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Quintron supports Atlas 5 moon mission

Firm supplies launch communications systems

STAFFREPORT

Quintron Systems Inc. of Santa Maria, a leader in advanced interoperable voice systems and physical access control and intrusion detection systems, supplied several of the critical communications systems for the recent Atlas 5 launch operations.

The equipment included a DICES III system in use since 2000, a DICES IV upgrade/expansion in use since 2007 and a just-installed DICES VoIP system.

David Willite, vice president and general manager at Quintron, said the DICES VoIP system offers the ability to extend mission audio services throughout the entire United Launch Alliance company structure, since it operates across all Internet protocol infrastructure with a small application downloaded onto existing user computers and workstations.

On June 18, the Atlas 5 rocket placed the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite missions on trajectories to the moon.

The missions have different methods of studying the lunar environment, but both

are components of the Lunar Precursor Robotic Program operated by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, operated by NASA's Goddard Space Center, will go into orbit around the moon, using a suite of instruments to thoroughly study surface conditions, in part scouting for favorable landing sites for future manned missions.

The Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, operated by NASA's Ames Research Center, is looking for evidence of buried frozen water in the permanently dark floor pans of the moon's poles.

Two heavy impactors will be sent into selected polar craters, and instruments aboard the satellite will study the resulting plume of material for water and other potentially useful content.

Both plumes also will be analyzed for water content by Earth- and space-based instruments, including those on the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

For more information, visit www.quintron.com.



Contributed

An Atlas 5 rocket lifts off from the pad June 18 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., carrying the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite on their journey to the moon.