



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Chuck Wilkins
Manager, Public Affairs
(703) 396-6304
cwilkins@aurora.aero

AURORA TO OPEN R&D CENTER IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

MANASSAS, Va. Dec. 8 – Aurora Flight Sciences announced today that it will establish a research and development center in Cambridge, Mass. to develop and integrate advanced technologies into the company’s unmanned aerial vehicle products and diversify the company’s technology portfolio. The center will house a staff of senior technologists and engineers dedicated to exploring, developing and exploiting new and existing technologies.

“Aurora started as an outgrowth of the MIT department of Aeronautics and Astronautics,” said Aurora President and CEO John Langford. “Our first customer was the Harvard Atmospheric Research Project. We are collaborating closely with Draper Laboratories to build the first aircraft to fly in another planet’s atmosphere. It made perfect sense for us to return to our roots and establish our new R&D center in Cambridge.”

The Cambridge R&D center will be Aurora’s fourth major facility, and will focus on developing and exploiting technologies in areas such as vehicle robotics, innovative propulsion and sensor technologies, and manufacturing technology. Staff at the center will work closely with personnel at Aurora’s engineering and product development center in Manassas, Va., its manufacturing facility in Clarksburg, W.Va., and its final assembly plant near Columbus, Miss. to integrate their new technologies into Aurora’s aircraft and processes.

Aurora has named Dr. Thomas Vaneck to head the new center as Aurora’s Vice President of Research and Development. Dr. Vaneck has more than 20 years experience in aerospace related technology and well as research and development in both academia and in private industry. Prior to joining Aurora, Vaneck was the Vice President of Business Development and Director of Advanced

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Projects at AeroAstro, Inc., a small space technology company. Prior to joining industry, Dr. Vaneck was in the research staff at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he created and managed the Autonomous Surface Craft Laboratory under the MIT Sea Grant Program.

Dr. Vaneck has advanced degrees in both aerospace engineering and mathematics including a Ph.D. from Stanford University in aerospace engineering.

About Aurora Flight Sciences

Aurora Flight Sciences is a leader in unmanned aerial systems technology for research, defense and homeland security organizations. For more than 15 years, Aurora Flight Sciences has expanded the limits of unmanned flight through the design and manufacture of innovative aircraft. Learn more about Aurora Flight Sciences by visiting the company's website at www.aurora.aero.

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Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation
www.aurora.aero

9950 Wakeman Drive
Manassas, VA 20110
703-369-3633 • Fax 703-369-0961

3000 East Benedum Industrial Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330
304-842-8100 • Fax 304-842-8116

114 Airport Road
Starkville, MS 39759
662-325-8363 • Fax 662-325-3864