

# Capella MBSE Integration for Robotic Arm Development

15 November 2023

**CapellaDays**  
Online 2023

Talk

## Capella MBSE Integration for Robotic Arm Development

Wednesday

**15th NOVEMBER, 2023**

3:35 pm UTC+1



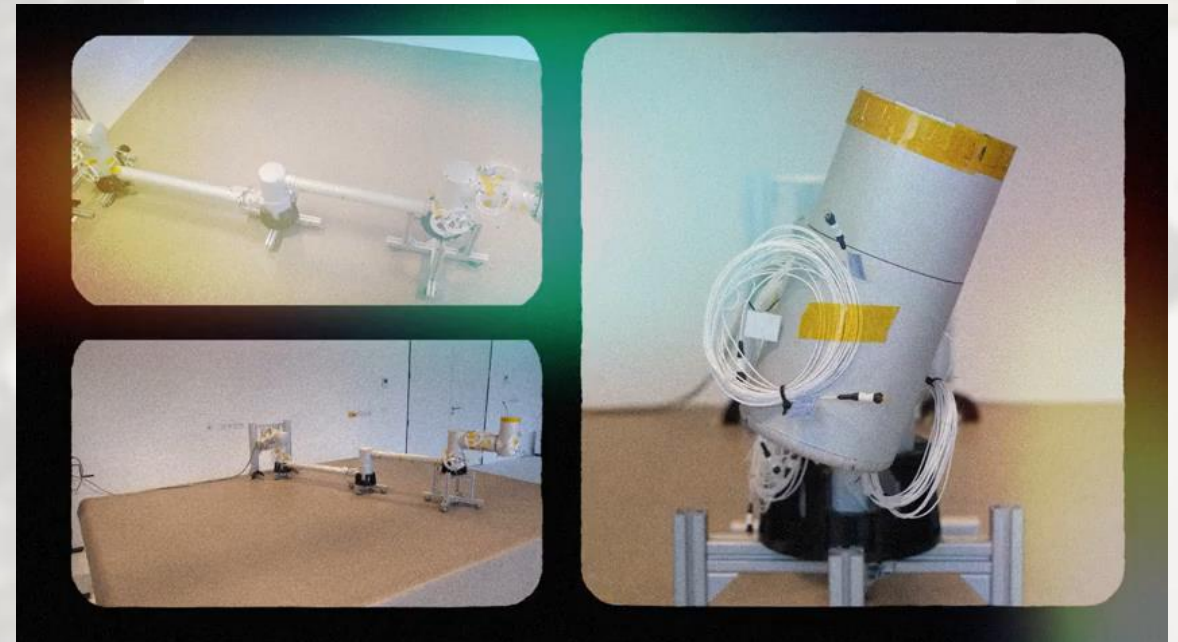
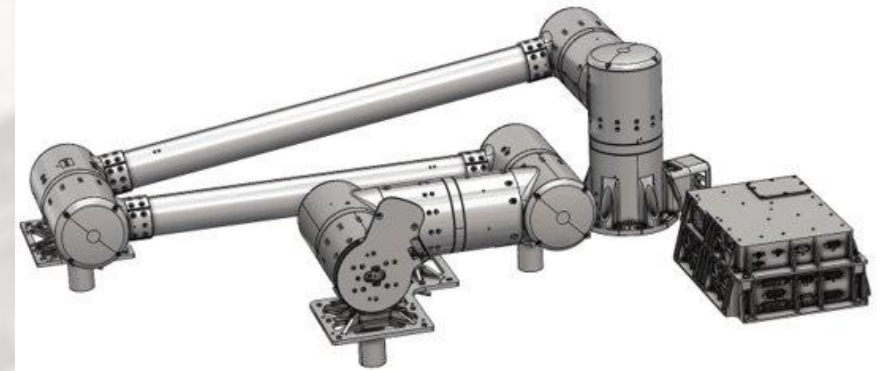
Speaker

**Vinayak Vadlamani**

Redwire Space Europe

# Product

- Designed for sustainable **On-Orbit Servicing** and **In Space Manufacturing** applications
- *STAARK* robotic subsystem (TRL 6)
  - 6-DoF robotic manipulator
  - Robotic Control Unit
  - Hold Down and Release mechanism
  - Internal flight harness
  - Custom End effector interface
- Developed by MadeinSpace/Redwire Space Europe under the Luxembourg Space Agency LuxIMPULSE program

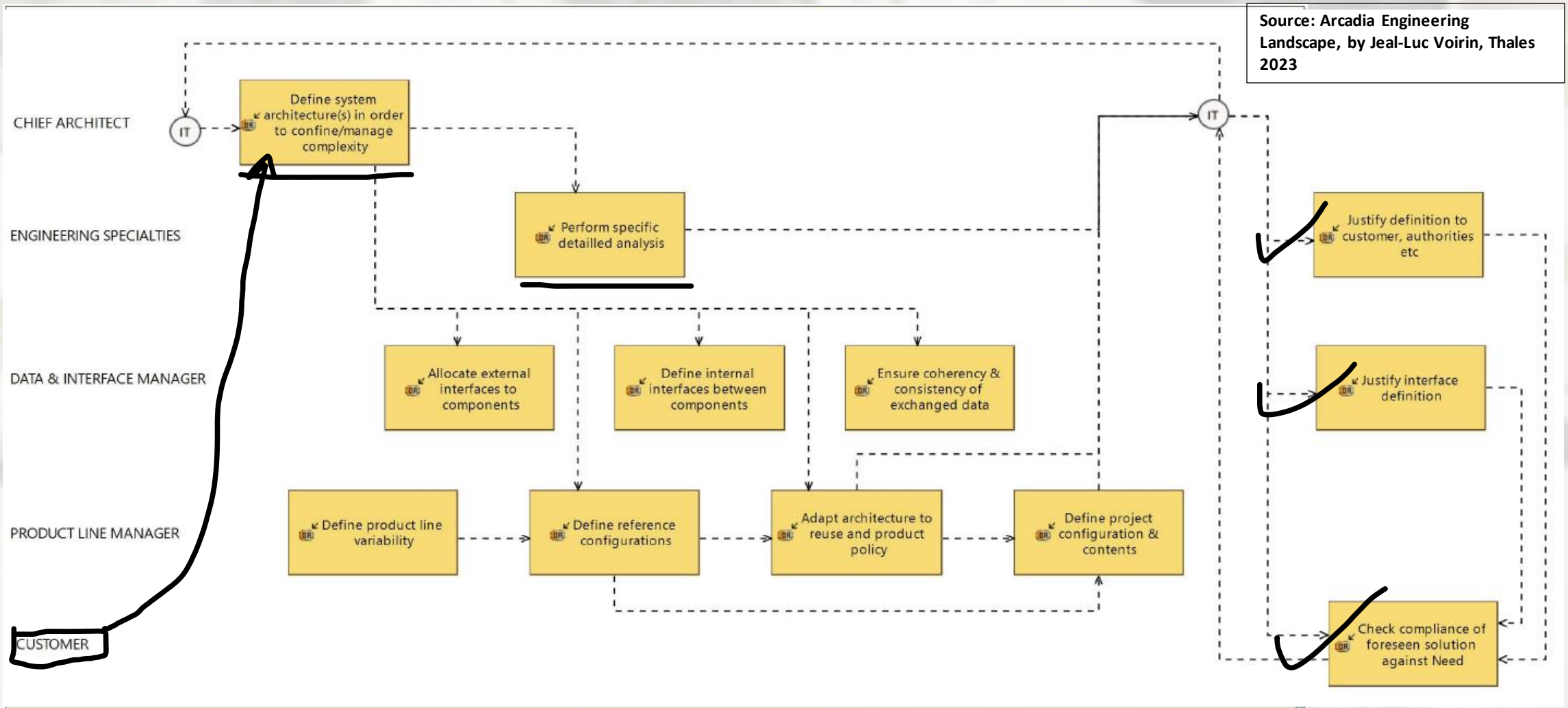


# Speaker

- Lead Systems/Chief Engineer at Redwire Space Europe (till September 2023)
- 12 years experience in spacecraft systems engineering
- B.Tech in Aerospace, M.Sc. in Aerospace
- Currently getting a CSEP certification
- Focused primarily in space domain/upstream, also critical V&V for defense
- Model Based SE enthusiast (Capella/Arcadia since 2017), introduced MBSE to multiple companies
- Interests:
  - Autonomous space robotics
  - Verification & Validation for space
  - Formal verification of autonomy agents



# Why MBSE, Why Capella?

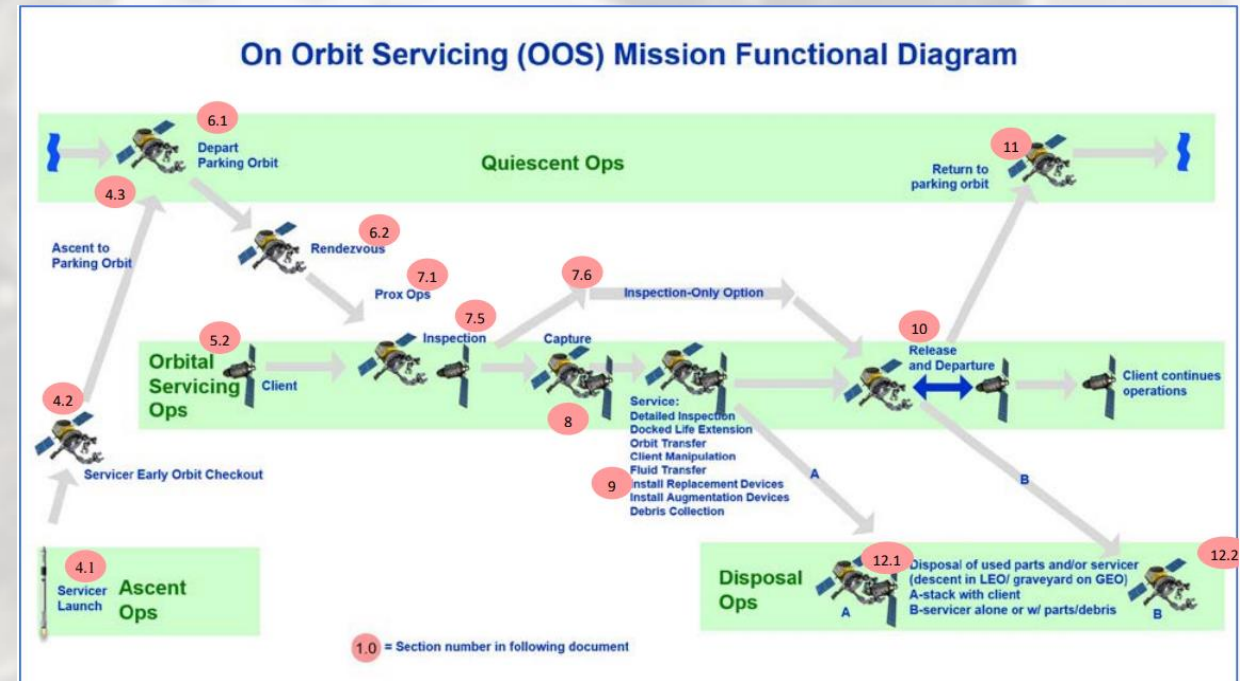


# Robotics Servicing Architecture

- CONFERS – OOS Ontology
- SpaceLogistics – Practical Experts



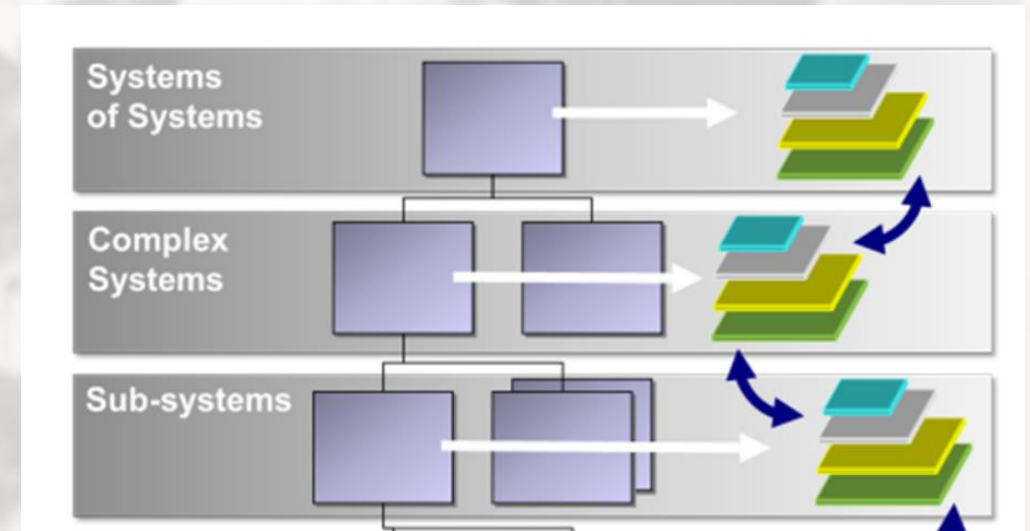
Source: SpaceNews report : Made In Space Europe and Momentus plan robotic spacecraft, Sep 2020



Source: CONFERS On-Orbit Servicing (OOS) Mission Phases, 2019

# System of Interest

- A system that integrates the robotic entities, spacecraft and the Operator is the system of interest. (shown in SA later)
- This usecase does not plan to develop the physical or logical architecture of the system thereof
- However, the tradeoff for different system architecture variations was studied as a high level decision tool



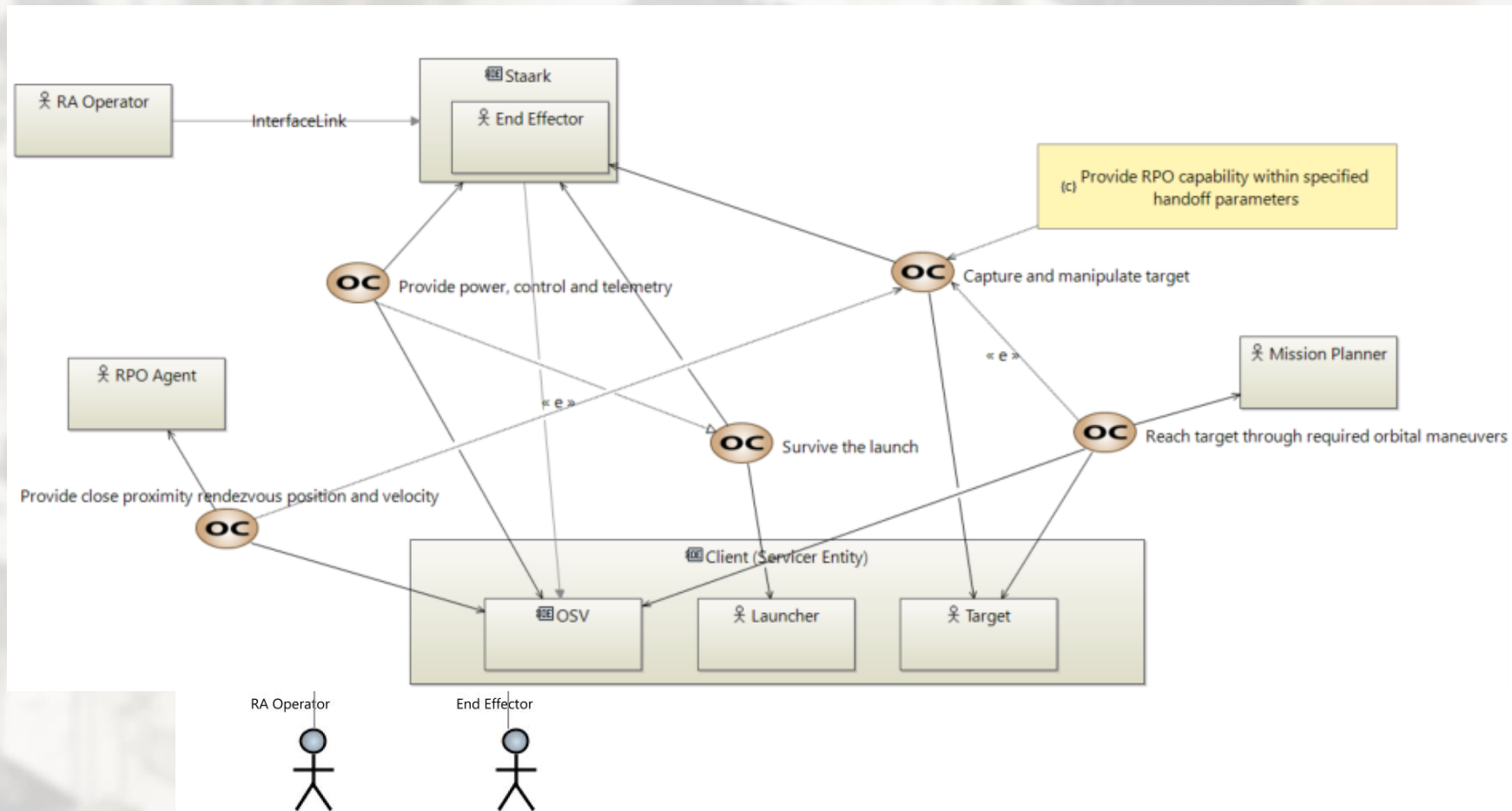
Source: Capella MBSE website

# Example ConOps for Capella



# Operational Entities/Capabilities

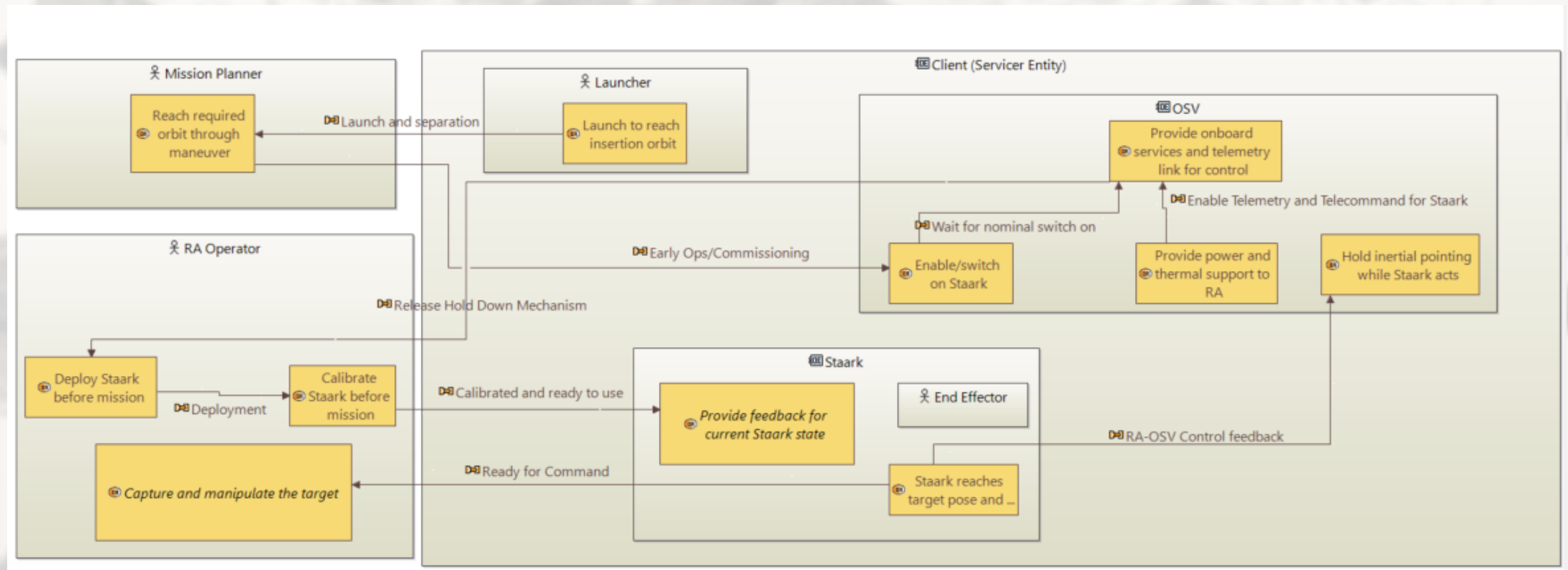
- Staark – Robotic Arm
- OSV – Orbital Servicing Vehicle
- RPO – Rendezvous Proximity Operations
- Launcher – Launch Vehicle
- Mission Planner – Developer of flight path, mission operations
- RA Operator – Robotic Arm Operations Actor
- End Effector – Tool placed at tip of robotic arm to manipulate/act





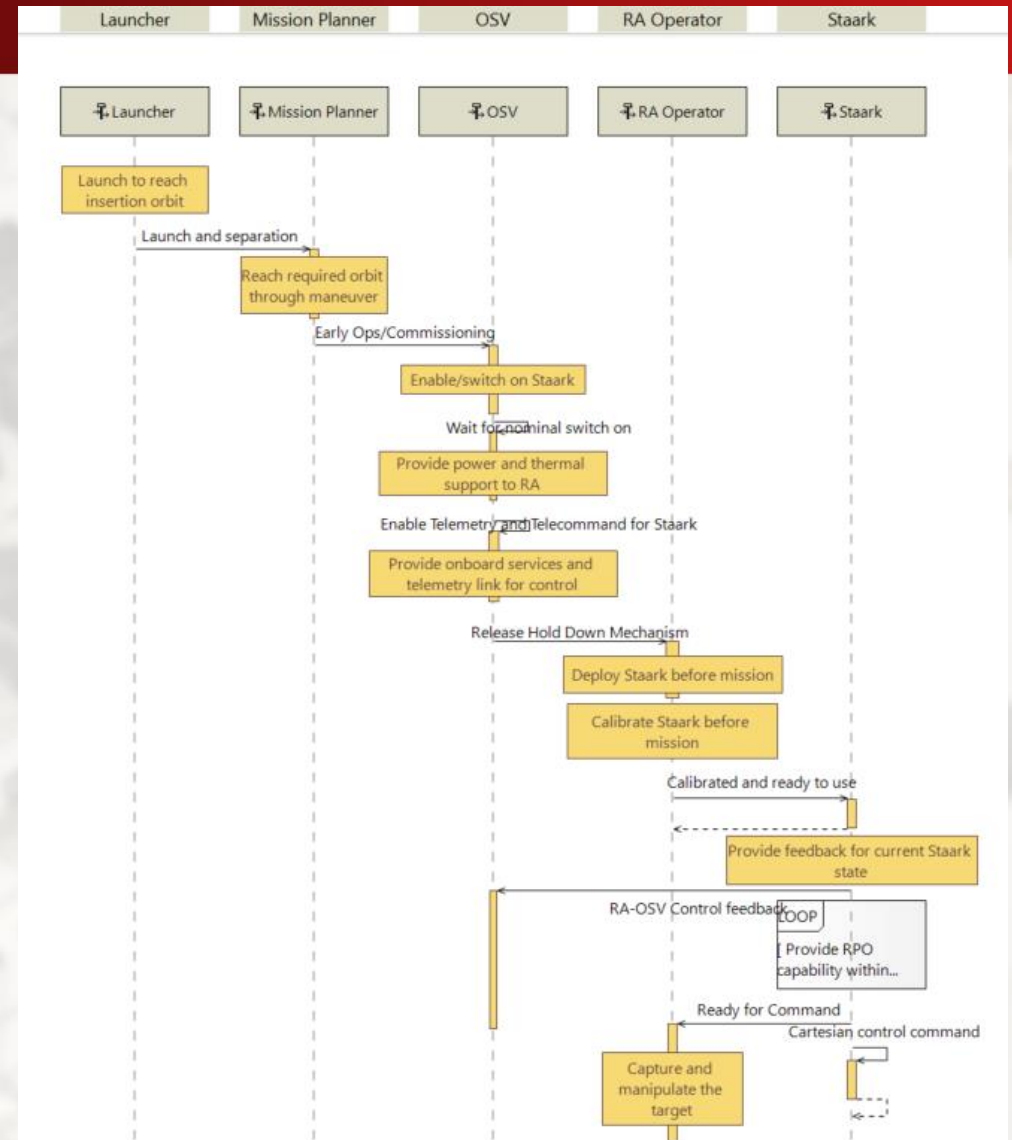
# Operational Analysis

- Operational VP – Assigning OA to every entity/actor
- Is an entity missing? Is an actor missing?



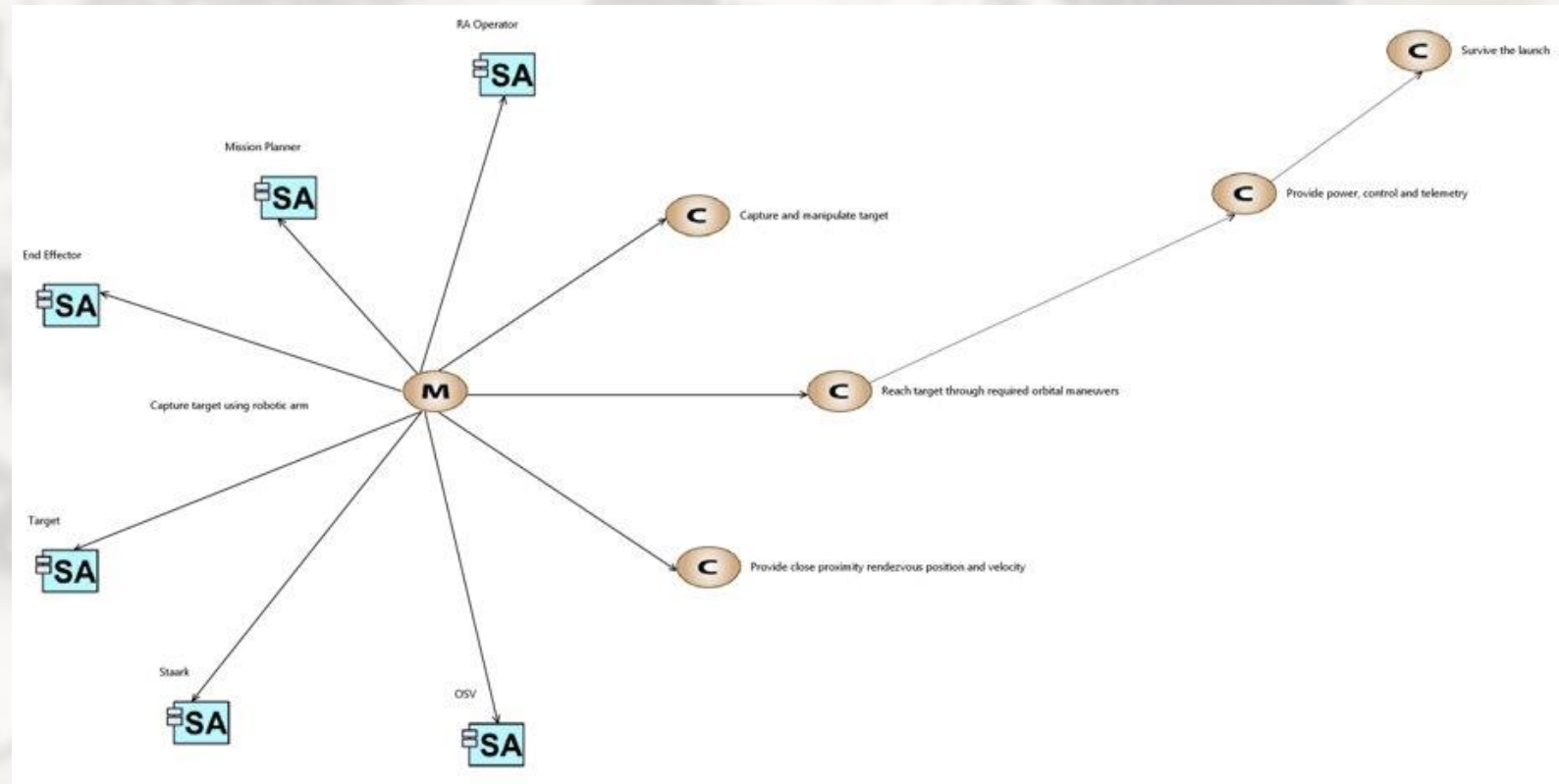
# Operational Sequence

- Sequence is based on a primary mission where
  - Arm needs to be commissioned
  - Arm needs to be deployed and calibrated
  - Arm needs to be navigated and controlled

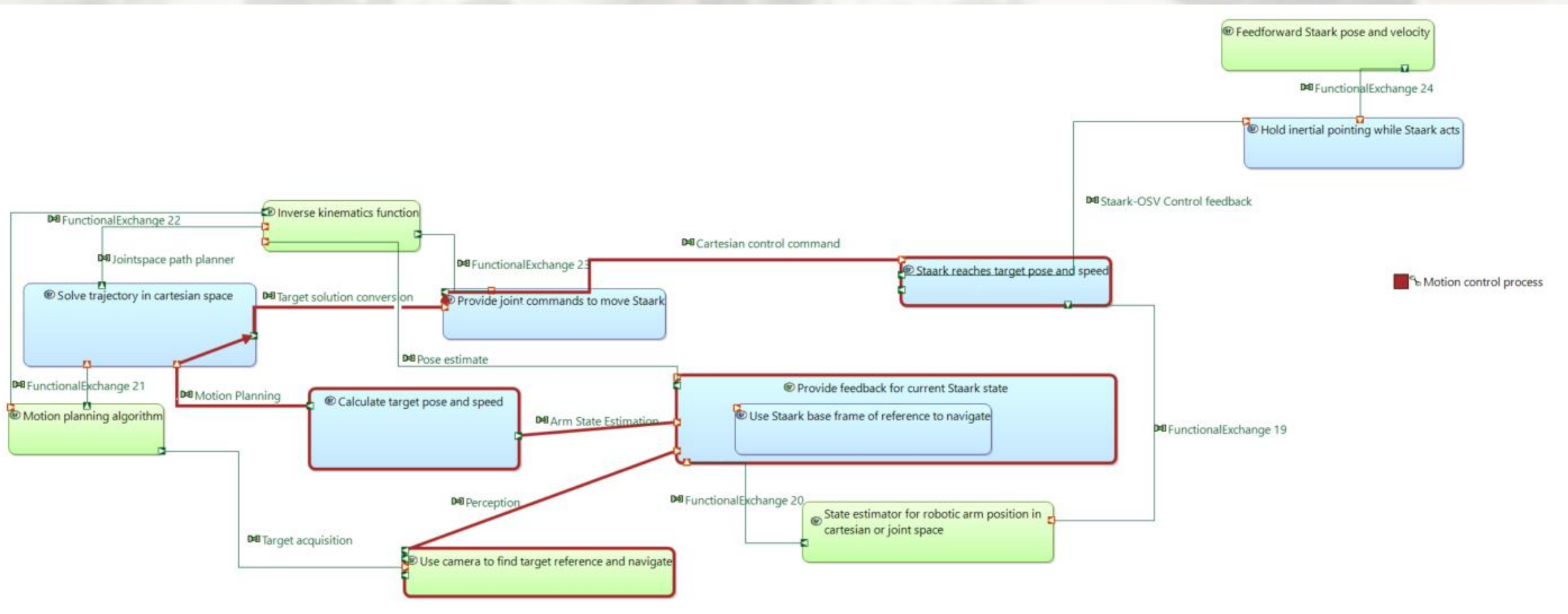


# Mission-Capability

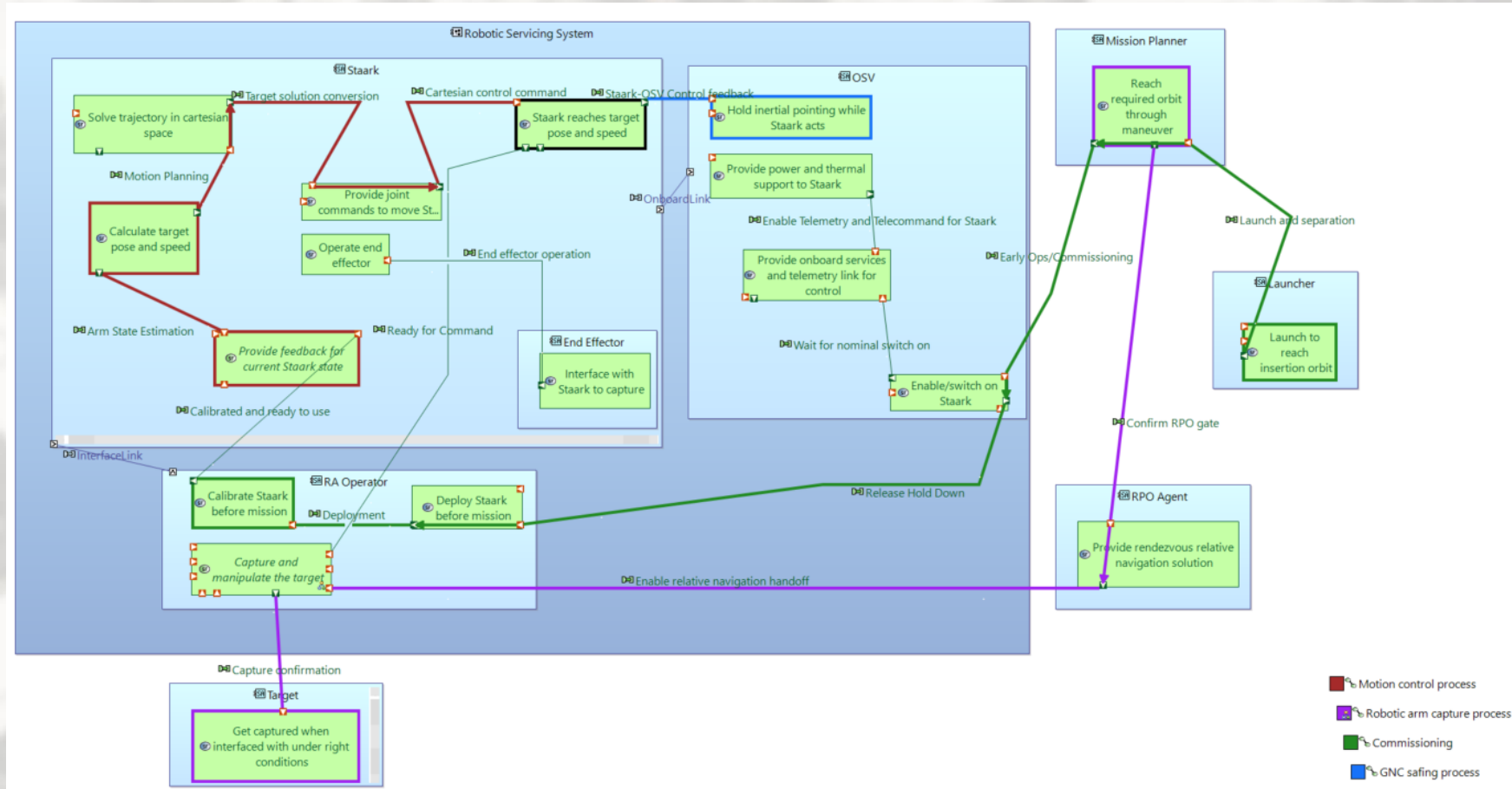
- Primary mission involves
  - Surviving the launch
  - Providing services to Staark
  - Reaching target through orbital maneuvers
  - Providing required RPO performance
  - Deploying robotic arm, commissioning
  - Capturing and manipulating target



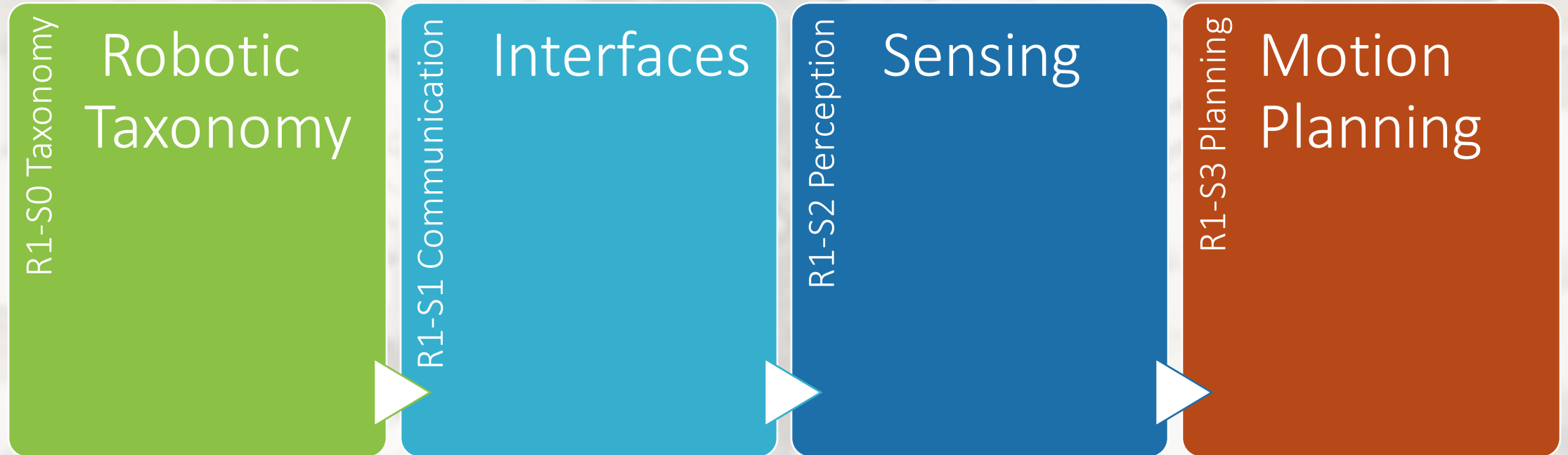
# Development of system functions



# Architecture for system analysis



# Robotic Specification Framework

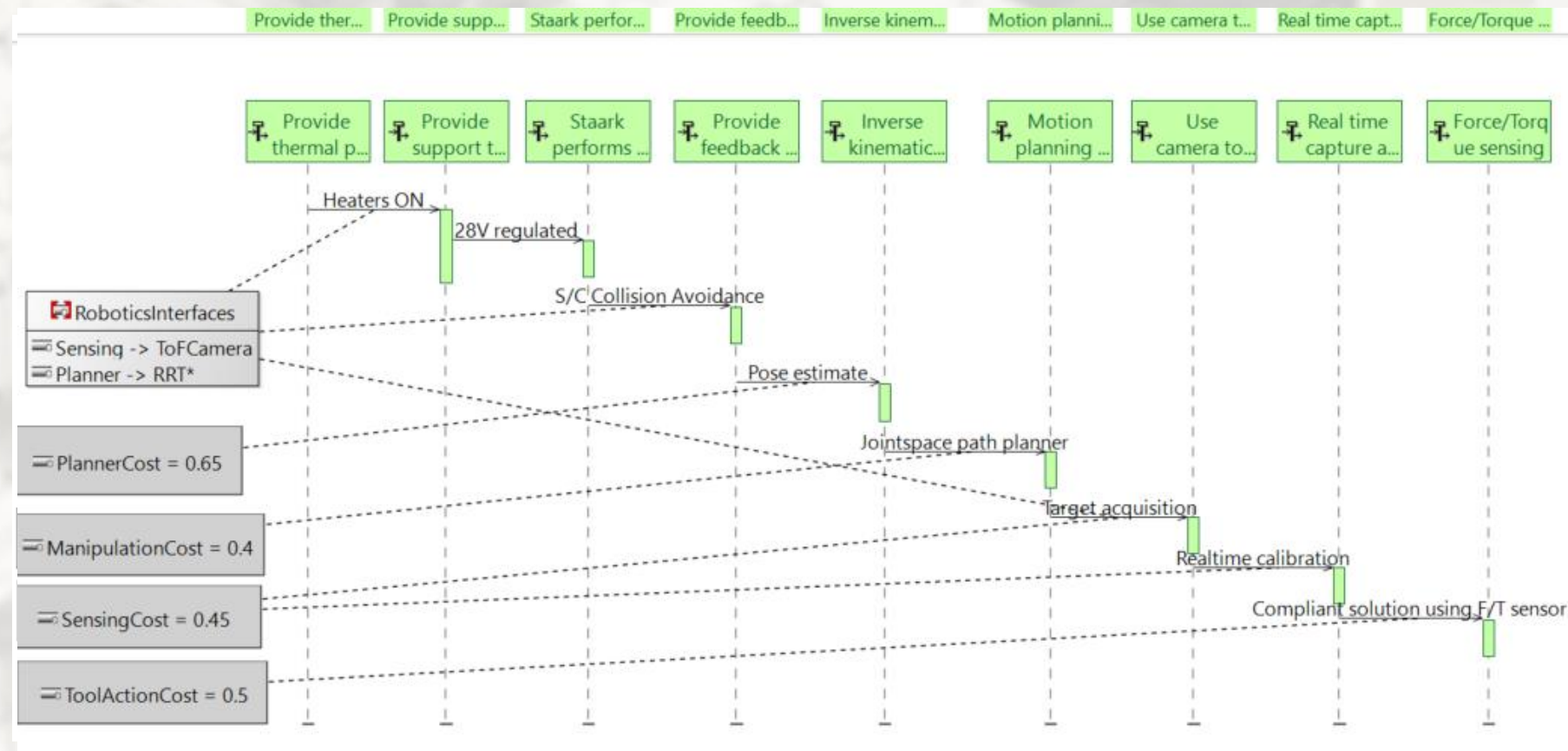


A normalized cost can be prescribed on the last 2 layers to arrive at a robotic cost for the mission.

$$\text{Cost} = C(\text{Sensing}) + C(\text{Motion Planning}) \text{ on each robotic task}$$

# PVMT Assignment

- A score is assigned based on the difficulty of the task for the robotic architecture
- A quantitative tradeoff is thus achieved on summing the full score



$$\text{Cost}_{\text{Scenario1}}(\text{total})=1.5 ; \text{Cost}_{\text{Scenario2}}(\text{total})=2$$

# Conclusion

- Capella helped in reducing modeling effort for Staark robotic application case studies
- Capella helped most in architecture analysis, reduced effort by upto 60% versus traditional methods like NAF
- Capella also helped share SoS like frameworks when required
- MBSE in robotic architecture and system definition plays a key role for orbital servicing missions

Special thanks to **Obeo**, **Thales** and **Redwire Space Europe** for making this talk possible