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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ...

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**RIDGETOP GROUP WINS NAVAIR CONTRACT
FOR ELECTRONIC PROGNOSTICS FOR COTS**

Ridgetop Group, Inc., of Tucson, Arizona, has been awarded a Naval Air System Command (NAVAIR) contract for development of Electronic Prognostics for Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) electronic components and subsystems. The \$80,000 Phase I award will enable Ridgetop to develop a dedicated chip containing sensitive prognostic monitors that can be used with COTS devices to ensure early detection of impending failures. Phase II of the project calls for prototype manufacture and test.

As COTS devices are increasingly being used by avionics suppliers, development of electronic Prognostics and Health Management (ePHM) capability that is usable with COTS will enable NAVAIR and other equipment users to monitor the remaining useful life (RUL) of components and then take corrective action at the optimal time for component replacement, thereby restoring systems quickly to full capability and avoiding system failures.

Prognostics allow prediction of future failure events through observation of selected precursors or test structures. In a comprehensive Prognostics and Health Management (PHM) System, the system is programmed to monitor the key areas of performance and take mitigating action if a fault is detected.

“COTS components are not built with the emphasis on long life that avionics and military applications require,” said Ridgetop CEO Doug Goodman. “The ability to anticipate electronic failures with the ePHM chip that will be developed under this contract will significantly reduce the life cycle costs of components and systems while enhancing their reliability and mission readiness rate.”

Ridgetop Group, Inc. is the world-leader in electronic prognostics and reliability Built-in Self Test (BIST). Headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, the firm was founded in 2000 and has built an impressive customer list of both government (NAVAIR, NASA/Goddard, NASA/Ames, NAVSEA, Air Force) and commercial customers, including Honeywell and several large domestic and international semiconductor firms.

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