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Saber Astronautics Supports USAF Space Operations Exercise

Colorado USA and Sydney Australia: Saber Astronautics was one of 19 commercial companies and nine US Military organizations joining the “Sprint Advanced Concept Training for Space Situational Awareness” (SACT-SSA) event. During the event, Saber provided real-time operational support from their Mission Control Centers in Sydney and Colorado.

SACT is a United States Air Force run event to test the combat readiness of its space forces. The event draws upon a combination of real-world, commercial, and defense assets to sense and retrieve data of space threats and to conduct orbital maneuvers. This was a live event using both commercial and defense sensors to detect and locate spacecraft in flight.

With the number of space objects set to triple over the next decade there are new businesses developing sensors to find objects in space, with telescopes and radars cropping up around the globe. The USAF is investigating new ways to collaborate and to integrate these new commercial capabilities into their day-to-day operations.

The Saber Astronautics role was to supply software called the Predictive Interactive Groundstation Interface software (PIGI), to manage thousands of space objects observed by sensors provided by the rest of the team. High quality visualization of the space environment is critical in situations where operators need to be able to understand and make decisions on large volumes of information.

Saber also provided commercial Mission Control Centers, called the “Responsive Space Operations Center (RSOC)”, which used PIGI and other tools to understand the impacts of decisions. RSOC is based in Colorado (“Daywatch”) and Sydney Australia (“Nightwatch”) to support global operations.

The Director of Saber Astronautics USA Nathan Parrott noted the responsiveness of the teams, *“SACT-2 provided a wonderful opportunity for us to test PIGI in an operational environment to model live on-orbit maneuvers using actual real-time sensor data. Saber's Australian team (Nightwatch) did a wonderful job of taking over operations to provide a full 24-hour operational window for SACT which was a first for the event. This was a capability that was very much welcomed by our US allies.”*

Saber’s international presence allowed, for the first time in the SACT exercise, the successful integration of operations from the U.S. Space Operations Center (SPOC) to Australia, providing 24-hour operational readiness from Saber's RSOCs. They received data from sensors, compared to known and expected satellite positions, measured divergences, and identified maneuvers for live spacecraft.

SACT-2, which ran from August 26th to August 29th in Colorado Springs, Colorado (USA), was the second such event to be operating in partnership with the U.S. Air Force. SACT-2 networked commercial sensor providers to track satellites and make live operational decisions in partnership with the USAF.





The next SACT event (SACT-3) is scheduled for December 2019 where Saber Astronautics is again expected to play a leading role.

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For any enquiries, please contact:

Dr. Jason Held
Chief Executive Officer

Saber Astronautics LLC
Saber Astronautics Australia Pty Ltd
720-589-6086 (USA)
+61 433 178 740 (AU)
jheld@saberastro.com

About Saber Astronautics

Saber Astronautics' mission is to reduce barriers to space flight, making it more accessible to people on Earth. Saber's Predictive Ground station Project (PIGI) is a next-generation space mission control software developed by an experienced team of space operations, systems control, UX, and robotics experts. PIGI brings together the latest techniques in human factors, artificial intelligence, and dynamic 3D data visualization to make it easy for spacecraft operators to monitor, fly, and rapidly diagnose faults in spacecraft systems.

For more information, please visit www.saberastro.com

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