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# Butler Parachute Systems, Inc.

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May 28, 2015

Lorenda Ward  
Major Investigations (AS-10)  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

Re: Party Submission – SpaceShipTwo Accident DCA15MA019

Dear Ms. Ward,

Butler Parachute Systems supplied the Pilot Emergency Bailout System to Virgin Galactic that was used on the SpaceShipTwo aircraft on October 31, 2014. Butler Parachutes was named a party to the investigation and assisted the NTSB in the Survival Factors Group.

The Parachute System was worn by both crew members on the accident flight. The copilot did not have an opportunity to operate the parachute system. His parachute was found to be in good working order, other than the post-accident damage. The pilot was able to operate his parachute system. The Survival Factors Chairman's Factual Report shows that the pilot's parachute was activated via the CYPRES Automatic Activation Device (AAD), leading to a full and undamaged parachute canopy saving the life of the crew member.

Both Parachute Systems were evaluated and found to be in compliance with all applicable FAA regulations. They were found to be in good working order. While questions were raised and investigated regarding the personnel oxygen system installed on the pilot's parachute, there was no evidence that the pilot attempted to activate the flow of oxygen, as the activation handle was found fully stowed in the harness pocket.

The CYPRES AAD contains data regarding the parachute performance. To date, Butler Parachutes has not been able to fully analyze the data. All indications are that the system worked as designed.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist with the NTSB investigation and provide a party submission.

Sincerely,

  
Roberto Montañez  
Vice President & General Manager

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