

# Center for Technology & Innovation, Inc.

321 Water Street, Binghamton, NY 13901

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16 March 2016

PRESS PREVIEW - Link Lunar Module Simulator - visual system  
Thursday, March 17th 10 AM - noon.  
TechWorks! 321 Water Street, Binghamton, NY

On the 50th anniversary of the Gemini 8 splashdown, the media is invited to see the Link Lunar Module Simulator in its newly-arrived, pre-restoration condition. Meet the team that designed, built, and delivered the astronaut training system to NASA in a dizzying 109 week engineering effort a half century ago.

Before GPS, Apollo astronauts had to learn to navigate by stars using training equipment built in Binghamton, NY by Link, the pioneer of the flight simulation industry. This globally important, locally grown Apollo-era technology has returned to its point of origin on a long-term loan from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. The simulator, built by Link in the 1960s at the Binghamton airport with components from Farrand Optical, Bronx, NY, and others, was accessioned into the Smithsonian's collection after being used by NASA. The Link simulator generated dynamic displays of star fields to train Apollo astronauts in navigating to and from the moon, as well as in lunar descent, lunar ascent, and rendezvous and docking. Items returned to Binghamton include the mechanically driven star display system for the Lunar Module Simulator.

Link engineers and mathematicians from the original design team are reuniting to revitalize the telescope's visual system by the end of 2016. Gene Abbey, Link's Simulation Project Manager for the Apollo program, will lead the restoration.

When the star field generating equipment is operational, it will demonstrate for TechWorks! visitors the unique 1960s technology that produced the superb resolution necessary to train Apollo astronauts in mission-critical navigation tasks. One of the most important of these tasks was to precisely synchronize Lunar Module lift-off with the Command Module to assure rendezvous and docking for the return trip to Earth.

This project is undertaken with support from BSC Associates, Binghamton; Sandy Clarkson, Cradle of Aviation Museum, Frank Hughes, NASA (retired); Ray's Auto, Binghamton; and the Gertrude Skelly Foundation.

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