CPI Receives Prestigious Contract to Complete Development of 94 GHz Extended Interaction Klystron for EarthCARE Cloud-Proﬁling Radar

NASA honors CPI employees with two Public Service Group Achievement Awards for their work on similar technology for NASA’s CloudSat radar

PALO ALTO, Calif., June 26 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Communications & Power Industries, Inc. (CPI), a leading provider of microwave, radio frequency, power and control solutions for critical defense, communications, medical, scientiﬁc and other applications, has been awarded a $1.8 million follow-on contract from Japan’s National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) to fund the design modiﬁcations and production of a 94 gigahertz Extended Interaction Klystron (EIK) for the Earth, Clouds Aerosols and Radiation Explorer (EarthCARE) mission cloud-proﬁling radar. CPI expects to receive future contracts of approximately $4 million over the next several years to meet ongoing program requirements for the EarthCARE mission. CPI’s EIK, which will be submitted for the space qualiﬁcation program for EarthCARE, will act as the enabling technology for the satellite-installed EarthCARE radar. CPI is a subsidiary of CPI International, Inc. (Nasdaq: CPII).

The EarthCARE space mission, an Earth Explorer Core mission of the European Space Agency’s (ESA’s) Living Planet Programme, is an advanced joint mission between the ESA, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and NICT to address the need for better comprehension of the interaction between the aerosol, cloud and radiative processes that play a role in climate regulation. By acquiring vertical proﬁles of aerosols, clouds and radiant energy at the top of the atmosphere, as well as the vertical velocity of clouds, the EarthCARE mission is intended to improve the physical representation and parameters of those atmospheric phenomena in climate and numerical weather forecast models. In addition to the advanced cloud-proﬁling radar, EarthCARE will carry a laser radar operating with ultraviolet light, a cloud-imaging, multi-spectral camera and a sensor to measure radiated energy from Earth to outer space. The satellite launch is planned for 2013.

"Scientists’ current ability to observe the global properties of aerosols, clouds and their associated processes is fairly limited, resulting in the creation of inconsistent model projections for future climate changes, such as those that may be brought about by global warming," said Joe Caldarelli, chief executive ofﬁcer of CPI. "Using CPI’s high-power EIK to enable the cloud-proﬁling radar, the EarthCARE mission can collect more complete climate information, making possible more accurate climate change models and predictions. For the past six years, CPI has been working with several international space agencies to develop the technology necessary for this vital program, and we look forward to continuing to work on the EarthCARE mission."

CPI’s 94 gigahertz EIK is the key enabling technology for cloud-proﬁling radars. Previously, CPI provided a space-qualiﬁed 94 gigahertz EIK for the cloud-proﬁling radar on-board NASA’s CloudSat, an Earth Observation satellite that was launched in April 2006. Since being launched into orbit more than a year ago, CloudSat has made more than 5,300 orbits around the Earth, taken more than 160 million vertical proﬁles of clouds and distributed more than six terabytes of data to the international science community. For both the CloudSat and EarthCARE missions, CPI’s EIK ampliﬁes low-power radar signals and converts them to high-power radar pulses, which are transmitted into the Earth’s atmosphere by the cloud-proﬁling radar. EarthCARE’s radar will be more than six to eight times more sensitive than that of CloudSat. In May, more than 120 scientists and engineers from Canada, Europe, Japan, the United States and China gathered at European Space Research and technology Center (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, the Netherlands to debate scientiﬁc issues for the preparation of the EarthCARE mission.

Recently, several CPI employees were selected by NASA as recipients of the 2007 NASA Honor Awards in recognition for their work on the 94 gigahertz EIK used on the cloud-proﬁling radar on CloudSat. In a ceremony later this summer, David Berry, Albert Roltman, Edward Sokol and Brian Steer will receive two NASA Public Service Group Achievement Awards “for successful delivery and on-orbit checkout of the ﬁrst spaceborne 94 gigahertz cloud-proﬁling radar” and “for the successful development of the ﬁrst space-qualiﬁed 94 gigahertz EIK and the high-power, high-voltage power supply” on-board CloudSat. The NASA Public Service Group Achievement Award is given to a group of non-government personnel for “an outstanding accomplishment while participating in a signiﬁcant program or project that has contributed substantially to the NASA mission.”

"We are very proud of the innovative work that our EIK team has done on the CloudSat and EarthCARE radars, and I want to congratulate them on winning these prestigious awards from our partners at NASA,” said Caldarelli.

Since 2001, under contracts from the ESA, NICT and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), CPI has been working with these agencies to develop a space-qualiﬁed, 94 gigahertz EIK that will meet a three-year operational requirement for the EarthCARE
cloud-profiling radar. CPI is the only company to produce the high-power, 94 gigahertz EIK. During the next several years, CPI expects to receive future contracts from these agencies to fund the qualification and acceptance programs and the development of flight model EIKs for spacecraft integration.

CPI pioneered and developed EIK technology at its Canadian facility and has sold more than 1,000 commercial EIKs for use in millimeter wave radar, communications systems and scientific applications.

About CPI International, Inc.

CPI International, Inc., headquartered in Palo Alto, California, is the parent company of Communications & Power Industries, Inc., a leading provider of microwave, radio frequency, power and control solutions for critical defense, communications, medical, scientific and other applications. Communications & Power Industries, Inc. develops, manufactures and distributes products used to generate, amplify and transmit high-power/high-frequency microwave and radio frequency signals and/or provide power and control for various applications. End-use applications of these systems include the transmission of radar signals for navigation and location; transmission of deception signals for electronic countermeasures; transmission and amplification of voice, data and video signals for broadcasting, Internet and other types of communications; providing power and control for medical diagnostic imaging; and generating microwave energy for radiation therapy in the treatment of cancer and for various industrial and scientific applications.

Certain statements included above constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements provide our current expectations, beliefs or forecasts of future events. Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual events or results to differ materially from the results projected, expected or implied by these forward looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, competition in our end markets; our significant amount of debt; changes or reductions in the U.S. defense budget; U.S. government contracts laws and regulations; changes in technology; the impact of unexpected costs; inability to obtain raw materials and components; and currency fluctuations. These and other risks are described in more detail in our periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result of these uncertainties, you should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. All future written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict these events or how they may affect us. We undertake no duty or obligation to publicly revise any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events occurring after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events or changes in our expectations.

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