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CONTACT: DUANE HYLAND
703.264.7558
duaneh@aiaa.org

AIAA SALUTES EARTH DAY AND THE ROLE OF AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY IN UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTING THE EARTH

April 22, 2011 – Reston, Va. – The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) celebrates Earth Day 2011, and stresses the important role that aerospace workers and aerospace technology play in understanding our planet and furthering its environmental sustainability.

AIAA President Mark Lewis stated: “Caring for our planet requires a data-driven analysis of climate trends and a scientifically based understanding of the principles and processes that affect our planet’s climate. Earth Day 2011 is an opportunity to reflect on the role of aerospace professionals in a range of environmental issues, from climate monitoring to atmospheric modeling, to better understanding the effects of natural disasters on our planet. Additionally, it is also a time to consider the betterment of our nation’s future through the use of clean, energy efficient technologies derived from aerospace applications. It is for these reasons that AIAA has selected the environment as one of its key public policy focal points.”

AIAA maintains that aerospace technologies and systems provide the best chance for the U.S. to establish a viable framework for integrating critical space, air, ocean, and land-based monitoring systems, and that the data gathered from these multiple systems will be critical to providing a precise understanding of global climate change, rather than relying on our current outdated patchwork of monitoring networks.

AIAA is the world’s largest technical society dedicated to the global aerospace profession. With more than 35,000 individual members worldwide, and 90 corporate members, AIAA brings together industry, academia, and government to advance engineering and science in aviation, space, and defense. For more information, visit www.aiaa.org.

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