



## **Rocketplane Kistler to Bring Launch Vehicle Assembly and Integration to NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK: AUGUST 09, 2006: Rocketplane Kistler (RpK) plans to complete assembly and integration of its K-1 reusable launch vehicle at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) starting in 2007.

RpK is currently a finalist in NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) competition to provide resupply services to the International Space Station. Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Michoud Operations is a key member of the K-1 team, responsible for the fabrication of the vehicle's propellant tanks. Lockheed Martin will also undertake final assembly and integration of the stages and vehicle under the direction of RpK and the management of Orbital Sciences Corporation.

"Lockheed Martin has an exceptional workforce at Michoud, and we are very pleased to have them undertaking K-1 fabrication, assembly, and integration," said Randy Brinkley, RpK's President. "Their experience with large space systems coupled with Orbital Science's experience in program management, will ensure timely and reliable demonstration of RpK's ISS servicing capability."

George French, RpK's CEO and Chairman of the Board said, "We are grateful to NASA for hosting K-1 development at the Michoud Assembly Facility. We hope to keep the MAF busy building K-1s and successor vehicles long beyond Space Shuttle retirement."

Both Brinkley and French noted the importance of the assets and expertise at Michoud, and the nation's critical need to maintain them despite the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in the region.

"Michoud's ride-out crew heroically saved the MAF from any serious damage. It can now serve as an engine of recovery for the region," said French. "It is always a pleasure when good business is also a good deed."

"Michoud Operations is excited at the prospect of supporting Rocketplane Kistler on the COTS program," said Marshall Byrd, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Michoud Operations. "It is a logical and meaningful extension of our work on the Space Shuttle External Tank and important to NASA's continuing support of the International Space Station."

Rocketplane Kistler's K-1 launch system's hardware is 75% complete, and is scheduled for first flight in 2008. Rocketplane Kistler's sub-orbital XP Spaceplane is 50% complete, and scheduled for first flight in late 2008.

For information regarding this announcement, contact Angela Brock at 405-488-1200 x 100, or via email: [abrock@rocketplane.com](mailto:abrock@rocketplane.com).

### *About Rocketplane Kistler*

Rocketplane Kistler (RpK) brings together two industry-leading makers and future operators of the next-generation orbital and suborbital space transportation vehicles. RpK was formed when Kistler Aerospace Corporation and Rocketplane Limited, Inc. were brought under common ownership. RpK markets the services of the fully reusable, two stage Kistler K-1 orbital launch vehicle and the fully reusable, suborbital Rocketplane XP Spaceplane, both of which will be first to fly in their respective markets. Visit the websites for more information: [www.rocketplane.com](http://www.rocketplane.com), [www.kistleraerospace.com](http://www.kistleraerospace.com).