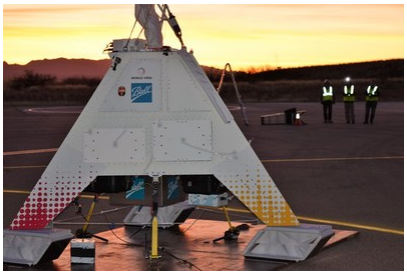
Ball News Releases

World View and Ball Aerospace Demonstrate Persistent Remote Sensing from Stratollite Platform

Successful Proof of Concept Test for Commercial Use

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 23, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- World View and Ball Aerospace successfully completed a Stratollite mission earlier this month, demonstrating early capabilities for remote sensing applications from the stratosphere, nearly 70,000 feet above Earth. This latest mission is a pathfinder for a commercial offering of low-cost, persistent, high-resolution imagery data from the stratosphere and is part of the collaboration between the two companies.



World View has developed Stratollites, a new category of above-earth vehicles that are high-tech balloons offering long-duration, persistent flight above specific geographical areas of interest. Stratollites, as the name suggests, operate in the stratosphere and can maintain station and directionally navigate. They utilize a proprietary method of altitude control to channel directional wind patterns at various altitudes.

The mission carried a Ball Aerospace sensor and collected data on the Stratollite's flight characteristics and on sensor performance in this environment. For example, imagery captured in-flight by the Ball sensor shows approximately five meter resolution panchromatic imagery from a station-keeping position approximately 76,900 feet above Arizona. The results offer a glimpse into the utility of the platform for a wide variety of persistent remote sensing applications.

"This pathfinder mission demonstrates proof of concept for the Stratollite's capability as a high-altitude imaging platform for a variety of Ball sensors," said Debra Facktor Lepore, Ball Aerospace's vice president and general manager, commercial aerospace business unit. "It paves the way for future flights offering higher resolution multi-spectral sensors for applications such as public safety, homeland security, and civic resource mapping and monitoring."

Stratollites, carrying context cameras and high-resolution sensors, will ultimately enable rapid insights into customer-specified areas of interest. With the use of green, regenerative fuel sources that indefinitely power the Stratollite's directional control systems – in this case, a large solar array – the Stratollite will offer months of uninterrupted persistence for imaging and real-time data collection, which would be prohibitive for fuel-dependent aircraft or orbiting satellites. They can be retrieved easily and quickly by the mission team for payload and sensor modifications and rapid re-launch.

"With over 50 flights completed to date, World View is already routinely flying commercial payloads to the edge of space for a wide variety of government, commercial, and research customers," said Jane Poynter, CEO of World View. "Our disruptive Stratollite platform and collaboration with Ball brings together hardware and analysis to enable previously unthinkable applications at a fraction of the cost of existing technology."

World View and Ball Aerospace plan to build on the success of this flight with subsequent Stratollite missions that will carry higher resolution sensors for longer-duration flights.

World View's innovative flight technologies offer a unique perspective of Earth from the edge of space. World View's Stratollites, in operation today, offer low-cost, long-duration, persistent high-altitude flight for enterprise and government agencies. Using advanced stratospheric balloon technology, Stratollite applications include communications, remote sensing, weather and research. To learn more about World View, visit www.WorldView.space.

Ball Aerospace pioneers discoveries that enable our customers to perform beyond expectation and protect what matters most. We create innovative space solutions, enable more accurate weather forecasts, drive insightful observations of our planet, deliver actionable data and intelligence, and ensure those who defend our freedom go forward bravely and return home safely. For more information, visit www.ball.com/aerospace or connect with us on Facebook or Twitter.

Ball Corporation supplies innovative, sustainable packaging solutions for beverage, food and household products customers, as well as aerospace and other technologies and services primarily for the U.S. government. Ball Corporation and its subsidiaries employ 18,450 people worldwide and 2016 net sales were $9.1 billion. For more information, visit www.ball.com, or connect with us on Facebook or Twitter.

Forward-Looking Statements

This release contains "forward-looking" statements concerning future events and financial performance. Words such as "expects," "anticipates," "estimates," "believes," "targets," "likely" and similar expressions typically identify forward-looking statements, which are generally any statements other than statements of historical fact. Such statements are based on current expectations or views of the future and are subject to risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied. You should therefore not place undue reliance upon any forward-looking statements and any of such statements should be read in conjunction with, and, qualified in their entirety by, the cautionary statements referenced below. 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 factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual outcomes and results to be different are summarized in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Exhibit 99 in our Form 10-K, which are available on our website and at www.sec.gov. Additional factors that might affect: a) our packaging segments include product demand fluctuations; availability/cost of raw materials; competitive packaging, pricing and substitution; changes in climate and weather; competitive activity; failure to achieve synergies, productivity improvements or cost reductions; mandatory deposit or other restrictive packaging laws; customer and supplier consolidation, power and supply chain influence; changes in major customer or supplier contracts or a loss of a major customer or supplier; political instability and sanctions; currency controls; and changes in foreign exchange or tax rates; b) our aerospace segment include funding, authorization, availability and returns of government and commercial contracts; and delays, extensions and technical uncertainties affecting segment contracts; c) the company as a whole include those listed plus: changes in senior management; regulatory action or issues including tax, environmental, health and workplace safety, including U.S. FDA and other actions or public concerns affecting products filled in our containers, or chemicals or substances used in raw materials or in the manufacturing process; technological developments and innovations; litigation; strikes; labor cost changes; rates of return on assets of the company's defined benefit retirement plans; pension changes; uncertainties surrounding geopolitical events and governmental policies both in the U.S. and in other countries, including the U.S. government elections, budget, sequestration and debt limit; reduced cash flow; ability to achieve cost-out initiatives and synergies; interest rates affecting our debt; and successful or unsuccessful acquisitions and divestitures, including with respect to the Rexam PLC acquisition and its integration, or the associated divestiture; the effect of the acquisition or the divestiture on our business relationships, operating results and business generally.

SOURCE Ball Aerospace

For further information: Bill Rigler, (303) 939-7104, brigler@ball.com or Ball Investor Relations: Ann Scott (303) 460-3537, ascott@ball.com, or Media Contact: Andrew Antonio, (302) 383-7244, Andrew@worldview.space

---

https://ball.mediaroom.com/2017-02-23-World-View-and-Ball-Aerospace-Demonstrate-Persistent-Remote-Sensing-from-Stratollite-Platform