

# Section Participation in 2015 NASA On the Square Day

*By Robert LaBranche, with Photos by Alan Lowrey*

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> the AIAA Greater Huntsville Section (AIAA-GHSV) participated in the second annual NASA on the Square, an event designed to showcase the work done at Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) outside the gates of Redstone Arsenal to be more accessible to the general public. The event is done in partnership with Downtown Huntsville, Inc., a company that is responsible for revitalizing Downtown Huntsville. In addition to MSFC exhibits, industry partners and outside groups, like AIAA, set up booths to engage the children who attended in activities that would excite them about the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.



AIAA's booth included several flight simulators. Neal Allgood, AIAA-GHSV's Liaison to Student Branches, brought his RC Flight simulator. Brandon Stiltner, AIAA GHSV's Vice Chairman, brought his RC aircraft, giving the attendees the opportunity to manipulate the controls and watch which pieces on the aircraft moved. The RC simulator and aircraft were very popular with the kids because the control boxes are similar to gaming controllers.

AIAA also partnered with FlyQuest, a non-profit organization based in Huntsville, Alabama with a vision to awaken dreams and provide opportunities for young people to pursue aerospace education and aviation careers and experience the joy of flight. FlyQuest provided two more complex flight simulators that gave participants the feel of a real cockpit, complete with rudder pedals, a yoke, and an instrument panel.



Also on display, was AIAA-GHSV's Suitcase Rocket. Members of the team explained the process for building the rocket and how the rocket will operate to attendees. While the rocket was not completed for firings at the event, children and adults alike enjoyed learning about the rocket, and it taught a valuable lesson all rocket scientists know well, delays happen!

Finally, AIAA-GHSV's UAH student section, led by Brittani Searcy, hosted the most popular activity at the entire event, Water Bottle Rockets. Children used stand up bike pumps to pressurize the water bottles and delighted as the bottles soared well over 100 feet into the air.

Through NASA on the Square, AIAA-GHSV had the opportunity to showcase our activities to community leaders, such as Huntsville Mayor, Tommy Battle; MSFC Director, Patrick Scheuermann; and Downtown Huntsville, Inc. CEO, Chad Emmerson. AIAA-GHSV also

engaged and excited hundreds of children about the STEM fields and signed up dozens of adults who wanted to know more about the Section. Our presence at the event was a major success yet again thanks to the work of our many volunteers.