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NASA Astronaut Visits Airborne Systems Space and Recovery Facility

Santa Ana, CA July 17 - Airborne Systems Group, which has combined the world's leading parachute brands specializing in aerial delivery, rescue and survival equipment, and engineering services, announced that its Airborne Systems North America Space and Recovery Group today hosted a visit by NASA astronaut Barry Wilmore, who is scheduled for an November 2009 Space Shuttle launch to deliver two Express Logistics Carriers (ELC racks) to the International Space Station. The upcoming mission will also feature four spacewalks and will bring Canadian astronaut, Robert Thirsk back to earth.

“NASA wanted our employees to hear firsthand how the products we make directly impact the safety of our NASA astronauts flying in space,” said Peter Johnson, General Manager of the Space and Recovery Group. “Captain Wilmore’s shuttle flight will be facilitated by straps manufactured at Airborne Systems in Santa Ana. The straps were added to Shuttle Reusable Solid Rocket Motors (RSRM) following the Challenger disaster in 1986. These straps secure heaters to the joint regions of the RSRM, providing proper thermal conditions for launch.

Today’s visit was supported by ATK Space Systems, the producer of the RSRM. It included a tour of the facility and a presentation by Captain Wilmore to all employees followed by a questions and answer period.

The space shuttle is scheduled to be retired in 2010 and will be replaced by a rocket / capsule design. The future NASA vehicle called Orion / ARES is being supported by both Airborne and ATK. The current space shuttle landing brake parachutes were also manufactured by Airborne Systems.

About Airborne Systems

Airborne Systems has combined the core technologies of four of the world's leading parachute brands, Irvin Aerospace, GQ Parachutes, Para-Flite and AML (Aircraft Materials, Ltd). Airborne Systems is a world leader in the design, development, and manufacture of best-of-class parachutes for military, personnel, and cargo systems, space and air vehicle recovery systems, and deceleration systems for high-performance aircraft. The company also provides airbags, ordnance flare chutes and weapons delivery systems. Airborne Systems has manufacturing facilities in the United States, Canada and in the U.K. Information about the various Airborne Systems products and services can be found on the World Wide Web at www.airborne-sys.com.

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