

NEWS RELEASE

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Record Turnout for Responsive Space Conference Reflects

Greatly Increased U.S. Interest in Responsive Space Missions

For Immediate Release

LOS ANGELES, CA, April 30, 2007 – the 5th Responsive Space Conference, called RS5 by the 360 participants, was held April 23–26 at the LAX Westin Hotel in Los Angeles. Government, industry, and military personnel from all of the services heard discussions of a dramatically increased interest in, and funding for, what is being called “Responsive Space”—typically small, low cost payloads that can be stored on the ground and launched on short notice in response to world events. This contrasts with traditional government space missions that typically cost billions of dollars and often take more than a decade from inception to launch. Speaking from Washington, Congressman Silvestre Reyes (D, Texas), Chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, and three Congressional staffers emphasized the need to both reduce cost and re-constitute space assets rapidly. Much of the interest has been spurred by the Chinese ASAT test in January in which they used a missile to destroy one of their own old satellites, thus demonstrating the vulnerability of many of America’s satellites.

The conference, sponsored by the AIAA Los Angeles and Orange County Sections and the Space Systems and Space Transportation Technical Committees, brought together space specialists interested in changing the way space business is done from throughout the country along with a number of

international participants. Joe Rouge, the Keynote Speaker and Associate Director of the National Security Space Office, called 2007 “a very good year for ORS [Operationally Responsive Space]” He reported to the group that a plan called for by Congress on Implementation of Responsive Space was signed by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on April 19. The plan called for creation of an ORS office at Kirtland AFB, NM. It will be headed by AF Col. Kevin McLaughlin and staffed by personnel from each of the services. The plan calls for a three-tiered approach to ORS with on-demand response by existing on-orbit assets within minutes or hours (Tier 1), on-call response with ready to field assets in days to weeks (Tier 2), and rapid deployment of new or modified capabilities in months (Tier 3), rather than years as is currently the case.

Congress has budgeted \$409 million for the seven year period from FY08 to FY13. Nearly half of the funds are expected to be spent in the first two years, indicating a broad commitment to increase funding if the program shows rapid successes as intended.

According to Dr. James Wertz, the President of Microcosm and Conference Chairman, “this year marks a dramatic change in ‘sea state’ for Responsive Space with both Congress and the military services stepping up to the need to create dramatically more responsive, lower-cost missions and a willingness to provide both manpower and financial resources to achieve this. It has been a long and challenging struggle within the community to bring about this change. I am delighted to see a real beginning in changing the way we do business in space.”

In addition to the live feeds from Washington, another first for the conference was a live broadcast of the radio talk show, The Space Show, hosted by Dr. David Livingston during the conference. A recording of the show can be heard at www.thespaceshow.com. The TacSat-2 spacecraft, the first in a series of low-cost satellites intended as precursors to operational tactical satellites, was launched earlier in the year. During lunch, one of the conference participants

sent a message to TacSat-2 asking it to send an E-mail greeting to all of those at the conference. TacSat-2 dutifully sent its E-mail greeting that was quickly picked up by the Blackberries that were pervasive among the “techie” crowd.

In addition to Congressman Reyes and Mr. Rouge, the principal speakers included Lt. Gen. Robert Kehler, Deputy Commander of USSTRATCOM, B. Gen. Neil McCasland, Deputy Commander of Los Angeles Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC), Mr. Larry Burger, Director of the Army Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center and Colonel Richard White, Director of SMC/XR. Each of them stressed the importance of responsiveness in the meeting the demands brought on by the changing nature of warfare. More information about the conference can be found at www.responsivespace.com.

About the Responsive Space Conferences

The responsive space conference series began 5 years ago at the impetus of both Microcosm, a small aerospace business located in Hawthorne, CA, and the Los Angeles Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). They were soon joined in sponsoring the activity by the AIAAA Orange County Section and the Space Systems and Space Transportation Technical Committees. Since it's inception, Dr. James Wertz of Microcosm has served as the conference General Chairman, Chuck Kilmer of Boeing has served as the Administrative Chairman, and Dr. Robert Conger of Microcosm has served as the Sponsorship and Speaker Chairman. Technical Chairmen and Session Chairs have been from the two AIAA technical committees. Papers from the first four conferences and additional information about the conference and about responsive space can be found on the conference website at www.responsivespace.com. Planning for the conferences is a year-round activity with planning for RS6 about to get underway.

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[High resolution photos are available for download at www.smad.com/rs5_rouge.jpg]



MR. JOSEPH D. ROUGE, SES, Associate Director National Security Space Office.
Keynote Speaker: 5th Responsive Space Conference