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Space Exploration

Boeing's Role Processing NASA Payloads



Description & Purpose: About 500 Boeing personnel and 300 subcontractors and partners are tasked to process and ensure launch readiness for all NASA payloads at Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Fla., including those destined for the space shuttle and expendable launch vehicles.

Under the Checkout, Assembly & Payload Processing Services (CAPPS) contract with NASA, Boeing's responsibilities include payload processing, mission cargo preparations, testing for launch vehicle compatibility, post-mission payload extraction, and operation/maintenance of associated facilities and ground systems.

Customer(s): NASA

Background: The Boeing payload team operates out of the Kennedy Space Center's Space Station Processing Facility and various clean rooms used for satellite processing. Boeing crews and teammates have processed every space shuttle payload, a legacy that

began with Columbia's maiden flight in April 1981. The CAPPs team holds the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 certification, a global benchmark of an organization's commitment to understand and continuously improve its environmental performance. CAPPs recently received the George M. Low Award, NASA's premier quality and performance honor. The award recognizes large and small businesses that demonstrate excellence and outstanding technical and managerial achievements on NASA-related contracts.



History: NASA awarded the CAPPs contract in 2002 to Boeing after a rigorous competitive bidding process. Sverdrup Technologies, Inc., Creative Management Technologies, Inc. and others assist Boeing in servicing CAPPs. Boeing held the previous Payload Ground Operations Contract (PGOC) for more than 15 years. Under PGOC, Boeing crews prepared more than 2 million pounds of payloads for flight, including scientific experiments, spacecraft and supplies that were launched on space shuttle and expendable launch vehicle missions from KSC. Boeing was awarded a near perfect performance rating from NASA for the final segment of the contract.

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