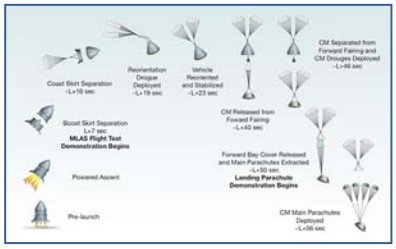
July 8, 2009

RTD System aboard Astronaut Escape Mission

State College, PA – NASA's alternate launch abort system for astronaut escape was successfully demonstrated on Wednesday, July 8th at 6:26 a.m. at Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia. A CPU designed and manufactured by RTD Embedded Technologies, Inc. was responsible for initiating all staging separations, and all drogue and parachute deployments during flight.

The unpiloted mission tests an alternate abort system to propel a future spacecraft and its crew away from a problem on the launch pad or during the ascent. The specially designed 33-foot high, bullet-shaped MLAS vehicle consists of a forward fairing, crew module simulator, coast skirt, motor cage, and boost skirt.



The test, sponsored by NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC), launched the MLAS vehicle to an altitude of one mile. Following the burnout of four solid rocket motors, the crew module mockup successfully separated from the launch vehicle and parachuted into the Atlantic Ocean. The unprecedented amount of data collected from the MLAS pad abort test (including aero-acoustic, aerodynamic, and orientation data) will aid NASA engineers in research and safety assessments of critical, high-risk projects.

RTD Embedded Technologies, Inc. designs and manufactures highly sophisticated, rugged, embedded computer modules and systems for industrial, military, and aerospace applications. Meeting a broad scope of technical needs, RTD devices aid researchers, engineers, and military personnel across the globe and in space. RTD is a small business based in State College, Pennsylvania. Since 1985, it has provided quality, technical jobs to the central Pennsylvania region and has employed the services of shops and vendors across America, which helps to sustain the US manufacturing industrial base.

Because of their unique, innovative, flexible, fast-paced, and cost-effective nature, RTD remains a leader in embedded technology. Learn more at www.rtd.com.

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