



CHARLES M. SCHULZ - SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From: Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport (STS)
Contact: Jon Stout, Airport Manager (707) 565-7243
Subject: **New Airport Fire Engine - More than just a Fire Truck**

The Charles M. Schulz - Sonoma County Airport (STS) has recently taken delivery of an extraordinary piece of machinery, a COLET K/15S Jaguar Gen4 Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicle. This \$620,000 vehicle was purchased with a 90% Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant to prepare STS for the resumption of commercial air service. This is no ordinary fire truck, however, it is a state-of-the-art specialized vehicle made to exacting specifications, designed to be the fastest and most advanced aircraft rescue and fire fighting vehicle in the US.

“This fire truck will enhance safety and improve airport operations,” said Supervisor Paul Kelley, a strong supporter of Sonoma County’s transportation infrastructure. “We are very happy to have this much needed improvement at the Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport.”

STS received the first fourth-generation (Gen4) version of the Colet K/15S Jaguar. This vehicle uses the latest proven technology and was constructed by Colet Special Vehicle Design (SVD), a sophisticated group of innovative and environmentally conscious engineers located in Newark (California), in the San Francisco Bay Area. Only four companies in the world build ARFF vehicles, but Colet SVD exceeds all standards. The company specializes in aircraft, trucks, and watercraft. Colet has supplied Gen1 through Gen3 vehicles to the US Military, airports around the world, and foreign governments.

The Colet vehicles are built and designed to solve many “common sense” issues found in ARFF vehicles. They work hard to address issues such as stability and safety, performance and response times, reliability and cost. If you’re ever caught in a burning aircraft at an airport, this is the truck you’d want to see coming to the rescue.

Gen4 is a derivative of the Gen1 Air Force ARFF vehicle, which is designed to speedily reach a fire scene, out performing and outlasting other trucks in its class. With its “all wheel” drive the K/15S doesn’t just meet minimum FAA ARFF vehicle specifications and California environmental requirements it exceeds them. The FAA requires that a truck accelerate to 50 mph in 25 seconds. Ralph Colet, Chief Engineer, says, “The K/15S, fully loaded with 1,500 gallons of water, achieves this in 20 seconds,” although actual customers’ tests have clocked it at less than 16 seconds. It is half the weight of its closest competitor, weighing in at 32,000 pounds fully loaded. With excellent brake power, engine brakes, antilock, and traction control, the truck can stop quickly and safely. It stops in half the distance of its closest competition.

Like the space shuttle, the K/15S is constructed with a 100% stainless steel chassis and it won't corrode or rust. With its GM Allison transmission and equipped with synthetic oil, the truck handles faster than top race track vehicles, important when reaching distressed aircraft in unpredictable conditions.

Its critical operating systems such as wiring, ignition, fire suppression, and several other systems that can keep a truck from leaving the firehouse if they fail, are all duplicated with a second system for each, a crucial feature in an emergency where every second counts.

The electrical system warns the operator when battery power is low, and will shut off the air conditioning to conserve power should the operator ignore the low voltage warning alarms. Aerodynamic doors ensure that wind won't blow them shut, the only truck of its size with an all bonded glass cockpit, and numerous other safety features, Colet goes beyond the call, according to Ralph Colet, "for the passion, not the profit."

The K/15S's Gen4 transfer case is the latest technology; distributing power to the front and rear axles with the same manufacturing technology and efficiency of Rally type Quattro cars that race on roads that are dry, covered in snow and ice and made out of gravel or dirt. The hardy all-weather K/15S is built to operate in the harsh climates of the Arctic or a Middle Eastern desert without skipping a beat.

The Cummins 500hp turbo-diesel engine meets the latest most stringent air quality regulations as well as complying with California health regulations. Other ARFF vehicles in its class emit a minimum of 7-20 grams of nitrous oxide, the K/15S, with its super efficient engine, emits only 2.5 grams. The Colet factory itself is "green," using technology to eliminate pollution during the manufacturing process as well as the reduced emissions when a truck leaves the plant. The plant uses a synthetic lube servicing system that doesn't expose oil to the environment. The plants don't even use paint, they use an EPA certified powder coating that is baked on, and pollutants never hit the environment. The stainless steel parts and aluminum panels on the trucks are recyclable when it reaches the end of its service life cycle.

Colet Jaguars have been featured in many publications worldwide, and have been recognized as the most advanced ARFF vehicles in the world. Aviation Fire Journal plans to feature STS's new truck on the cover of an upcoming publication. Sonoma County Airport is proud to have such an environmentally friendly and potentially life-saving truck at the ready with factory backing just a stone's throw away. Finally, this vehicle will allow the Airport to meet FAA requirements for firefighting when Horizon Air commences commercial flights in March 2007.

Other California airports are also purchasing trucks from Colet, including Los Angeles International (LAX) and STS's sister truck (built at the same time) for Mammoth Lakes Yosemite Airport.

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