

Science Lab-On-Wheels Will 'Trailblaze' A Path To Inspire Hundreds Of Thousands Of Students

FORT WORTH, Texas, June 5, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Today Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) and the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) unveiled the brand new Trailblazer II – a 40-foot trailer loaded with exhibits promoting science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) – at a launch event at the Lockheed Martin Fort Worth facility.

As the second unit in the Trailblazer fleet, the Trailblazer II is a mobile science lab equipped with five exhibits and hands-on activities focused on space, energy, weather, aerodynamics and biotechnology, designed to tour schools across Texas.

"The Trailblazer program is a key piece of the TAME portfolio," said Savita Raj, TAME executive director. "Having a Trailblazer, especially one as eye-catching as this one, pull up to a school can be pretty exciting. We think that it will even spark an interest in those kids who are 'too cool' to care about science and engineering."

While it's meant to encourage all Texas youth in grades three through eight to pursue STEM careers, the program focuses on underrepresented minority and female students. Currently, more than half of the U.S. population is female, yet only 12 percent of the nation's practicing engineers are women. Furthermore, African American, Hispanic and Native American engineering professionals make up less than 10 percent of the field.

"Lockheed Martin shares TAME's vision to promote diversity in these critical career fields," said Bridget Lauderdale, Lockheed Martin vice president and general manager of Aeronautics Operations. "We believe that investing in our youth will ultimately enable us to continue driving innovation, as evidenced by the F-16 and F-35 fighter jets we build at this very facility."

TAME board members teamed up with five large corporations, including Lockheed Martin, to launch the Trailblazer II, raising more than \$250,000 for the program. Over the next decade, TAME estimates the Trailblazers alone will reach more than 200,000 students and travel more than 300,000 miles visiting schools throughout Texas.

About Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering:

Since 1976, the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) has sought to engage and encourage minority students to pursue college and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Thousands of students become aware of careers in STEM through TAME programs every year. Programs include 'Science Squad,' a bilingual comic book series, the TAME Trailblazers, an annual Math and Science Competition and scholarships. In addition, TAME chapters across Texas offer locally relevant after-school programs and community-wide activities. More than 250,000 students have been a part of TAME since its inception and many of them continue to be a part of TAME as mentors, donors and volunteers. For more information on the organization, please visit www.tame.org.

About Lockheed Martin

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 118,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration, and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products, and services. The Corporation's net sales for 2012 were \$47.2 billion.

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