

IMMEDIATE RELEASE / EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Science & Engineering Council of Santa Barbara

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-----July 10, 2008 Luncheon Meeting -----

Powering the Mars Phoenix Lander: ATK's Deployable Ultraflex Solar Array

If microbial life can be found on Earth virtually everywhere there's water, could signs of past or current microbial life be found in water on Mars? The Mars Phoenix Lander was sent to the northern plains of Mars to dig down to the frozen sub-surface water, touch it, examine it, thaw some frozen soil, vaporize some ice, and sniff it.

ATK-Goleta (formerly AEC-Able Engineering) was selected to provide deployable solar arrays for Phoenix. The arrays convert sunlight into electrical power using photovoltaic cells. Power runs the lander and charges batteries for nighttime use.

ATK has a long history of providing deployable structures and solar arrays for challenging missions. The Ultraflex arrays on Phoenix are the highest performance solar arrays ever used in space in terms of power-to-weight, stowed volume, and photovoltaic efficiency. The Phoenix deployments were the first space operation of this unique solar array technology.

ATK-Goleta personnel were part of the Landing Team at Lockheed-Martin Mission Control in Denver on May 25 this year, witnessing the landing events first hand and seeing the first images come back from the Martian arctic.

ATK-Goleta will be supplying larger versions of the Ultraflex solar arrays for NASA's next-generation Orion manned spacecraft, which will replace the space shuttle within a few years.

----- PRESENTER -----

Jim Spink, Senior Program Manager, ATK Space Systems, Goleta



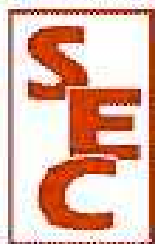
Jim Spink is a Senior Program Manager at ATK Space Systems in Goleta. Interest in space came naturally; his father worked on the Apollo lunar program guidance system, and he was raised in a household filled with excitement and interest about spaceflight.

Jim grew up locally and was graduated from UCSB in 1985. After a few years at Delco in Goleta, he joined AEC-Able Engineering to work on their Space Station contracts through 2000. He worked on test and manufacturing engineering and project engineering, eventually becoming Program Manager for the Space Station mast-canisters, which are the 115-foot deployable masts that support the solar arrays on the International Space Station.

After some time at Bell-Everman, Inc. -- a small, local robotics and automation company -- Jim returned to ATK in 2005 as Program Manager for the Mars Phoenix Solar Array program. He attended the Phoenix launch at Kennedy Space Center in August 2007 and participated as part of the Landing Team.

Jim is currently the Program Manager for the NuSTAR deployable instrument structure. NuSTAR is an orbiting X-Ray observatory to be launched in 2011.

----- OTHER INFORMATION -----



When: Thursday, July 10, 2008

Where: Elephant Bar and Restaurant 521 Firestone Road,
off Hollister west of Fairview Avenue in Goleta.

Time: 12 noon - 1:30 p.m.

Cost: \$14.00 for Members and \$20.00 for Non-Members

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The **Science and Engineering Council's** monthly luncheon meetings serve as a networking opportunity and meeting point for the professionally diverse community of Santa Barbara, Goleta and surrounding communities. Restaurant seating is first-come-first served.