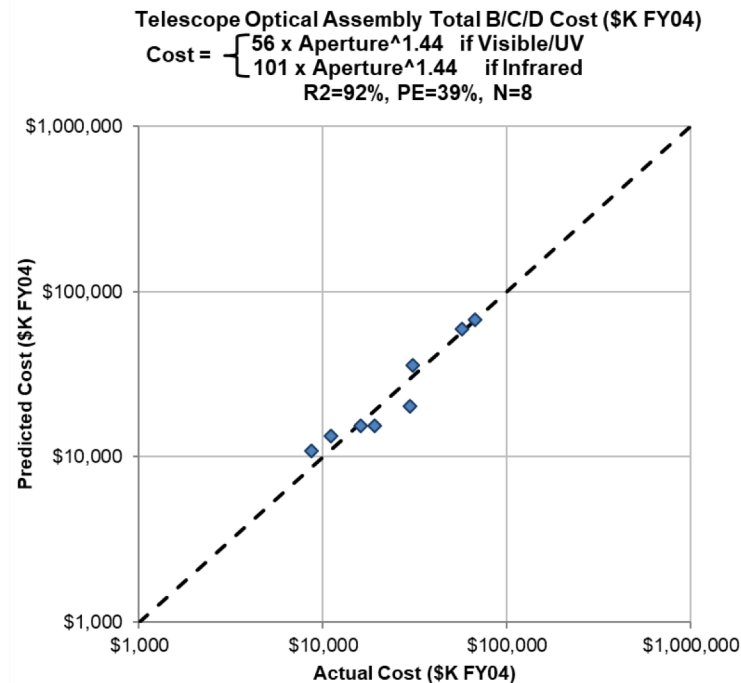
PDF of Total B/C/D Instrument Cost

Analogy Cost Estimates						
	Total Cost	Mission Class	Total Mass (kg)	Aperture (cm)	Telescope Type	Home Page
GALEX	\$41,356	B	135	50	Visible or Ultraviolet	<a href="#">Home Page</a>
WISE	\$78,970	C	346	40	Infrared	
HIRISE	\$50,602	B	64	50	Visible or Ultraviolet	<a href="#">Home Page</a>
Spitzer-MIPS	\$130,262	A	283	85	Infrared	<a href="#">Home Page</a>
WIRE	\$35,576	C	97	30	Infrared	

Cluster Tree

# The “New” Telescope Subsystem CER

Is just the old NICM VII System Model’s “Telescope Only” CER moved from one tool to the other.



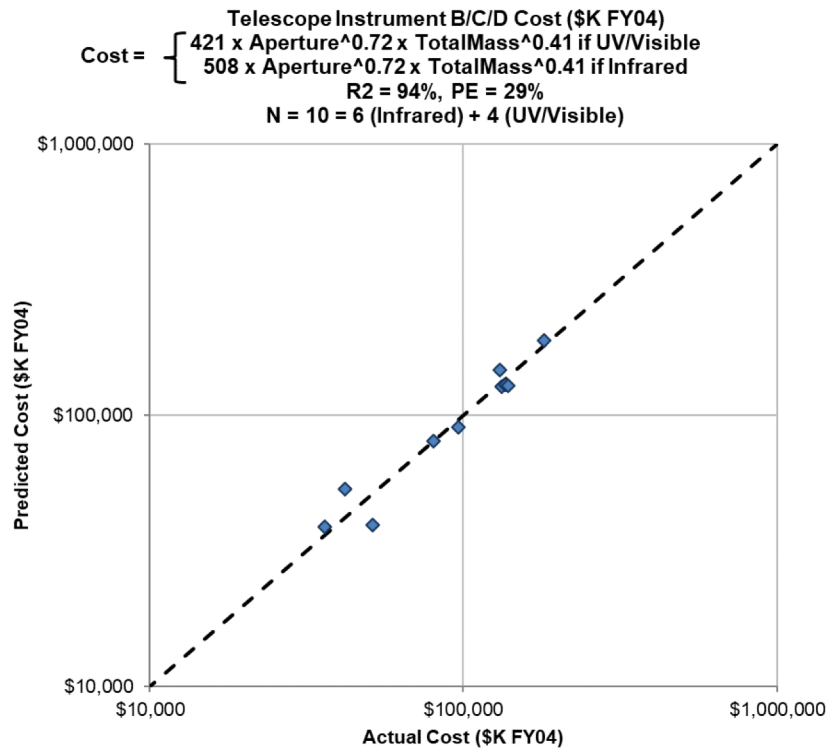
Alternative form of equation:

$$\text{Cost} = 56 \text{ Aperture}^{1.44} \text{ Exp}\{\text{IR}\}^{0.58}$$

where IR = 1 if Telescope captures IR wavelengths; 0 if Telescope captures UV/Visible wavelengths

# The New “Telescope Instrument” CER

Did not exist in NICM VII and thus is truly new for NICM VIII



Alternative form of equation:

$$\text{Cost} = 421 \text{ Aperture}^{0.72} \text{ TotalMass}^{0.41} \text{ Exp}\{IR\}^{0.19}$$

where IR = 1 if Telescope captures IR wavelengths; 0 if Telescope captures UV/Visible wavelengths

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  - New Cryocooler Cost Estimations



# Box and Whisker Plots

Allow the user to see their inputs relative to the CER data.

## Inputs

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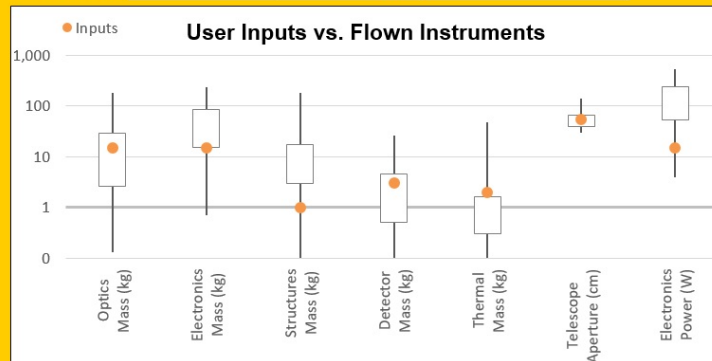
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Costs in \$K FY	2020	Telescope Type	Infrared
Instrument Type	Optical	Cryocooler?	FALSE
Environment	Earth Orbiting	Detector Type	Fields/Ion Detector

## Model Cost Estimates

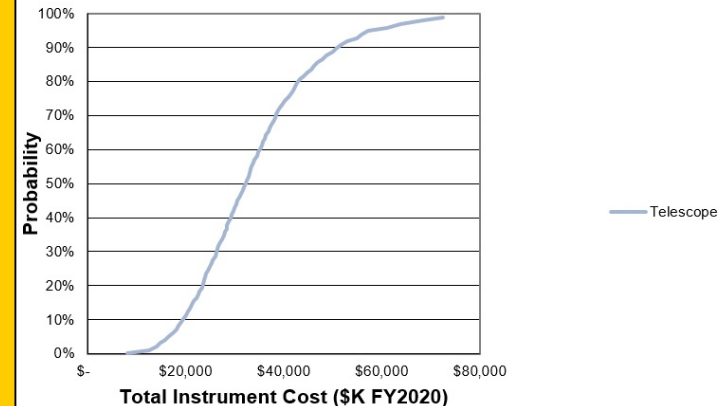
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## Cost Estimates S-Curves



Monte Carlo # Iterations:	1000
Automatic Monte Carlo	On
NICM Help	Off

Copy Inputs to Search Engine

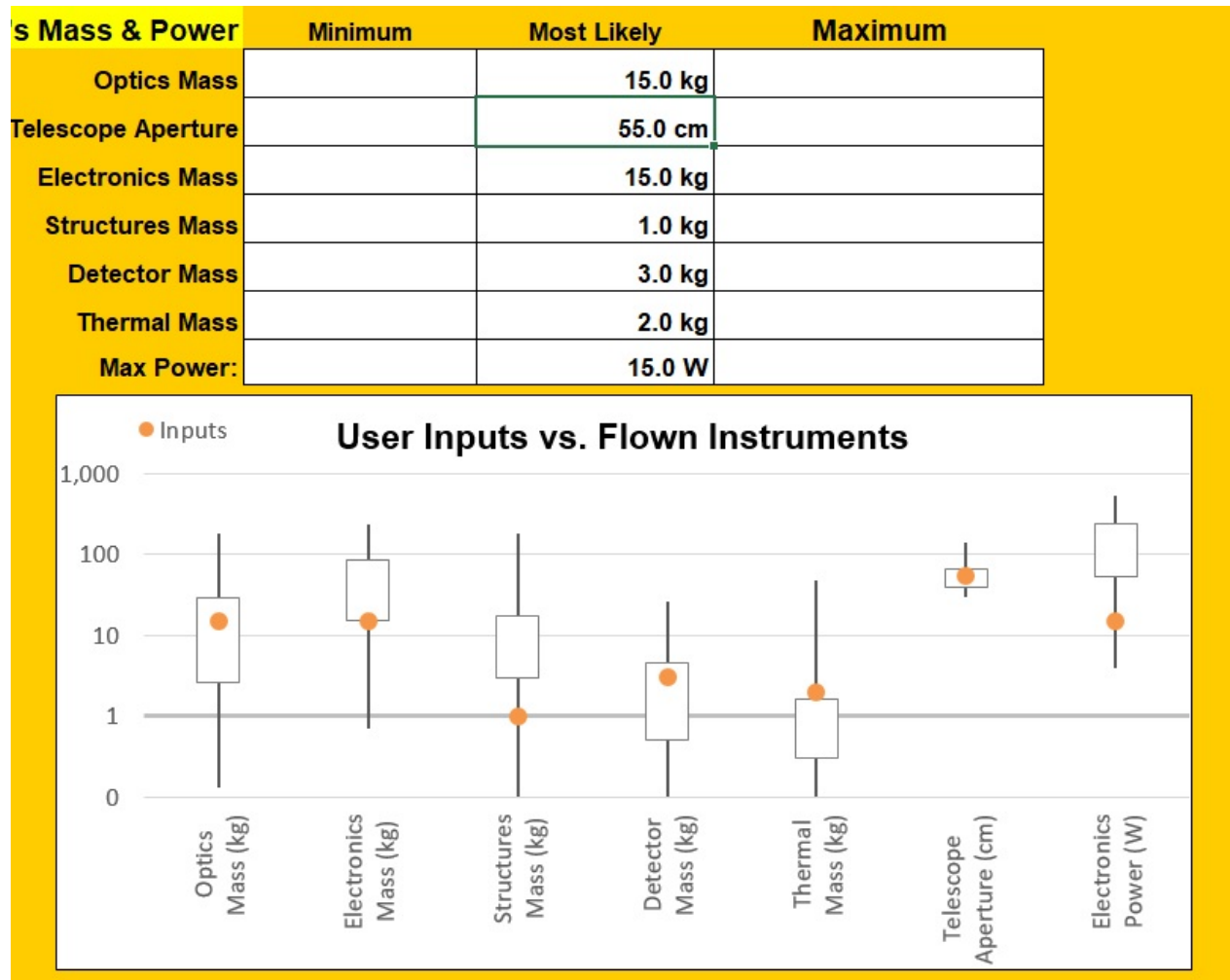
Copy Inputs to System Tool

Go to Search Engine

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# Box and Whisker Plots

Allow the user to see their inputs relative to the CER data.



# Probability Ellipses for Inputs

Probability around the mean ellipses added to the 2D input plot: at the 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 95 and 99 percentages.

Instrument Name  \$K Cost Base Year

Instrument Type  Remote Sensing Type

Environment  Instrument Includes Telescope?

Mission Class  Telescope Aperture Bin

Telescope Type

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X-axis   
Y-axis

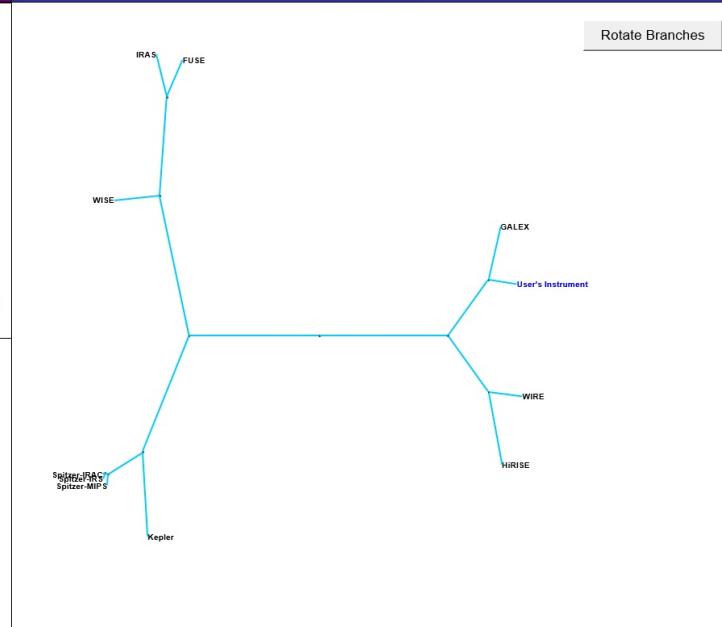
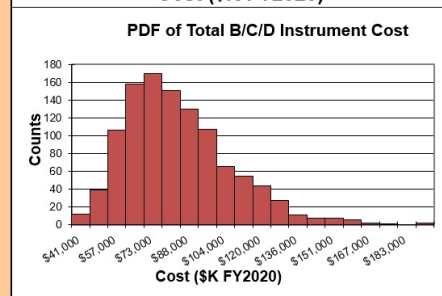
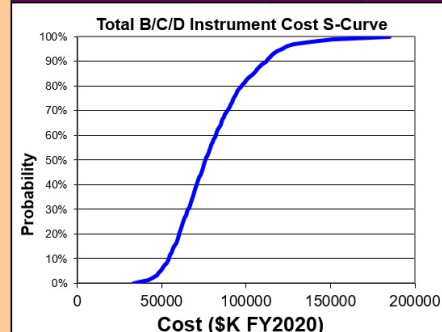
Monte Carlo # Iterations  Copy Inputs to Search Engine Copy Inputs to Subsystem

Automatic Monte Carlo  Go to Search Engine Go to Subsystem Tool

NICM Help

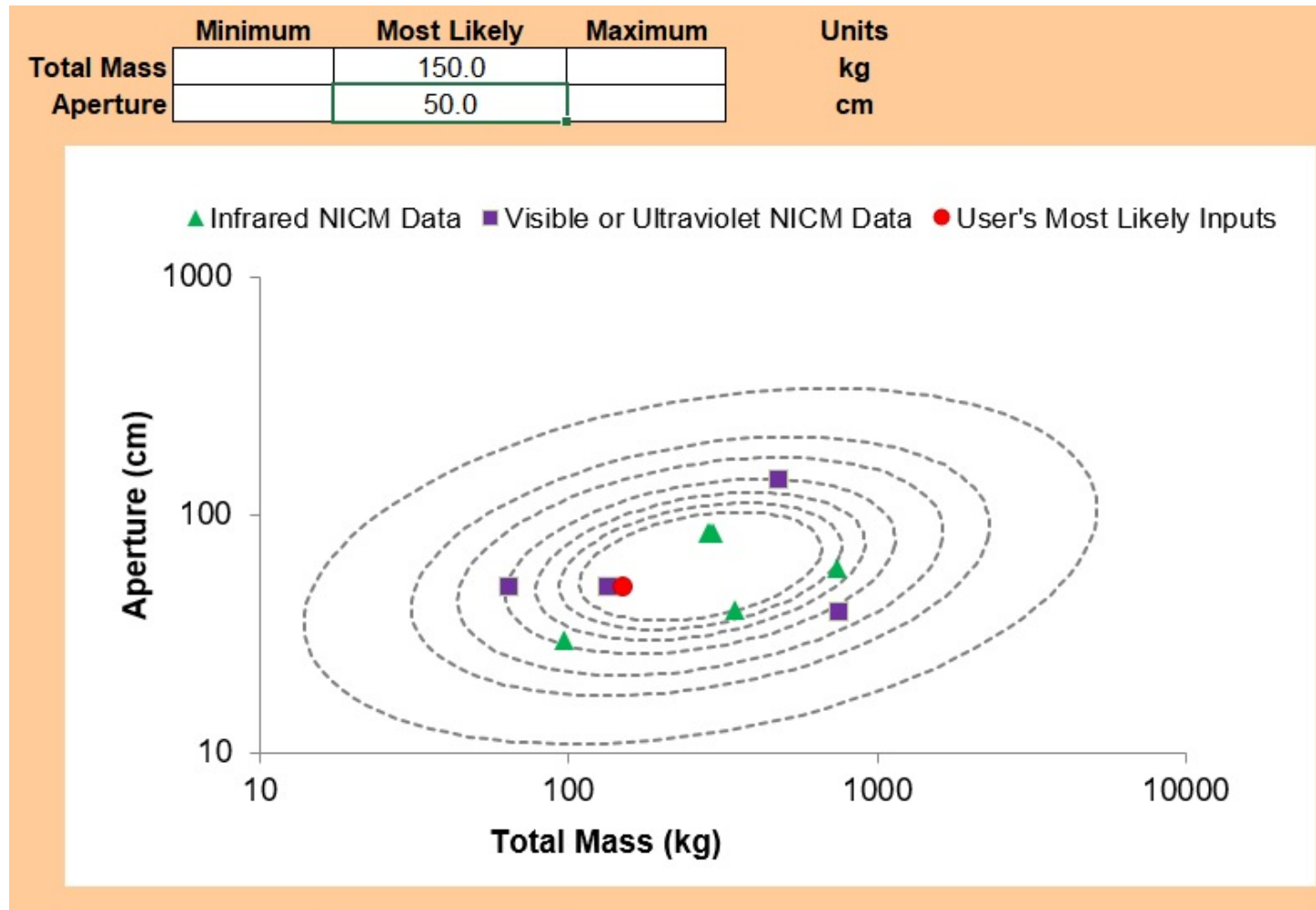
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  - **New Cryocooler Cost Estimations**

# Cryocoolers: NICM VII Equation

- NICM VII applies the following equation to estimate the cost of a New Cryocooler Development:

$$\text{Cryocooler Cost (FY04 \$K)} = \mathbf{40,099} \times \text{LowTemp}^{-0.15}$$

where “LowTemp” is the lowest temperature (in Kelvin) that the instrument needs to be cooled to by the cryocooler.

- **Note that large coefficient in front of the equation.**

# Cryocoolers: NICM VII Equation

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- **This equation was built off of data from new and unique cooler designs requiring significant development.**

# Cryocoolers: NICM VII Equation

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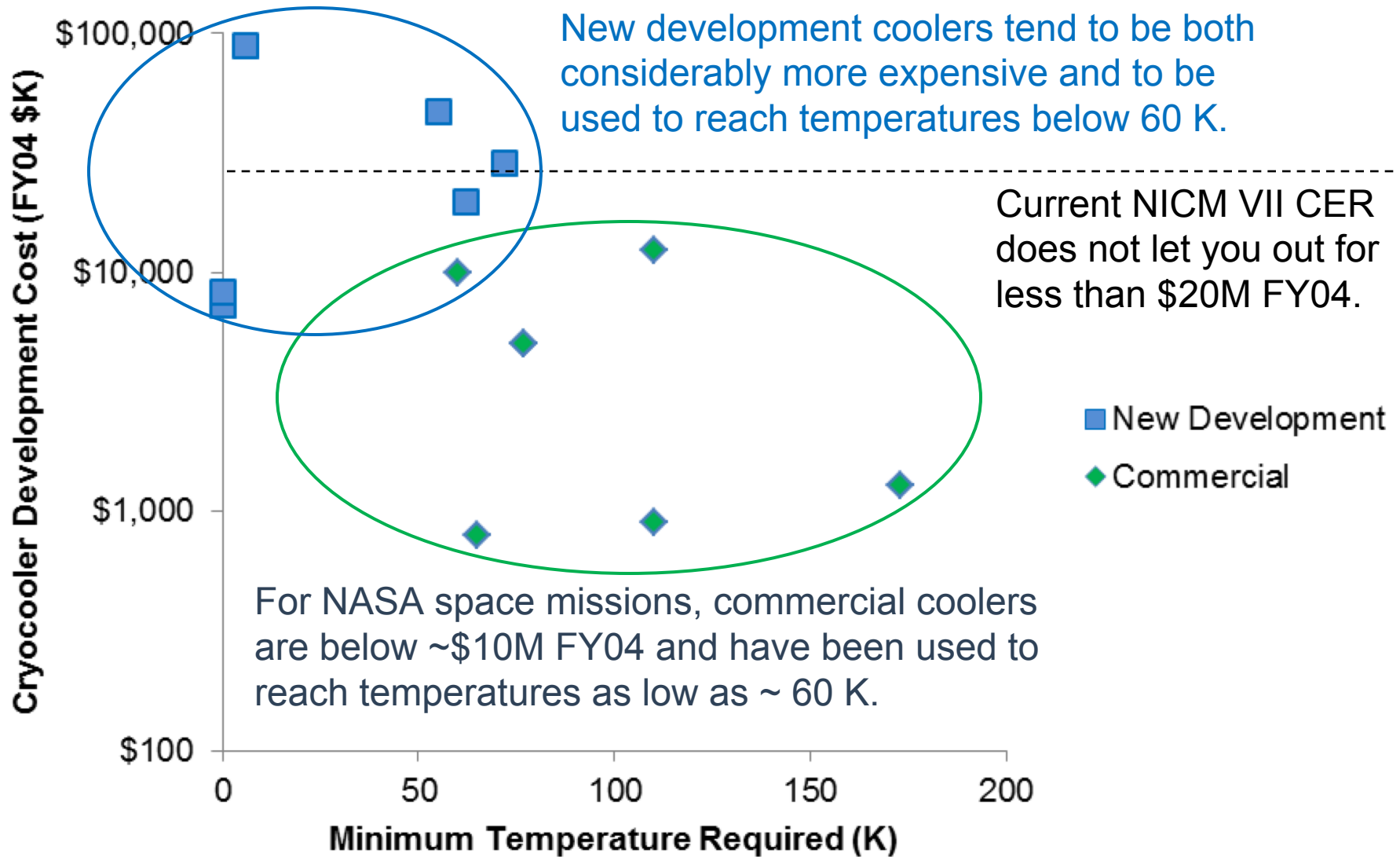
$$\text{Cryocooler Cost (FY04 \$K)} = 40,099 \times \text{LowTemp}^{-0.15}$$

where “LowTemp” is the lowest temperature (in Kelvin) that the instrument needs to be cooled to by the cryocooler.

- **However, many present applications are utilizing commercially available cryocooler solutions, which enable significant cost savings.**



# Commercial vs. New Development



Note: Dewars not shown on graph.

# Cryocoolers: Background

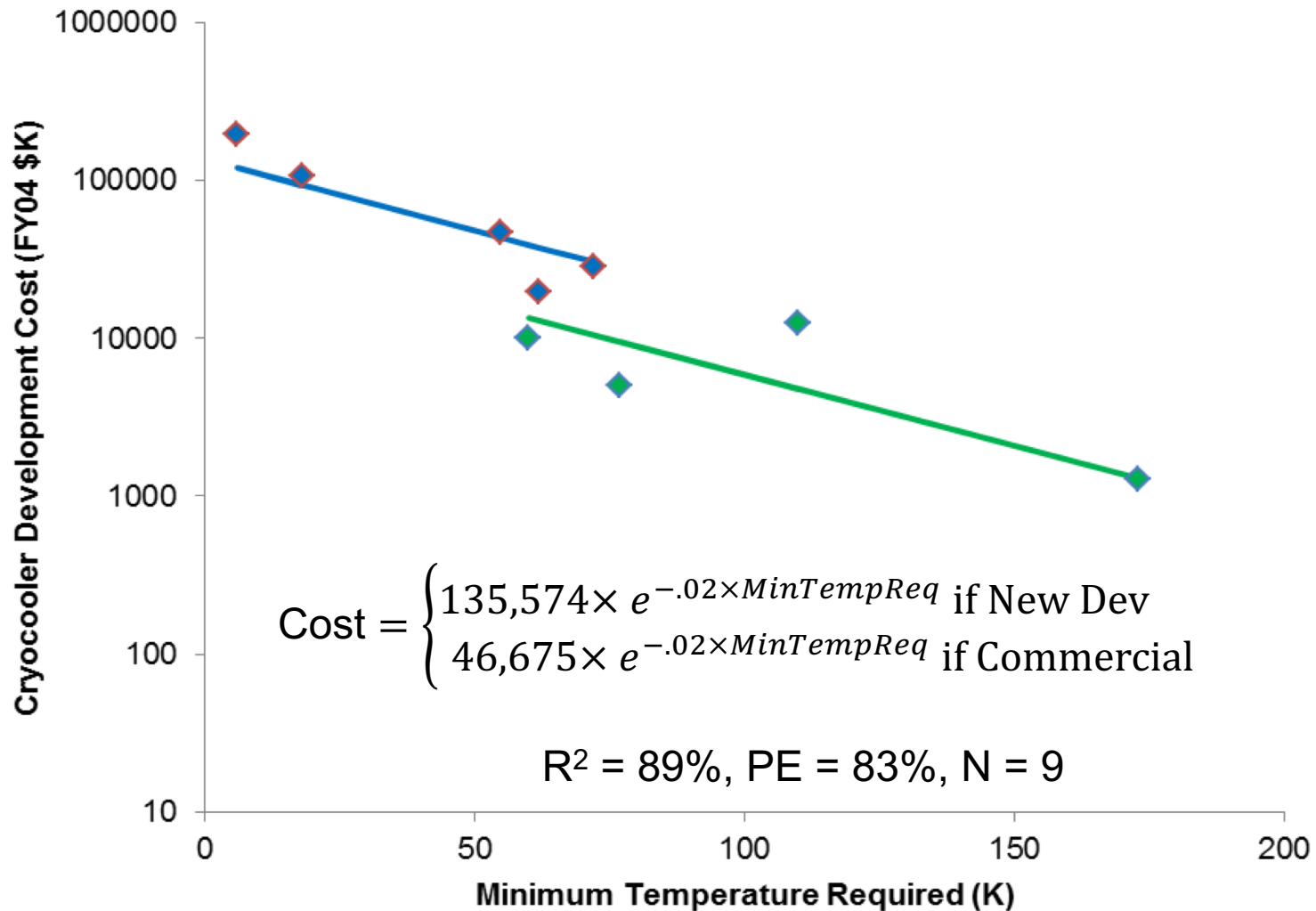
- NICM VII applies the following equation to estimate the cost of a New Cryocooler Development:

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- **The new NICM VIII Cryocooler CER allows estimates of cost for both new designs and those leveraging commercial solutions.**

# Cryocooler CER



◆ Commercial

◆ New Development

# NICM VII vs. NICM VIII Cryocooler CERs

Costs in \$K FY04

- NICM VII: New Cryocoolers Only

$$\text{Cryocooler Cost} = 40,099 \times \text{LowTemp}^{-0.15}$$

- NICM VIII: New Cryocoolers *and* Commercial

$$\text{Cryocooler Cost} = \begin{cases} 135,574 \times e^{-.02 \times \text{MinTempReq}} & \text{if New Dev} \\ 46,675 \times e^{-.02 \times \text{MinTempReq}} & \text{if Commercial} \end{cases}$$

**The new NICM VIII Cryocooler CER allows estimates of cost for both new designs and those leveraging commercial solutions.**

# Sneak Peek: Future Work Already Underway

- Research for NICM IX has already begun
  - Further improvements expected to the Schedule Estimating Relationships, such as Mission Class based SERs.
  - Exploring the role of Class in the Subsystem CERs and Wraps.
  - Exploring splitting the Detector CERs into further subcategories.
  - Explore data imputation methods to utilize incomplete data.
  - Explore override capabilities when vendor quotes used.
  - Upgrade Search Engine to allow “Or” and other searches.
  - Add hyperlinks from plots to NICM Instrument Sheets.
  - And more!

# Training and Download

- Email [NICM@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:NICM@jpl.nasa.gov) to RSVP for the next Live or WebEx training opportunity
- NICM can be downloaded from [www.oncedata.com](http://www.oncedata.com) for NASA users.
- All other users can request a copy at: [NICM@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:NICM@jpl.nasa.gov)

# Questions?

## 1. International Cost Estimation and Analysis Association (ICEAA)

- NASA Instrument Cost Model (NICM), 2014 International Cost Estimation and Analysis Association (ICEAA) Professional Development & Training Workshop, Denver Colorado, June 2014, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski, G. Fox.

## 2. IEEE Aerospace

- NASA Instrument Cost Model for Explorer-like Mission Instruments, 2014 Aerospace Conference, Big Sky, MT, March 2014, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski, G. Fox.
- NASA Instrument Cost and Schedule Model, 2011 Aerospace Conference, Big Sky, MT, March 2011, H. Habib-Agahi, G. Fox, J. Mrozinski.

## 3. AIAA Space

- NASA Space Flight Instruments: Cost Time Trends, 2016 Space Conference, Long Beach, CA, September 2016, J. Mrozinski, M. DiNicola, H. Habib-Agahi.
- Latest NASA Instrument Cost Model (NICM): Version VI, 2014 Space Conference, San Diego, CA, August 2014, J. Mrozinski, H. Habib-Agahi, G. Fox, G. Balls.

## 4. NASA Cost and Schedule Symposiums

- NICM: Cryocooler, August 2017, J. Mrozinski, M. DiNicola
- The Silent S in NICM: NICM Schedule Capabilities, August 2017, J. Mrozinski, M. DiNicola
- NASA Instrument Cost Model: Impact of Mission Class on Cost, Glenn Research Center, August 2016, J. Mrozinski, M. DiNicola, H. Habib-Agahi.
- NICM Version VII, Ames Research Center, August 2015, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski, M. DiNicola.
- Telescope Cost Estimating, Langley Research Center, August 2014, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski.
- NASA Instrument Cost Model for Explorer-like Mission Instruments, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, August 2013, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski, G. Fox, G. Ball.
- NASA Instrument Cost Model, Applied Physics Laboratory, August 2012, H. Habib-Agahi, J. Mrozinski
- NICM, Johnson Space Center, August 2011, J. Mrozinski

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**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
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[jpl.nasa.gov](http://jpl.nasa.gov)