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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Astronics Corporation's EMPOWER[®] System Selected by Nextant Aerospace

In-seat power system will be installed on Nextant's 400XT aircraft

EAST AURORA, NY, October 10, 2011 – Astronics Corporation (NASDAQ: ATRO), a leader in advanced, high performance lighting, electrical power and automated test systems for the global aerospace and defense industries, today announced that Nextant Aerospace will install its 28VDC to 115VAC EMPOWER[®] System as standard equipment on the Nextant 400XT aircraft. The award by Nextant marks yet another selection of the EMPOWER[®] system to provide safe and efficient cabin power for passengers.

"The lightweight, small size and ease of installation associated with the Astronics EMPOWER[®] System makes it an effective cabin power supply solution. We look forward to continued use in the Nextant product line," notes Tony Kurpely, Nextant Aerospace Avionics Manager.

The EMPOWER[®] Inverter is TSO-C73 certified, DO-160E compliant and is in full compliance with FAA Policy Statement ANM-01-111-165 for certification of power supply systems for Portable Electronic Devices. Built with safety, convenience and efficiency in mind, the EMPOWER[®] System has ground fault interrupt, over voltage and current protection, as well as thermal load shedding built into the unit. This intelligent in-seat power system eliminates the need for external protection and control devices, reducing cost and weight. The inverter is also configured for an enable/disable input and a system in-use light for crew visibility and control per the FAA Policy Statement.

Utilizing Astronics' patented intelligent power management, the inverter provides power to the outlet unit only after an appropriate device is properly inserted. For seamless use around the world, the outlet unit will accommodate plugs from 155 countries. To complement design motifs, outlet units are available in a variety of colors. Additionally, gold and un-plated outlet covers are available, adding to the elegance of aircraft interiors.

For more than 15 years, Astronics has developed patented intelligent power management systems. The patented EMPOWER[®] System is currently in service with 150 airline/OEM customers at more than 500,000 seat locations. The 28VDC to 115VAC EMPOWER[®] In-Seat Power Supply System was launched into the business jet market in 2009 and is the first intelligent power management system of its kind available to the business jet market.

ABOUT NEXTANT AEROSPACE

Nextant Aerospace was founded in 2007 for the primary purpose of developing an aircraft

modernization program. The company is credited with being the first to introduce the concept of aircraft remanufacturing to the business jet market.

The Nextant 400XT is a remanufactured Beechjet 400A/XP equipped with the Williams FJ44-3AP engines and Rockwell Collins Pro Line 21 integrated avionics suite. The new aircraft also benefits from significant aerodynamic enhancements including newly designed nacelles, pylons and an improved engine mounting configuration. The 400XT is delivered as a new aircraft with a two-year tip-to-tail warranty. In October of 2010, Nextant announced that they had secured an order for 40 aircraft from the fractional ownership company, Flight Options.

Nextant's design and manufacturing facility is located in Cleveland, OH, at the Cuyahoga County Airport (KCGF). For more information, please visit www.nextantaerospace.com.

ABOUT ASTRONICS CORPORATION

Astronics Corporation is a leader in advanced, high performance lighting, electrical power and automated test systems for the global aerospace and defense industries. The Company's strategy is to develop and maintain positions of technical leadership in its chosen aerospace and defense markets, to leverage those positions to grow the amount of content and volume of product it sells to those markets and to selectively acquire businesses with similar technical capabilities that could benefit from our leadership position and strategic direction. Astronics Corporation, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, DME Corporation, Astronics Advanced Electronic Systems Corp. and Luminescent Systems Inc., have a reputation for high quality designs, exceptional responsiveness, strong brand recognition and best-in-class manufacturing practices. The Company routinely posts news and other important information on its website at www.Astronics.com.

For more information on Astronics and its products, visit its website at www.Astronics.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

This news release contains forward-looking statements as defined by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. One can identify these forward-looking statements by the use of the words "expect," "anticipate," "plan," "may," "will," "estimate" or other similar expression. Because such statements apply to future events, they are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include the state of the aerospace industry, the market acceptance of newly developed products, internal production capabilities, the timing of orders received, the status of customer certification processes, the demand for and market acceptance of new or existing aircraft which contain the Company's products, customer preferences, and other factors which are described in filings by Astronics with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company assumes no obligation to update forward-looking information in this news release whether to reflect changed assumptions, the occurrence of unanticipated events or changes in future operating results, financial conditions or prospects, or otherwise.