



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Darryl Gosnell, President & CEO  
Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance  
757 . 627 . 2315  
hreda.com

Contact: Amy Parkhurst, Senior Vice President  
Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance  
757 . 627 . 2315  
hreda.com

Contact: Paul Oppenheim, Vice President and General Manager  
SPARTA Composite Products  
858 . 455 . 1650  
composites.sparta.com

### **SPARTA Composite Products to invest 13.2 million in Suffolk manufacturing facility**

**Hampton Roads** – The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance announced today that SPARTA Composite Products, a division of SPARTA, Inc. - a wholly owned subsidiary of UK based Cobham plc - will invest \$13.2 million to open a new manufacturing facility in Suffolk's Northgate Commerce Park. The facility will initially be 67,000 SF, with options that could eventually expand the facility up to 154,000 SF. An estimated 198 jobs are set to be created within 5 years. Hiring will begin 3rd quarter 2009 and the new facility is expected to be operational in December 2009.

SPARTA Composite Products is an industry leader providing high-tech, high-value composite products for the civil and defense aerospace industries. The company's product areas include aircraft and aircraft engine components, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) components, and munition products for the U.S. defense industry. Major customers include Raytheon, Pratt & Whitney, Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems. This will be the company's second manufacturing site and first on the East Coast.

"We explored many possible locations around the country, but the Commonwealth of Virginia, and specifically the City of Suffolk, offered the best overall value to our business case," said Paul Oppenheim, Vice President and General Manager of SPARTA Composite Products. "Significant factors that won us over to Virginia included the state's competitive incentives, its outstanding quality of living, its strong political delegation supportive of continued defense funding and the fact that Virginia is a right-to-work state. Factors credited for our choice of Hampton Roads and the City of Suffolk included the proximity to excellent academic institutions with curricula complimentary to our industry, and a highly skilled replenishing workforce."

"The City of Suffolk is extremely pleased that SPARTA Composite Products has chosen our community for its most recent expansion. The selection of the site in Northgate Commerce Park will be beneficial to Suffolk and the entire region," stated Suffolk Mayor Linda T. Johnson. "We are delighted that our cooperative efforts in targeting specific industry sectors have been successful."

"SPARTA's decision validates what many in the region have believed for some time," commented HREDA chair, Mike Barrett. "Hampton Roads is a solid location choice for defense related industries."

Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance Senior Vice President Amy Parkhurst began working with SPARTA in December 2007. Several communities within the region were considered before the Suffolk location was short-listed and ultimately selected. HREDA partnered with the City of Suffolk, Virginia Economic Development Partnership and Virginia Department of Business Assistance in successfully competing with Georgia, Iowa and Florida for the project.

The Suffolk manufacturing site, to be constructed by ProLogis, adds to SPARTA's three Virginia branch offices.

More information about SPARTA Composite Products and job opportunities at the Suffolk facility can be found at their website, [www.composites.sparta.com](http://www.composites.sparta.com).

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