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ARCHITECTURES FOR PARACHUTE TESTING

Abstract

Parachute testing is available in numerous shapes and forms, while each of them is suitable for different applications. This paper aims to provide an overview of the various testing methods and discuss the advantages and disadvantages they bring. The paper first identifies the relevant parameters for parachute tests and matches these to the various testing methods.

The particular testing architectures that are elaborated on in this writing are the wind tunnel testing, the drop testing from different drop platforms, the re-entry capsules from sounding rockets, and the dedicated sounding rocket missions.

The paper focuses primarily on the European test market and capabilities and aims to identify the various testing methods for companies and teams with limited resources, including student teams such as Delft Aerospace Rocket Engineering.