

November 2, 2002 — **Astro Aerospace awarded Boeing Exceptional Company Performance Award for work on Mobile Transporter.**

CARPINTERIA, Calif. – Nov. 5 /PRNewswire/ – TRW Inc. Astro Aerospace, (a TRW Company), was award the Boeing Exceptional Company Performance Award for its Mobile Transporter (MT), a railcar designed to install and service equipment for the International Space Station (ISS).

The award was given, according to a Boeing citation, for “performance in providing high quality, on-time delivery of orbiter subsystems, components and services used in the International Space Station structures and mechanisms.”

The Supplier Award is an annual NASA Space Flight Awareness award that honors outstanding performance by hardware, software and service supplier, contractors, vendors and subcontractors who support NASA human space flight programs. Eligibility criteria should include consideration of high-quality products, excellent technical and cost performance, and adherence to schedules.

“We are proud to be honored for our work on the Mobile Transporter,” said Chris Yamada, president, Astro Aerospace. “The MT is the successful culmination of years of dedicated effort at Astro and is a fine example of our structures and mechanisms capability.”

The Mobile Transporter is a five-foot long mechanized structure built to move very large objects around the exterior of ISS, with the help of an attached robotic arm. The MT runs up and down the backbone (truss) of ISS on a set of rails. The MT and a truss segment were attached to ISS in May 2002.

In a typical operation, the Space Shuttle brings up a new piece of ISS. Responding to commands from the astronautics, the robotic arm holds the equipment, and the MT carries it to its new location for installation by the arm. The MT is powered to travel up and down the rails by an umbilical cable. However, at a worksite, it plugs into a high-power electrical outlet.

Astro Aerospace designs and manufactures space deployable structures, including AstroMesh furlable antennas and reflectors, AstroMast truss masts, telescopic booms, storable tubular extendible members (STEM) and deep truss structures (www.Astro-Aerospace.com). TRW, Astro’s parent company, provides advanced-technology products and services for the global aerospace, information systems and automotive markets. Information about TRW is available at www.trw.com.

Boeing NASA Systems is a business unit of Boeing Integrated Defense Systems and is NASA's prime contractor for the International Space Station and responsible for design, construction and integrating the components. The company also supports NASA in operating ISS.

Presently, ISS has 15,000 cubic feet of habitable volume $\frac{3}{4}$ more room than a conventional three-bedroom house – and weighs 335,000 pounds. There are seven research racks on board, 16 system racks and 10 stowage racks. ISS currently weighs about 335,000 lbs. and, at assembly complete, will weigh almost one million pounds.

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