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## USING NVIDIA OMNIVERSE<sup>™</sup> TO SUPPORT SPACE MISSION DESIGN: SMULATION-FIRST

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# SPEAKER



#### **LUTZ RICHTER**

SoftServe Space Projects Consultant

# ACENDA

- 01 NVIDIA Omniverse 101
- **02** The Space Domain: Some Trends and Pains
- **03** SoftServe space use cases with the Omniverse
- **04** On-going novel directions: SDG and GenAl
- **05** Takeaways

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# **NVDA OMNVERSE 101**

## **OMNIVERSE KEY PARTS**







## SOFTSERVE AND NVIDIA

#### **ELITE SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNER STATUS**

#### 150+

#### 750+



People experienced in NVIDIA stack and Professional Services as an Elite SDP Experts in BigData, Al/ML, Robotics, IoT, AR/VR and R&D

#### **GLOBAL LAUNCH PARTNER FOR OMNIVERSE**

Dedicated Omniverse Competency Team being deployed, capable of developing connectors, extensions, IsaacSim robotic simulation, CloudXR, and heavy focus around Digital Twins industrial solutions.



#### **EXPERTISE IN USING GPUS IN THE CLOUD**



#### NVIDIA OMNIVERSE EXPLORER GLOBAL LAUNCH PARTNER



#### **NVIDIA AI ENTERPRISE** SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNER



#### EMBEDDED EDGE COMPETENCY PARTNER





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# **SPACE DOMAIN: SOME** TRENDS AND PAINS

## CURRENT GLOBAL THEMES FOR IN-SPACE TECHNOLOGIES

#### SATELLITE-BASED OBSERVATION OF EARTH & OTHER BODIES

- Systemic imaging of Earth's surface in various wavelengths & atmospheric sounding: environmental monitoring, change detection / security -> private and public actors
- Orbiters around the Moon and other solar system objects
- Ever more sophisticated instruments lead to unprecedented amounts of data

## CONNECTIVITY & COMMUNICATIONS

- Large constellations ("mega constellations") for data services
- Operations of multi-robot architectures

#### SPACE ROBOTICS IN EARTH ORBIT ("SUSTAINABLE SPACE")

- On-orbit servicing / satellite life extension (OOS)
- Active removal of defunct satellites and upper stages (ADR)



- Enabling sustainable lunar missions by astronauts: scouting for reserves & their exploitation (ISRU)
- Robotics in concert with astronauts
- Crewed lunar landers

## **LUNAR EXPLORATION: RECENT HIGHLIGHTS**

#### NEW ORBITERS (1994-NOW)

Filling knowledge gaps from Apollo: mapping of minerals, chemistry, terrain

#### NEW UNCREWED LANDERS

Chinese Chang'e program: landers, rovers, sample return ISRO & JAXA landers & rovers NASA CLPS commercial landers

#### NEW CREWED SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPMENT

US-led Artemis program, Chinaled ILRS

#### PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE CREWED EXPLORATION & COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

ISRU



LRO (2009-today)



KPLO / Danuri (2022)



Chang'e 3 (2013)



Chang'e 6 lander & ascender (lunar farside)



US return to the lunar surface

## THE NEW LUNAR ERA



#### There will be more lunar rovers

...a lot of actors (commercial and institutional) already doing it; **both short-range vehicles and long-range vehicles, uncrewed and crewed** 

#### Excavation and handling equipment for lunar soil and ice: ISRU

Very interesting (and demanding) mechatronics applications

### Advanced ways sought for identifying reserves that can be mined

<u>Hopping</u> and <u>flying</u> mobile systems deployed from landers





LEV-1 hopping robot of Japanese (JAXA) SLIM lunar lander (January 2024)





Intuitive machines "Micro Nova" thrusterdriven hopper



GALAGO (Astronika) for hopping mobility at lunar and Mars gravity (need to release ~50...100 J of energy per jump for a 10 kg robot)



## **SPACE PROJECTS PAINS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

#### HOW DEPLOYMENT OF NVIDIA OMNIVERSE CAN HELP

#### PAIN

#### APPROACH WITH HELP OF OMNIVERSE

Verification & Validation (V&V): often curtailed by Adopt comprehensive system simulation including interaction with budget limitations and schedule pressure -> can lead environment (digital twinning), perform virtual commissioning (VC), to mission loss software-in-the-loop (SIL) testing Production site rendering and digital twinning -> adopt approaches (Series) production: acceptance test & quality issues from industrial metaverse (Space) robotics: challenges with materials, sensors, Simulation-first: high fidelity (co-)simulation of the robotic system and cabling, and other components; robust prediction of interaction with its environment: sensors simulation, control system, system behavior in the relevant environment advanced control with AI (ML, PINNs, training using synthetic data), teleoperations I/F, operators training (XR & AR) Satellite constellations & formations, orbital debris, Orbit control (active S/C), user-friendly tools for prediction of space situational awareness encounters

Lunar and other extraterrestrial resources: comprehensive mapping and estimation of reserves (deposits whose exploitation is economically viable)



Digital twinning of geologic settings and deposits (descriptive models), Al-assisted mineral association analysis



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## NVIDIA OMNIVERSE<sup>™</sup> SOFTSERVE USE CASES FOR SPACE: OUR SPACE ROBOTICS PRACTICE IS BUILT ON OMNIVERSE

## **SPACE IS DIFFICULT, DANGEROUS, AND EXPENSIVE**

# SIMULATING IS NOT

It is easy, safe, and cost-effective

## **SIMULATION-FIRST IS MORE AGILE AND CHEAPER**



Robot simulation enables developers to train, simulate, and validate advanced robotic systems through virtual robot learning and testing. It all happens in physicsbased digital representations of environments, prior to deployment

**30%**Duration saving **27%**Cost saving



## **DIGITAL TWINS SPECTRUM**







## **OMNIVERSE BRINGS IT TOGETHER**





#### **COLLABORATIVE DESIGN AS A KEY MEASURE TO ACCELERATE SPACE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CYCLES**

SoftServe promoting the following approach to space system developers:

Apply **collaborative engineering** using NVIDIA Omniverse<sup>™</sup>, allowing to:

- Apply "simulation-first" approach
- Stream 3D models and simulations to stakeholders
- Convert traditional design reviews and project checkpoints into a continuous process with much shorter iteration cycles

Deploy Gen AI to support generation of project documents and manuals





## **SOFTSERVE** REGOLITH CONVEYING SOLUTION

#### **BUSINESS CHALLENGE**

A space exploration startup was looking for an electromechanical system to feed lunar regolith into a chemical processor that would demonstrate extraction of mineralogically-bound oxygen from the lunar soil as part of local resource utilization concepts for the Moon.

#### **SOLUTION**

SoftServe conceived a low mass design with minimized degrees of freedom in just a week's time.

#### **VALUE DELIVERED**

- Design of the electromechanical system produced in record time.
- Framework of simulation set up using NVIDIA Omniverse<sup>™</sup>.



Part B: technical description

**OXYMOON:** A COMPREHENSIVE OXYGEN PRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN PRESENCE ON THE MOON AND BEYOND



Participant No *	Participant organization name	Short name	Country
1 (Coordinator)	Helios Project Ltd	HP	Israel
2	Absolut System	AS	France
3	SoftServe	SS	Poland
4	Ispace	TE	Luxembourg







## S/C THERMAL ANALYSIS

## General approach for S/C thermal modeling

#### PROBLEM

Our customer is one of the lunar landing probes service providers to NASA. They already had a thermal simulation model for the spacecraft and its interaction with the environment. But they found that its fidelity and computational efficiency needed improvement, soliciting development of a new tool solution that was also going to be used in the mission ground control segment for real-time predictions.

#### SOLUTION

- Toolchain devised by SoftServe
- Trajectory Generator: gives the information about the position and transfer of directional radiation sources
- OpenFOAM: generating database of view factors depends on the position -> generates the heat fluxes for each surface -> sent to NVIDIA Modulus
- NVIDIA Modulus sends the surface temperature to generate output heat fluxes for each S/C surface (inner radiation nodes) -> inner radiation nodes send back heat fluxes to NVIDIA modulus -> generate the new temperature distribution
- Controller: responsible for changing the position of the element, the inner source control and shape of the radiator's elements
- NVIDIA Modulus: solver

#### IMPACT

- Efficient solution implementation drawing heavily on already measured thermal behavior of the S/C
- Modular solution allowing description of changes in S/C features such as heaters
- Rapid implementation within three months (schedule driven by mission launch)













## **SOFTSERVE LUNAR DRONE SIMULATION**

#### **BUSINESS CHALLENGE**

- **LUNAR ISRU:** A space exploration startup was studying a thrusterdriven vehicle for controlled powered flight over the lunar surface for resource prospecting (e.g., searching for ice deposits on the Moon). They approached SoftServe to assess the GNC system.
- **LUNAR SCIENCE:** A Texas-based R&D institution approached SoftServe to consider the thruster-driven drone for carrying a mass spectrometer to analyze ices within lunar caves and lava tubes.

#### SOLUTION

SoftServe conceived a notional vehicle concept along with its guidance system. Using ROS2 and **NVIDIA Isaac Sim**, the vehicle with its sensors and control system was modeled, and simulations performed of flights over a synthetic lunar landscape created in Blender.

#### **VALUE DELIVERED**

- Conceptual design of a guidance and flight control system for a thruster-driven lunar "drone"
- Implementation of a system model in NVIDIA Isaac Sim and running complete flight simulations for the design reference mission of flying into, through, and out of a lunar lave tube (using a "skylight" as entry and exit points)











#### Propulsion system

## **SOFTSERVE LUNAR DRONE SIMULATION**

- Thruster driven vehicle for controlled flights with option for refueling
- Flight control sensors: two monocular cameras and an IMU
- Linear Kalman filter for sensor fusion and state prediction
- Sensors feeding a visual SLAM algorithm (simultaneous localization and mapping), performing autonomous navigation to reach pre-assigned targets while generating a map via point clouds



Point cloud example from simulated flight through lava tube



## **MODELING OF THE LUNAR TERRAIN**





## **MODELING OF LUNAR LAVA TUBES**

Recreated an example terrain and lava tube model using lunar satellite data and published models on lunar skylights and pits

Skylights imaged from lunar orbit; presence of lava tubes inferred from orbiting ground penetrating radar measurements (e.g., from KAGUYA lunar orbiter)

Potential image of a lunar lava tube skylight with a diameter of 65 m in the Marius Hills area. (a) Panoramic view of the region, showing the designated area for crater counting marked by a solid white polygon. (**b**) Marius Hills Hole (MHH). (c-f) Magnified images of the MHH, with arrows indicating the direction of sunlight illumination (I) and camera perspective (V).

Lava tubes: exciting features on the Moon because could be a "safe haven" (protected from thermal extremes and radiation) for future crewed outposts

Moreover, some could be harboring ice (easier to access than in polar shaded regions)

Candidate sites of potential underground caverns in the Marius Hills region. The color of the circles represents the power difference between the first and second echo peaks (DPrb). The lower the DPrb value, the greater the possibility of the existence of underground lava tubes.

(Qiu et al., 2023)







#### MODELING OF SYNTHETIC LUNAR TERRAIN: USING NVIDIA REPLICATOR

#### **BUSINESS OVERVIEW**

As part of the lunar drone simulation work by SoftServe:

• Reduce implementation time through automatic world modification

#### SOLUTION

- Utilize NVIDIA Replicator and Isaac Sim for environment randomization
  - Drone position
  - Stone quantity, shape, and size
- Test the algorithm in various environments
- Fine-tune the algorithm based on test results
- Enable obstacles recognition for safe landing

#### IMPACT

- Increased the quality of the designed drone mapping algorithm
- Enabled synthetic dataset generation for obstacle recognition
- Decreased the time needed for environment randomization



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#### MODELING OF THE LUNAR TERRAIN: USING NVIDIA REPLICATOR





## **MAPPING APPROACH**

- vSLAM: visual simultaneous localization and mapping
- Providing absolute position and attitude (in world frame) for sensor fusion
- Solution used in this software is a modified version of ORB\_SLAM3
- ORB SLAM3 provides tracking of keypoints (KP)
- Each keyframe (KF) consist of a set of keypoints. Each map consists of a set of keyframes. The vSLAM package publishes all trackable KFs along with the camera position that was used to capture a given KF

Occupancy map: the drone uses an occupancy map to safely navigate and explore the environment: based on an OctoMap library. OctoMap works by casting rays from the camera to the KPs and marking visited volume (voxels) as:

- Free volume is known to contain nothing
- Occupied volume is known to contain an obstacle
- Unknown volume has not been seen

Behavior tree including a graph-based exploration algorithm1



The basic idea behind a graph-based exploration algorithm is to represent the environment as a three dimensions occupancy map with nodes representing locations in the environment and edges representing the paths between them. The algorithm then explores the graph by moving from node to node, with the goal of maximizing the *exploration gain*. This gain is given as a function of the distance, path straightness and *volumetric gain*.



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# SIMULATION MOVIE SNIPPET

## SIMULATION MOVIE SNIPPET



# **Simulation** of flight through a lunar lava tube



## **CO-SIMULATION FOR LUNAR ROBOTICS**

Proper energy consumption on the Moon is an important factor for successful mission accomplishment.

SoftServe's simulation approach utilizes **cosimulation to enable combination of highfidelity model for tool-regolith** (terramechanical) interaction modeling with robotics simulation.

Mechatronics systems interacting with surface materials include:

- Landing gear
- Rover mobility systems
- Excavation, sampling, and sample handling











EXOMARS SPDS: SAMPLE METERING STATION



## **USE CASE: EXCAVATION ON THE MOON**

Soil excavation essential for future mining to extract resources (concept of ISRU)

So far: only done at small scales for scientific purposes -> larger scale solutions needed in the future as part of ISRU -> simulations required to support concept finding and design

Proper design solution needs to consider lower gravity on the Moon









#### SOFTSERVE L-REX ONVIDIA Omniverse

#### **BUSINESS OVERVIEW**

The SoftServe robotics team developed a solution to a mobile platform equipped with a robotics arm with a scoop and a vibratory mechanism to scoop the regolith searching for ice deposits on the Moon. The solution had to include the following features:

- Scoop the Moon regolith for exploration or construction
- Detect ice deposits while scooping
- Enable energy efficient operations

#### SOLUTION

- **NVIDIA Omniverse** capabilities of high-fidelity simulation with use of FMI/FMU co-simulation standard and **PhysX engine**
- Provide a conceptual design of hardware components of the robot able to perform scooping on the Moon
- Design a vibratory mechanism to ensure energy-effective scooping
- Apply simulation-first approach for efficient scooping
- Utilize robotics perception for ice deposit detection
- Implement high-fidelity terramechanics approach to calculate the forces acting between the scoop and regolith (**NVIDIA WARP**)
- Enable **real-time energy consumption tracking** to enable energy-efficient mission accomplishment

#### IMPACT

- Increase mission duration with energy efficient scooping
- Enable real-time ice deposit detection
- Validate complex robotics solution in simulation using NVIDIA Omniverse





#### L-REX CO-SIMULATION ARCHITECTURE







## FEED FORWARD TO PROJECT FOR NASA



DEC 22, 2023

SOFTSERVE JOINS INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO DEVELOP NASA-FUNDED LUNAR LANDING AND LAUNCH PAD TECHNOLOGIES

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#### **READ MORE**

Companies team up to develop Moon landing and launch pad technology with funding from NASA's STTR 2023 Program

AUSTIN, Texas (Dec. 22, 2023) – <u>SoftServe</u>, a premier IT consulting and digital services provider, today announced plans of joining an international coalition on a NASA-funded project to develop lunar technologies. The project comes after San Antonio-based Astroport Space Technologies won a NASA STTR 2023 Phase II



Terramechanics Simulation Progress Update



Semi-empirical modeling as pioneered by M. G. Bekker

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Extensive heritage and validation base for terrestrial vehicles since 1950's

Successfully used to design mobility systems for lunar rovers (Apollo LRV, Yutu), Mars rovers (JPL Mars rovers, ExoMars, Zhurong)









## MULTI-ROBOT ON THE "MOON"

# **SoftServe internal accelerator** to build a framework for **orchestration of fleets of autonomous robots**

Without limiting generality, reference use case: multi-robot team on the Moon for resource prospecting, exploratory sampling, mining, and hauling near a crewed lunar outpost

The SoftServe thruster-driven drone flying overhead, several L-REX excavators and haulers

-> combining it all together

**NVIDIA Omniverse** and **Isaac Sim** to model a notional lunar terrain and the robots, along with their perception and overall control

## Central, autonomous orchestration of the robots' activities

Simulation-first approach: **powered by physical AI** and the SLAM algorithm, our approach tests multi-robot orchestration algorithms in simulated environments



## **MULTI-ROBOT ON THE "MOON"**

#### **TECH STACK:**

Physical AI: AI-driven physics modeling and optimization for precise simulation, control, and decision-making in challenging environments like space and robotics
Multi-Robot SLAM: Real-time mapping and navigation for autonomous robots
Vibration System: Optimizes digging techniques and energy efficiency for L-REX excavators
Co-Simulation with Modelica: High-fidelity simulations integrating multiple physical interaction environments
NVIDIA Isaac Sim<sup>™</sup> and Omniverse: Realistic simulations with advanced visualization and physics-based capabilities
ROS 2 Middleware: Enhances communication and coordination between multiple heterogeneous autonomous robots

#### **COMPONENTS:**

**SoftServe-Owned Lunar Surface Simulation**: Enables testing of various and complex edge cases in a realistic lunar environment **Navigation System**: Capable of maneuvering through deep craters and complex cave systems, accessing previously unreachable resources

**Terramechanics Modeling**: Provides pre-configured models for simulating soil interactions and optimizing excavation techniques for L-REX excavators

**Multi-Spectral Vision System**: Pre-built simulation modules for visualizing and identifying icy particles within the soil mass, enhancing autonomous resource mapping and extraction accuracy

**Multi-Robot Fleet Orchestration**: Scalable system for managing and coordinating diverse robotic fleets, ensuring seamless collaboration

**TERRESTRIAL INDUSTRY APPLICATIONS:** Adapt the space solution, such as simulation and software development, to Earth industries, including mining, construction, and more



## **MULTI-ROBOT ON THE "MOON"**





## **MULTI-ROBOT ON THE "MOON" VIDEO**





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# ONGOING NOVEL DIRECTIONS AT SOFTSERVE

## **DIGITAL TWINNING OF SATELLITES, SPACE ROBOTIC SYSTEMS, AND OF MISSION SCENARIOS**

Adopt comprehensive system behavior simulation including interaction with environment (digital twinning)

Simulation of end-to-end space system behavior: dynamics of satellite formations / clusters / constellations, along with behavior of communications links (digital twin satellite networks (DTSNs)), GNSS interactions (pointing & position knowledge), and other aspects **Perform virtual commissioning (VC), software-in-the-loop (SIL) testing** 



## **OPTIMAL CONTROL OF DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS**

Al-enabled approach to adapt goal function to changing system states, changing environments, and in the face of system uncertainties

#### Many space use cases, including:

- Proximity operations for rendezvous and capture in orbit (on-orbit servicing / refueling, active debris removal)
- Orbit and position control for satellite formations or constellations

Proper design of such control approach relies on digital twinning and physics-based simulations



CloudCT Nanosat formation of S4 GmbH (Germany)



Satellite servicing concept (NASA)





## **ONBOARD COMPUTE FOR ADVANCED CONTROL**

#### SoftServe running several collaborations:

• E.g. NVIDIA Jetson<sup>™</sup> with custom composite radiation shielding



## THE PREMISE OF GEN AI FOR ROBOTICS

Gen Al is transforming SDG, enabling highly automated, scalable, and diverse data pipelines tailored to the needs of physical Al.

Gen AI creates comprehensive datasets essential for training AI models in robotics, autonomous systems, and manufacturing. Building scalable pipelines that generate highly diverse synthetic datasets, accelerating the development of robust physical AI solutions across industries.

# Leads to smarter, safer, and more effective robots capable of navigating unpredictable environments

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## **SPACE ROBOTICS AND GEN AI – USE CASE #1**

**Use case:** astronaut & robot interaction via voice control: domain-based vocabulary extension





## **SPACE ROBOTICS AND Gen AI – USE CASE #2**

**Use case:** manipulation of unknown objects







## **SPACE ROBOTICS AND Gen AI – USE CASE #3**

- **Use case:** real-time and autonomous adaption to changing environments
- Gen AI allows adding the next level of complexity to reinforcement learning, enabling planning of longer and more complex actions
- L-REX lunar excavator use case: excavator is scooping icy regolith, starting with some predefined policy. But as it works, it collects more data and tries to apply better strategy (identifying interaction with rocks, engaging vibratory actuator)
- NVIDIA Cosmos<sup>™</sup> can initialize world state from image -> physical AI. It requires post-training on scooping data, to better incorporate ground physics, but after collecting such data, it can be utilized as "robot's imagination"
- The feedback loop is much shorter than what a teleoperation from the Earth can achieve

#### Generated via **NVIDIA Cosmos™:**





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# TAKEAWAYS

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## **SOFTSERVE IN SPACE & IN THE LUNAR ECONOMY**

## There is a lot going on in space and lunar exploration

There is money to be made: using in-situ resources to make and sell consumables (rocket propellants, breathing air, water, ...) SoftServe is part of this effort: for now, with "simulation-first", alongside system design & testing

SoftServe's space robotics practice is built on NVIDIA Omniverse-> physics engine, various extensions, visualization



NVIDIA Isaac Sim enables space-related simulations, digital twinning, and physicsbased modeling

High-fidelity modeling and simulation of complete spacecraft (digital twinning) including sensors and complex instruments, controllers, data models, agents, robotics systems, interaction with the free space and surface environment

...and we have a lot more on our space agenda!





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# THANK YOU!



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#### ANY QUESTIONS? LET'S TALK

