

ICESat Launches From Vandenberg Air Force Base

PRNewswire
BOULDER, Colo.

The Ice, Cloud, and Land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003. The ICESat mission will help scientists understand global warming by measuring the height of the Earth's polar ice masses.

Ball Aerospace built the ICESat spacecraft bus for the NASA altimetry mission based on its highly accurate Ball Commercial Platform 2000 (BCP 2000), the spacecraft bus also used for the QuikSCAT and QuickBird missions.

ICESat will employ the Geoscience Laser Altimeter System (GLAS) to measure changes in the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, where nearly 77 percent of the planet's fresh water is frozen. ICESat will measure the elevations of clouds and land while traveling 17,000 mph from pole to pole and circling the Earth once every 100 minutes. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center designed and built GLAS, a next-generation space-lidar -- a pulsed laser technology for mapping the Earth's surface.

"To understand and predict future changes in the Earth's climate it's critical to measure ice thickness at the poles," said Zubin Emsley, ICESat program manager for Ball Aerospace. "The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets cover 10 percent of the Earth's land area, and contain 77 percent of the Earth's fresh water and 99 percent of its glacier ice. The baseline measurements provided by ICESat are key to understanding future weather patterns."

As part of NASA's Earth Observing System, the five-year ICESat mission will also gauge the vertical structure of clouds and aerosols in the atmosphere; map the topography of land surfaces; and measure the roughness, reflectivity, vegetation heights, snow cover, and sea-ice surface characteristics.

The Ball Aerospace BCP 2000 bus, procured by NASA for the ICESat mission, is specifically designed for remote sensing missions.

ICESat will be controlled on-orbit by the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

Image available at: <http://www.ball.com/aerospace/media/images/icesat.html>

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. provides imaging and communications products for commercial and government customers worldwide and is a subsidiary of Ball Corporation, a Fortune 500 company which had sales of \$3.7 billion in 2001.

Forward-Looking Statements:

The information in this news release contains "forward-looking" statements. Actual results or outcomes may differ materially from those expressed or implied. As time passes, the relevance and accuracy of forward-looking statements contained in this release may change. The Company currently does not intend to update any particular forward-looking statement except, as it deems necessary at quarterly or annual release of earnings. Please refer to the Form 10-Q filed by Ball Corporation on August 14, 2002, for a summary of key risk factors that could affect actual results or outcomes. Factors that might affect the Packaging segment or business of the Company are: fluctuation in consumer and customer demand; competitive packaging material availability, pricing and substitution; the weather; vegetable and fishing yields; company and industry productive capacity and competitive activity; lack of productivity improvement or production cost reductions; regulatory action or laws, such as recycling or mandatory deposit laws; availability and cost of raw materials, energy and transportation; the ability or inability to pass on to customers changes in these costs, particularly resin, steel and aluminum; pricing and ability or inability to sell scrap; and international business risks (including foreign exchange rates) particularly in developing countries such as China and Brazil. Factors that may affect the Aerospace segment or business are: funding, authorization, and availability of government contracts; and technical uncertainty associated with Aerospace segment contracts. Factors that could affect the Company as a whole include those listed plus: successful and unsuccessful acquisitions, joint ventures or divestitures and the integration activities associated therewith; the inability to purchase the Company's common stock; regulatory action or laws including those related to corporate governance and financial reporting, regulations and standards, business consolidation investment costs and the net realizable value of assets associated with the Company's activities; goodwill impairment; changes in generally accepted accounting principles or their interpretation; litigation, including intellectual property and antitrust; strikes; boycotts; interest rates and level of company debt; terrorist activities, war or catastrophic events; and U.S. and foreign economic conditions.

SOURCE: Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

CONTACT: Roz Brown, +1-303-939-6146, or Rachelle Wood, +1-303-939-6606,
both of Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., media@ball.com

Web site: <http://www.ballaerospace.com/>
<http://www.ball.com/aerospace/media/images/icesat.html>

<https://ball.mediaroom.com/2003-01-12-ICESat-Launches-From-Vandenberg-Air-Force-Base>