

NEWS RELEASE

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PRESSURMAXX CRYOGENIC TANK WINS ACMA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION IN COMPOSITES ENGINEERING

For immediate release

EL SEGUNDO, CA October 25, 2006 – Scorpion Space Launch Company (SSL), a full-service launch and aerospace manufacturing firm and a sister company of Microcosm, Inc. in El Segundo, California, today announced that its recently introduced PRESSURMAXX all-composite liquid oxygen (LOX) tank has received the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) and *Composites Manufacturing* magazine 2006 Award for Excellence and Innovation in Composites Engineering. The award marks the first time the ACMA has issued an award in this category.

"The awards are designed to recognize outstanding achievement by people in the composites industry," said *Composites Manufacturing* Editor Andy Rusnak. "They were created by the ACMA and *CM* magazine to highlight excellence and innovation such as that displayed by Aaron Lechner of Microcosm. Faced with the almost insurmountable task of decreasing the structural weight of propellant tanks for the Scorpion launch vehicle family, in order to meet payload-to-orbit objectives, Lechner lead a team at Microcosm that developed the first ever, all composite carbon fiber, high pressure cryogenic liquid oxygen tank. In doing so, he had to work closely with vendors to develop a resin system that could withstand more shear stress at cold temperatures."

Commenting on the ACMA E&I Award, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Jack Kulpa, CEO & President of SSLC which now manufactures and markets these innovative tanks, said, “We are extremely pleased with the recognition our PRESSURMAXX composite tanks have received from the preeminent organization in composites manufacturing. This award reflects the innovative work and commitment of Aaron Leichner and the other members of the tank development team at Microcosm as well as new materials technology from CTD (Composite Technology Development of Lafayette, CO). We are grateful to both organizations for their pioneering work that is also scalable to much larger tanks and launch vehicles. In addition to using these tanks on Scorpius launch vehicles, we offer this technology as PRESSURMAXX products in a range of sizes as well as custom-made pressure vessels for industrial applications where ultra-high strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance, or cryogenic performance is important. The technology offers distinct advantages for a range of other applications such as mobile tanking systems, CNG transport and storage, pressurized propellant systems and aircraft cooling among many others.”

PRESSURMAXX tanks conform to ASME standards and their liner-less design reduces cost and weight by over 60% compared to metal tanks. They also offer significant advantages over metal or metal-lined tanks, where fatigue characteristics and separation issues of the liner materials can compromise operations. This superior performance profile is expected to benefit many applications such as Marine, Oil and Gas, Chemical and Pharmaceutical processing, and Textile and Paper mills.

Further information and an explanatory video on the tank can be found on the SSLC website, www.Scorpius.com or by contacting info@scorpius.com.

About Scorpius Space Launch Company, Inc.

Scorpius Space Launch Company was incorporated in 1999 as a spin-off company of Microcosm Inc. with the distinct mandate to specialize in *producing low-cost space launch vehicles, and providing affordable on-demand*

space launch services. **SSLC** draws on substantial know-how from the parent company, which has been specializing in reducing space mission cost since 1984 with specific expertise in designing commercial, military, and scientific missions from small, low-cost programs to multi-billion dollar, multi-satellite constellations and a family of launch vehicles. While Microcosm provides the technology development, **SSLC** joins the commitment by providing the "3R" dedication: Responsive, Reliable and Reduced cost launch missions.



Pictured are Aron Leichner (4th from left) and other Microcosm employees standing on the PRESSURMAXX LOX tank - from left, Dana Keeler, Blake Bartosh, Jim Wertz (Pres.), Aaron Leichner, John Collins, and Lynn Shimohara.

Hi-res photo at <http://www.smad.com/CompTankStrength.jpg>

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