Heritage proven solutions from launch pad to mission payload

Space and launch connectors, cables and non-explosive actuators
Launch umbilical solutions
Mechanically, electrically and redundantly activated configurations.

Interstage-separation connectors
Locking sleeve, lanyard, or electrically-activated separation mechanisms in circular and raceway configurations.

Interconnects and release mechanisms

Cryogenic connectors
Fuel-monitoring solutions are rated for temperatures as low as -452°F (-269°C).

High-temperature disconnects
Ceramic inserts facilitate withstanding 5000°F (2760°C) exhaust plumes.

Highly-integrated umbilicals
Electrical, fluid and pneumatic connectivity with redundant-lanyard separation.
Non-explosive actuators
Separation nuts, pin pullers, tension and cable releases and integrated solutions.

Low imparted shock solutions
Load-balanced designs compensate for mating and demating misalignments.

NASA SSQ 21635 NATC
Available in 53 standard contact patterns including bussed configurations.

From launch pad to mission payload

Cell-bypass switches
Reroutes power in response to failed battery or solar-panel cells.

Blind mate, rack and panel
Heritage includes solar panel, robotic arm and science-module applications.

Cable assemblies
End-to-end connectivity solutions for applications ranging from high-current power to high-speed data.
Over 45 years of non-explosive release-mechanism heritage

Eaton’s release mechanisms utilize non-explosive actuators to provide rapid releases with low power consumption across a wide range of temperatures. Additional features include:

- Over 45 years of flight heritage
- Fragment and debris-free operation
- Electrical compatibility with pyro-activation circuits
- No precautions for explosive materials required
- Field-refurbishment capabilities significantly reduce actuator related test and qualification costs

Heritage-proven products and custom capabilities position Eaton as a primary source for space and launch solutions

Pin-puller heritage includes single and redundant configurations with shielded cables and connector assemblies. Compression releases (no internal springs) are also available.

Cable release options include field-resettable initiators (right end of solution depicted above) that enable multiple test releases without the need for actuator refurbishment.

Separation nut options include cryogenic ratings, nickel platings, and a wide range of mounting and cable configurations.

Tension-release options include miniaturized form factors that weigh less than 12.5 grams (0.44 ounces).

Tension links function as clamp fasteners until redundant initiators release their actuator shafts to facilitate separation in V-band (Marman) clamp applications.

Cell-bypass switches reroute power in response to failed battery and solar-panel cells with lower voltage drops than diode-bypass systems and higher reliability than relays.
An extensive array of space rated, mil-circular connectors

NASA SSQ 21635 NATC connectors are available in 53 standard contact patterns including MIL-DTL-1553 high speed data and bussed configurations.

Micro-military circular connectors incorporate latest-generation designs to deliver significantly smaller sizes, lower weights and higher contact densities that MIL-DTL-38999 solutions.

Power-Breech™ connectors are rated up to 900 amps. These shell size 33 – 57 solutions utilize MIL-DTL-38999 Series IV derived coupling mechanisms.

MIL-DTL-38999 solutions include hermetic and filtered receptacles and ergonomic Wing-Lok™ plugs designed for rapid engagements even when wearing bulky space gloves.

Custom cables and wiring harnesses

Eaton can provide custom cables and wiring harnesses for turnkey design, collaborative co-development, or build-to-print programs.

End-to-end connectivity capabilities include:

- Application-specific solutions for high currents and voltages, Ethernet, and RF applications
- Single and multiple-layer foil and braided EMI/RFI shielding
- Extreme temperatures, shock, vibration, radiation, corrosive media and vacuum
- Integrated fluid and gas delivery and cable separation
- NASA NHB 5300 soldering and NASA-STD-8739.4 cable manufacturing compliances

In-house capabilities include overmolding and continuous fabric and metal braidings
Electrically and mechanically-initiated separation capabilities

The pin puller depicted on the right end of the cable assembly facilitates electrical initiation for this umbilical connector. Mechanical redundancy is facilitated by the lanyard attached to the plug assembly.

The umbilical connector described below has extensive flight heritage connecting first propulsion stages to gantries. Redundancy is facilitated by dual lanyards activating primary and secondary-release collets.

Umbilical-cable plug

This redundant-lanyard-release connector utilizes MIL-DTL-38999 Series III compliant coupling threads and supports low pull force, off-axis releases.

Launch-vehicle receptacle

- Electrical deadfacing door
- Environmental control system air connection
- Primary-release collet
- High-contact-density inserts support 333 connections
- Secondary release collet
- Refurbishable plug services multiple missions
- Redundant-lanyard initiation

13.00” (330.2mm)
Innovative engineering facilitates cost effective, reusable solutions

Eaton’s custom-solutions capabilities enable quick-turn development of cost-effective and reliable space-rated solutions that are reusable, serviceable, and upgradeable. One example of Eaton’s track record of innovation is the launch-vehicle umbilical connector described below.

- MIL-DTL-38999 Series III derived shells and inserts reduce costs and leverage proven reliability and availability. Inserts can be upgraded to support changing mission requirements.
- A resettable release mechanism was developed based on a separation-nut design with over 40 years of flight heritage.

Umbilical-separation sequence

1. Lanyard-actuated separation nut with double-shear dowel pin redundancy initiates umbilical separation.
2. Force-balanced spring towers work in conjunction with an ejector plate located in between the two connector plates to power separation.
3. The six sets of connectors simultaneously demate facilitating damage-free decoupling and reusability.

Connector pins mate with the umbilical cable. The opposing ends of these feedthroughs mate to the launch-vehicle-mounted plate.

Connector sockets mate with the launch vehicle’s wiring harness. The opposing ends of these feedthroughs connect to the umbilical-cable plate.

Environmentally-sealed feedthroughs and mounting plate protect expensive avionics equipment against water intrusion during splashdown.

Anti-binding, roll-off shell designs are utilized on plate-to-plate connector engagement surfaces.
For additional information
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