

NEWS RELEASE



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UNITED SPACE ALLIANCE PRESENTS SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO TEXAS EMPLOYEES

HOUSTON, TEXAS (March 13, 2005) -- United Space Alliance recently presented five individual employees and two teams with its highest company recognition, and honored Thomas Stansel as Employee of the Year at its annual "Quest for Excellence" Awards ceremony.

Each month, USA presents Quest for Excellence awards in the categories of Outstanding Safety, Quality, Leadership, Administrative Excellence, Technical Achievement, Community Service and Teamwork. In 2005, more than 600 employees received the monthly individual and team awards. The monthly winners are then candidates for the Superior Achievement Recognition Awards (SARA) in each category

As a USA Data Reconfiguration Process Owner, Stansel, USA's Employee of the year, also received the SARA in the Leadership category. The honors were given for his outstanding leadership in managing critical process improvements to the Shuttle Data Reconfiguration process. Stansel, when assigned this role, recognized the diverse Data Reconfiguration community, spanning across Florida, Alabama, Texas and California, and conceived a strategy for bringing the community together under dual leadership of a Process Owner and a Technical Leader. His efforts have resulted in dramatic process enhancements, quality improvements, greater communication across the Shuttle Data Reconfiguration community, and customer satisfaction.

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The SARA for Safety went to Kevin Dunn. A Shuttle Guidance, Navigation and Control Flight Controller, Dunn identified a significant safety issue involving potential damage to two Extravehicular Mobility Units – the spacesuits worn by astronauts during space walks. A trip was planned by NASA to a meteor crater in Arizona to test the prototype EMUs. The trailer scheduled to carry the two EMUs and associated support equipment weighed 11,000 pounds, but the hitch connecting the truck to the trailer was rated for only 5,000 pounds. Kevin's alertness averted possible hardware damage and associated schedule impacts.

The SARA for Quality was awarded to Kimberly Ord. As a USA is a Power, Heating, Articulation and Lighting Console (PHALCON) light controller for the International Space Station Ord initiated an extensive renovation of the training and certification processes for PHALCON's new flight controllers. PHALCON's primary responsibility is to monitor and command the Space Station electrical power system during all phases of orbital operations. It normally takes years to usher a flight control new hire through training and control room certification. Ord redesigned the certification flow and rewrote the guide. She also served as the mentor for several new hires. The time to achieve certification has now been reduced by over a 28 percent, improving the quality and timeliness of the PHALCON process.

The SARA for Administrative Excellence was a tie with the award presented to Robert Greene and the 13 member Salary Planning Tool Implementation Team. Working in Contract Management, Robert Greene is responsible for day-to-day management of Return to Flight requirements from a contract change perspective. When it became apparent that the normal contract change process could not meet anticipated RTF program requirements, Greene devised and implemented a contract change management system to meet the time-critical program needs of the RTF requirements. Greene's efforts have had a direct positive impact on customer satisfaction, program schedule performance and effective coordination across USA elements.

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The 12 member Salary Planning Tool Implementation Team was chartered to evaluate the labor-intensive salary planning process and develop modifications to improve efficiency and eliminate errors. The multi-functional team consisting of Human Resources and Information Management successfully tested and implemented the electronic web-based, year-round Salary Planning application, which has significantly reduced the number of hours required to plan, retrieve and utilize salary-planning actions. This new application is in direct alignment with USA's goals to improve processes, save productive time, and manage quality process controls.

The Technical Achievement Award went to the STS-114/LF1 Orbiter/ISS Depressurization Pump Team. The 10-member team was made up of two groups of flight controllers -- the Emergency Environmental and Consumables Management team tasked with managing the atmosphere on the Shuttle and the Environmental Control and Life Support Systems controllers who manage the atmosphere on the International Space Station. When the Shuttle is docked to the ISS and the hatches are open, this flight control team of USA and NASA experts closely manage the joint atmosphere within the appropriate flight guidelines. Together their efforts conceptualized and implemented a new Orbiter depressurization operation during STS-114/LF1, maximizing nitrogen consumables as they were transferred to the ISS, saving the program \$750,000.

The SARA for Community Service was presented to a USA Flight Software Application Tools Administrative Assistant Michelle Martinez. Martinez contributes by giving time to a multitude of worthwhile projects. She serves as the USA Team Lead for Special Olympics and the Light the Night Leukemia and Lymphoma Walk. Martinez also supports the Visit from St. Nick program, Elves and More Bike give away, as well as the Three Wishes Toy Drive, each of which provides toys for children who would otherwise go without gifts during the holidays. She also supports March of Dimes, Juvenile Diabetes, and the Cure Autism Now fundraisers to name a few. Martinez is an active member the volunteer council. Her leadership and infectious enthusiasm for giving has influenced and recruited employees to help improve the quality of life in our community.

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The SARA for Teamwork was presented to the Service Performance Checkout Unit Heat Exchanger Remove and Replace Team. This 6-member team demonstrated excellence in teamwork by developing and executing procedures necessary to ensure that a potential catastrophic hazard was eliminated and mission success was assured. The group was responsible for developing, certifying and teaching the procedure to the International Space Station Expedition 10 Crew ensuring they were well-prepared to perform the SPCU HX removal and replacement task. The team also provided training sessions for personnel in the Mission Control Center.

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. USA employs more than 10,000 people in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Washington, D.C., and Russia.

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