

**PRESS RELEASE:**

April 27, 2001

Rochester, New York

**Space Shuttle's Return Propelled by Viewpoint Systems, Inc.**

As the space shuttle Endeavour leaves the International Space Station and prepares for its April 30 landing, it will rely on rocket propulsion to position itself for its descent. At the heart of that propulsion system are the valves that control the fuel and oxygen mixture.

Rochester's Viewpoint Systems, Inc. designed the process for Moog Inc.'s Buffalo-based Space Products Division to make sure those valves work properly.

"We're involved in test and measurement primarily. Everyone needs to test and measure something," said Daniel Blasdell, a partner and one of the company's founders. "In this case we test solenoids."

The parts are electrically operated valves that control the release of fuel and oxygen that powers the shuttle's rockets. Moog previously had relied on testing the equipment by hand, a slower and more costly process than the new automated system.

Over the course of 18 months, Viewpoint developed a computerized process to take over the testing procedure. Now, PC-controlled equipment operates the pneumatic machinery that can test the parts in batches, instead of one by one.

"Clearly we're excited about the many competitive advantages this new system gives us," said Kevin Eschner, a project engineer in Moog's Industrial Controls Division.

"Certainly cost savings is a huge advantage, but even more important is the greater confidence in the data we are providing and a number of value-adds we can provide our customers, including the ability to add tests or change the testing specifications at little or no charge."

Along with Moog Aerospace, Viewpoint has worked with an array of other manufacturers, including Xerox Corp., Eastman Kodak Co., Delphi Automotive Systems and Rochester Photonics Corp.

"The applications vary as much as your imagination," Blasdell said. In recent years the company has moved increasingly toward designing manufacturing-testing processes. Those devices comprise approximately 75 percent of the company's orders. The rest are used in research and development applications to help engineers modify designs for better performance.

"We've taken a slow, steady approach to growth," Blasdell said. "I can't foresee us being a Fortune 500 company." To differentiate itself from competitors, the company focuses on its engineering strengths, he said. "We're all engineers at heart and software people second," Blasdell said.

