



## **Newsletter for Educators - Special Edition 2006-2007**

**Introduction.** Volanz Aerospace Inc. is a non-profit Maryland corporation formed in 1998 to provide space science and space-related high technology educational and research programs for researchers, educators and students of all ages. Educators, students, and researchers work together to expand our knowledge of space.

Using aerospace and related fields as a theme, our educational programs create an exciting learning environment that challenges students by providing them with unique educational opportunities. These programs enhance science literacy, and help provide our nation with a diverse technical workforce. For more information, please visit our website at [www.spaceflightamerica.org](http://www.spaceflightamerica.org).

**Free In-School Programs for Teachers and Students.** This year, with the help of a generous gift from Optimal Solutions and Technologies, Inc. (OST) of Washington, DC, Volanz Aerospace Inc. is expanding its educational services to provide area students with FREE space-related in-school programs.

These programs are being offered from November 1, 2006 – May 15, 2007 for schools in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Through lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, students in kindergarten through twelfth grade can learn about Space Flight, Technology, Astronomy, and related topics. These activities were developed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Volanz Aerospace, and can be customized to meet Maryland, DC, or local educational requirements. The program lead is Dr. Gayle Rawley, and assisted by Mr. Alan Hayes.

Dr. Rawley is Director of Educational Outreach Programs for Volanz Aerospace Inc. She holds a Ph. D. in High-Energy Physics, and has taught both middle and high school science for over eight years.

Mr. Hayes is the Director of Simulations and Robotics for the Spaceflight Institute™ program. He has degrees in Computer Science and General Science, and has been in the aerospace field for over thirteen years.

Programs are offered FREE of charge, Tuesday – Friday during the school year. Most sessions last between thirty minutes and one hour, depending on the age group and teacher/school needs. To make a reservation or to learn more about these exciting educational programs, email Dr. Gayle Rawley at [grawley@spaceflightamerica.org](mailto:grawley@spaceflightamerica.org).

**Launch Student Experiments.** The Student Troposphere Sounding Rocket Program (ST-SRP™) was developed in cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), as an educational outreach program for United States-based students of all ages (1st Grade through College/University level), and is designed to foster interest in the areas of space science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. With

the help of a teacher or mentor, one (or more) students create, design and build an experiment and submit a proposal for the opportunity to fly it on a Sounding Rocket launched from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility (WFF) in Virginia. Experiments are qualified for the program through a flight certification process that includes an experiment proposal review. More information is available on our web site at [www.spaceflightamerica.org](http://www.spaceflightamerica.org).

Proposals are accepted throughout the year, and experiments are typically launched twice a year. For more information, contact Alan Hayes at [ahayes@spaceflightamerica.org](mailto:ahayes@spaceflightamerica.org).



**NASA Announces New Centennial Challenge.** NASA, in collaboration with the Volanz Aerospace Inc./Spaceflight America (Volanz), announced (on July 22, 2005,) a new Centennial Challenges prize competition.

The Astronaut Glove Challenge award will go to the team that can design and manufacture the best performing glove within competition parameters. The \$250,000 total purse will be awarded at a competition scheduled for the spring 2007, when competing teams test their glove designs against each other.

NASA's Centennial Challenges promotes technical innovation through a novel program of prize competitions. It is designed to tap the nation's ingenuity to make revolutionary advances to support the Vision for Space Exploration and NASA goals.

Volanz Aerospace Inc. will be announcing in October a student (grades 5-12) glove competition. More information on both challenges will be posted on our website at [www.astronaut-glove.us](http://www.astronaut-glove.us).

For more information about Centennial Challenges on the Internet, visit: <http://centennialchallenges.nasa.gov>

