Spectrolab Receives Top Quality Certifications

Spectrolab, Inc., the company that powered the Mars rover "Spirit," and the world's largest manufacturer of space solar cells and panels, has received SAE AS9100 certification and recertification as an ISO 9001:2000 compliant company. These credentials mean that Spectrolab's quality control and manufacturing processes have been evaluated independently and can be expected to yield top-quality space systems. Spectrolab is a subsidiary of The Boeing Company (NYSE: BA).

"Spectrolab's relentless pursuit to comply with increasingly more rigorous quality control systems is exemplified by this achievement and assures their competitive edge in the industry," said Dave Ryan, President of Boeing Satellite Systems International -- Spectrolab's parent company. "By becoming an AS9100 certified company just three years after receiving their initial ISO 9001 certification, Spectrolab again demonstrates their commitment to meeting their customers' strict quality control needs."

The accomplishment of attaining AS9100 certification is further validation that organizations within Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems are committed to providing customers with the highest quality space systems and the best value. Spectrolab's achievement follows recent quality accomplishments at two other S&IS businesses: Boeing's satellite organization achieved the Software Engineering Institute's Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) Level 5 and AS9100 certifications, and Mission Systems was rated CMMI Level 3 for systems and software engineering.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international committee that has compiled sets of rules or regulations for the way companies operate and for the records they keep on their manufacturing processes. The AS9100 is comprised of ISO 9001 quality system requirements supplemented by additional requirements established by the aerospace industry. The development of the supplemental requirements was the result of an international effort by aerospace companies with a common goal of establishing a single quality management system for use within the aerospace industry. Each additional requirement (or supplementation) to ISO 9001 can be characterized as 1) above the requirement of ISO, 2) clarifies an existing ISO requirement or further defines some of the subtle relationships between the quality elements of ISO 9001. By strict compliance to these standards or rules, a company helps ensure that it consistently produces quality products, and that products are produced the same way, every time. This assures customers that they can depend on getting the same-quality product now and in the future. Spectrolab chose Det Norske Veritas Certification, Inc. as registrar.

Spectrolab is headquartered in Sylmar, California, a suburb of Los Angeles, and is the world's largest manufacturer of space solar cells. It also is a leading supplier of Nightsun searchlights and solar simulators. For more information, visit Spectrolab's web site at www.spectrolab.com.
A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a $30.5 billion business. It provides network-centric system solutions to its global military, government, and commercial customers. It is a leading provider of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems; the world's largest military aircraft manufacturer; the world's largest satellite manufacturer and a leading provider of space-based communications; the primary systems integrator for U.S. missile defense and Department of Homeland Security; NASA's largest contractor; and a global leader in sustainment solutions and launch services.
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