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SEL Accepts Partner Excellence Award for FAA NextGen Project

PULLMAN, WA — December 18, 2014 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) has been awarded the Data Communications Integrated Services (DCIS) Partner Excellence Award by Harris Corporation for its contributions to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) NextGen Data Communications (DataComm) project.

SEL is partnering with Harris, the prime contractor on the DataComm project, to help enhance air traffic management by allowing air traffic controllers to transmit critical information to pilots via digital text, replacing existing two-way radio voice transmissions. This new technology will speed up departure queues and enable controllers to provide reroute information to airplane cockpits during flight, saving time, reducing fuel costs, and streamlining air traffic flow, according to the FAA.

SEL representatives accept the DCIS award on December 18, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

SEL will provide more than 300 SEL-3355 Computers for the DCIS portion of the project. DCIS is responsible for integration and engineering services, including management and delivery of data communications services and data communications-equipped aircraft.

Harris selected the SEL-3355 due to its unique set of features not found in other rugged industrial computers. The SEL-3355 has no fans, no vents, and no moving parts, significantly improving reliability. To manage the temperature of key components, the SEL-3355 incorporates the use of thermal heat pipes, which keep components at an operating temperature that ensures longevity and peak performance. Project engineers can implement a configuration on the SEL-3355 to remotely monitor, alarm for, and remediate numerous system services and conditions, providing an extra level of computer system availability. Additionally, SEL has designed two PCIe expansion cards—an Ethernet network adapter and a serial adapter—that meet the same environmental requirements as the SEL-3355.

“When we designed the SEL-3355, we wanted to create a robust, reliable computer that could support critical operations,” said Dave Whitehead, SEL vice president of R&D. “As the FAA strives to make air traffic control safer and more reliable, SEL employee owners are committed to building quality products that support the mission. Partnering with Harris on this project has been a valuable experience for SEL.”

To learn more about the SEL-3355 Computer, please visit www.selinc.com/p218. Experience how the FAA's DCIS program is enhancing air traffic control by watching this video: http://www.faa.gov/tv/?mediaId=817.

SEL is an employee-owned company serving the power industry worldwide for more than 30 years through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, communications, and metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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