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Sporian Developing Harsh Environment Sensors for US Navy

LAFAYETTE, COLORADO, 2 June 2008. Sporian Microsystems Inc. has been awarded a contract from the U.S. Navy's Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) to develop an operational sensor suite to monitor the environment in the combustion chamber of a jet engine. The sensor will be required to survive extremely harsh conditions including temperatures up to 1500°C/2700°F, pressure in excess of 750 PSI, plus exposure to corrosive and oxidizing gasses. The effort will leverage Sporian's expertise in technology areas including: MEMS (micro-electro-mechanical systems), PDCs (polymer derived ceramics) and harsh environment electronics packaging.

Sporian is a charter member of the Propulsion Instrumentation Working Group's Strategic Advisory Board (PIWG/SAB) and will utilize guidelines developed by PIWG members to establish requirements for the sensor suite. In addition, Sporian will consult with experts at Rolls-Royce Corporation in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Tom Bonsett, Instrumentation Development Engineer for Rolls-Royce Corporation said: "In the later stages of the development effort, Rolls-Royce will subject the Sporian sensors to a rigorous testing regime, exposing the sensors to turbine engine hot section pressures and temperatures."

"Our goal is to develop an operational sensor that improves the Navy's ability to perform condition-based maintenance and prognostic health management. Simply put, this could mean improved visibility of needed maintenance activity while reducing unnecessary maintenance efforts. The bottom line is to provide lower cost and increased operational availability," said Sporian principal investigator Dr. Kevin Harsh.

The Naval Air Systems Command at Patuxent River will monitor the results of Sporian's development efforts. Beyond the DoD, Sporian recognizes opportunities in both commercial aerospace and in the utility industry where major efforts in harsh environment sensing need to be realized to improve the performance of electricity generating assets.

For more information, see www.sporian.com or call 303-516-9075 X 19.