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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE…

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RIDGETOP GROUP WINS JAPANESE LSI IP DESIGN RECOGNITION

Ridgetop Group, Inc., of Tucson, a fast-growing high-technology firm, won a Large Scale Integration (LSI) design recognition award from a Japanese IP Award program sponsored by 10 major Japanese companies, including Matsushita (Panasonic), NEC, Toshiba and Fujitsu. Ridgetop Group won one of two 2nd place awards for its Solder Joint Built-in-Self-Test™ (SJ BIST™) intellectual property, which is available for early commercial use and evaluation. Spinnaker Systems, Ridgetop Group's distributor in Japan, represented SJ BIST in the 9th IP Award ceremony held in Shinagawa, Tokyo, Japan on the 26th of April. Ridgetop Group is only the second non-Japanese firm to win any award recognition in the nine-year history of the program. SJ BIST (patent pending) is a result of one of several innovative research efforts focused on solder-joint degradation prognostics for a current SBIR Phase II Research and Development Contract from the Naval Air System Command (NAVAIR) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program.

Electronic control systems, such as those found on aircraft, have electronic circuit boards with components, such as microprocessors, that are mounted onto the boards using solder balls affixed to their input and output pins. Solder balls are subject to thermo-mechanical stresses that cause them to crack and eventually fail, causing troublesome intermittent operational faults that are difficult to diagnose. Early, definitive detection of a solder-joint failure is an important addition to methodologies to improve operational readiness of aircraft such as the JSF F35. Ridgetop's Principal Investigator and patent co-inventor is James Hofmeister, Senior Principal Engineer.

Doug Goodman, Ridgetop's CEO stated: "SJ BIST, which is one of three of our innovative electronic prognostics for solder-joints, has both military and commercial application in the mitigation of intermittent problems caused by solder-joint failures. Innovation such as this is exactly what the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract awards are intended to produce."

Ridgetop Group is a privately-held firm founded in 2000 that provides mission-critical electronic prognostic tools, fault-to-failure prognostic libraries, semiconductor IP libraries and engineering services. Customers include NAVAIR, Air Force Research Labs (AFRL), Missile Defense Agency (MDA), DaimlerChrysler, Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS), ATK/Mission Research, Honeywell, NAVSEA, DARPA, and NASA.

For further information, please visit our website at www.ridgetop-group.com or contact Milena Thompson at milena@ridgetop-group.com.