



Apollo-Era Life Rafts Save Hundreds of Sailors

Johnson Space Center

*Givens Marine Survival Co. Inc.
Tiverton, Rhode Island*

Originating Technology/NASA Contribution

- ◆ Before the shuttle, astronauts made splashdown landings in the ocean where they would climb into a life raft and be rescued by a helicopter
- ◆ NASA designed a hydrodynamically stabilized ballast system to prevent a life raft from tipping in choppy seas and fierce winds



Partnership

- ◆ Jim Givens obtained an exclusive license for the patent
- ◆ Givens designed a Buoy Life Raft to somersault and right itself. The momentum of the water in the ballast chamber continues across the top of the canopy and then levels the raft

Product Outcome

- ◆ Givens has sold several thousand of the ballasted inflatable life rafts, which have saved the lives of over 450 seamen
- ◆ Coast Guard testing demonstrated the raft could not be capsized by rough seas or winds
- ◆ Rafts come in a variety of sizes and models