



NEWS RELEASE

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CSA Engineering of Mountain View Named the National Small Business Contractor of the Year

WASHINGTON – CSA Engineering Inc., of Mountain View, CA – a firm that specializes in the suppression of vibration, noise and motion control – was named the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) National Small Business Contractor of the Year May 13 during ceremonies marking the final major awards event of SBA’s 35th annual Industry/SBA Procurement Conference. The firm was nominated for the award by the Air Force Research Lab at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

The annual conference recognizes outstanding government contracting officials, private sector companies and small businesses involved with federal government contracts. The U.S. Government spends more than \$200 billion a year on a variety of services, products and equipment to support federal programs domestically and abroad.

To be recognized for national honors, CSA Engineering competed against more than 1,000 other nominated small business firms that have contracts with federal government agencies. The companies were judged in such categories as management, financial stamina and controls, labor relations, customer interface, technical capabilities, resource utilization of capital assets and cash flow, and cost, delivery and quality performance. CSA Engineering scored the highest grades possible in all categories.

“This is a fitting way to end National Small Business Week by honoring CSA Engineering, a company that has done so much for its employees, the local community and the federal agencies that contract with them,” said SBA Administrator Hector Barreto. “The depth, experience and capabilities consistently exhibited by CSA make them stand far and above their peers and certainly make them a national asset for developing vibration and noise mitigation technologies which have become critical to the success of military and scientific exploration missions. The fact that this also comes at reasonable cost with exceptional customer service and dependability makes CSA’s many achievements even more impressive and worthy of top recognition.”

For CSA Engineering, the prestigious award is recognition of its simple business philosophy espoused by Conor D. Johnson, PhD, president and principal engineer of the firm he helped start in 1982: “Do excellent work for our customers at a fair cost.”

CSA Engineering was founded by three PhD engineers and has grown steadily the past 20 years with company headquarters in Mountain View and an operations office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The firm has acquired an international reputation for excellence in structural dynamics and vibration control and is considered the premier small company in this specialized area. CSA

is best known for its major accomplishments in passive damping and isolation and has recently gained similar recognition in active systems. The company is also known for its outstanding technology transitions to operational spacecraft, launch systems, and major weapons systems. Selected projects for CSA include:

Hubble Space Telescope Solar Array Damper. CSA's work in design, testing and installation of vibration dampers for the telescope's solar arrays help Hubble achieve better pointing accuracy for the remarkable pictures of the universe beamed back to earth.

Stabilization and Vibration Isolations Systems for the Airborne Laser (ABL) Program. All three major prime contractors for the ABL program – TRW, Lockheed-Martin and Boeing – have sought out CSA for technical expertise in one of the most complex weapons systems ever built. One of the most critical issues with ABL has been the simultaneous stabilization and alignment of the laser segment resonator optics during flight. CSA has met this challenge by developing and demonstrating the Airborne Stabilization/Vibration Isolation System under an Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and is currently building the flight hardware.

Passive Damping of Satellites and Space Structures. CSA has designed a number of passive damping treatments for satellites, several of which are still in space. The firm's work in this area has improved operational performance of the satellites and reduced the stress of materials supporting key instruments of the space structures.

Magnetically Damped Isolation System for Space Shuttle Payload. CSA has designed, built and tested vibration isolation systems for Space Shuttle payload programs connected with servicing the Hubble Space Telescope, initially in 1997 and most recently in March 2002.

SoftRide/Whole-Spacecraft Vibration Isolation. Launch vehicles historically provide a very rough ride to spacecraft during launch. CSA has pioneered the design, development, fabrication and flight of whole-spacecraft vibration isolation systems. These "SoftRide" systems are inserted between the launch vehicle and the spacecraft and serve to attenuate structure-borne launch loads imparted to the spacecraft.

With a wide range of customers ranging from Aerojet and the Air Force to Westinghouse Electric Corporation and Xerox, CSA Engineering has also been involved with general programs, including:

Aircraft

- Design of passive damping treatments for the B1-B, F-15, F/A-18 and C-5.
- Design of a repair patch for aging aircraft incorporating passive damping.
- Development of compact hybrid actuators based on smart materials.
- Particle damping for high-temperature and rotating environments.
- High frequency motion simulator for missile seekers.

Semiconductor Manufacturing

- Testing services for troubleshooting and mitigation of vibration and related problems.
- Vibration suppression and analysis of wafer processing equipment.
- Acoustic enclosure for precision manufacturing equipment.
- Microprecision vibration isolation workstation for wafer test and inspection.

Other Industries

- Noise suppression measures for an implantable mechanical medical device.
- Viscous tuned-mass dampers for mining equipment.
- Active vibration suppression system for cryocoolers in portable instruments.
- Test and characterization of sporting goods.
- Magnetorheological (MR) devices for automotive applications.
- Control system design and demonstration for optical switches.

“Our employees feel an obligation to our customers to meet or exceed their expectations, even if the expectations increase,” says Eric H. Anderson, PhD, vice president and a principal engineer with CSA Engineering. “Never do they just say, ‘OK, that’s good enough.’ Our engineers are always going the extra distance. Some customers can be very tough and demanding but at the end of the day, we don’t want to feel we didn’t exceed performance requirements.”

At a time when the ethical behavior of some companies is under scrutiny, CSA Engineering has an excellent reputation for honest business dealings and meeting its commitments in a timely manner. CSA is debt-free, maintains a sizeable cash reserve and has a healthy work backlog. Employee loyalty is a mainstay, with most of the 40-person staff owning stock in the employee-owned company.

“Our employees have a stake in this company and everything we do,” says the firm’s president, Conor Johnson. “That’s one of the reasons they do such good work.”

The customers and clients of CSA Engineering no doubt agree.

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