

# CSS BUS FOR RAMPART

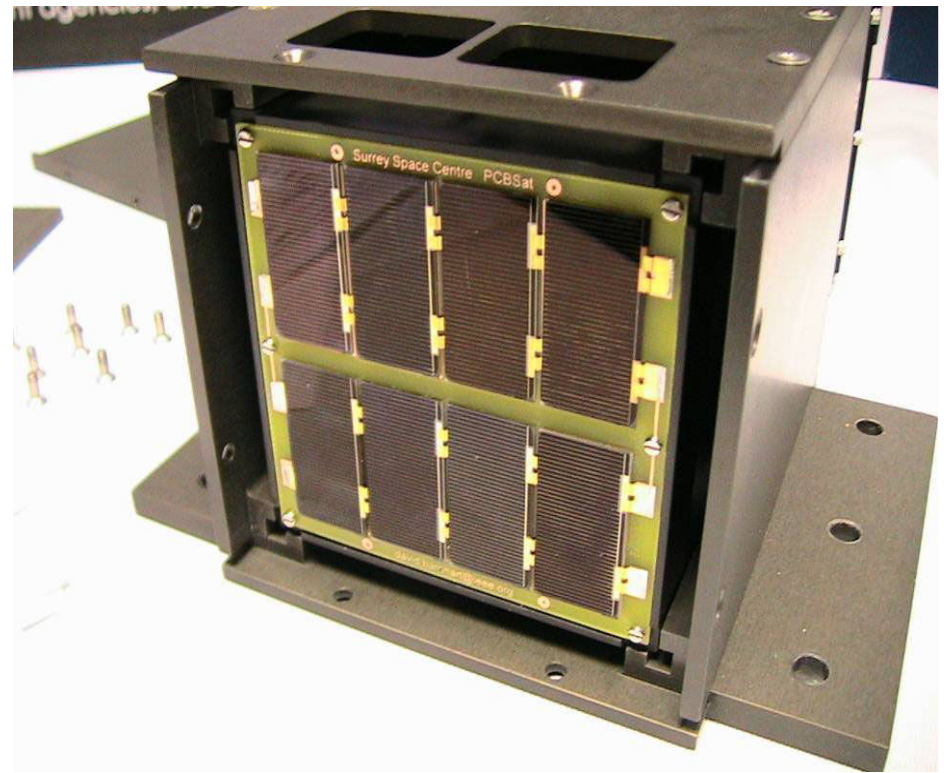
RapidprototypedMicroelectromechanicalsystem  
PropulsionAndRadiationTest CUBEflowSATellite

The evolution of PCBSat for the  
RAMPART Cubesat

# History of PCBSat

- PCBSat originally PhD work of Dave Barnhart at U of Surrey
  - “Very Small Satellite Design for Space Sensor Networks”
- Objective: What is smallest satellite that can do practical work in space ?
- Result: PCBSAT, a satellite on a Printed Circuit Board
  - Prototype built
  - Includes
    - » Data Handling, data storage
    - » Mesh radio
    - » GPS
    - » Camera
    - » Power management
    - » Solar panel
    - » iMESA plasma measurement experiment (USAFA SPARC)
    - » LiPoly battery
    - » **Size: 1/3U Cubesat**
  - Ideal as a “SnifferSat” deployed in stacks from a P-POD, up to 9 per P-POD

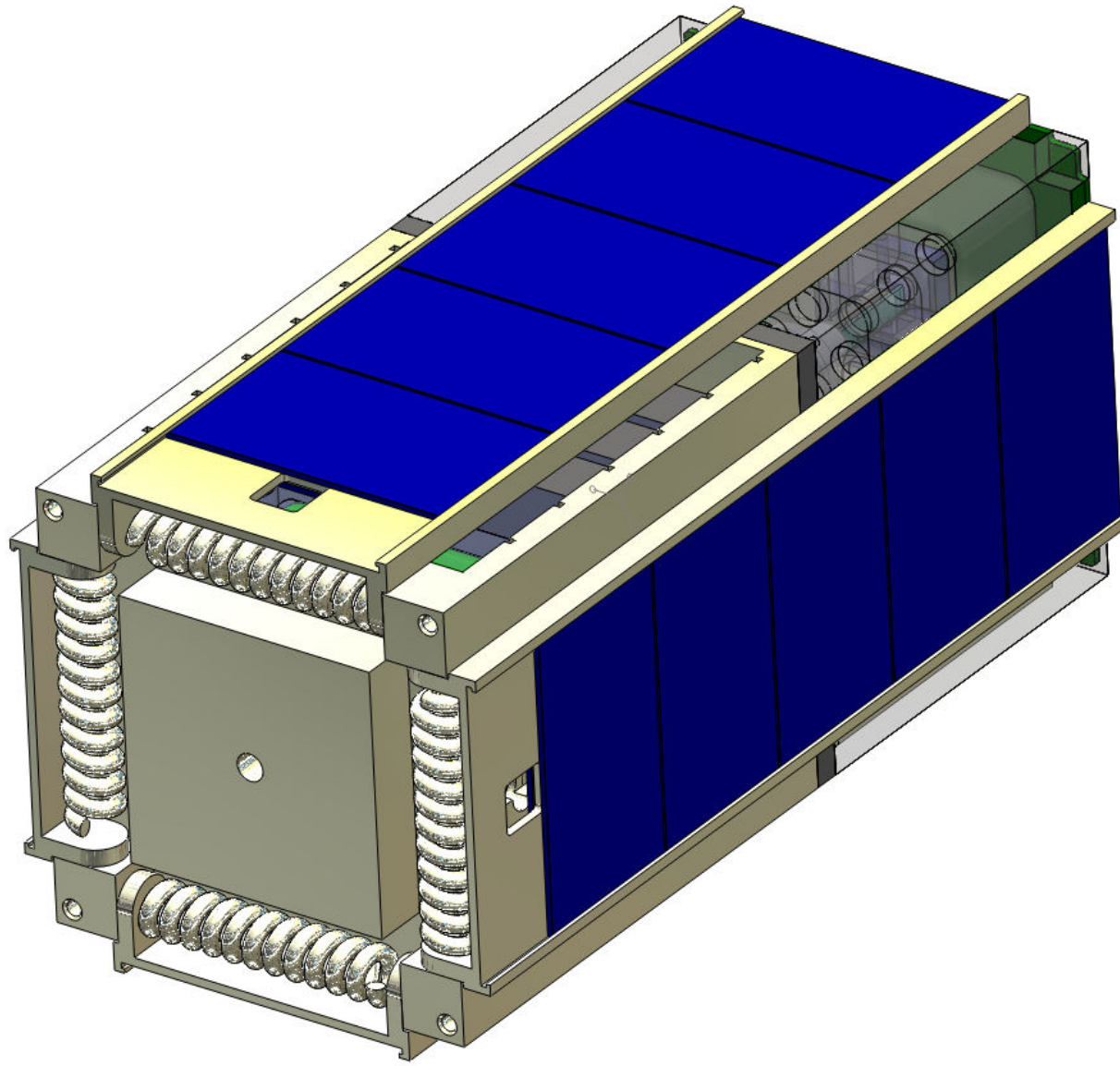
9 PCBSats in a P-POD



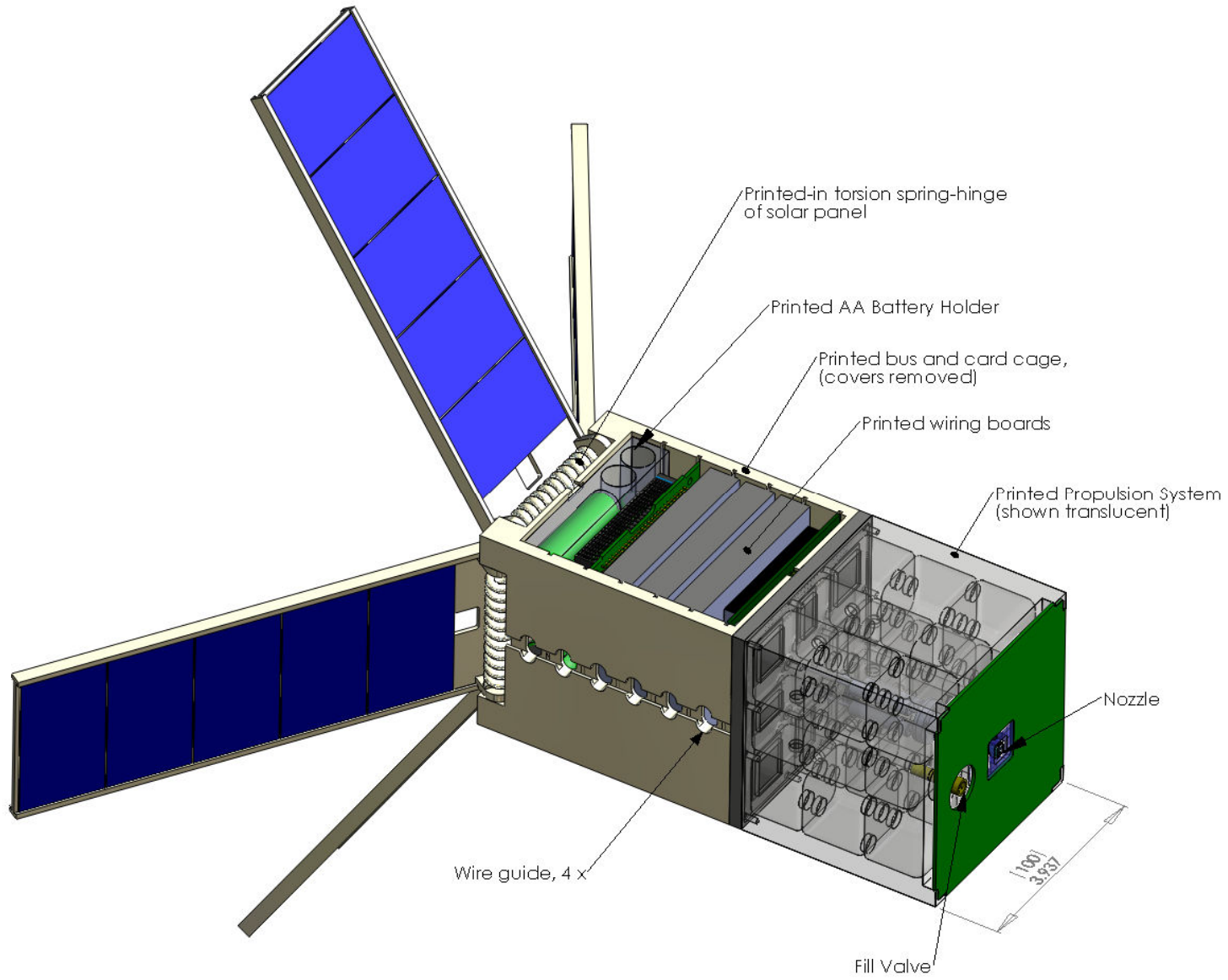
CSS

# RAMPART Stowed

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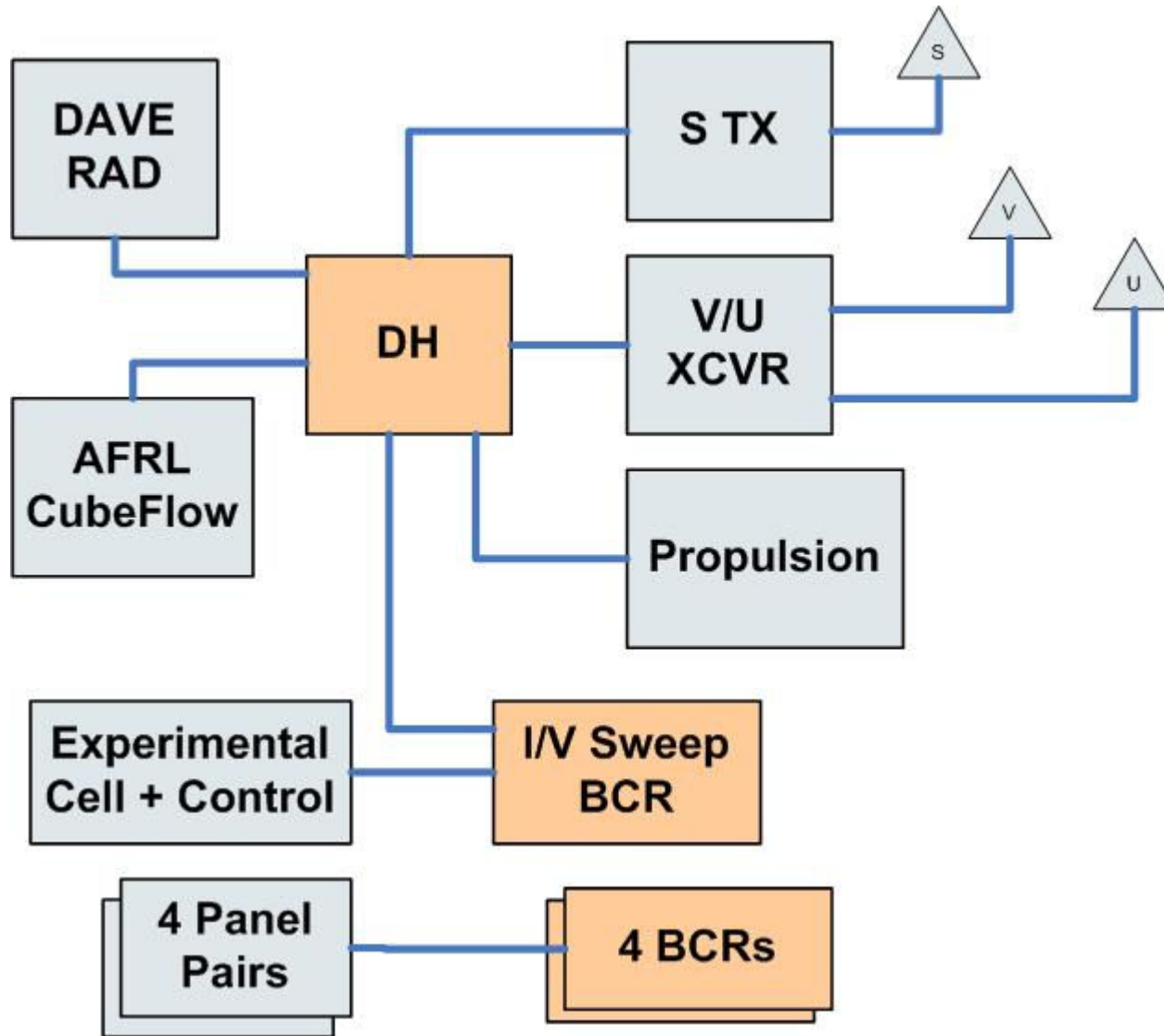
# RAMPART Deployed



- RAMPART is a tech demo and qual mission for several subsystems
- 2U cubesat into 450km circular, then raise apogee to 1500km
- Demonstrating or testing several designs, components, methods
  - “Printed” satellite including internal mechanisms, tank, nozzle
  - PnP / CubeFlow test articles from AFRL
  - Montana State DAVE experiment using original Van Allen Geiger tube
  - AFRL high efficiency solar cell and control cell
  - AFRL experimental cell cover glass on two of 8 panels
  - “Printed” warm gas propulsion, including tank
- Deployed solar panels with ‘printed’ deployment mechanism
- U and S downlinks (9k6 GMSK, 38k4 BPSK)
- V uplink

- CSSBus = Colorado Satellite Services Bus
- Evolving the PCBSat DH and EPS designs into CSSBus
  - From LiPoly -> NiMH
  - On/off battery management suitable for LiPoly -> (PWM) BCR for NiMH
  - Four individual BCRs for four pairs of panels
  - Change to Atmel ATMega1280 chip to gain USARTS (4)
  - Add power switches for experiments
  - Add I/V sweep BCR and measurements for experimental cells
- Still a single PCB with DH, storage, and EPS
  - Saves one board space

# RAMPART BLOCK DIAGRAM



## Advantages of CSSBus Design

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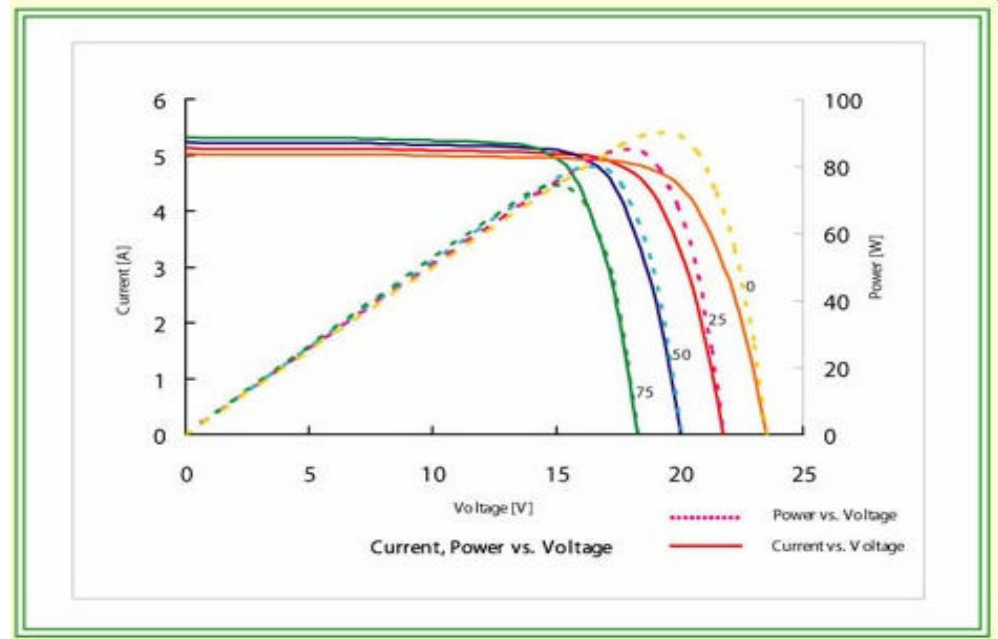
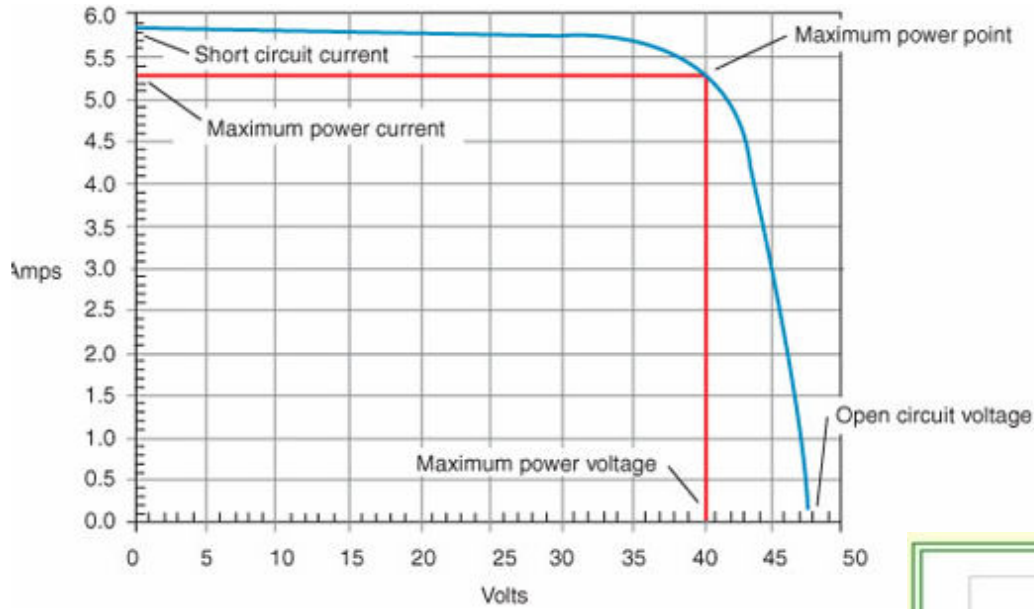
- Four true BCR strings for more efficient battery management
- Can recover from dead battery, unlike DET design
- Flash/EEPROM technology MPU and data storage for reduced RAD susceptibility
- Very low power consumption
- Can reload software on orbit if a boot loader is used
- Brown out detection and recovery for MPU
- 4 hardware USARTs for serial experiment and radio interfaces (could have up to 8 with some XMega chips)
- All on a single PCB to save space



- Somewhat RAD soft internal ADC
  - Will use tantalum wafers to mitigate
- 8 bit 10 MIPS processing power not enough for active ADCS, but more than enough for this mission
- No power draw protection for experiments
  - Satellite is mostly single string

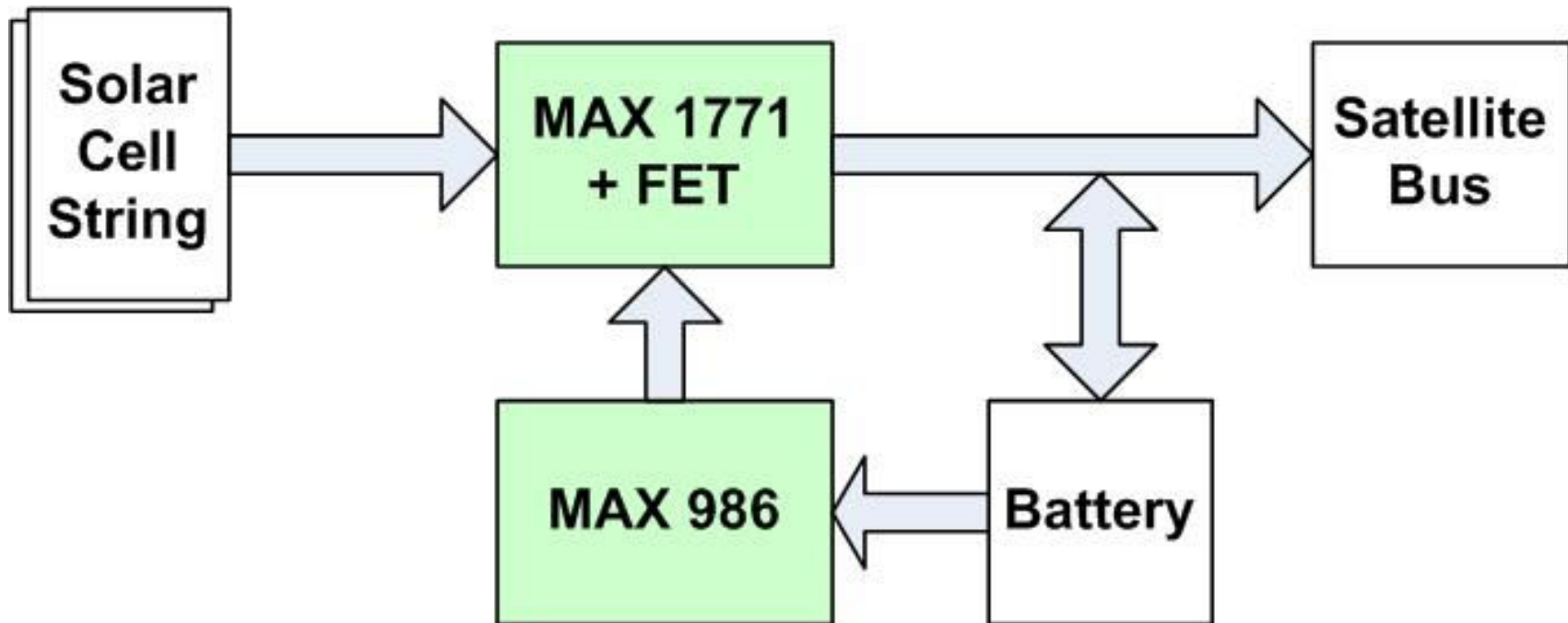
- Software development options include
  - CodeVisonAVR (selected for RAMPART)
  - IAR
  - AVRGCC (free)

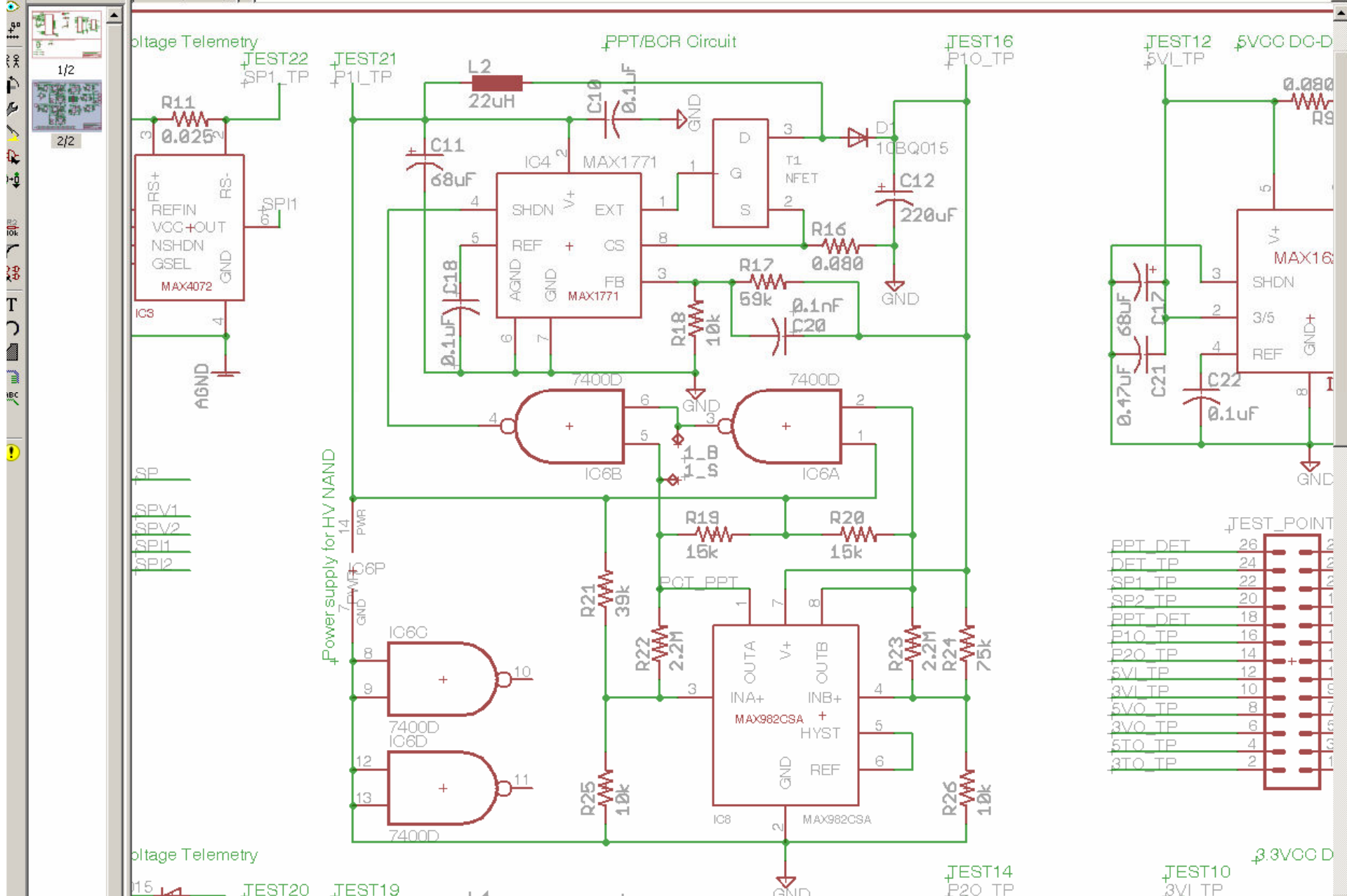
# Solar Panels and BCR Operation



# CSSBus BCR Design

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- MAX 1771 includes internal PWM to drive external NFET
- MAX 986 measures BAT V (state of charge) and signals 1771
- 1771 sets pulse width to change impedance of FET input which moves panels along the I/V curve
- If BAT V is low, cells are operated at peak power and max available power goes into battery charging and bus operation
- As BAT V climbs, 1771 changes impedance (pulse width) to slide cells down the slope of the I/V curve, BAT charging is reduced
- Power is left in the cells to be dissipated as heat
- Resistors are used to establish set point for 1771 for panel Peak Power Point and for 986 for BAT charge limit

- Amateur frequencies are desirable for a number of reasons
- RAMPART does not fit within the definition of an Amateur Radio Satellite in the Amateur Radio Satellite Service as defined in the radio regulations (ITU and FCC)
- License method recommended for this and similar cubesats or university satellites:
  - Do IARU coordination. Assures no interference and good relationship with Amateur Radio organizations.
  - Obtain FCC Part 5 Experimental license. Note interference rules and limitations. Both the satellite and ground stations must have Part 5 licenses.
- Notes:
  - There is no such thing as an unlicensed satellite under ITU treaties
    - » Using WiFi radios (Part 15) in space without licensing is a violation of FCC rules and ITU treaty
  - To operate a satellite in the Amateur Radio Service it must fit within the “basis and purpose” of that service
  - See the IARU web site for further (<http://www.iaru.org/satellite/> and click “Frequency Coordination”)

# CSSBus Design for RAMPART

## Questions



- See [http://www.iaru.org/satellite/IARUSATSPEC\\_REV15.6.pdf](http://www.iaru.org/satellite/IARUSATSPEC_REV15.6.pdf) for details on the frequency coordination process and the definition of an Amateur Radio Satellite
- The purpose of an Amateur Radio Satellite should be to
- (1) Provide communication resources for the general amateur radio community and/of
- (2) Self training and technical investigations related to radio technique

- Radio technique means having a reasonable possibility of applications to radio communication systems. Examples:
  - Communications protocols
  - Attitude determination methods
  - Command and control procedures
  - Receivers, transmitters, and transponders
  - Antennas
  - Sensors to study spacecraft performance
  - Telemetry protocols
  - Power controls and supplies for use in space
  - Spacecraft computers, memory, operating systems, programs
  - Radiation effects on electronic components
  - Radio wave propagation
  - Meteor trail reflection
  - Measurements of the orbital environment

- For ANY satellite
  - Must be able to turn off its transmitter by ground command
- For Part 5 you are the bottom of the barrel on frequency usage
  - Must not interfere with ANY other user or use in any service
  - Must accept interference from ANY other user or use in any service