



Cedar City

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NEWS RELEASE

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Cedar City's Aviation and Aerospace Industries are making waves with the recent NASA *Artemis I* rocket launch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CEDAR CITY, UT – Cedar City and the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce highlighted local aviation and aerospace companies on Thursday, December 8th at a press conference held at Southwest Technical College. Although there are a variety of booming industries in Cedar City and the greater Iron County, many do not know that our aviation and aerospace industries have recently played a historical part in providing crucial elements for [NASA's recent Artemis I rocket launch](#).

After being postponed a few months, the launch of the 322-foot-tall moon rocket officially launched with great success on Wednesday, November 16th, 2022 at 1:47 a.m. EST at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The goal of NASA's uncrewed flight test was to provide a foundation for human deep space exploration, paving the way for astronauts to return to the moon in late 2025.

A Cedar City-based company, American Pacific, provided nearly 75% of the thrust to get the *Artemis I* rocket into orbit with two million pounds of a product called ammonium perchlorate. According to Hal Murdock, CEO of American Pacific, it takes a year and a half to cast the materials that make the final ammonium perchlorate product. Murdock was invited to see the rocket launch in person on November 16th and was able to describe his experience at the press conference.

“This was an amazing experience to be a part of and was truly life-changing for me,” said Murdock. “American Pacific materials are already in place for future rocket launches, which is incredible because we have been chosen out of an extremely competitive industry.”

As the largest producer of composite repellant hobby rocket motors in the world, Gary Rosenfield, President of another Cedar City-based company called RCS Rocket Motor Components, was also in attendance at the press conference to talk about their role in the industry.

“One of the significant things about the rocket motors that we make, especially for the hobby industry, is that they use the same kind of propellant that was used in the Artemis I boosters,” explained Rosenfield. “We get our ammonium perchlorate from American Pacific and have a great relationship with them.”

Multiple presenters were also in attendance at the press conference to share a few words on their footprint in the industry including President Chris McCormick of the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce, Cedar City/Iron County Director of Economic Development Danny Stewart, Mike Mower of Southern Utah University (SUU) Aviation program, SUU’s Dean of College of Engineering and Computational Sciences Jeff Miller, Corey Judd of Align Precision, Megan Ralphs of the Utah Aerospace Pathways program, and the SUU Rocketbirds Club. Following final remarks, attendees were able to watch a replay of the *Artemis I* rocket launch while Hal Murdock of American Pacific narrated.

“It is so exciting to see the variety of products and programs coming out of Iron County, and especially the little things that nobody knows about,” said Chris McCormick, President of the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce and main organizer for the press conference.

Cedar City / Iron County Economic Development Director, Danny Stewart, beamed with pride to know that Cedar City is truly only a few degrees of separation away from such a historical moment. From products used for rockets, to training tomorrow’s pilots, to aerospace engineering internships and programs that foster future growth, there is no doubt that Cedar City will continue to make future impacts worldwide.

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About Cedar City, UT - Cedar City encompasses nearly 35 square miles and is located 250 miles south of Salt Lake City and 52 miles north of St. George on Interstate 15, with a current population of over 38,000 residents. Information regarding the City and the many programs and services provided to the community can be found at www.cedarcity.org and via Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.