Mercury Federal Systems Delivers Onboard Real-time Processing Technology for U.S. Air Force's Gorgon Stare Wide-Area Persistent Surveillance System

State-of-the-art image processing and data storage subsystems are integrated by Sierra Nevada Corporation into an MQ-9 Reaper-mounted pod set to provide unmatched EO/IR persistent surveillance capabilities to the warfighter

CHELMSFORD, Mass., Oct 18, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Mercury Computer Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: MRCY, www.mc.com), a trusted provider of commercially developed application-ready ISR subsystems, announced that its Mercury Federal Systems subsidiary is part of the Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC)-led team that received the United States Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Foundation's 2011 Industry Achievement Award. This prestigious annual award, presented October 18, recognizes outstanding accomplishments in GEOINT tradecraft by an individual or team from industry. Mercury provided SNC with onboard real-time image processing and storage subsystems, which are key components of the U.S. Air Force's Gorgon Stare persistent surveillance system, currently deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The United States Air Force (USAF)'s Gorgon Stare (GS) Wide-Area Persistent Surveillance System, developed by the SNC-led, best-of-breed industry team under the USAF/Big Safari rapid acquisition program, has been flying operational missions since April, 2011. Hosted on a USAF/General Atomics long-dwell MQ-9 Reaper unmanned air vehicle, each GS orbit provides uninterrupted, 24/7 visible and IR coverage of city-sized areas, providing real-time motion video directly to theater and tactical forces engaged in operations. In addition to its primary tactical consumers, this game-changing system also provides these products in near real-time to the Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) enterprise for unprecedentedly rapid exploitation and time-sensitive forensic analysis support. The entire mission data set, which is recorded onboard the aircraft in machine-lossless format, is provided post-mission for live, long-term archiving and discovery, and additional current exploitation.

"The Air Force required a long-dwell, multi-sensor system that could support numerous, simultaneous surveillance missions, providing real-time support to ground forces and forensic information to analysts. Equally important was how quickly the system could deploy for operations," said David Bullock, vice president, ISR Persistent Surveillance, Sierra Nevada Corporation. "Mercury's renowned expertise in embedded, high-performance digital signal and image processing and their ability to accelerate time to deployment made them a clear choice for the Increment 1 core team."

In addition to Mercury Federal Systems, SNC's Increment 1 partners included ITT Geospatial Systems, MIT/LL, L3, Gitchner, and AdamWorks. SNC is currently under USAF contract to develop the next generation of Gorgon Stare systems. In addition to its Increment 1 partners, the SNC-led Increment 2 team adds BAE Systems as the next-generation visible sensor provider.

Rugged, Open Processing Technology

Mercury's on-board, real-time sensor signal processing subsystem utilizes open, standards-based 6U OpenVPX™ architecture and includes the following commercial computing hardware and software building blocks: OpenVPX GPU processing module, Switch module, Intel® Core i7™-based Server module, and Imaging Toolkit. Together, these modules are used to execute the advanced real-time algorithms to generate the EO and IR imagery products. Mercury's ruggedized solid state disk drive-based Digital Storage Unit stores mission data for both immediate exploitation and longer term forensic analysis.

"Mercury's flexible, size, weight and power-optimized processing architecture provides unmatched performance through new on-board capabilities for Sierra Nevada's system solution, enabling the most powerful data processing and exploitation to occur closer to the sensor while overcoming air-to-ground communications bottlenecks," said Dr. Paul Monticciolo, general manager, Mercury Federal Systems. "Warfighters and analysts will be better able to extract actionable intelligence from the resulting imagery and exploitation products in near-real time through ROVER displays and dissemination through the DCGS. As a result, our forces will have persistent situational awareness of ground activities."

About Mercury Federal Systems

Mercury Federal Systems (MFS) Inc., a subsidiary of Mercury Computer Systems, provides ISR system and technology solutions to the U.S. Government that meet national defense needs. The company has world-class domain expertise in deploying commercially-developed hardware, open-source software, and open standards-based Application Ready

Subsystem™ solutions that increase performance and productivity while reducing system cost. MFS delivers adaptable hardware and software operating across multiple sensor platforms; multi-INT tasking, fusion and exploitation techniques; flexible sensor and computing systems; open system architecture implementations; and application-ready hardware/software systems for rapid implementation.

For more information on Mercury Federal Systems, visit www.mercfed.com, call 703.413.0781 or email info@mercfed.com.

About Sierra Nevada Corporation

Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) is one of America's fastest growing private companies based on its significant expansion and reputation for rapid, innovative, and agile technology solutions in electronics, aerospace, avionics, space, propulsion, micro-satellite, aircraft, communications systems and solar energy. Under the leadership of CEO Fatih Ozmen and President and CFO Eren Ozmen, SNC employs over 2100 people in 30 locations in 15 states. SNC's seven unique business areas are dedicated to providing leading-edge solutions to SNC's dynamic customer base.

SNC is also the Top Woman-Owned Federal Contractor in the United States. Over the last 30 years under the Ozmen's leadership, SNC has remained focused on providing its customers the very best in diversified technologies to meet their needs and has a strong and proven track record of success. The company continues to focus its growth on the commercial sector through internal advancements and outside acquisitions, including the emerging markets of renewable energy, telemedicine, nanotechnology, cyber and net-centric operations. For more information on SNC visit www.sncorp.com.

Mercury Computer Systems, Inc. - Where Challenges Drive Innovation®

Mercury Computer Systems (www.mc.com, NASDAQ: MRCY) is a best-of-breed provider of open, commercially developed, application-ready, multi-INT subsystems for the ISR market. With more than 30 years of experience in embedded computing, superior domain expertise in radar, EW, EO/IR, C4I and sonar applications, and more than 300 successful program deployments including Aegis, Global Hawk and Predator, Mercury's Services and Systems Integration (SSI) team leads the industry in partnering with customers to design and integrate system-level solutions that minimize program risk, maximize application portability and accelerate customers' time to market.

Mercury is based in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, and serves customers worldwide through a broad network of direct sales offices, subsidiaries and distributors.

Forward-Looking Safe Harbor Statement

This press release contains certain forward-looking statements, as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including those relating to the products and services provided to Sierra Nevada Corporation for the contract described above. You can identify these statements by the use of the words "may," "will," "could," "should," "plans," "expects," "anticipates," "continue," "estimate," "project," "intend," "likely," "probable, "and similar expressions. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected or anticipated. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, general economic and business conditions, including unforeseen weakness in the Company's markets, effects of continued geopolitical unrest and regional conflicts, competition, changes in technology and methods of marketing, delays in completing engineering and manufacturing programs, changes in customer order patterns, changes in product mix, continued success in technological advances and delivering technological innovations, continued funding of defense programs, the timing of such funding, changes in the U.S. Government's interpretation of federal procurement rules and regulations, market acceptance of the Company's products, shortages in components, production delays due to performance quality issues with outsourced components, inability to fully realize the expected benefits from acquisitions and divestitures or delays in realizing such benefits, challenges in integrating acquired businesses and achieving anticipated synergies, changes to export regulations, increases in tax rates, changes to generally accepted accounting principles, difficulties in retaining key employees and customers, unanticipated costs under fixed-price service and system integration engagements, and various other factors beyond our control. These risks and uncertainties also include such additional risk factors as are discussed in the Company's filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, including its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. The Company cautions readers not to place undue reliance upon any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date made. The Company undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made.

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