



400 Collins Road NE
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Backgrounder

Statement from Bobby Sturgell, senior vice president, Washington Operations, Rockwell Collins, for The Smithsonian's Time and Navigation exhibit

In July of 1977, David Van Dusseldorp, then a young Rockwell Collins engineer, sat atop one of our company's buildings in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, part of a team attempting to set a new standard in navigation.

His rooftop role at that time was to reposition an antenna as the rest of the team below worked to receive the first Global Positioning System (GPS) signal. Back then, there was only a four-hour window each night during which a satellite would be overhead, and the antenna had to be repositioned every few minutes in order to receive the signal.

Success came on the first night the satellite was turned on when the message was received and decoded. The U.S. Air Force later awarded Rockwell Collins the NAVSTAR GPS user equipment contract, the first of many GPS wins that would ultimately lead to our position as a market leader.

Since those early days, GPS technology has grown to touch nearly every part of our daily lives. The Smithsonian's new exhibit, "Time and Navigation: The untold story of getting from here to there," chronicles not only the development of GPS, but the story of how navigating our world has changed over the years.

We're honored to be a part of The Smithsonian's Time and Navigation exhibition and believe it will be an inspiration to our youth to consider a future in science and technology. Our participation aligns perfectly with our company's commitment to STEM education and our heritage with the history of GPS navigation and Rockwell Collins being so intertwined.

About Rockwell Collins

Rockwell Collins (NYSE: COL) is a pioneer in the development and deployment of innovative communication and aviation electronic solutions for both commercial and government applications. Our expertise in flight deck avionics, cabin electronics, mission communications, information management, and simulation and training is delivered by 20,000 employees, and a global service and support network that crosses 27 countries. To find out more, please visit www.rockwellcollins.com.

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