



Press Release

Irvin Aerospace Aids in Record Breaking Air Launch Drop Test

Santa Ana, CA, (June 27, 2006).... Irvin Aerospace, the world's first parachute engineering, design and manufacturing company founded in 1919, played a key role as member of the AirLaunch LLC team that set a new Air Force record. A simulated QuickReach™ rocket weighing 65,000 pounds was dropped out of a C-17 cargo aircraft, making it the heaviest single load to ever be dropped out of the plane. Irvin assisted in air launching the new rocket design.

“This test is made successful in part by dedicated team members like Irvin,” said Debra Facktor Lepore, AirLaunch, LCC president. “Their expertise is a valuable asset to this program, on both the Drop Test Article and the QuickReach™ vehicle.”

Administered by the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the U.S. Air Force, the drop test was performed as part of the Falcon Small Launch Vehicle (SLV) program which is exploring a new method of launching small satellites into space. The Falcon SLV program's goal is to develop a vehicle that can launch a 1,000 pound satellite into Low Earth Orbit for less than \$5 million, within 24 hours of notice.

“We are quite proud that our parachute successfully controlled the pitch attitude of the heaviest single load as it left the unmodified C-17 aircraft” said Tony Taylor, Director of Space for Irvin Aerospace. “We are very pleased to be once again, supporting the Air Launch LLC team and look forward to the next strategic drop later this summer.”

Irvin Aerospace designs, develops, and manufactures best-of-class parachutes for space and air vehicle recovery systems, deceleration systems for high-performance aircraft, military personnel parachute systems, cargo parachute systems, ordnance and weapon delivery, spin/stall parachute recovery systems, flare chutes, airbags, simulation, analysis and test.

Irvin Aerospace is a member of Airborne Systems Group (ASG). ASG has combined the resources of the world's leading parachute companies; Irvin Aerospace, Irvin GQ, Irvin Aerospace Canada and Para-Flite. Each of these companies is known for particular capabilities, products and industry leading technology. ASG brings these products and services to customers worldwide.

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