



P R E S S R E L E A S E

July 11, 2017

Wallops Island, VA - On July 11 at approximately 1030 in the morning one of HeloAir's Bell 407's, N407DP picked up and released a 50 ft. diameter, Mars Science Laboratory parachute. The mission was conducted as part of NASA's Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE). Working together with NASA Wallops Flight Facility, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Naval Air Warfare Center, HeloAir was able to play a key role in this advanced parachute testing. The supersonic parachutes will be used on the Mars 2020 rover which is scheduled to launch in the summer of 2020.

Pilot Rodger Crawley said "That with much advance planning, an exceptional attention to detail that everything off when off as expected." The parachute and simulated sounding rocket payload was picked up at the Wallops Island UAV landing strip and flown 12 miles offshore and dropped from 1500 feet. The test went off exactly as planned.

For additional information, please contact Whit Baldwin, President at 804-226-3400 or visit our website: www.heloair.com

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