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<p>ABSTRACT:</p> <p>This is a document to introduce all deliverables to the ESA project on Bionics & Space System Design. The introduction section provides background information of the project as well as brief description of each deliverable, including Technical Note (TN) 1, 2, 3, Case Study (CS) 1 on Mars walker and 2 on biomimetic drill. The table of contents of each deliverable is also included.</p>			
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BIONICS & SPACE SYSTEMS DESIGN

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Introduction Document

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	4
1.1. TN1 ABSTRACT.....	4
1.2. TN2 ABSTRACT.....	4
1.3. TN3 ABSTRACT.....	5
1.4. CS1 ABSTRACT	5
1.5. CS2 ABSTRACT	5
2. TN1 Table of contents.....	6
3. TN2 Table of Contents	9
4. TN3 Table of Contents	11
5. CS1 Table of Contents.....	15
6. CS2 Table of Contents.....	17

1. Introduction

This project aims to provide an overview of the application of biomimicry to engineering systems in space. In particular, the study has the following goals:

- Perform a review of the current status of biomimetic engineering worldwide. In particular principle research areas and groups will be identified. A database has been constructed as part of this work package for engineers to use in accessing biomimetic solutions to engineering problems.
- Identify those areas of current, near and long-term ESA activity that are likely to benefit from biomimetic engineering.
- Review natural mechanisms and processes that could provide inspiration for biomimetic space systems.
- Perform case study investigation of a number of biomimetic space-related concepts.

The following subsections will introduce all deliverables to this project, including Technical Note (TN) 1, 2, 3, Case Study (CS) 1 on Mars walker and 2 on biomimetic drill. The table of contents of each deliverable is also included in the following sections.

1.1. TN1 ABSTRACT

This document is jointly authored by the University of Surrey (prime), University of Sussex, University of Bath, EADS Astrium and the British Antarctic Survey. It provides a comprehensive survey of the field of biomimetics whereby engineered technology is biologically-inspired. We have emphasised its application to robotics as robotics has particular significance to space technology. This is especially the case for planetary exploration.

1.2. TN2 ABSTRACT

The initial motivation to include biomimetic engineering as an area of study within the Advanced Concepts Team at the European Space Agency was derived from the opinion that biomimetic engineering could have significant application to ESA programs. The future level of interest of the European Space Agency in biomimetic engineering will obviously be a function of the extent to which biomimetic engineering principles can be applied to both the near-term and long-term engineering challenges that ESA will face. At present this degree of application is unknown, and hence there is the requirement for a systematic assessment of the potential scope and impact of biomimetic engineering to ESA activities; this document is a response to that requirement.

In order to approach the problem of systematically investigating the potential application of biomimetic engineering to ESA activities, two principal information sources are required. These are:

- An existing scheme for classifying and sorting ESA activities
- An existing scheme of classification for biomimetic engineering.

The first requirement is satisfied by the core document Dossier 0, which details future ESA technological requirements and activities, and also contains the European Space Agency Technology Tree. The second

requirement is satisfied by the Advanced Concepts Team Biomimicry Technology Tree. These information sources are presented in the following sections.

1.3. TN3 ABSTRACT

The topic of this document is “the application of biomimetics technology to space exploration”, which builds on TN 1. It was conducted by the University of Surrey with the support of the University of Sussex, University of Bath, EADS Astrium, and the Open University. It focuses on selecting specific biomimetic technologies that have nearterm application to space exploration. In particular, we focus on those aspects of space exploration related to planetary exploration. Such planetary exploration missions will become more challenging as missions focus on astrobiological investigation which represents a complex set of challenging task requirements. Many of these technologies will have wider applicability across space missions.

1.4. CS1 ABSTRACT

This document is jointly authored by the University of Surrey (prime), University of Sussex, University of Bath, and EADS Astrium. It provides a design of a legged robot for Mars Exploration and the investigation into the benefits and detriments of such a system. An out line of the physical design of the vehicle is provided, as well as investigations into the control system and navigation techniques.

1.5. CS2 ABSTRACT

This document is jointly authored by the University of Surrey (prime), University of Bath, and EADS Astrium. This case study presents a biomimetic drill based on working mechanism of wood wasp ovipositor for sampling planetary subsurface material. The ovipositor drill concept represents a novel approach of reciprocating drilling and can be used as a payload for a generic space mission. It also has technology transfer applications within the terrestrial environment. To provide a complete mission design, an asteroid micro-penetrator is considered as the mission scenario and design platform. This study outlines a micro-penetrator concept with a mass target of 5-10 kg that is suited for planetary deployment to asteroids and in-situ investigation of their chemical (astrobiologically relevant signatures) and physical properties. Such a biomimetic drill/microprobe may be deployed for the exploration of terrestrial-type planets and other small bodies of the solar system with the minimum of modifications.

2. TN1 Table of contents

0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	27
1.1. OBJECTIVES	27
1.2. PREAMBLE.....	27
2. BIOMIMETICS EXPERTISE SURVEY	32
3. BIOMIMETICS RESEARCH SURVEY	33
3.1. INTRODUCTION.....	33
3.2. BIOLOGICAL MODULARITY & PLEIOTROPY	35
3.2.1. <i>Modularity</i>	36
3.2.2. <i>Hierarchical Structures</i>	42
3.2.3. <i>Human Physiology Model</i>	47
3.3. BIOMIMETIC MATERIALS	51
3.3.1. <i>Materials of Nature</i>	51
3.3.2. <i>Adaptive Materials</i>	61
3.4. BIOMIMETIC STRUCTURES, MECHANISMS & DEPLOYABLES	87
3.5. BIOMIMETIC METHODS OF PROPULSION.....	90
3.5.1. <i>Walking</i>	92
3.5.2. <i>Snake Locomotion</i>	121
3.5.3. <i>Winged Flight</i>	7
3.5.4. <i>Swimming</i>	19
3.5.5. <i>Manipulation</i>	21
3.5.6. <i>Compliant Structures in Actuation Control</i>	24
3.6. BIOMIMETIC METHODS OF ENERGY GENERATION & STORAGE	28
3.6.1. <i>Biological Fuel Cells</i>	45
3.7. IMMUNOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO SELF-DEFENCE.....	53
3.7.1. <i>Computer Viruses</i>	54
3.7.2. <i>Key Principles of Immunity</i>	55
3.7.3. <i>Comparison with Other Biomimetic Computing Paradigms</i>	69
3.7.4. <i>Application Areas</i>	70
3.8. BIOLOGICAL BEHAVIOUR CONTROL & NAVIGATION.....	76
3.9. MEMORY – BEYOND BEHAVIOUR CONTROL.....	96
3.10. BIOLOGICAL LEARNING	102
3.10.1. <i>Learning Automata</i>	102
3.10.2. <i>Neural Networks</i>	107
3.10.3. <i>Chaotic Neural Networks</i>	113
3.10.4. <i>Cerebellar Models</i>	117
3.10.5. <i>Associative Learning</i>	126
3.10.6. <i>Concept Learning in AI</i>	134
3.11. GENETIC & NEURAL APPROACHES TO LEARNING.....	139
3.11.1. <i>Evolutionary Neural Networks</i>	143
3.11.2. <i>Evolutionary Robotics</i>	147
3.11.3. <i>Active Vision and Feature Selection at EPFL</i>	160
3.11.4. <i>Robot Navigation</i>	163

3.11.5. Adaptive Vision-based Flying Robots	164
3.11.6. Blimp Experiments	166
3.11.7. Evolution of Adaptive Spiking Circuits for Vision-Based Behavioural Systems	167
3.11.8. Evolution of Adaptation Rules.....	173
3.11.9. Reactive Navigation	175
3.11.10. Competitive Co-Evolution of Adaptive Predator-Prey Robots.....	177
3.11.11. A Sequential Task: The Light-Switching Problem.....	178
3.11.12. Adaptation to Unpredictable Change.....	180
3.11.13. Evolution of Learning-Like Behaviours	181
3.11.14. Evolutionary Hardware.....	184
3.11.15. Multi-Robot Systems.....	185
3.11.16. Cooperative Tasks.....	188
3.11.17. Homogeneity and Heterogeneity.....	190
3.11.18. The Distribution of Control.....	192
3.11.19. Local and Global Control	193
3.11.20. Why Evolve Cooperative Multi-robot Systems?.....	195
3.11.21. Review of Evolved Systems.....	197
3.11.22. Evolution of Cooperation and Labour Division in Artificial Ants	224
3.12. BIOMIMETIC SENSORS & SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION.....	224
3.12.1. Vision.....	227
3.12.2. Vibration Sensing	238
3.12.3. Vestibular Sensing.....	240
3.12.4. Tactile Sensing	241
3.12.5. Chemical Sensing	250
3.12.6. Multi-Sensor Fusion.....	263
3.13. HIGH-LEVEL COGNITION BY SYMBOL MANIPULATION	268
3.13.1. Role of Logic in Artificial Intelligence	273
3.13.2. Self-Reference in Logic.....	276
3.13.3. Planning – the Importance of Predicting the Future	277
3.13.4. Knowledge-Based Expert Systems.....	282
3.13.5. Frames & Semantic Networks.....	288
3.13.6. Physical Symbol Processing.....	295
3.13.7. Qualitative Physics as Models of the World.....	298
3.13.8. Non-Monotonic Logics	300
3.13.9. Truth Maintenance	304
3.13.10. Modelling Uncertainty	305
3.13.11. Problems with AI-based Cognition	306
3.13.12. The Role of Affect in Artificial Intelligence.....	310
3.14. HYBRID APPROACHES TO INTELLIGENT CONTROL.....	314
3.14.1. Integrative Approaches	314
3.14.2. Symbolic Connectionist Approaches.....	315
3.14.3. Neuro-Fuzzy Approaches	317
3.14.4. Fuzzy-GA Approaches.....	321
3.14.5. Fuzzy-GP Approaches.....	322
3.14.6. Fuzzy-ANN-GA Approaches.....	323
3.15. GROUP BEHAVIOUR CONTROL.....	324

4. CONCLUSIONS..... 340

3. TN2 Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1	INTRODUCTION TO DOSSIER 0.....	5
1.2	INTRODUCTION TO THE ESA TECHNOLOGY TREE.....	7
1.3	INTRODUCTION TO THE BIOMIMETIC TECHNOLOGY TREE.....	8
1.4	METHODOLOGY OF REPORT.....	9
2	TECHNOLOGY DOMAINS.....	10
2.1	ON-BOARD DATA SYSTEMS.....	10
2.2	SPACE SYSTEM SOFTWARE.....	14
2.3	SPACECRAFT ENVIRONMENT AND EFFECTS.....	18
2.4	SPACECRAFT POWER.....	19
2.5	SPACE SYSTEM CONTROL.....	23
2.6	RF PAYLOAD SYSTEMS.....	28
2.7	ELECTROMAGNETICS TECHNOLOGY.....	29
2.8	SYSTEMS DESIGN AND VERIFICATION.....	30
2.9	MISSION CONTROL AND OPERATIONS.....	31
2.10	FLIGHT DYNAMICS AND PRECISE NAVIGATION.....	33
2.11	MISSION ANALYSIS AND SPACE DEBRIS.....	36
2.12	GROUND STATION SYSTEM AND NETWORKING.....	37
2.13	AUTOMATION, TELEPRESENCE AND ROBOTICS.....	39
2.14	LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES INSTRUMENTATION.....	43
2.15	MECHANISMS AND TRIBOLOGY.....	47
2.16	OPTICS AND OPTO-ELECTRONICS.....	51
2.17	AEROTHERMODYNAMICS.....	53
2.18	PROPULSION.....	54
2.19	STRUCTURES AND PYROTECHNICS.....	58
2.20	THERMAL.....	62
2.21	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL LIFE SUPPORT (ECLS) AND ISRU.....	63
2.22	COMPONENTS.....	67
2.23	MATERIALS AND PROCESSES.....	68
2.24	QUALITY, DEPENDABILITY AND SAFETY.....	71
2.25	USER SEGMENT.....	72
2.26	APPLICATION SPECIFIC TECHNOLOGIES.....	73
3	SERVICE DOMAINS.....	74
3.1	EARTH OBSERVATION.....	74
3.2	TELECOMMUNICATIONS.....	77
3.3	NAVIGATION AND POSITIONING.....	79
3.4	SCIENCE & EXPLORATION.....	80
3.5	MANNED SPACE FLIGHT & LIFE/PHYSICAL SCIENCES IN SPACE.....	86
3.6	LONG TERM APPLICATIONS (AURORA).....	92
3.7	SPACE TRANSPORTATION.....	96

4	KEY AREAS OF APPLICATION	99
5	SUMMARY.....	100
	REFERENCE DOCUMENTS	101
	APPENDIX A: ESA ABBREVIATED TECHNOLOGY TREE	102
	APPENDIX B: ESA BIOMIMICRY TECHNOLOGY TREE	102

4. TN3 Table of Contents

0. Executive Summary	102
1. Introduction	104
1.1. SPACE MISSION AUTONOMY	105
1.2. CAVEATS TO BIOMIMETIC SPACE SYSTEMS.....	107
1.3. APPLICATION OF BIOMIMETICS TO SPACE SYSTEMS.....	108
2. Microtechnology as a Biomimetic Context.....	115
2.1. INTRODUCTION TO MICROTECHNOLOGY	115
2.1.1. <i>Definitions and Terminology</i>	115
2.1.2. <i>What is MST and where is it used?</i>	116
2.1.3. <i>Why MST?</i>	118
2.2. MST TECHNOLOGIES	118
2.2.1. <i>Basic Pattern Generation</i>	119
2.2.2. <i>Bulk micro-machining</i>	119
2.3. MECHANICAL PROPERTIES OF SINGLE CRYSTALLINE SILICON.....	120
2.3.1. <i>Properties of anisotropic etching solutions</i>	121
2.3.2. <i>Etching mechanisms</i>	123
2.4. SURFACE MICRO-MACHINING	132
2.4.1. <i>Surface micromachining principle</i>	132
2.4.2. <i>Examples of applications</i>	135
2.5. SURFACE AND BULK MICROMACHINING	137
2.5.1. <i>Comparison of the two techniques</i>	137
2.5.2. <i>Examples of applications</i>	138
2.6. INTEGRATED SURFACE MICROMACHINING TECHNOLOGIES	142
2.7. ALTERNATIVE MICROSYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES	144
2.7.1. <i>LIGA</i>	144
2.7.2. <i>Electro discharge Machining</i>	148
2.7.3. <i>SOI Bulk micromachining</i>	150
2.7.4. <i>SOI surface micromachining</i>	151
2.8. MICROSYSTEMS FOR SPACE.....	153
2.8.1. <i>Introduction</i>	153
2.8.2. <i>Sensors</i>	154
2.8.3. <i>Actuators and propulsion</i>	155
2.8.4. <i>Other subsystems</i>	156
2.9. COST OF MST	157
2.9.1. <i>Packaging and Integration</i>	157
2.9.2. <i>Flight experiments</i>	159
2.9.3. <i>Transition out of the Laboratory</i>	160
2.9.4. <i>Radiation</i>	160
2.9.5. <i>Patents</i>	161
2.10. SPACECRAFT CONCEPTS WITH MST.....	161
2.11. MEMS FOR SPACE BIOMIMICRY	167
2.11.1. <i>The biomimicry fields from TN1 that are relevant to MEMS</i>	167
2.11.2. <i>Review of references to MEMS from TN1</i>	169

2.11.3. Applicability of MEMS to the ESA Biomimicry Technology Tree from TN2	171
2.11.4. Biological Analogues to Spacecraft Subsystems Matrix	176
2.11.5. Case studies and MEMS.....	177
2.11.6. Glossary of Space-Related MST terms.....	177
2.12. MEMS ACTUATORS	177
2.13. NANOSATELLITE TECHNOLOGY	186
2.14. NANOROVERS.....	186
3. Spacecraft Systems Engineering	190
4. Onboard Propulsion Systems	196
4.1. LOCOMOTION SYSTEMS	197
4.1.1. Land Locomotion.....	197
4.1.2. Marine Locomotion.....	205
4.1.3. Aerial Locomotion.....	208
4.2. MANIPULATION SYSTEMS	217
5. Onboard Power Systems.....	223
5.1. ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS	223
5.2. BIOMIMETIC ENERGY STORAGE	225
5.3. THERMAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.....	230
5.4. BIOMIMETIC THERMAL CONTROL.....	233
6. Onboard Data Handling Systems	234
6.1. INTRODUCTION.....	234
6.2. COMPUTATIONAL ARCHITECTURES.....	236
6.3. BIO-INSPIRED SOFTWARE PROGRAMMING.....	236
6.4. BIOMIMETIC COMPUTATIONAL HARDWARE	245
6.5. NEURAL NETWORK HARDWARE.....	247
7. Onboard Control Systems	256
7.1. INTRODUCTION.....	256
7.2. INTELLIGENT CONTROL ARCHITECTURES.....	258
7.3. BEHAVIOUR CONTROL.....	265
7.4. ONBOARD PLANNING & NAVIGATION	271
7.4.1. Artificial Intelligence as Search.....	272
7.4.2. Artificial Intelligence as Knowledge.....	280
7.5. NEURAL & GENETIC APPROACHES TO CONTROL.....	285
7.6. HYBRID APPROACHES TO CONTROL.....	297
8. Spacecraft Communications & Electronic Systems	303
8.1. INTRODUCTION.....	303
8.2. APPLICATION SPECIFIC CIRCUITS & FIELD PROGRAMMABLE GATE ARRAYS	305
8.3. EVOLVABLE HARDWARE.....	309
9. Ground Station & Human-Machine Interfacing.....	315
9.1. INTRODUCTION.....	315
9.2. VIRTUAL REALITY SYSTEMS	315
9.3. AUTOMATED SPEECH RECOGNITION.....	316

9.4. NEURO-ELECTRONIC INTERFACING	320
10. Spacecraft Structural and Mechanical Systems	324
10.1. INTRODUCTION.....	324
10.2. SMART STRUCTURES.....	325
10.3. BIOMIMETIC STRUCTURES	327
10.4. MECHANICAL COMPLIANCE	335
11. Spacecraft Payloads (Sensors).....	339
11.1. INTRODUCTION.....	339
11.2. MICRO-ELECTROMECHANICAL SENSOR/ACTUATOR SYSTEMS.....	341
11.3. VISION SYSTEMS	345
11.4. TACTILE SENSING	363
11.5. HAIR TRANSDUCTION	366
11.6. CHEMICAL SENSING	371
11.7. MAGNETIC FIELD SENSING.....	381
11.8. SENSOR FUSION	381
12. Spacecraft Reliability	385
12.1. INTRODUCTION.....	385
12.2. BIOLOGICAL RELIABILITY.....	385
12.3. RECONFIGURABLE HARDWARE.....	386
12.4. MULTI-AGENT ARCHITECTURES.....	387
12.4.1. Imitation Learning.....	393
12.5. IMMUNOLOGICAL FAULT TOLERANCE.....	395
13. Human Spaceflight.....	399
13.1. INTRODUCTION.....	399
13.2. CLOSED ECOLOGICAL LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM	399
13.3. HUMAN HIBERNATION.....	400
14. Conclusions	402
Appendix A: Neural Networks.....	404
SUPERVISED NEURAL NETWORKS	410
LEARNING RULES.....	412
HOPFIELD NET	414
BOLTZMANN MACHINE	415
SELF-ORGANISING NETWORKS	416
REINFORCEMENT LEARNING	419
ASSOCIATIVE LEARNING	422
FRACTAL & CELLULAR NETWORKS.....	427
COMPACT ENCODING.....	429
Appendix B: Evolutionary Algorithms.....	433
GENETIC ALGORITHMS.....	433
CLASSIFIER SYSTEMS.....	444
GENETIC PROGRAMMING	449
Appendix C: Artificial Intelligence.....	452
SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS	452

CONNECTIONIST SYSTEMS	456
GENETIC ALGORITHMS	459
SITUATED COGNITION	460
Appendix D: Architecture of the Human Brain	464
THE NEURON	465
THE SYNAPTIC JUNCTION	467
ARCHITECTURE OF THE HUMAN BRAIN	468
CEREBRAL CORTEX	469
BRAINSTEM	474
THALAMUS	475
SUBTHALAMUS	475
HYPOTHALAMUS	476
BASAL GANGLIA	476
VESTIBULAR & CEREBELLAR SYSTEM	478
LIMBIC SYSTEM	482
VISION PROCESSING	485
SENSORIMOTOR PATHWAYS	490
MEMORY SYSTEMS	492
Appendix E: Space Medicine	496
IMMUNE SYSTEM	503
RADIATION SHIELDING	506
SPACE DEBRIS SHIELDING	508

5. CS1 Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY	1
1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.	MARS CHARACTERISTICS	1
3.	BRIEF HISTORY OF MARS SURFACE EXPLORATION	3
II.	FROM BIOLOGY TO ROBOTICS	10
1.	BIOMIMETIC ANALOGUES TO SPACE ROBOTICS	10
	<i>II.1.1. Biomimetic Planetary Rovers</i>	12
2.	INSECT BEHAVIOUR	13
3.	INSECT WALKING	14
	<i>II.3.1. Gaits and Leg Movement</i>	15
	<i>II.3.2. Reflex Motion</i>	17
III.	CONDITIONS FOR SURFACE TRAVEL ON MARS	19
1.	SOIL COMPOSITION.....	19
2.	BEKKER THEORY.....	20
	<i>III.2.1. Soil Properties and Dynamics</i>	21
	<i>III.2.2. Motion Resistances</i>	24
	<i>III.2.3. Drawbar Pull</i>	26
3.	ROCK DISTRIBUTION.....	27
4.	MEAN FREE PATH (MFP)	31
IV.	SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	33
1.	LANDING SITE SELECTION.....	33
2.	VEHICLE LIFETIME.....	33
3.	LOCOMOTION SYSTEM	33
4.	MASS REQUIREMENTS	33
5.	POWER.....	33
6.	PAYLOADS.....	33
	<i>IV.6.1. Primary Payload</i>	33
	<i>IV.6.2. Secondary Payload</i>	34
7.	THERMAL.....	34
8.	COMMUNICATIONS.....	34
9.	COMMAND AND DATA HANDLING.....	34
V.	MISSION PROFILE	35
1.	MISSION OBJECTIVES	35
2.	LANDING SITE SELECTION.....	35
	<i>V.2.1. Additional VL2 Region Environment Data</i>	36
3.	MISSION PAYLOAD AND SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES.....	37
	<i>V.3.1. Primary Payload</i>	37
	<i>V.3.2. Secondary Payload</i>	41
VI.	VEHICLE DESIGN	46
1.	SYSTEM OVERVIEW	46
	<i>VI.1.1. Vehicle Mass Classification</i>	46
	<i>VI.1.2. Operational Modes</i>	47

2.	STRUCTURE.....	47
3.	LOCOMOTION SYSTEM	50
	VI.3.1. <i>Locomotion Expectations</i>	51
	VI.3.2. <i>Leg Design</i>	51
	VI.3.3. <i>Structural Analysis</i>	52
	VI.3.4. <i>Motors</i>	53
	VI.3.5. <i>Compliance</i>	57
4.	POWER.....	62
	VI.4.1. <i>Solar Arrays</i>	62
	VI.4.2. <i>Batteries</i>	65
5.	THERMAL.....	66
	VI.5.1. <i>Thermal Control</i>	67
	VI.5.2. <i>Thermal analysis</i>	69
6.	COMMUNICATIONS.....	70
	VI.6.1. <i>Rover Radio</i>	71
	VI.6.2. <i>Rover Antennas</i>	72
	VI.6.3. <i>Mars Surface to Mars Orbit Communication</i>	74
	VI.6.4. <i>Mars Orbit to Earth Communication</i>	75
	VI.6.5. <i>Communication System Requirements</i>	76
7.	DATA.....	76
8.	CAMERAS.....	79
	VI.8.1. <i>Panoramic Cameras (PanCam)</i>	80
	VI.8.2. <i>Navigation Cameras (NavCam)</i>	82
	VI.8.3. <i>Hazard Avoidance Sonar</i>	82
VII.	BEHAVIOUR CONTROL	83
1.	EVOLVED DYNAMICAL NEURAL NETWORKS	83
2.	EVOLVED WALKING MACHINES	83
3.	DESIGN	86
4.	WALKING.....	91
5.	ROUGH TERRAIN	92
6.	NAVIGATION.....	93
7.	OBSTACLE AVOIDANCE.....	97
8.	EFFICIENCY.....	101
9.	ROBUSTNESS	101
	VII.9.1. <i>Damage</i>	101
	VII.9.2. <i>Motor Failure</i>	103
10.	CONTROL SYSTEM SUMMARY.....	104
VIII.	CONCLUSIONS.....	105

6. CS2 Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	18
1.	CONVENTIONAL SPACE DRILLS	18
2.	A NOVEL BIOMIMETIC DRILL.....	20
1.2.1.	<i>Wood wasp ovipositor</i>	<i>20</i>
1.2.2.	<i>Reciprocating drill, novelty & advantages.....</i>	<i>22</i>
II.	FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF BIOMIMETIC DRILL.....	24
1.	DRILL BIT DESIGN	24
2.	SAMPLER DESIGN	24
3.	DRIVE MECHANISM	27
II.3.1.	<i>Dragon fly click mechanism.....</i>	<i>27</i>
II.3.2.	<i>Helicopter rotary disc mechanism.....</i>	<i>28</i>
II.3.3.	<i>Cam mechanism</i>	<i>29</i>
II.3.4.	<i>Grove in shaft mechanism.....</i>	<i>29</i>
II.3.5.	<i>Chosen cam mechanism – pin & crank.....</i>	<i>31</i>
II.3.6.	<i>Actuation method.....</i>	<i>31</i>
4.	EXPERIMENTS & RESULTS	32
II.4.1.	<i>Test model and apparatus</i>	<i>32</i>
II.4.2.	<i>Calculation of cutting speed.....</i>	<i>32</i>
II.4.3.	<i>Experiments on different rake angles.....</i>	<i>33</i>
II.4.4.	<i>Experiments on different substrates</i>	<i>39</i>
III.	ASTEROID MISSION PROFILE	45
1.	MISSION RATIONALE & OBJECTIVES	45
2.	CHOICE OF TARGET ASTEROID.....	46
3.	SYSTEM OVERVIEW	48
III.3.1.	<i>Micro-penetrator.....</i>	<i>48</i>
III.3.2.	<i>Biomimetic drill.....</i>	<i>48</i>
III.3.3.	<i>Scientific instruments</i>	<i>48</i>
4.	SYSTEM REQUIREMENT & SPECIFICATION	49
IV.	DESIGN OF MICRO-PENETRATOR & BIOMIMETIC DRILL.....	50
1.	BACKGROUND.....	50
2.	MICRO-PENETRATOR CONFIGURATION.....	53
IV.2.1.	<i>Forebody</i>	<i>53</i>
IV.2.2.	<i>Aftbody.....</i>	<i>53</i>
IV.2.3.	<i>Flexible cabling.....</i>	<i>56</i>
3.	BIOMIMETIC DRILL	58
IV.3.1.	<i>Design constraints & specifications.....</i>	<i>58</i>
IV.3.2.	<i>Drill & sampler subsystem design.....</i>	<i>58</i>
4.	SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS & EXPERIMENTS	60
IV.4.1.	<i>Biomarker detector.....</i>	<i>61</i>
IV.4.2.	<i>Broadband seismometer</i>	<i>70</i>
IV.4.3.	<i>Piezoelectric accelerometer</i>	<i>73</i>
IV.4.4.	<i>Thermometer</i>	<i>75</i>
5.	PENETRATION MODELS	75

IV.5.1. Empirical models.....	75
IV.5.2. Physical models.....	78
IV.5.3. Numerical models.....	81
V. OVERALL SYSTEM-LEVEL DESIGN.....	82
1. PRELIMINARY SYSTEM DESIGN	82
2. FLIGHT DYNAMICS, DEPLOYMENT, TARGETING & AOCS/GNC	82
3. STRUCTURES & MATERIAL.....	84
4. THERMAL & ENVIRONMENTS	85
5. OPERATIONAL TIMELINE	86
6. POWER AND ELECTRONICS	86
7. DATA HANDLING & COMMUNICATION	87
8. PENETRATOR BUDGETS.....	88
V.8.1. Mass budget.....	88
V.8.2. Power budget.....	90
V.8.3. Data rate budget.....	90
9. DISCUSSION ON USING MEMS TECHNOLOGY.....	91
VI. CONCLUSIONS.....	94
VII. APPENDIX A: SPACE MISSIONS INVOLVING AUTOMATED PENETRATION, DRILLING AND SAMPLING ACTIVITIES	95
VIII. APPENDIX B: ABOUT ASTEROIDS	104
1. WHAT ARE ASTEROIDS?	104
VIII.1.1. Near earth asteroids (NEAs)	105
VIII.1.2. Asteroids taxonomic classifications	109
VIII.1.3. Asteroids density and porosity.....	112
2. WHY TO STUDY ASTEROIDS?	117
3. ASTEROID MISSIONS.....	119
VIII.3.1. Past missions	119
VIII.3.2. Present missions.....	120
VIII.3.3. Future missions	120
IX. APPENDIX C: ANALYSIS ON SAWING & MACHINING	122
1. NOTATION	122
2. ORTHOGONAL CUTTING.....	122
3. MERCHANT HYPOTHESIS	124
4. SHEAR STRESS.....	125
5. SHEAR STRAIN	126
6. SHEAR ANGLE	126
7. VELOCITY RELATIONS.....	128
8. MATERIAL REMOVAL RATE.....	128
9. ENERGY CONSUMPTION.....	130