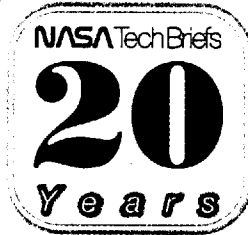


# 20th Anniversary Contest Highlights the Write Stuff

This month, NASA Tech Briefs celebrates a milestone – our 20th anniversary as a magazine. Over the past 20 years, more than 12,000 tech briefs have been published, generating nearly 1.8 million requests for Technical Support Packages. Today, more than 207,000 subscribers (and double that number in total readers) learn about NASA's technologies for transfer to the engineering community through the pages of NASA Tech Briefs.

We announced in June our 20th Anniversary Letter-Writing Contest, focusing on the impact NASA Tech Briefs has had on you — our readers. We were overwhelmed by the importance you placed on the role of the magazine in both your lives and your work. Many of you told us of specific instances



in which a brief or Technical Support Package provided a solution to a particular problem faced in the course of your job. Others related how the magazine served as a thought-provoking tool to stimulate creativity. And some of you shared with us your personal experiences of how medical innovations described in NASA Tech Briefs helped improve the quality of your lives.

Unfortunately, we were only able to name three Grand Winners and five Finalists out of the many impressive letters we received. The three winning letters are reproduced here, along with comments from the five finalists and many other entrants. Although we can't award 207,000 prizes, we think of all our readers as winners, and thank those of you who participated in the contest.

## Grand Winners

Since its formation in 1958, NASA has placed Americans on top of not only science and technology, but the world. While the core foundation of NASA has rested upon space and aeronautics, allowing our nation to pioneer the furthest reaches of our environment while setting foot on our nearest neighbor, the organization has evolved immensely. In addition to fantastic achievements and present pursuits, NASA has established a process by which industries of nearly all aspects and interests may benefit from NASA-supported activities.

Stavatti Corporation is a rare case. While many firms undoubtedly benefit from NASA's technology transfer initiatives, few maintain a high regard for the interests that make NASA an extraordinarily unique institution: aeronautics and space. As a burgeoning aerospace firm, Stavatti is committed to aeronautics and space-related products. Presently pursuing the development and production of aircraft ranging from single-engine, general aviation airframes to multi-role fighters, Stavatti requires a variety of information sources.

Stavatti has benefitted tremendously from opportunities presented within every issue of *NASA Tech Briefs*. Since initiating our subscription nearly two years ago, *NASA Tech Briefs* has granted Stavatti innovative solutions through articles, Technical Support Packages, and COSMIC-issued software.

A very large array of NASA information has been obtained and applied by Stavatti. During these past two years, Stavatti has pursued a variety of endeavors, each of which consists of multiple individual projects. Be it the formation of composite structures, the integration of a flight computer, the measurement of an air intake's pressure recovery, the estimation of turbulence, or an improvement in aircraft maneuverability at high AOA, Technical Support Packages have provided an insightful grasp of the vast investments NASA has placed in varied studies which expand horizons of both knowledge and industrial possibility.

Numerous instances exist whereby technologies featured in *NASA Tech Briefs* have solved or are in the process of solving specific problems. Most recently, the concept of propellers and fans based on the Mobius Strip (July 1996) has generated tremendous interest. With the standard, constant-speed aircraft propeller remaining virtually unchanged for nearly 60 years, the thought that aircraft may be more efficient through applying an extraordinary concept is invigorating, serving as a prime example of how *NASA Tech Briefs* has improved our vision.

While further noteworthy Tech Briefs dividends come to mind, the advertising platform provided is nearly as important as research results. From state-of-the-art software to latch producers, a cornucopia of companies is provided within every issue. Stavatti has acquired many featured products, including FEA packages and advanced composites. In conjunction with *NASA Tech Briefs*, the Technology 2005 exposition provided the impetus for Stavatti to establish agreements with power plant suppliers, material processors, and subcomponent assembler alike, while forever refracting how we see aircraft canopies.

As its predecessor, NACA, which produced aerodynamic information dear to Stavatti, *NASA Tech Briefs* has provided a means by which the outcome of research may result in spinoffs down many roads, be it the highway where cars find greater efficiency, or the shopping aisle where mothers find Tang.

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