Cal Poly's Aerospace Master's Program to Offer Specialization in Space Systems

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly is now the only campus in the 23-member California State University System to offer a master's degree specialization in Space Systems Engineering.

The new degree recently received its final approval from the Cal Poly Academic Senate.

According to Aerospace Engineering Department Chair Jordi Puig-Suari, graduate students in this specialization will develop an understanding of all subsystems in a spacecraft or missile/launch vehicle and how they are combined to form a complete space vehicle. The program also presents the basic principles of systems engineering and their application to space vehicle design.

The program will offer both on-campus and distance learners a degree that gives them an additional edge in the field of aerospace engineering, says Puig-Suari. "We're very excited about the new program. The specialization not only meets the needs of on-campus grad students, but it addresses the life-long learning issues of professionals already working in the field," he said.

Illustrating that industry demand, a number of Lockheed Martin employees in Sunnyvale have already enrolled in Cal Poly’s Space Systems courses, which they can take in "real time" online, from off-campus locations.

The degree specialization provides a more focused version of Cal Poly's M.S. Aerospace Engineering degree, with a smaller number of electives and a clear space systems and systems engineering emphasis. It is designed to accommodate students with undergraduate degrees in science or engineering disciplines other than aerospace engineering.

Lockheed Martin provided $300,000 to help start the program. For more details, visit the College of Engineering Web site at http://www.ceng-web.calpoly.edu/index.php.

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