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Aerojet Rocketdyne Supports Intelsat 33e Communications Satellite Mission

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 03, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Rocket engines made by Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc., a subsidiary of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:AJRD), are now providing in-flight maneuvers for the Intelsat 33e communications satellite, which launched aboard an Ariane 5 rocket from Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana on Aug. 24. Boeing Satellite Systems International, which built the satellite, has announced that the spacecraft is now operational. Intelsat 33e represents the inaugural mission of Aerojet Rocketdyne's 100-volt fuel-efficient electric propulsion subsystem. This improved fuel efficiency reduces propellant mass by several hundred pounds, helping to enable the high throughput capability of this new Intelsat Epic Next Generation (Epic^{NG}) satellite.

"Congratulations to all on another successful Intelsat mission, and the first mission for the 100-volt electric propulsion thrusters," said Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and President Eileen Drake. "We are honored to continue our valued relationship with Boeing and to help enable the high throughput capability of the new Intelsat Epic^{NG} satellites."

In addition to the electric propulsion subsystem, Aerojet Rocketdyne propulsion on the Intelsat 33e mission includes 16 monopropellant rocket engines: 12 four-Newton MR-111C hydrazine and four 22-Newton MR-106L hydrazine engines, all of which provide attitude control and adjustment, east-west stationkeeping, spin control, decommissioning and settling burns. The MR-111 and MR-106 engines have extensive flight history, each with more than 2,000 flight thrusters delivered with 100 percent mission success.

The electric propulsion subsystem provided by Aerojet Rocketdyne includes a 4.4kW power processing unit, relay box, electrical harnessing and six 2.2kW MR-510 electric arcjet thrusters. Aerojet Rocketdyne has flown more than 170 MR-510 arcjet thrusters with 100 percent mission success. Intelsat 33e is the second of six Intelsat Epic^{NG} satellites being built by Boeing. Intelsat Epic^{NG} is a high performance, next generation satellite platform that delivers global high-throughput capability. Intelsat 33e offers coverage in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The remaining three Intelsat Epic^{NG} satellites, also being built by Boeing, will all include the same complement of six Aerojet Rocketdyne electric propulsion thrusters for north-south stationkeeping, and 16 hydrazine rocket engines.

Aerojet Rocketdyne is an innovative company delivering solutions that create value for its customers in the aerospace and defense markets. The company is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader that provides propulsion and energetics to the space, missile defense and strategic systems, tactical systems and armaments areas, in support of domestic and international markets. Additional information about Aerojet Rocketdyne can be obtained by visiting our websites at www.Rocket.com and www.AerojetRocketdyne.com.

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