

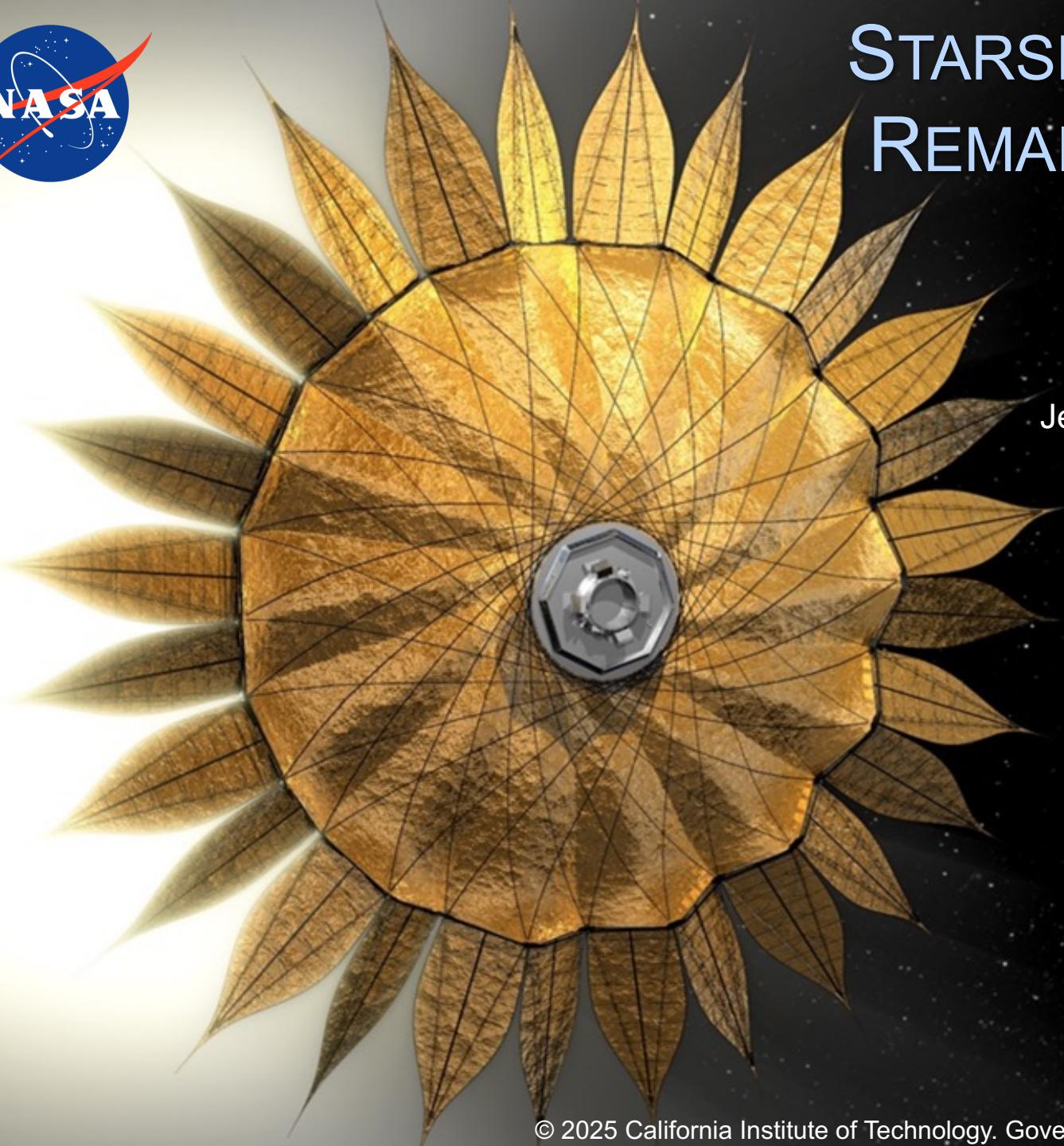


# STARSHADE TECHNOLOGY STATUS: REMAINING DEVELOPMENT WORK TOWARDS HWO

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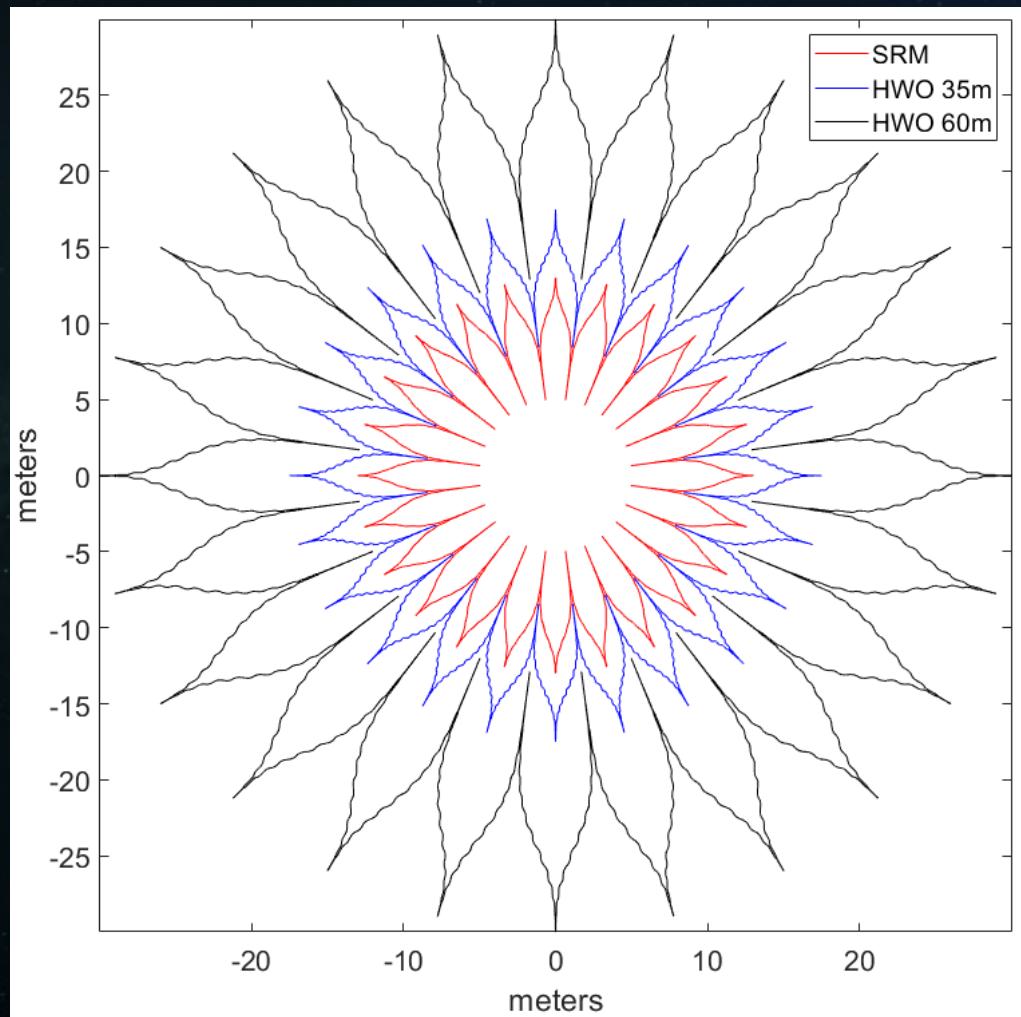
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Starshade S5 Closeout Briefing  
April 14, 2025



# S5 BASELINE (SRM) vs. HWO STARSHADES

	S5 Baseline	HWO (UV-VIS)	HWO (VIS-NIR)
Starshade Diameter	26 m	35 m	60 m
Disk/Petals	10 m, 8 m	17 m, 9 m	28 m, 16 m
Telescope	2.4 m	6 m	6 m
Wavelength	616-800 nm	250-500 nm	500-1000 nm
IWA <sub>tip</sub> ( $\lambda_{\max}/D$ ), mas	1.5 $\lambda/D$ , 103 mas	3.8 $\lambda/D$ , 65 mas	1.9 $\lambda/D$ , 65 mas
Fresnel Number	8.1-10.5	11.0 – 22.1	9.5-19.9
Separation	26.0 Mm	55.5 Mm	95.2 Mm
Diam/Sep <sup>2</sup> (m/Mm <sup>2</sup> )	0.039	0.011	0.007



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<b>IWA<sub>tip</sub> (<math>\lambda_{\max}/D</math>), mas</b>	<b>1.5 <math>\lambda/D = 103</math> mas</b>	<b>3.8 <math>\lambda/D = 65</math> mas</b>	<b>1.9 <math>\lambda/D = 65</math> mas</b>	Resolving power
<b>Fresnel Number</b>	<b>8.1-10.5</b>	<b>11.0 – 22.1</b>	<b>9.5-19.9</b>	Large F = easier
<b>Separation</b>	<b>26.0 Mm</b>	<b>55.5 Mm</b>	<b>95.2 Mm</b>	
<b>Diam/Sep<sup>2</sup> (m/Mm<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>0.039</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.007</b>	Scatter factor

Well-resolved IWA, **3.8  $\lambda/D$** : telescope resolves perturbations away from the planet.

Large Fresnel Number, **11-22**: easier to form a shadow, reduced sensitivity to perturbations.

D/Separation<sup>2</sup>, **0.011**: Solar glint scales as edge length / distance<sup>2</sup>. Smaller means fainter glint.

**HWO UV-VIS and VIS-NIR have reduced sensitivities to perturbations and 3.5 – 5 times less solar glint compared to the S5 baseline.**

# Remaining Development Work Towards HWO

## Overview

### 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

#### Achieved:

- Optical tests 640-725 nm with deep contrast  $< 10^{-10}$ , limited by polarization.

- Optical Model Validation

- Formation flying demo  $< 1$  m

- Scatter testing in the visible

- 4 m petal accuracy, thermal, deploy, stability.

- 10 m inner disk thermal, deploy, stability

### 35 m UV/V (TRL 5)

#### Needed/Desirable:

- UV tests at 250 nm with deep contrast, true broadband vis with reduced polarization.

- Scatter testing in the UV, quality control for AM etching vendor

- Already TRL 5 for a 35 m (9 m petals)

- Already TRL 5 for a 35 m (17 m disk)

### 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

#### Needed/Desirable:

- True broadband NIR demo

- Quality control for AM etching vendor

- Build half scale petal (8 m) with all defining features, demonstrate manufacturing, deployment cycles, thermal cycles, storage

- Build a half-scale inner disk (14 m) with all defining features, including 4 representative petals, demonstrate manufacturing, deployment cycles, thermal cycles, storage, and solar arrays.

# Starlight Suppression Towards HWO

## 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

### Achieved:

- Better than 1e-10 contrast in air at flight Fresnel number.
- 4 wavelengths 640, 660, 700 725 nm (12.5% bandpass)
- Perturbation sensitivity study at 1e-9 – 1e-8 contrast.
- Models validated to factor of 1.25 (petal shape) and 2 (petal position)
- Limited by polarization due to small mask size

## 35 m UV/V (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- Optical/NUV Testbed demo (at XRCF for example) over 260 m of beam line (inner mask diam 36 mm)
- Goals: 1e-10 contrast at 250 nm, < 3e-10 peak polarization effect in the visible, and true broadband 500-740 nm (inner mask diam 47 mm).
- Secondary goals: add 1e-10 exoplanet, spin starshade, in-the-loop out of band formation flying.
- *Risk: L*
- *Effort: M (\$2M, 2 yrs)*
- *Comment: the risk is in the execution, e.g. fabricating the mask, setting up at XRCF. The physics is very low risk.*

## 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- No new tests if NUV tests are carried out.
- Performance risk for NIR considered very low.
- *Comment: The combination of UV tests and already-completed visible tests span a factor of 3 in wavelength. Not expected to learn anything new in the NIR.*

*Risk / Level of effort are specified as Low, Medium, High (LMH).*

# Petal Edge Scatter Towards HWO

## 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

### Achieved:

- Measured scatter of coated edges to be equivalent to mag 30 integrated over starshade
- Measured in 4 bands
- In good agreement with FDTD models.
- Tested 80 cm long thermally and environmentally distorted segments.

## 35 m UV/V (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- Repeat scatter measurements for UV on UV-optimized coatings.
- Quality control process for etched edges.
- Goals: scatter equiv to mag 31.
- Segment length remains  $\sim 1$  m.
- *Risk: L*
- *Effort: L*
- *Comment: Effort involves coating design and fab, procurement and fab of edges, modification and calibration of scatterometer.*

## 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- No new tests if NUV tests are carried out.
- Quality control process for etched edges
- Performance risk for NIR considered very low. Segment length remains  $\sim 1$  m.
- *Risk: L*
- *Effort: L*
- *Comment: 60 m has a lower scatter factor than the 35 m, and coatings are generally considered to be easier.*

# Formation Sensing Towards HWO

## 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

### Achieved:

- Through a small-scale laboratory demonstration, measured ability to determine lateral alignment to 30 cm using an out-of-band pupil plane sensing approach.
- Separate from S5 tests, the Princeton testbed demonstrated hardware-in-the-loop formation control with  $10^{-10}$  in-band contrast. (Palacios et al 2020).

## 35 m UV/V (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- Design and requirements are the same. Different band is used but no performance degradation expected.
- No new tests.

## 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- Design and requirements are the same. Different band is used but no performance degradation expected.
- No new tests.

# Petal Shape Accuracy and Stability Towards HWO

## 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

### Achieved:

- Petal pre-launch shape accuracy and stability
- Petal thermal stability on-orbit
- This was with a 4 m petal, and section of a 6 m petal
- We do not have model validation of Optical Shield influence on petal shape.

## 35 m UV/V (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- At TRL-5 for a 9 m petal.
- No additional tests for TRL-5.

## 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- Design, build, and test an 8 m petal.
- Demonstrate manufacture accuracy and thermal and shape stability, test hinge interfaces
- Medium fidelity, all defining features
- Validate models of optical shield influence on shape.
- *Risk: L*
- *Effort: H*
- *This is a repeat of all the S5 petal milestones with a larger petal.*

# Inner Disk Accuracy and Stability Towards HWO

## 26 m Baseline (TRL 5)

### Achieved:

- Pre-launch inner disk accuracy and on-orbit stability
- Inner disk thermal stability on orbit.
- This was with a 10 m disk including a multi-layer optical shield but no closeout shield.
- We do not have model validation of Optical Shield influence on disk shape.

## 35 UV/V (TRL 5)

### Needed/Desirable:

- At TRL 5 for a 17 m disk.

## 60 m V/NIR (TRL 5)

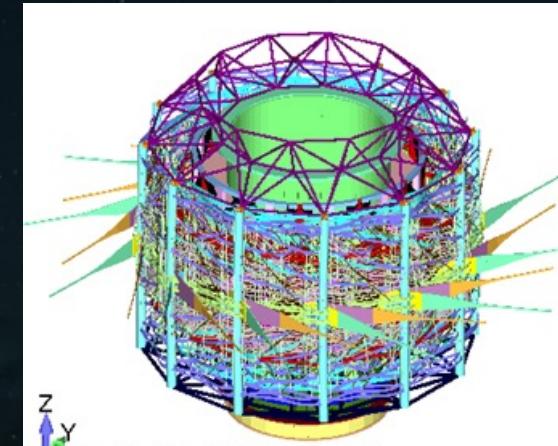
### Needed/Desirable:

- Test a medium fidelity 14-m truss with four 8-m petals.
- Medium fidelity truss bay pair (for 14 m truss) with all defining features.
- Demonstrate manufacture accuracy and thermal and shape stability.
- Validate models of optical shield influence on shape.
- Demonstrate solar panel integration including cabling.
- *Risk: L*
- *Effort: H*
- *This is a repeat of all the S5 petal milestones with a larger petal.*

# SYSTEM-LEVEL ACTIVITIES TOWARDS TRL5 FOR HWO

- **Launch loads analysis**

- S5 Starshade was analyzed for launch loads in stowed configuration with petal launch and unfurling system (PLUS)
- Repeat analyses for larger starshades



- **Solar array integration**

- Larger starshades retargeting will be propelled by solar-electric propulsion
- Put PV cells on disk optical shield
- Preliminary studies have already demonstrated that the current disk optical shield design can host PV cells (stow-deploy testing showed no degradation)
- Further design and testing is needed, especially with regards to power harnessing for DC power delivery from optical shield to hub

