

Marshall's Karen Owens named 2007 Shuttle Propulsion Office Employee of the Year

By Sandra Martel

Karen K. Owens has been chosen Shuttle Propulsion Office Employee of the Year for 2007, recognized for her outstanding performance, professionalism, dedication and team work at the Marshall Center.

Owens is a manager with United Space Alliance of Houston, working at the Marshall Center to support the Shuttle Propulsion Office's Propulsion Systems Engineering and Integration Office. In her position, she manages 26 USA and subcontractor employees whose duties include integration operations at the Huntsville Operations Support Center during simulations and shuttle flight

activity, imagery analysis and database applications of shuttle missions, and technical support for the shuttle environmental assurance program.

The Shuttle Propulsion Office began the Employee of the Year recognition program in 2004. Project managers recognize employees who exhibit exceptional performance and dedication each month. The Employee of the Year is chosen by co-workers from among the monthly honorees.

Owens was selected to receive the May 2006 Shuttle Employee of the Month Award for producing and integrating propulsion system engineering data for the Propulsion Systems Engineering and Integration Office Pre-Flight Readiness Reviews, which are required prior to each shuttle mission. Flight Readiness Reviews include a thorough assessment of launch preparations and products in accordance with Certificate of Flight Readiness requirements.

"The challenges we face as a team and working together to resolve them is what I enjoy most about my job," said Owens. "We all share an incredible feeling of pride and accomplishment each time a shuttle launches," she added.

Owens began her career with USA in 1999, after working for several other shuttle support contractors. During her career, she has been awarded numerous NASA and related industry awards, including the Space Flight Awareness award in 1987 for dedication to quality work and flight safety and a Silver Snoopy Award from the Astronaut Corps in 1987 for contributions to the success of human space flight. She received NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medal at the Marshall Center Annual Honor Awards Ceremony on June 28.

Owens is originally from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and worked as a summer intern at Eglin Air Force Base. She earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., in 1983.

The writer, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.



Karen Owens