

Irvin Aerospace to Assist in the Commercialization of Space

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SANTA ANA, Calif., Aug. 25 /PRNewswire/ -- Irvin Aerospace, the world's first parachute engineering, design and manufacturing company founded in 1919, will team with Rocketplane Kistler (RpK) to develop routine, commercially available access to space.



Landing the 2nd Stage K-1 Orbital Vehicle

Under NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program, Rocketplane Kistler was recently awarded a funded Space Act Agreement. As part of this NASA contract, the Rocketplane Kistler K-1 Launch Vehicle will complete two demonstration flights, culminating with delivery of commercial cargo to and from the International Space Station (ISS). Following the demonstrations, Rocketplane Kistler will be capable of providing commercial delivery services into space for NASA and other customers. Future expansion of these services will include the delivery of the crew to the International Space Station (ISS).

Irvin Aerospace has worked closely with Rocketplane Kistler (formerly Kistler Aerospace) for a number of years, developing the original Landing System for the K-1 Launch Vehicle. "Safe recovery is crucial to reusable Launch Vehicle operations," said Tony Taylor, Director of Space Systems for Irvin. "RpK has entrusted us with providing a controlled final descent and soft landing for both stages."

To date, joint development of the K-1 Landing System has included a number of major accomplishments including completion of several qualification flight tests, early scaled testing of the landing airbag system and production of the first flight parachutes.

"We are extremely pleased with the COTS announcement and the resumption of the K-1 development program at Irvin," said Dave Berry, President of Irvin Aerospace. Commenting on their teaming with Irvin, Randy Brinkley, President of Rocketplane Kistler said, "Irvin is a world leader in recovery system technology. They bring to the program a unique, fully-integrated Landing System that ensures safe and efficient recovery of the K-1 stages."

About Irvin Aerospace

Irvin Aerospace is a world leader in the design, development, and manufacture of best-of-class parachutes for space and air vehicle recovery systems, deceleration systems for high-performance aircraft, military, personnel, and cargo parachute systems as well as ordnance flare chutes, airbags, and weapons delivery systems. Irvin's R&D group also designs a wide variety of deceleration systems for custom applications. Irvin Aerospace has more than 85 years of parachute engineering design experience with its U.S. Corporate Headquarters located in Santa Ana, California. As a member of Airborne Systems, Irvin Aerospace and its products can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.irvinaerospace.com>

SOURCE: Irvin Aerospace