

Aerospace group touting team approach

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A group of more than 40 Connecticut aerospace companies that banded together two years ago to promote a unified approach to landing contracts plans to showcase its capabilities at a trade show in Windsor on Thursday.

With a theme of "Keep Jobs in Connecticut," the show will emphasize "success in the changing marketplace through cooperation," according to a statement from Diane Casaretti, spokeswoman for the state group, known as Aerospace Components Manufacturers.

The event is designed to give the group's member companies a forum to show customers — manufacturers of aircraft and aircraft engines — that "they don't have to go overseas for subcontracted components," Casaretti said.

"They can save money, time and reduce risk by using teams of ACM's Connecticut companies," she said.

The event will highlight improved ways of doing business by competitors working together, according to Casaretti.

Chris Van Buiten, director of technology and innovations for Stratford-based Sikorsky Aircraft will be the keynote speaker, she said.

The group's members have combined annual sales of more than \$1.1 billion, and combined employment of more than 4,500, Casaretti said.

The trade show is scheduled for the Hartford/Windsor Airport Marriott Hotel, 28 Day Hill Road, Windsor, from 2 to 6:30 p.m.

A private morning session starting at 10 a.m. is for mentors of high school students to discuss future career opportunities.

The state aerospace companies calling Connecticut home and several state agencies banded together in **2006 for the first time to present the state's capabilities at the Farnborough International Air Show in England.**

The Department of Economic and Community Development, the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, and the Connecticut State Technology Extension Program, or CONNSTEP for short, along with five aerospace companies were involved in the initial promotional effort.

Representatives from Connecticut involved in the Farnborough debut included AeroGear Inc., of Windsor, Flight Safety Technologies, of Stonington, Hawk Integrated Plastics LLC, of Windham, and Kaman Aerospace Corp., based in Bloomfield.