



Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization
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Rocket Science Takes Off in Inland Empire

Mobile launch platform debuts at Cal State San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – October 26, 2006 – Dr. Albert K. Karnig, President of California State University, San Bernardino, announced today the completion of a mobile launch platform by Lunar Rocket and Rover Co., Inc., a private rocket launch company in Los Alamitos.

“This mobile launch platform will allow California students at the middle school, high school and university level to have low-cost access to scientific education and see their payloads go into space from right here in Southern California,” said Karnig in a welcoming presentation at the campus today.

The mobile launch platform, which is essentially a large, custom trailer with a launch pedestal mounted on it, is capable of sending 12-foot-long scientific rockets to an altitude of 65 to 100 miles, depending on launch angle and payload. Construction of the platform was funded by a Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT) grant, awarded by Cal State’s Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC).

Lunar Rocket and Rover has already sent up four rockets from Florida’s Cape Canaveral facility, where it is one of only three private firms authorized to launch—the other two being Boeing and Lockheed.

“OTTC has made it possible for us to launch missions in other parts of the country now,” says Robert Kleinberger, President of Lunar Rocket and Rover. “The first test for the new launch platform will be next year at Vandenberg Air Force Base.”

The Vandenberg test launch itself is being made possible by a grant coming through the California Space Authority. This new grant, just announced, is for \$1 million, which will be spent to prepare a suitable site and facilities at Vandenberg for future missions. The grant is being split between Lunar Rocket and Rover and Santa Maria-based nonprofit Space Information Laboratories. The grant will be administered by the Foundation for Cal State San Bernardino. The university has named two co-Principal Investigators to the project: Dr. Herb Brunkhorst, Chair of the Department of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education, and Dr. Timothy Usher, Professor of Physics.

“We expect to be able to involve Inland Empire middle school and high school students in the upcoming missions,” said Usher. Drs. Brunkhorst and Usher will be actively working with IE schools to involve them in the program.

OTTC Communications Manager Greg Zerovnik noted that Lunar Rocket and Rover has received several grants from the office, which have enabled Kleinberger to successfully design and manufacture an advanced payload needle for use with existing meteorological rocket boosters provided by the military. Also on display at the event were two examples of the “Decelerator” payload recovery system. The Decelerators, which resemble squared-off parachutes and have the ability to float, were built by teams of

6th and 8th grade students at Oak Middle School in Los Alamitos, the city where Kleinberger's firm is located.

Kleinberger adds, "We already have three universities who have agreed to work on the scientific payloads that would be made possible by phase II funds, for which we are now applying. Now that we have a proven way to recover payloads," says Kleinberger, "there's no reason that Inland Empire middle school and high school students can't participate in future missions."

About Lunar Rocket and Rover

Lunar Rocket and Rover, Inc. is a privately held small business based in Los Alamitos, CA. Founder and President Robert Kleinberger has successfully developed an effective and economical model for launching and recovering scientific payloads into suborbital space. For more information, call 562-596-7847, or visit the company's website at <http://www.lunar-rocket.com>.

About the Office of Technology Transfer and Commercialization (OTTC)

OTTC (<http://www.ottc.csusb.edu>) is the management office for a grant program known as CCAT, Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology, funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) through Congressman Jerry Lewis's office. OTTC provides grants intended to be used to help companies develop commercial applications for technologies that have been developed in government laboratories; and also help the government find technologies it needs for defense and homeland security needs OTTC is a two-way conduit that acts as a virtual incubator for advanced technology.