LOCAL BUSINESS AND FLORIDA UNIVERSITY WORKING TOGETHER

5/30/2007 – Florida Turbine Technologies, Inc. of Palm Beach County is working with Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL to address technology needs of small turbine engines, enhance educational opportunities for its employees, and help the university to create a better prepared workforce for the future.

Florida Turbine president Joseph Brostmeyer met with a group of students and faculty from the FIT Department of Aerospace Engineering recently at Florida Turbine's Jupiter facility to collaborate on senior projects that will develop innovative solutions to real-world design problems. The students will continue to meet with Florida Turbine Technologies senior design engineers once a month to review progress and obtain guidance on project directions.

The research will feed directly into work that Florida Turbine is currently doing on a $7.5 million contract to develop advanced high efficiency turbine engines for the US Army. The projects are aimed at developing advanced component technology to improve performance of the engines, and reduce fuel consumption. Fuel efficiency is critical to the US military which is aggressively working to reduce its dependence on foreign fuel.

Brostmeyer sees this collaboration as a chance to address multidisciplinary engineering challenges, and at the same time, get direct working experience with potential future employees. In return, students will see first hand how problems are solved in the complex world of gas turbine engineering, and develop working relationships with engineers that have 20 to 40 years of experience in the field.

University professors also benefit by developing an understanding of critical problems facing the small turbine engine industry which can lead to more research funding for the university. "Students graduating from this program will be much better prepared to enter the workforce, and will be sought after by the best companies," commented Brostmeyer.

This project is just the start of the Florida Turbine's planned collaborations with the university which includes joint research activities in turbine-related areas, and graduate-level educational opportunities for Florida Turbine's employees.

Florida Turbine and Florida Institute of Technology expect to work out an agreement that provides advanced classes in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering for Florida Turbine's employees. The vision includes courses that are taught on-site at Florida Turbine through live video feeds to the FIT campus. Employees will be able to obtain college credits and interact directly with professors and other students on campus. "This will give our employees more job satisfaction, and help to improve our workforce," Brostmeyer commented.

Florida Turbine Technologies was recently awarded a $24 million contract for advanced rocket propulsion development through the US Air Force and Aerojet. Senior projects and research programs are anticipated to be spun from this contract as well.

Another school looking to work with Florida Turbine Technologies is the University of Florida in Gainesville. Florida Turbine has been working with professors in the Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Department at UF on a research program to improve bearing technologies for turbine engines. A joint proposal has been submitted to the federal government, which, if awarded, will provide much needed funding to develop very high speed bearing test facilities that are not available elsewhere in the country.

Florida Turbine Technologies, Inc. is a high-technology small business specializing in design, development, manufacture, and test of systems and components for aircraft engines, space propulsion, and industrial gas turbines. Florida Turbine Technologies, Inc was formed in 1998, operates engineering and test facilities in Jupiter, Florida, and employs over 160.

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