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The Boeing Company [NYSE: BA] today was recognized by NASA as its Large Business Contractor of the Year for providing outstanding support to small businesses at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., through its Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services (CAPPS) program.

"Boeing recognizes the benefits and innovations contributed by CAPPS small business partners," said Mark Jager, Boeing CAPPS program manager. "The contributions of our small business partners help ensure that CAPPS offers best-of-industry solutions to NASA."

Boeing believes in its small business partners and works with them to provide quality service to NASA and the community, and has shown its commitment to the expansion of the small business program by its selected teammates for CAPPS.

These small business partnerships have enabled Boeing to manage costs and exceed NASA's requirement of 19 percent small business participation for the last five years. NASA, in support of federal government contract agreements, requires prime contractors to place this percentage of their contracted efforts with small businesses.

As the CAPPS prime contractor, Boeing performs designated activities for the International Space Station, space shuttle and expendable launch vehicle payloads. Boeing crews and teammates have processed payloads on every space shuttle mission, a legacy that began with the Columbia's maiden flight in April 1981.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a \$32.4 billion business with 72,000 employees worldwide.
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