



STARCHASER
commercial space access

Press Release

16th March 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UK Company tests Eco-rocket engine

Manchester, United Kingdom. Manchester based high technology Company Starchaser Industries will today conduct a full test firing of the environmentally friendly rocket engine it has developed using grant funding from the North West regional Development Agency (NWDA). The £130,730 award for Research and Development has been used to develop a unique eco-friendly rocket engine that will find eventual use as a safety system aboard commercial space rockets.

Specialising in the development, operation and commercialisation of space related products, Starchaser Industries has identified a unique way to develop an environmentally friendly hybrid rocket engine that will utilize “green” propellants, producing virtually no harmful emissions.

This technology can also be used aboard space launch vehicles as recovery systems to ensure the safe retrieval of astronauts in the event of an emergency situation.

The project is based upon the established practice of using hydrogen peroxide as an oxidiser, but has new elements in that the oxidiser is combined with **solid fuel made from waste materials such as used car tyres**. The safety aspect is a key differentiation to current technologies, potentially leading to a successful commercial future.

As well as managing a number of research and development projects, Starchaser in collaboration with the University of Salford, also has an established and highly successful Outreach Programme, working with the public and education. The Outreach team visit around 200 schools and engage with over 150,000 school children every year.

Mark Hughes, Executive Director for Enterprise and Skills at the NWDA said:

“Innovation is crucial to the region’s global competitiveness and is at the heart of the UK’s drive to ‘build and sustain a knowledge economy.’ The application of leading-edge technologies, like those demonstrated by Starchaser, help companies develop new markets, increase exports and generate additional jobs for the region.

Steven Bennett, Managing Director, at Starchaser Industries Ltd said:

“The development of an eco-friendly rocket motor system that can be employed to safeguard the lives of astronauts will showcase the very best of British endeavour and innovation. Our ultimate aim, though, is to carry tourists into space and our eco-engine takes us another step closer to realising that ambition.”

Starchaser Industries’ space tourism initiative will enable the public to purchase flights where they can personally spend 20 minutes in space and experience three to four minutes of weightlessness. Starchaser astronauts will travel at 3,500 miles per hour, see the curvature of the earth and join the likes of Yuri Gagarin and Neil Armstrong as real space pioneers.

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Notes to editors:

For more information please contact Starchaser on 44 (0)161 882 9922 or Email us at info@starchaser.co.uk

For video of the engine test please see http://starchaser.co.uk/index.php?view=gallery_Hybrid09vid

About Starchaser

Starchaser Industries, (www.starchaser.co.uk) is a privately held, high technology company that specialises in the development, operation and commercialisation of space related products and services. Starchaser Industries enables new space related business opportunities by providing safe, reliable, affordable and reusable access to space for both the space tourism and micro-satellite launch markets.

Starchaser Industries also has an established and highly successful Outreach Programme that engages with both the general public and education. Starchaser's educational activities complement the UK national curriculum and help inspire and motivate students at all levels to pursue careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Starchaser provides students with opportunities for involvement in research and development projects to actively promote the STEM subjects and encourage them to pursue higher education at the graduate and doctorate levels.

Except for the historical information contained herein, matters discussed in this news release may constitute forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected in the statements.

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