

NEWS RELEASE

FOR: Scorpius SLC
4940 West 147th St.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
<http://www.scorpius.com>

CONTACT: Markus Rufer
310-219-2700
mruferr@scorpius.com

THE SCORPIUS THROWS DOWN THE FIRST GAUNTLET AT THE X-PRIZE FOUNDATION 2009 NORTHROP GRUMMAN LUNAR LANDER CHALLENGE

**Leading contender uses state-of-the-art all-composite tank technology to
enhance performance and achieve required mass properties**

HAWTHORNE, CA, September 17, 2009 – Armadillo Aerospace, last year’s winner of the Lunar Lander challenge Level 1, completed the required two successful flights with their new SCORPIUS vehicle on Saturday, September 12, 2009, using a set of PRESSURMAXX helium tanks to stake their claim for the big prize. The much more difficult Level 2 trails require the rocket to fly for 180 seconds before landing precisely on a simulated lunar surface constructed with craters and boulders. A \$1 million First Place and a \$500,000 second place prize will be claimed by the winners of Level 2.

Scorpius Space Launch Company sponsored the Armadillo Team and provided critically important all-composite tank technology that enabled them to achieve essential, performance enhancing mass reductions. A set of ultra light PRESSURMAXX high pressure helium gas tanks were used to reduce the weight of the tankage by half. The SCORPIUS vehicle fulfilled all requirements for the two flights and landed within inches of the mark.

Commenting on the success of the SCORPIUS, Neil Milburn, VP & Program Manager of Armadillo Aerospace said, “This fantastic success was in no small part due to the contributions of Scorpius Space Launch Company. We had to overcome some adversity in the preparation for the competition, and their performance as a company was stellar. Their PRESSURMAXX tank products are amazing and got us the mass reductions we needed so critically.”

Markus Rufer, Executive VP and COO of Scorpius Space Launch Company added, “We are glad we took the plunge with the highly skilled Armadillo Team. Linerless all-composite tank technology is not used by anyone else for high pressure helium applications as far as we know. These ultra light, unibody tanks are a truly leading edge technology that offers significant advantages for aerospace and other industries. We are pleased to demonstrate their superior capabilities in this exciting application.”

PRESSURMAXX tank technology was given the Award for Excellence and Innovation in Composites Engineering by the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA) as published in the Composites Manufacturing magazine. Since then, the tanks have gained recognition within and beyond the space community for their unmatched performance. This state-of-the-art technology, developed in cooperation with Microcosm Inc, employs a monolithic linerless unibody construction that offers superior performance and significant weight reduction compared to conventional carbon fiber overwrapped metal tanks. The resin system, termed Sapphire*77, is based on a proprietary high performance matrix. At high pressure, these tanks have a performance index over 2,000,000 inches, which is a level not yet achieved by any other high pressure vessel technology available today. The most suitable aerospace PRESSURMAXX applications are launch vehicles, spacecraft, long life missions, planetary surface operations, lunar colony missions, vertical takeoff and landing vehicles and space station and human safety sensitive operations.

About Scorpius Space Launch Company, SSLC:

Scorpius Space Launch Company is a Hawthorne, CA based aerospace firm providing a full range of launch services from early launch mission planning to delivery in space. The company was incorporated in 1999 as a spin-off of Microcosm Inc. with the distinct mandate to specialize in producing low cost space launch vehicles and aerospace components, and providing affordable, reliable and responsive space launch services. For further information about the SSLC product line, please visit their website at www.scorpius.com.



The Armadillo Team in front of the SCORPIUS vehicle after the successful Level 2 flight on September 21, 2009

About Armadillo Aerospace

Armadillo Aerospace is a leading developer of reusable rocket powered vehicles. We are focused on VTVL (vertical takeoff, vertical landing) suborbital research and passenger flights, with an eye towards eventual paths to orbit.

Founded in 2000, we have an unequaled experience base with over one hundred flight tests spread over a dozen different vehicles. We have done work for NASA and the Air Force, and flown vehicles at every X-Prize Cup event. We performed the very first flight under the new FAA/AST experimental permit regulatory regime, and we have made over a half dozen more permitted flights since then, all fully insured and observed by on-site AST personnel.

We believe in openness regarding both our successes and failures, and the progress updates here track our work from the very beginning.