

For Immediate Release

July 26, 2021

Northwest UAV Hosts Grand Opening Event for Their Hydrogen Fuel Cell Manufacturing Center

Joined by top researchers, policymakers, and others in unmanned systems, Northwest UAV celebrated the addition of their new Hydrogen Fuel Cell Manufacturing Center to their campus in McMinnville, Oregon.

McMinnville, OR: On Thursday, July 15, NWUAV was joined by a variety of stakeholders to celebrate the grand opening of their hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing center. Featuring UAV engineering, machining, wiring, engine manufacturing, testing, and now UAV hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing, the NWUAV campus is a unique UAV tech and manufacturing hub in McMinnville, Oregon.



Pictured left to right:
Chris Harris, NWUAV President & Owner; Keith Devries, Program Manager at OSD ManTech; Karen Dennis, NWUAV Engineering Program Manager; Ben Gould of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory's Alternative Energy Section, Chemistry Division; Kevin Cronin, Excet Inc. Electrical Engineer; Jeff Ratcliffe, NWUAV Chief Technical Officer

The grand opening ceremony featured a variety of speakers, each with a unique perspective on the implications of the hydrogen fuel cell technology and the manufacturing center. Northwest UAV President and Owner Chris Harris kicked off the event with welcoming everyone and touching on what has made this technology and the growth of NWUAV possible.

"It's been a long journey to get to this point," Chris Harris said, "16 years in business, and we wouldn't be here without the hard work of our employees. So thank you all for making this possible."

Oregon House Representative Ron Noble also thanked everyone at Northwest UAV for making it

apparent to the rest of McMinnville and the state of Oregon that a cutting edge company can reside and thrive in McMinnville, Oregon.

"We had five bills this year that dealt with hydrogen," Representative Noble explained, "Two of them passed ... You are on the cutting edge here in McMinnville ... People think of technology as San



Fransisco, maybe Portland, maybe Los Angeles, New York ... What you're doing here is in McMinnville. And people don't realize, we can do this here."

A technology developed in cooperation with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Ben Gould of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory's Alternative Energy Section, Chemistry Division, explained what it meant for him to see this hydrogen fuel cell actually go from the bench to industry and manufacturing.

"It's something we dream about every night. I want to see my technology actually go help someone, help the warfighter and save lives," explained Gould. "We're doing that here ... It needs to happen more. And one of the stories that needs to be told is that it's important for us in government to work more with industry." Gould went on to explain that the concept for this hydrogen fuel cell technology also took 15 years, and he was thrilled when Northwest UAV offered to make the idea into a real manufacturable technology.

While Ben Gould touched on the opportunities of the hydrogen fuel cell to support the warfighter, Keith DeVries, Program Manager of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Manufacturing Science & Technology Program expanded on how Northwest UAV frontline workers are supporting the frontlines in the field.

"I understand fully having worked small businesses at points my career that the success of a small business rests on all of your shoulders," explained DeVries, "From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you ... It is just warming to know that you are at the front lines of technology insertion here in McMinnville enabling the safety of our frontline warfighters out in the field."

Turning the focus back to McMinnville, Jody Christensen, Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Coordinator from the Office of Governor Kate Brown concluded the speakers with a look back at Northwest UAV's growth and how it all happened right here, in McMinnville.

"I believe the story of Northwest UAV is centered on being a community. A community where people can be global thinkers and innovators, while enjoying a quieter, more connected way of life. It has a global reach, but it is grounded here, in McMinnville," Christensen said.

The ceremony concluded with an official ribbon cutting (pictured) followed by a catered lunch of local favorites and tours of the new facility. Northwest UAV will have a PEM hydrogen fuel cell prototype for viewing at Booth #2341 at the AUVSI XPONENTIAL show in August.

About Northwest UAV

As America's leader in UAV propulsion system design and manufacturing, Northwest UAV is leading the way yet again, as America's first one-stop-UAV Shop. With a reputation for reliable, cost effective, innovative UAV engine



and support system solutions, NWUAV has developed into a company with the ability to design, manufacture, build-to-print, repair, ground test and flight test UAVs in their FAA designated airspace. Founded in 2005 by President and Owner Chris Harris, NWUAV continues to safely and effectively manage all aspects of product development, from initial concept design through production and flight testing and beyond to maintenance and overhauls. When reliability is key, count on the team at NWUAV. AS9100-D/ISO9001-2015 certified and DCAA compliant operation.

Find out more about NWUAV:



/company/northwest-uav-propulsion-systems/



@NWUAV



/NorthwestUAV/



@NWUAV

For further information contact:

Alex Riecke-Gonzales, Communications Specialist

Alex.Riecke-Gonzales@nwuav.com

503-434-6845

Northwest UAV Propulsion Systems,

11160 SW Durham Lane, Suite 1, McMinnville, OR 97128

www.NWUAV.com