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**The Conrad Foundation and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
Announce Partnership**

*Organizations unite to promote and support annual competition*

SAN FRANCISCO – Officials with The Conrad Foundation today announced the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) is the newest partner to support the Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Awards.

The contest challenges teams of high school students to create innovative products for use in various fields of science and technology, including lunar exploration, personal spaceflight and renewable energy. This mentor-based, collaborative approach to interdisciplinary science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is designed to engage students and teachers in ways that increase their understanding and interest in science and technology college degree programs and careers. This year, 21 teams are vying for \$120,000 in prize money and the opportunity to commercialize their products for general market use.

Through this partnership, student teams in the space categories will receive counsel and support from the general AIAA membership. In addition, AIAA members will serve as judges in the lunar exploration and personal spaceflight categories. Team finalists will also have the opportunity to present their product concepts at AIAA events, such as the AIAA 2009 Space Conference and Expo at the Pasadena Convention Center, in Pasadena, Calif., Sept. 14-17 . AIAA will provide memberships to the top three teams in the aerospace competition categories.

“Having the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics’ support in this competition is tremendous and gives our student teams greater visibility within the space industry as well as the opportunity to obtain counsel and guidance,” said Nancy Conrad, founder of The Conrad Foundation.

Twenty one teams are currently competing in the Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Awards. To learn more about the competition, to become a partner or to support your favorite student team, visit [www.conradawards.org](http://www.conradawards.org).

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The Conrad Foundation and AIAA Announce Partnership  
Page Two

### **About Charles “Pete” Conrad**

Pete Conrad's accomplishments span the entire history of manned spaceflight. Conrad flew Gemini V and Gemini XI and became the third man to walk on the Moon on Apollo XII. He also flew the Skylab II mission, in which his emergency spacewalk saved the entire station and earned him a Congressional Space Medal of Honor. After retiring from NASA, Conrad returned to space, no longer as an explorer, but as an entrepreneur. He was a key participant in the ventures that created the beginning of the commercial space industry. Conrad tragically passed away in 1999.

### **About The Conrad Foundation**

The Conrad Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation designed to energize and engage students in science and technology through unique entrepreneurial opportunities. The Foundation builds upon the legacy of heroes in our past to nurture the heroes of our future. By enabling young minds to connect education, innovation and entrepreneurship, The Conrad Foundation provides a bold platform for enriching human capital. For more information, visit [www.conradawards.org](http://www.conradawards.org).

### **About the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics**

AIAA advances the state of aerospace science, engineering and technological leadership. Headquartered in suburban Washington D.C., the Institute serves over 35,000 members in 65 regional sections and 70 countries. AIAA membership is drawn from all levels of industry, academia, private research organizations, and government. For more information, visit [www.aiaa.org](http://www.aiaa.org).

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