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*A Step Into The Universe*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CELESTIS REACHES HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH LATEST SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH**

Celestis Inc., a subsidiary of Space Services Inc. (Houston, Texas), announced today the successful liftoff of its latest Memorial Spaceflight – *The Centennial Flight* – marking the launch of more than 1,000 Celestis flight capsules into space over the course of the company's history.

Today's successful liftoff occurred at approximately 7:59 am Mountain Daylight Time (9:59 am Eastern Daylight Time) from Spaceport America, New Mexico aboard a SpaceLoft XL launch vehicle developed and launched by UP Aerospace of Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

*The Centennial Flight*, named in honor of the 100th anniversary of New Mexico's statehood, is dedicated to the spirit of our mission participants and to people everywhere who share the passion for exploration and discovery.

Among the "discoverers" honored aboard this mission are: greatly admired Hatch, NM Mayor Judd Nordyke, who was an early advocate for Spaceport America; Candy Johnson, an American dancer who appeared in several of the Frankie Avalon 'Beach Party' films of the 1960s, thrilling audiences with her highly energetic dance style; Johnson's sister, Gayle Johns; and Maria Swan who was crowned "Miss World Argentina" in 1967 and became Argentina's first female airline pilot.

*The Centennial Flight* flew a symbolic portion of each participant's cremated remains on a trajectory similar to NASA's early Mercury manned spaceflights of the 1960s. After flying in space this "Earth Rise Service" mission gently returned the flight capsules to Earth via parachute. Celestis will return the flown capsules – with the cremated remains still inside – to family members and loved ones, providing them with a flown keepsake. In addition to its Earth Rise Service, Celestis also offers missions into Earth orbit, to the Moon, and into deep space.

"The people who participate in our uniquely compelling missions all shared in the dream of exploring the great unknown," said Charles Chafer, CEO of Celestis. "With Celestis, the dream of spaceflight, and the desire to take part in the opening of the space frontier can be realized - and is available to everyone. With the *Centennial Flight*, Celestis continues to make history, reaching the 1,000 person-in-space milestone, symbolically achieving a goal not yet reached by any company - or country."

“UP Aerospace is honored to have been chosen by Celestis to provide the launch of their Earth Rise Service,” said Jerry Larson, President of UP Aerospace, Inc. “Our long term commitments with Spaceport America and Celestis are essential elements that are enabling huge growth of this new, emerging commercialization of space industry.” Larson continued, “The launch of the Celestis spacecraft into space has set another milestone in space travel for New Mexico.”

**About Space Services Inc. and Celestis Inc.**

The Space Services Inc. (SSI) team made history over 30 years ago with the launch of *Conestoga 1*, the first private rocket to reach outer space, opening the space arena to private enterprise. The founders of SSI and Celestis also pioneered post cremation memorial spaceflights in 1997 – the Celestis Memorial Spaceflight Services – with the launch into space of a symbolic portion of the cremated remains of *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry and 60’s pop icon Timothy Leary and 24 others. Working with NASA, they also placed Dr. Eugene Shoemaker’s cremated remains on the lunar surface, symbolically making Dr. Shoemaker the first person to be buried on the Moon. Celestis is offering its space funeral service to people in the US, Japan, Germany, Canada, France, Russia, The Netherlands, Australia, etc. Funeral homes locally and internationally are offering these services to the general public.

For more information, visit [www.Celestis.com](http://www.Celestis.com), [www.UPAerospace.us.com](http://www.UPAerospace.us.com) and [www.SpaceportAmerica.com](http://www.SpaceportAmerica.com).

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