Northrop Grumman’s Satellite Manufacturing Facility (SMF) in Gilbert, Arizona is one of the largest spacecraft Assembly, Integration and Test (AI&T) facilities in the United States. The 135,000 square foot facility is one of the most advanced of its kind, able to simultaneously accommodate multiple spacecraft from board-level manufacturing through full system integration and test, all under one roof and on the ground floor.

Completed in 2004, the facility is designed for efficient AI&T of highly reliable, but affordable spacecraft to 62 feet in length. It also has the flexibility to accommodate multiple Government regulations/directives. Ten spacecraft have been produced in this facility and successfully launched in support of missions for commercial Earth imaging, space science, and military technology demonstrations. Northrop Grumman is currently under contract for the production of three additional spacecraft types for NASA and 81 spacecraft for Thales Alenia.

Arizona SMF Features:
- Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Test Areas (25,600 sq ft)
  - Low-Bay, Class 100K (13,600 sq ft)
  - High-Bay, Class 100K (7,200 sq ft)
  - Two Class 10K Clean Rooms (2,400 sq ft each)
- Thermal Vacuum Test Facility with 20’ x 15’ Diameter Test Chamber
- Dynamics/Structural Test Lab
  - Dynamic Testing: Acoustics, Modal Survey, Vibration, and Static
  - Transient Capture: Shock, Separation, and Deployment
- Electromagnetic Interference/Compatibility (EMI/EMC) Test Anechoic Chamber: 17,101 cu ft
- Board and Subsystem-Level Manufacturing
- Multi-Layer Insulation Fabrication
- Wire Harness Assembly
- Manufacturing Machine Shop
- Multiple Program Office and Engineering Support Areas
- Security to TS/SCI
- Extensive Personnel Protection and Security Alarms
- FTZ

Iridium® NEXT in Northrop Grumman’s Gilbert, Arizona satellite manufacturing facility
Facility Layout

- **27 x 30 x 21 ft EMI/EMC Test Chamber**
- **Thermal Vacuum Test Chamber**
- **Dynamics Test Lab (57 ft hook height)**
- **AI&T Low-Bay (25 ft hook height)**
- **High-Bay for Deployment and Environmental Test Staging (62 ft hook height)**