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THRUSTMASTER EXPANDS SIX-ACRE HOUSTON MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HOUSTON, TEXAS (February 14, 2002) - - - Thrustmaster of Texas, Inc., one of the world's leading manufacturers of marine propulsion equipment, has expanded their Houston manufacturing facility by over 65%. The expansion, which was completed this week, now gives Thrustmaster over 50,000 square feet of manufacturing space, in addition to over 10,000 square feet of administrative, design, and research space on their six-acre Northwest Houston location.

"The plant expansion, combined with new state-of-the-art equipment, gives us greatly expanded in-house capabilities," said Owen Traylor, General Manager of Thrustmaster. "Our ability to do our own machining and fabrication, combined with our already-existing electrical, assembly, and testing capabilities, takes us to the next level of quality."

The expansion, which was started with the official groundbreaking and pouring of the slab in September, took just five months to complete without any interruption in ongoing work. "We were in the middle of a huge portable dynamic positioning system job building eight 1,000 horsepower thrusters and hydraulic power units while the slab was being poured and the new roof was being added. I'm happy to say there were no lost days due to the expansion, and we were even able to get the DP job out ahead of schedule," added Traylor.

"Part of the beauty of the expansion is our ability to maintain more critical control over quality and on-time delivery," said Traylor.

In addition to the new square footage and the new machinery, a 25-ton overhead crane was also added, giving Thrustmaster the ability to build bigger and heavier thrusters. As part of the overall expansion, Thrustmaster also expanded the size of its spare parts warehouse, which gives existing customers more efficient access to any needed spare parts.

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(Note to editors: A photo of the expanded facility (attached to this email in low-res format) is available in 300 dpi hi-res format. Please email or call if you would like the high res version sent via CD ROM or email)