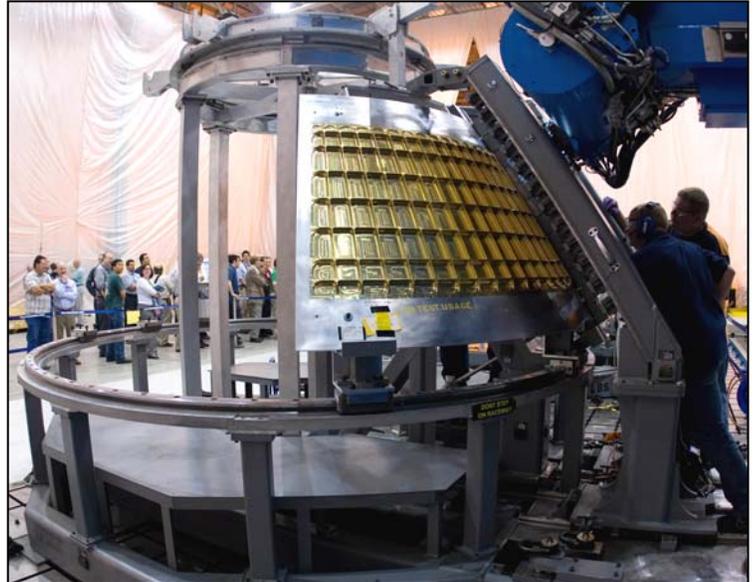


Week ending April 11, 2009

 **The Crew Exploration Vehicle Parachute Assembly (CPAS) team completed installation of the CPAS components for the mass properties, speaker, and shaker tests of the crew module.** Shown in photo bottom left is an aerial view of the fully rigged forward bay, now ready for the weight and balance test.



 **The first friction stir weld on an Orion crew module Ground Test Article Lite (GTA Lite) at the NASA Michoud Assembly Facility.** The crew module GTA serves as a full-sized, flight-like engineering development unit for static vibration, acoustical and water landing loads environment testing. Results will be used to correlate stress models for all subsystems on the vehicle. The vehicle will also serve as a production pathfinder to validate production processes and tools. In this initial weld, an Aluminum-Lithium (AL) 2195 cone panel and AL 2219 longeron were joined. Weld operations will continue for approximately three months, resulting in the completed test article. The structure will then undergo assembly, integration and testing.



 **The Command and Data Handling team received the first prototype of the High Integrity Network Interface Card (Photo left).** The Standard Integrity Network Interface Card is already in the Command and Data Handling engineering lab. Both cards are going through initial checkout.



 **Installation of the pallet, crew mass and nine energy absorbing struts in the test fixture was completed for the Crew Impact Attenuation System (CIAS) Analysis & Testing.** Photo at left shows ratchet jacks in a few strut locations prior to the strut installation. The ratchet jacks are used for initial strut installation and replacement with refurbished struts after each test. Technicians are installing instrumentation, wiring and the data collections system. The first test is planned for the week of April 13 and will be a checkout of the procedures for the complete test operation including handling of the struts.



**The Primary Longeron Fitting – Upper Ring Frame (PLF-URF) test hardware parts were completed and final assembly, instrumentation and installation to the strong back are close to complete.**

PLF-URF test article integration and instrumentation is ongoing, with the plan to begin testing the week of April 27. The Pad Abort-1 PLF-URF test article and “strongback” test fixture is shown in photo left.



**Installation of the Low Impact Docking System Seal Molding Press took place at Parker Hannifin to support full scale seal vacuum pressure molding of LIDS seal material into the seal retainer (Photo left).**