FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE …

August 7, 2006
Tucson, Arizona

RIDGETOP GROUP AWARDED $1.9 M NAVAIR CONTRACT

Ridgetop Group, Inc., a Tucson-based high technology firm, reported that a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase II Award has been issued by the Naval Air System Command (NAVAIR). The total amount of the award, including the base R&D plus options, is $1,928,000 and will support Ridgetop's R&D in the fast-growing area of Electronic Prognostics.

The award comes from NAVAIR's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program office and is focused on Ridgetop's work in solder joint degradation prognostics. Electronic systems that control the aircraft consist of many electronic circuit boards containing parts affixed to the boards using solder. As a metallic compound, solder "ages" and will eventually crack, oxidize, and ultimately fail, causing troublesome intermittent connections between components on the boards. Measurement and prediction of the solder's aging and the resultant impending failure of electronic modules is a vital part of JSF's program of providing overall Prognostics/Health Management (PHM) methodologies to improve operational readiness of its aircraft. Ridgetop's Principal Investigator for this project is James Hofmeister, Senior Principal Engineer.

Doug Goodman, Ridgetop's CEO stated, "Most everyone has experienced problems with intermittent behavior in electronic devices, whether it's the car acting up suddenly or a PC failure at a bad time. Electronic prognostics can help mitigate these problems and are a key example of "dual-use" wherein the military and commercial markets share a common concern. We are glad that we were selected by NAVAIR to create solutions and will be working closely with Raytheon to integrate our technology into their systems."

Ridgetop Group is a privately-held firm founded in 2000 that provides mission-critical electronic prognostics tools, fault-to-failure progression libraries, and semiconductor IP libraries. Customers include NAVAIR, Air Force Research Labs (AFRL), Daimler-Chrysler, ATK/Mission Research, Honeywell, NAVSEA, and DARPA.

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

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