

NEWS RELEASE



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UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE HONORS SUPPLIERS OF THE YEAR

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL (March 8, 2005) -- United Space Alliance (USA) recently recognized its top suppliers at its annual Supplier of the Year awards luncheon at the Radisson at the Port.

USA President and Chief Executive Officer Mike McCulley and Director of Procurement and Subcontracts Michael Jones presented awards in the categories of Small Business Supplier of the Year, Small Disadvantaged Business Supplier of the Year, Woman-Owned Small Business Supplier of the Year and Large Business Supplier of the Year.

"The suppliers honored here represent just one percent of roughly 1,000 vendors that we have on the books," McCulley noted, adding, "these are the best of the best."

Space City Films of Houston, Texas, received the Small Business Supplier of the Year

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Award. This company has provided video production services to USA for two years, and specializes in projects aimed at helping the space industry communicate with audiences in dramatic, high-impact fashion. Space City Films has delivered live production services and video packages for a variety of USA and NASA events, including the Shuttle Life Extension Program Summit II, both the Florida and Texas USA Superior Achievement Recognition awards ceremonies, and the Space Flight Awareness Program Honoree Event.

The Small Disadvantaged Business Supplier of the Year was awarded to Jardon-Howard Technologies, Inc., a Hispanic-owned business based in Orlando. Jardon-Howard has supplied computer-based, interactive courseware used in the training of USA employees since 1994. The training covers a variety of Space Shuttle processing activities, from technical skills needed on the shop floor to systems engineering training to training in flight operations.

Wiltech of Florida Corporation was honored with the Woman-Owned Business Supplier of the Year award. Wiltech, based at Kennedy Space Center, performs mission critical decontamination, cleaning, refurbishment, sampling and analysis on parts, components and systems involved with a variety of gases, fuels and refrigerants. Wiltech's efficiency has been invaluable to USA. For example, the company has met or improved upon a 30-day

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turnaround time for work orders 81 percent of the time.

The Large Business Supplier of the Year was awarded to Consolidated Electrical Distributors of Orlando. This company has provided electrical supplies to USA for the past two years, and has demonstrated a high level of commitment to service and quality. CED was integral to the refurbishment of all three mobile launch platforms, the large structures upon which the Space Shuttles ride to the launch pad. During the refurbishment, CED provided the electrical equipment for the control room in each of the launch platforms. CED was also key in conducting the necessary repairs to the Launch Complex 39 area electrical equipment damaged during last summer's hurricanes.

USA also presented a special award this year to David Podmeyer of DuPont Titanium Technologies for his help in solving a supply shortage last year. DuPont is not a subcontractor to USA. Despite this lack of a formal business relationship, Podmeyer responded when the USA Procurement Office called him looking for zircon sand, which is produced at a DuPont mine near Starke, Florida.

The sand was needed in the production of new treadbelt shoes for the massive crawler transporters that are used to move the Space Shuttle to the launch pad. The Minnesota company that manufactured the shoes could not locate a source for this special sand.

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Recognizing the urgency of this issue and its importance to the nation's space program, Podmeyer worked with USA to deliver the sand quickly, allowing the crawler shoes to be completed on time.

“Mr. Podmeyer is a great example of the kind of commitment we consistently receive from all of our suppliers,” said Jones. “Putting humans in space requires the cooperation and support of thousands of people all over the country, and every contribution is critical. It truly is a team effort, and USA appreciates each and every member of our supplier team.”

In honoring these suppliers, USA is keeping an ongoing commitment to developing a diverse base of suppliers and expanding opportunities for small businesses. Since its inception in 1995, USA has purchased \$1.74 billion worth of goods and services from small, small disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses throughout the country. This number represents more than 27 percent of the total dollars USA has paid to subcontractors.

United Space Alliance is a space operations business offering products and services in space flight training, space hardware processing, launch and return operations and on-orbit operations. A limited liability company owned equally by Boeing and Lockheed Martin, USA

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serves as NASA's prime contractor for the Space Shuttle and provides operations services for the International Space Station. USA employs more than 10,000 people in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Washington, D.C., and Russia.

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PHOTO CUTLINE:

USA HONORS TOP SUPPLIERS -- From left are USA CEO Mike McCulley, Robin Beach of Jardon-Howard Technologies, Judy Kler of Wiltech of Florida, Marc Havican of Space City Films, Todd Abblett of Consolidated Electrical Distributors, David Podmeyer of Dupont Titanium Technologies and Mike Jones, USA's Director of Procurement.

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