



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No: APR-213
Contact: Patricia Woodside
Director, Public Relations
(703) 396-6304
pwoodside@aurora.aero



Students Sam Miller, Matthew Bates, and Justin Burger of Mississippi's Starkville Home Educators received 6th place honors in the Team America Rocketry Challenge.

Rocketry Competition a Big Success for Mississippi Student Finalists

Manassas, VA - May 28, 2008- Three teams of Mississippi students reached the finals in last weekend's Team America Rocketry Challenge, a nationwide advanced aerospace competition for middle and high students. Employees from Aurora Flight Sciences' Mississippi facility had the privilege of mentoring these contestants who competed in the final 100 of over 600 teams from across the country. The Aurora-sponsored teams, excited about being a part of this year's competition and already looking forward to competing again next year, finished 80th, 17th, and 6th.

"The competition was phenomenal, very competitive and a great experience" says Mississippi student Matthew Berk, a member of the 6th-place team. "Our mantra was 'simplicity' which worked out really well for us." This was the first year that Matthew and his team members Justin Burger and Sam Miller participated in the challenge, making them even more proud of their 6th place finish.

The challenge marks a historic milestone for Mississippi students, Aurora Flight Sciences, and for sparking the next generation's interest in the aerospace industry. For the first time ever, Mississippi students participated in the nationwide final competition and Aurora Flight Sciences hopes to increase their outreach and mentorship efforts with many more students in years to come.

"I was blown away by the kids, both in their excitement and enthusiasm, and in their focus, dedication, and professionalism," says Aurora Flight Sciences' Greg Stewart, Mississippi General Manager and teams mentor. "They were out to do a job and do it well, and they loved what they were doing. I came away with a renewed hope in the future of America."

The winners of the challenge took home \$60,000 in scholarships and prizes, a trip to Farnborough International Airshow in London this July, and a chance to participate in NASA's advanced rocketry competition.

About Aurora Flight Sciences

Aurora Flight Sciences designs and builds robotic aircraft and other advanced aerospace vehicles for scientific and military applications. Aurora is headquartered in Manassas, VA and operates production plants in Clarksburg, WV and Columbus, MS and a Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our web site at www.aurora.aero.

Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation

www.aurora.aero

9950 Wakeman Drive
Manassas, VA 20110-2702
703-369-3633 • Fax 703-369-4514

3000 East Benedum Industrial Drive
Bridgeport, WV 26330-9683
304-842-8100 • Fax 304-842-8116

One Broadway, 12th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142-1100
617-500-4800 • Fax 617-500-4810

2502 Airport Road
Columbus, MS 39701
662-328-8227 • Fax 662-328-8971