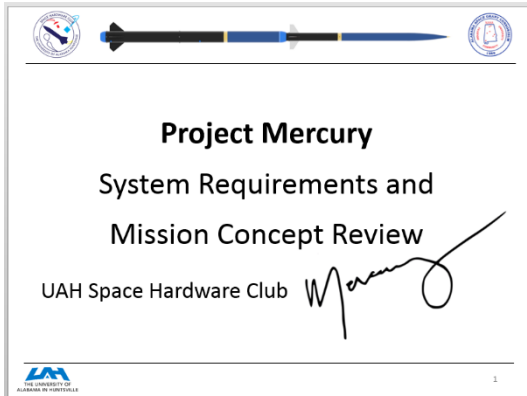


Greater Huntsville Mentors Student Engineers

by
Ken Philippart

The Greater Huntsville Section supported the University of Alabama – Huntsville Space Hardware Club’s Systems Requirement Review (SRR) and Preliminary Design Review (PDR) for the club’s Project Mercury rocket project. The section was invited to critique the presentations by AIAA student member Nathaniel Long.



The project’s objective is to design and launch a rocket to reach an altitude of 40,000 above ground level within budget in less than one year.

Project Manager Marcus Shelton presented the SRR, giving an overview of the team’s structure, budget, schedule and the requirements for the system, launch site, and electronics. AIAA evaluators asked numerous questions and offered guidance on how to better define some of the requirements.

Project Chief Engineer Davis Hunter presented the PDR including an overview of the design, simulation results, recovery methods, rocket motors and materials. The AIAA evaluators again asked probing questions and gave specific recommendations on how the team can further define and refine their design.

The SRR/PDR was a great opportunity for student engineers to present their work and receive real-world advice from practicing AIAA professional members. Greater Huntsville enjoyed the chance to mentor and provide recommendations to the students.

Thank you to AIAA members Mark Becnel, Jason Thrasher, John Dankanich and Ken Philippart for taking time to guide the next generation of engineers.

