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For immediate release



KC Space Pirates

The Dawn of Laser Powered Flight

This August the KC Space Pirates will take the next step in the development of laser powered flight and in the art of wireless power beaming. We will attempt to keep a one pound robotic aircraft flying for 2 full days (48 hours), nearly 4 times the previous world record. The power will be provided via laser beams. Future applications, will save money, fuel, provide human services, and safer ways to conduct research.

With laser power beaming, applications that are now impractical or impossible using current aircraft will become possible with smaller aircraft enabled by virtually unlimited flying duration. Imagine delivering medicine to the remote reaches of humanity, or pizza and tacos still warm and tasty to a mountain top retreat. Imagine scientists staring down the throat of an active volcano or catching forest fires moments after they start. All these applications and more become safer, less expensive and more ecologically friendly with laser powered aircraft.

Wireless power beaming has been proposed for many applications including powering the Space Elevator, Space Solar Power, and Laser Rocket launch. But all these grand applications need stepping stones to become practical and laser powered flight is the application that will provide those stepping stones. In August we will set a new record as an important step to larger aircraft for longer times over longer distances and greater heights.

The date of this attempt is set to coincide with the International Space Elevator Consortium's (www.isec.org) annual conference (Aug. 24th to the 26th 2012). Highlighting the power beaming application which began this grand adventure nearly 7 years ago for us. We will feature live video feeds to both the conference and the Internet so the world can watch as we defeat gravity in a battle for freedom from its grip.

The KC Space Pirates are a team of inventors and space enthusiasts from Kansas City, Missouri, best known for being a three time top finisher in the NASA Wireless Power Beaming competition.

The laser power for this attempt is graciously provided by TRUMPF lasers. Our optics hardware is provided by Thor Labs and our control software by National Instruments.

Where:

The Exhibit Hall of Metropolitan Community College's Business & Technology Center.
Home of the Fab Lab.