



## **Current Status Of The GRACE Follow-On Mission**

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As of the time of this abstract submission, the GRACE Follow-On satellites have been constructed and transferred to Ottobrunn near Munich for several months of operational testing in the IABG test centre. The Russian/Ukraine Dnepr launcher had to be exchanged and a corresponding new contract has been signed by GFZ and Iridium Satellite LLC. This includes a "Rideshare" between GRACE-FO and 5 Iridium-Next satellites on a Space-X Falcon-9 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California within the launch period December 2017 till February 2018.

The project team is conducting tests of satellite and instrument operation and performance and evaluating updated simulations of expected performance on-orbit, including the assessment of inter-satellite ranging (for both microwave and laser instruments), accelerometer, thermal variability and deformation, and other instrument and measurement errors. In addition, all required ground analysis software of the Science Data System is in development and being tested at JPL, UTCSR, and GFZ, in preparation for fully integrated end-to-end (international) testing from Level-1 through Level-3 data within 2017. In this presentation, we will provide the detailed status of project integration and test, the latest simulations of science performance, and a revised schedule for remaining project milestones.