

Video: Ball Aerospace Instruments COS & WFC3 Head to Hubble Space Telescope

PRNewswire-FirstCall
BOULDER, Colo.

The historic mission to service NASA's Hubble Space Telescope this month will include installation of two instruments built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. Astronauts flying aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis expect to leave the Hubble at the apex of its scientific capabilities following their 11-day mission. The historic mission to service NASA's Hubble Space Telescope this month will include installation of two instruments built by Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. Astronauts flying aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis expect to leave the Hubble at the apex of its scientific capabilities following their 11-day mission. Atlantis is scheduled to launch on Monday, May 11, at 2:01 EDT.

To view the Multimedia News Release, go to: <http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/ballaerospace/33581/>

The Ball Aerospace-built Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS) and the Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3) will be installed; and upgrades will be made to two critical Ball instruments: the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (STIS), installed in 1997; and the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS), installed during the 2002 servicing mission. The celebrated mission will extend the operating life of the telescope and greatly enhance its scientific capability.

"Ball Aerospace is extremely proud to be part of NASA's historic return to the Hubble Space Telescope," said David L. Taylor, president and CEO of Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. "Hubble has provided us with the most amazing images in the universe and will expand those offerings following installation of the two new instruments provided by Ball Aerospace."

Ball has made significant contributions to the Hubble program for more than 30 years and became a key player after our engineers designed and built the Corrective Optics Space Telescope Axial Replacement that compensated for the original primary mirror flaw and enabled optimum performance of several science instruments.

Ball also built and assembled more than a thousand new tool parts that comprise the Crew Aids and Tools (CAT), to be used by STS-125 astronauts when they arrive at Hubble to repair STIS and ACS.

"The NASA contractor teams including the Ball team have built great tools in a very short time frame to allow us to do this task," said astronaut John Grunsfeld when the STS-125 crew visited Ball Aerospace in November 2008. Mission specialist Grunsfeld has likened the repair of STIS and ACS to "brain surgery" in space, because neither instrument was designed to be repaired on orbit.

Following NASA's servicing mission, all five major instruments in operation on the orbiting observatory will have been built by Ball.

The COS and WFC3 instruments contain advanced technology sensors, which far surpass what has been available on Hubble to-date, and improvement factors of 10X-70X are expected in certain key performance areas. COS will be 30 times more sensitive in the far-ultraviolet than earlier Hubble ultraviolet spectrographs, and will be able to observe distant quasars too faint for detection by previous spectrographs.

WFC3 will be sensitive to wavelengths from the near-ultraviolet to the near-infrared spectrum. This broad range expands our ability to make new discoveries and to understand existing data about the universe and galaxies. Using a 4,000 x 4,000 pixel charged couple device detector with a large field of view, WFC3 provides images with less "background noise" than previous instruments.

In addition to WFC3, COS, ACS and STIS, Hubble instruments built by Ball aerospace include: the Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph, one of the original science instruments launched aboard HST; the Corrective Optics Space Telescope Axial Replacement, installed in 1993; and the Near-infrared Camera and Multi-object Spectrometer, installed in 1997.

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. supports critical missions of important national agencies such as the Department of Defense, NASA, NOAA and other U.S. government and commercial entities. The company develops and manufactures spacecraft, advanced instruments and sensors, components, data exploitation systems and RF solutions for strategic, tactical and scientific applications. Since 1956, Ball Aerospace has been responsible for numerous technological and scientific 'firsts' and is a technology innovator in aerospace.

Ball Corporation is a supplier of high-quality metal and plastic packaging products for beverage, food and household products customers, and of aerospace and other technologies and services, primarily for the U.S. government. Ball Corporation and its subsidiaries employ more than 14,000 people worldwide and reported 2008 sales of approximately \$7.6 billion.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains "forward-looking" statements concerning future events and financial performance. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "estimates" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Key risks and uncertainties are summarized in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Exhibit 99.2 in our Form 10-K, which are available at our Web site and at www.sec.gov. Factors that might affect our packaging segments include fluctuation in product demand and preferences; availability and cost of raw materials; competitive packaging availability, pricing and substitution; changes in climate and weather; crop yields; competitive activity; failure to achieve anticipated productivity improvements or production cost reductions, including our beverage can end project; mandatory deposit or other restrictive packaging laws; changes in major customer or supplier contracts or loss of a major customer or supplier; and changes in foreign exchange rates, tax rates and activities of foreign subsidiaries. Factors that might affect our aerospace segment include: funding, authorization, availability and returns of government and commercial contracts; and delays, extensions and technical uncertainties affecting segment contracts. Factors that might affect the company as a whole include those listed plus: accounting changes; changes in senior management; the current global credit squeeze and its effects on liquidity, credit risk, asset values and the economy; successful or unsuccessful acquisitions, joint ventures or divestitures; integration of recently acquired businesses; regulatory action or laws including tax, environmental, health and workplace safety, including in respect of chemicals or substances used in raw materials or in the manufacturing process; governmental investigations; technological developments and innovations; goodwill impairment; antitrust, patent and other litigation; strikes; labor cost changes; rates of return projected and earned on assets of the company's defined benefit retirement plans; pension changes; reduced cash flow; interest rates affecting our debt; and changes to unaudited results due to statutory audits or other effects.

First Call Analyst:

FCMN Contact: rbrown@ball.com

Video: <http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/ballaerospace/33581>

SOURCE: Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

CONTACT: Roz Brown, +1-303-533-6059, rbrown@ball.com

<https://ball.mediaroom.com/2009-05-05-Video-Ball-Aerospace-Instruments-COS-WFC3-Head-to-Hubble-Space-Telescope>