



News release

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New investor helps propel the space program

BAY AREA HOUSTON, Texas – With an aim at helping the space program reach new frontiers, the world’s leading manufacturer of rocket motor systems for human-related and unmanned space launch vehicles recently invested in the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP).

“We are excited about being part of the BAHEP team and look forward to working with others to make NASA successful,” said Mike Bloomfield, vice president of Business Development for ATK.

Alliant Technologies, Inc., (ATK) provides innovative and cost-effective launch systems solutions to a broad range of customers. It serves both commercial and government aerospace and defense companies including NASA, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and U.S. Missile Defense Agency.

ATK’s Reusable Solid Rocket Motors (RSRM) and Booster Separation Motors recently performed flawlessly in NASA’s STS-123 Space Shuttle Endeavour launch. The RSRMs provided more than six million pounds of thrust – equivalent to 26 jumbo jets at full take-off throttle – to allow the shuttle to reach orbit.

Bloomfield said upcoming Constellation activities will involve developmental engineering for the Ares launch vehicles, and ATK will provide timely and direct support to the NASA Constellation Program office for the launch vehicle systems for which ATK is responsible.

In addition to space launch vehicles, ATK Launch Systems also is a lead manufacturer of strategic missiles and missile defense interceptors.

ATK was launched as an independent company in 1990, when Honeywell spun off its defense businesses to shareholders. The former Honeywell businesses had supplied defense products and systems to the U.S. and its allies for 50 years, including the first electronic autopilot that enabled B-17 aircraft to accomplish pinpoint bombing missions during World War II.

ATK expanded into the aerospace market with the acquisitions of Hercules Aerospace Company in 1995 and Thiokol Propulsion in 2001. The company currently employs 17,000 people in 21 states.

“We welcome the opportunity to work with ATK,” said Bob Mitchell, president of BAHEP. “ATK has been the recipient of NASA’s prestigious George M. Low award not once, but three times. This achievement demonstrates ATK’s commitment to innovation and attention to detail.”

For more information, visit www.atk.com

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include aerospace, petrochemical, and healthcare companies, developers, bankers and real estate brokers, 13 cities and Galveston and Harris Counties. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep.