

PRESS RELEASE – Hydro Honing Laboratories, Inc.

Date: May 20, 2003
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Hydro Honing Laboratories, Inc., hosted NASA Astronaut Richard “Rick” Mastracchio on Monday, May 5, as part of a special presentation given by Pratt & Whitney’s Space Flight Awareness team. Hydro Honing Laboratories will provide shot peening services for parts used in the Space Shuttle’s Turbopumps, which are built by Pratt & Whitney, a United Technologies Company.

“We were honored and excited to have Rick Mastracchio visit us,” said Hydro Honing President, Thomas A. Beach. “We’ve had a long relationship with Pratt & Whitney and NASA, and our staff was thrilled to meet one of the astronauts. He really put a face on the work we do.”



Mastracchio, a native of Waterbury, CT, and an alumni of the University of Connecticut and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, presented a video of his 2000 Atlantis mission and discussed the Shuttle program and the International Space Station. During his 12-day mission aboard the Atlantis, he served as the ascent/entry flight engineer, was the primary robotic arm operator, and was responsible for the transfer of supplies and equipment from the Space Shuttle cargo bay to the Space Station. Mastracchio is scheduled to fly on one of the next Shuttle missions, which have been delayed due to the Columbia disaster.

Following his presentation, Mastracchio answered questions from the audience. He also provided autographs and had pictures taken with employees, their family members and other attendees, including State Representative and Pratt & Whitney engineer John “Corky” Mazurek (D-Waterbury).

Pratt & Whitney program manager Dan Specksgoor and Pratt & Whitney Quality Manager Jon Henderson also presented as part of the program.

Hydro Honing Laboratories is located in East Hartford, CT, and provides a full range of peening services for a variety of industries including aerospace, power generation, and oil and natural gas.



Shot peening is a process used to increase the fatigue life of metal parts. Parts are bombarded with round steel, glass, or ceramic shot to create a stressed surface layer in compression. This surface layer inhibits the formation of tiny surface cracks that can cause fatigue failure.

More information can be found at the company website: www.hydro-honing.com