



News Release

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Tulsa Company Honored by Boeing for its Performance

CHICAGO, March 24, 2005 – A Tulsa company helping to build an aircraft that is playing a key role in the war on terror has been honored for its performance.

Helicomb, International is one of 13 suppliers recognized last night by The Boeing Company [NYSE:BA] at its Supplier of the Year awards ceremony in Newport Beach, Calif.

Helicomb builds 42 parts for the Boeing C-17 Globemaster, which has transported thousands of troops and millions of pounds of cargo in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The C-17 also has delivered more than two million pounds of relief provisions to those affected by last year's devastating tsunami in South Asia.

The Boeing Suppliers of the Year award recognizes companies from around the world who are working together with Boeing to design and build innovative products and services. The suppliers are selected for the award based on stringent performance criteria for quality, on-time delivery, cost and customer satisfaction.

Helicomb, which received its Supplier of the Year Award in the Small Business category, earned a quality performance rating of 99.8 percent and a delivery performance rating of 100 percent in 2004, and has been cited for supporting Boeing in initiatives that result in product improvement and cost reductions.

"The Helicomb team has tremendous pride in its products," said Bob Austin, president of Helicomb. "From the moment this company was founded, we've always stressed quality and delivery. Our team is ecstatic at news of this award."

The Boeing Supplier Management Process Council (SMPC), with representation from procurement organizations from all Boeing business units, leads the effort to build a high-performing supplier network focused on first-time quality, on-time service and affordability.

“Helicomb is a small business that does a big job,” said Jim Morris, Boeing Commercial Airplanes’ vice president of Engineering and Manufacturing. “Their products are top quality, and they deliver 100 percent on time. They also work hard to improve their processes and products and keep our costs down. We’re delighted to honor them with this prestigious award.”

Founded in 1981, Helicomb has grown from an oil industry helicopter body repair operation to a world class manufacturer of advanced composite structural components and flight controls.

Helicomb was one of 706 Boeing suppliers in Oklahoma in 2004. The Boeing Company paid Oklahoma suppliers more than \$169 million dollars for products, goods and services in 2004.

The other 2004 Boeing Suppliers of the Year, organized by industry or purchasing category, follow.

- **Avionics**
Harris Corporation Department of Defense, Melbourne, Fla.
- **Electronic, Hydraulic and Mechanical Systems**
Kidde Technologies Inc, Wilson, N.C.
- **Major Structures**
Stork Fokker AESP, Papendrecht, The Netherlands
- **Purchased Outside Production**
J. D. Ott Company, Inc. Seattle, Wash.
- **Propulsion**
Pratt & Whitney Commercial Engines, East Hartford, Conn.
- **Common Aerospace Commodities**
Radiall, Rosny Sous Bois, France
- **Interiors**
Draeger Aerospace and Carleton Technologies, Orchard Park, N.Y.
- **Aerospace Support**
ST Aviation Services Co. Pte Ltd (SASCO), Singapore
- **Non-Production**
Dell, Inc., Round Rock, Texas

- **Small Minority Business Enterprise/Small Disadvantaged Business**
Creative Management Technology, Inc., Cocoa Beach, Fla.
- **Small Woman-Owned Disadvantaged Business**
Patriot Machine, Inc., St. Charles, Mo.
- **Technology Advancement**
Waveflows LLC, Glenview, Ill.

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