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## ASHURST SIGNS DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AEROSPACE

Hamilton, Bermuda, February 6 (UNS) - Ashurst Technology Ltd. ('Ashurst'), on behalf of its subsidiary Ashurst Government Services, Inc., today announced the signing of an aluminium-scandium alloy development contract with McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, of Huntington Beach, California. The success of this contract could lead to additional development contracts, future licensing agreements and substantial material sales for Ashurst.

McDonnell Douglas Aerospace has awarded Ashurst Government Services, Inc. a preliminary US dollars 75,000 contract to investigate the development of a new class of high strength, weldable aluminium alloys, based on Ashurst's proprietary aluminium-scandium alloy technology. Potential applications include structural components for a number of launch vehicles, military transport aircraft, commercial aircraft and fighter aircraft.

"The aluminium-scandium alloys developed by Ashurst are very promising for use in many of our hardware systems," said Dr. William F. Bozich, Senior MDC Fellow - Advanced Materials and Structures Technology at McDonnell Douglas Aerospace. "Our welding and advanced materials engineers combined with the alloy development specialists at Ashurst should make for a promising alloy development team," commented Bozich.

When alloyed with aluminium, scandium becomes an extremely potent alloying element, with the ability to refine grain size, inhibit recrystallization, increase plasticity, enhance fatigue resistance and provide higher strength. In particular, scandium has unique abilities to provide grain refinement and strengthening in welds. Ashurst is involved in virtually every step of the aluminium-scandium commercialization process including scandium mining, extractive metallurgy, the production of master alloy, and the invention and development of end-use products. Ashurst is currently marketing aluminium-scandium weld-wire and is working with a number of companies, including Cercast Group, Israel Aircraft Industries and Hydro Automotive, on structural and casting alloy development programs.

McDonnell Douglas Corporation conducts its business activities through McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, responsible for the majority of the company's military programs, and Douglas Aircraft Company, exclusively dedicated to commercial aircraft programs. Together, these groups operate in four main industry segments including combat aircraft, transport aircraft, missiles, space and electronic systems, and financial services. In 1996, the company employed over 63,000 people and generated US dollars 14.3 billion in revenue.

With principal operations in Kiev, Ukraine, and Baltimore, Maryland, Ashurst is in the business of developing and commercialising North American and Ukrainian advanced materials and technologies. The Company is also active in the development of mineral resources in Ukraine. The Company's near-term strategy is to penetrate aerospace, automotive, marine and sports equipment industries with new aluminium-scandium alloys and metal matrix composites.

Ashurst is also developing energy storage devices, fibers, novel coating systems and other light metal alloys including porous titanium.

*Distributed by PR Newswire on behalf of Ashurst Technology*

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