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Status of the GRACE Follow-On Mission

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GRACE Follow-On, a joint US/German satellite mission to extend the critical global mass flux data records from the GRACE mission, continues to mature and advance on both sides of the Atlantic. In January 2014 the Preliminary Design Review (PDR) was conducted, and transition into phase C was accomplished in March 2014. The project Critical Design Review (CDR) is scheduled for February 2015. The current launch date remains August 2017.

The presentation will focus on the project status after the CDR of major spacecraft systems, science payloads (microwave ranging system, GNSS receiver, and accelerometer), a demonstration payload (laser ranging interferometer), mission operations, launch services and the science data system. In addition, since we now have more mature predictions of the spacecraft and instrument expected performance, we have continued to update the expected science performance via detailed colored noise simulations.