



American Institute of  
Aeronautics & Astronautics  
New England Section

Honors & Awards  
Banquet  
16 February 2006  
Westin Hotel-Waltham

Sponsored by  
MIT Aero/Astro Department  
and Draper Laboratory

**Featured Speaker: Astronaut Brian Binnie**

## ***Winning the X-Prize: Developing and Flight Testing SpaceShipOne***

For forty years human spaceflight had been the exclusive domain of large government organizations. Peter Diamandis sought to change all that by offering a \$10 million prize to the first private company that could demonstrate the ability to fly passengers to the edge of space and back twice in two weeks. Two dozen organizations from around the world registered to compete for the X-Prize. Burt Rutan's Scaled Composites team entered a novel air-launched vehicle constructed of advanced composite materials and powered by a hybrid liquid-solid rocket engine. On 4 October 2004, the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of Sputnik-1, *SpaceShipOne* made her second flight in four days to over 100 kilometers altitude, carrying the equivalent mass of two passengers in addition to her pilot. At the controls on that history-making flight was engineer and former military test pilot Brian Binnie.

- 
- PLACE:** Westin Hotel, 70 Third Avenue, Waltham, MA 02451  
**TIME:** Social hour 6:00 PM ; Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 7:45 PM  
**COST:** **Advance Payment:** \$45 per person (if received by 31 January 2006)  
**Payment at Door:** \$50 per person  
**RSVP:** Contact Elise Erikson (617) 258-1000 or eerikson@draper.com  
Two Collins Road, Wakefield MA 01880-2513

Please make reservations by Tuesday, 31 January 2006. If leaving a message, please include contact phone number or e-mail, number attending, and meal choice(s): Chicken, Scrod or Vegetarian.

---

**DIRECTIONS:** The Westin Hotel is located at Exit 27A (Totten Pond Road) from Rte 128/I-95 in Waltham. The glass-walled hotel is clearly visible on top of the hill. Make an immediate right turn onto Third Avenue just east of highway. Follow signs to parking garage.