Draper Opens New Test Facility in Titusville, Florida



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Draper held a grand opening and naming ceremony at its new ground test facility in Titusville, Fla. on November 17th. The facility is named in honor of David R. Shedd, former chairman of Draper's Board of Directors, in recognition of his contributions to Draper's growth and to the nation's security.

The 51,010 square foot purpose-built complex will feature a world-class centrifuge with a unique payload and G-load capacity specially designed for testing the most advanced strategic guidance and navigation instrumentation. The facility will also provide a range of core engineering services, such as simulation and test, system design and architecture, software development, microelectronics design, and system verification.

The event was hosted by Draper Vice President and General Manager of Navy Strategic Systems, Robert Bacon. Other speakers included Draper President and CEO Jerry M. Wohletz, Ph.D.; U.S. Navy director of Portfolio Acquisition Executive Strategic Systems Programs, Vice Adm. Douglas L. Williams; Draper Board of Directors Chairman Amr ElSawy; and David R.

Shedd.

“The new facility represents a significant investment in the future of our nation’s strategic capabilities,” Wohletz said. “Rigorous testing is a crucial component of Draper’s engineering process and ensures that the systems our nation is building will work as intended and do so under the conditions they will face in the real world. We look forward to working closely with our customers and partners in service to the nation.”

“As the prime contractor for the U.S. Navy’s Trident II D5 guidance system, Draper has designed and supported the guidance system for every fleet ballistic missile deployed since the program began in 1955,” added Bacon. “This facility continues our commitment to provide the Navy with a highly capable, reliable, flexible test infrastructure that replicates environments only seen in costly missile tests. These proven approaches are critical as we look to develop and deploy capabilities at a pace not seen in decades.”

“The work done here is, and will continue to be, truly world-class and essential for maintaining our strategic advantage,” added VADM Williams.

Draper selected Titusville and Florida’s Space Coast for its proximity to Kennedy Space Center and the Naval Ordnance Test Unit as well as key customers, including the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Missile Defense Agency, and NASA. The location also offers a strong talent pool to support Draper’s growth in the region.

Approximately 50 Draper employees will be initially located in the facility. The long-term vision includes future expansion to support over 150 employees.

Located at 6280 Riverfront Center Boulevard, Titusville, Fla., the facility represents a multi-year collaboration between Draper, the U.S. Navy, North American Properties, Rush

Construction, JRC Integrated Systems, Burns & McDonnell and Ideal Aerosmith to design and build a comprehensive testing facility.

David R. Shedd is a retired U.S. intelligence officer whose final post was as the acting Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also held several positions supporting the Director of National Intelligence and the National Security Council. Prior to that, he was posted overseas in the U.S. embassies in Costa Rica and Mexico and held a variety of senior management assignments at the Central Intelligence Agency.

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