Boeing Provides New Antenna, Batteries for Shuttle Mission to Space Station

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla., May 14, 2010 -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] has provided critical parts that Space Shuttle *Atlantis* will carry to the International Space Station (ISS) when the orbiter launches today on the 32nd and final flight of its quarter-century career. The parts include six replacement batteries and a space-to-ground antenna (SGANT) with accompanying boom assembly.

The six batteries will be installed on the ISS' port truss to replace old batteries that *Atlantis* will bring back to Earth. The batteries provide power while the ISS is in the Earth's shadow for approximately 30 minutes of each 90-minute orbit. The SGANT will increase the ISS's ability to conduct two-way data, voice, and video communications.

"The added SGANT will eventually more than double the station's existing ability to support and monitor activities such as experiments, robotic operations and spacewalks," said Stephen Long, Boeing ISS Communication and Tracking engineer. "This new antenna will allow for the creation of two audio-only channels and an increase in video channels from four to six, and also include a new interface to the station's Large Area Network."

These additional capabilities are important to the station's future operations as crews move from assembling the ISS to fully making use of it for earth sciences and space-based science experiments.

Boeing's Checkout, Assembly and Payload Processing Services (CAPPS) team also prepared *Atlantis*' entire mission payload for launch, including the Russian Mini-Research Module 1 and spare parts for the ISS' Canadian Dextre robotic arm.

The services and support Boeing provides under its CAPPS contract include planning for and receiving payloads, maintaining associated ground support systems, integrating payloads with the space shuttle, launch support, and space shuttle post-landing payload activities.

Boeing is the prime contractor to NASA for the ISS. In addition to designing and building all the major U.S. elements, Boeing also is responsible for ensuring the successful integration of new hardware and software -- including components from international partners -- as well as for providing sustaining engineering work.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Defense, Space & Security is one of the world's largest defense, space and security businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions, and the world's largest and most versatile manufacturer of military aircraft. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Defense, Space & Security is a $34 billion business with 68,000 employees worldwide.

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