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Aerojet Successfully Completes Final Ground Test of Flight-Weight Controllable Thrust Motor

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Jan. 30 /PRNewswire/ -- Aerojet, a GenCorp Inc. company, today announced the successful final ground test of a flight-weight controllable thrust motor at its Sacramento, Calif. facility. The motor achieved all performance objectives that were specified for the test. The completion of the CTM ground test program will now allow the flight test portion of test program to begin in February 2003.

The motor, a "stand alone" system, included flight-weight controller electronics, a rechargeable battery, and simulated missile power loads. The test culminated in a successful static firing for a duration of 75 seconds with a demonstrated throttling ratio of 20:1. The controllable thrust motor provides any level of thrust, at any time, within the range of capability, for tactical missile applications. Prior to the test, the motor completed vibration testing, temperature cycling, and was temperature conditioned to the lowest level of the specification.

"The advancement of controllable thrust technology allows for one motor to support multiple missions and the success of the final ground test means this is ready for application," said Aerojet Defense Systems Executive Director Joe Abbate. "The most immediate beneficiary of this motor test will be the Raytheon NetFires Precision Attack Missile (PAM). We are excited about the next step of flight testing this motor in the PAM demonstration program."

"The completion of these six successful flight motor tests -- at all of the specified extreme temperature conditions -- with the last two tests as "stand alone" motor systems, gives us the confidence our flights tests will be successful as well. This last test marks the end of the ground test phase and paves the way for the first flight test in late February 2003," said Glen Sutton, program manager for Raytheon's NetFires PAM.

The controllable thrust motor supports longer range, shorter time-to-target, multi-mission capability and other benefits. The next planned activity will be the flight testing of Aerojet's controllable thrust motor.

Aerojet is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader principally serving the missile and space propulsion, and defense and armaments markets. For more information, please visit <http://www.aerojet.com> . SOURCE Aerojet

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