



Reply to Attn of:

426

October 27, 2008

Orbital Sciences Corporation
21839 Atlantic Boulevard
Dulles, VA 20166
Attention: Lynn Westine, Bandwidth Solutions, Inc.

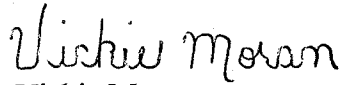
The Glory Project at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center would like to commend Eric Thorstenson for his support of the Glory Mission as the lead Solar Array Deployment Mechanical Engineer and as a lead member of the Mechanical Systems Engineering team. It may have taken us a while to get an awards program going and recognition out to the team, but that should be no reflection of the support provided by Eric. For more than 3 years, we have observed Eric's sustained outstanding support and we would like to particularly acknowledge his recent significant accomplishment of resolving all the technical issues with the solar array deployment system, and accomplishing successful pyro-fired deployments of both flight solar array wings as part of Observatory mechanical testing in October 2008. For this achievement, Eric has been chosen to receive the Outstanding Achievement Award.

The solar array deployment mechanisms for Glory were built for a previous program and put in storage for about 7 years. The Glory project inherited this hardware, with little to no documentation on the design, and with no one on the team familiar with hardware or design. Eric Thorstenson led the effort to understand the design and perform the proper design verification testing. He designed and built an Engineering Development Unit (EDU) wing assembly and a deployment test set-up and conducted successful EDU wing deployments in the early summer 2008. Out of that effort, Eric found that the pyros were not fired in the correct sequence and that a change to the flight software was required. Had that discovery not been made on the EDU, the flight wings may have been damaged in ground test or failed to deploy causing significant delays to the I&T schedule. Eric developed the procedures to build-up the flight solar array wings and designed and built the deployment test set-up for the flight solar array wings. He put in many long days to accomplish this and not impact the I&T schedule, which had a small window for him to work on the spacecraft between bus mechanical close-out and the start of Observatory Acoustics testing.

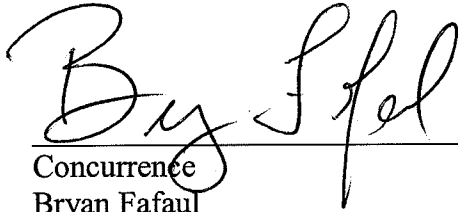
Because of the inherited hardware and lack of design documentation, the solar array deployment system has been carried as a top project risk for quite some time. Eric's completion of a successful pyro-fired deployment has retired most of that risk. We are confident that the rest will be fully retired upon the successful completion of the post-mechanical test deployment. Eric's competence and integrity, as an engineer, and his leadership, organizational and communication skills, make him a highly valued member of

the Glory team. We look forward to his continued support as we take delivery of the final instrument and prepare for acoustics testing, shipment and launch.

Sincerely,



Vickie Moran
Glory NASA Observatory Manager



Concurrence
Bryan Fafaul
Glory NASA Project Manager

cc:

Mr. M. Edison
Mr. B. Mischel
Mr. R. Schumacher
Mr. F. Ali