

Local company aids shuttle's return to flight

APEX, July 12, 2005 – When the shuttle makes its long-awaited return to flight, one company in the Triangle area will have more than a fleeting interest.

CEI, based in Apex, has a connection with the return-to-flight mission that goes back to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board (CAIB) study, where the company's EnSight visualization software was used to corroborate evidence and formulate conclusions about the disaster. EnSight visualizations created by Boeing and distributed to CAIB members using CEI's EnLiten 3D geometry viewer provided a clearer understanding of problems and potential solutions.

After the Columbia investigation had pinpointed sources of shuttle problems, CEI's software was used by NASA Johnson Space Center to provide insight into complex flow physics for Discovery's redesigned external fuel tank (ET). EnSight was also used to help engineers interpret flight and wind-tunnel data, and to design tests with smaller scale models.

At NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., CEI's EnSight has been used to assess wind speeds and directions to determine their effect on the shuttle, the solid rocket boosters (SRBs), and the ET.

"We are proud that our products and engineers have made significant contributions to NASA's shuttle mission," says Kent Misegades, CEI's president. "We hope that this is just the first step in getting manned space exploration back on the fast track."

About CEI

CEI (www.ensight.com) offers a suite of tools for engineering and scientific simulation, including meshing, plotting, animation and data visualization. The company's software can be run on every type of computer, from laptops to the most advanced VR displays. CEI has corporate headquarters in Apex, N.C., and authorized distributors around the world. In addition to EnSight and related products, the company provides consulting services to engineers and scientists from organizations that need to visualize computational results for research, product design or product refinement.

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