

Reflective Coatings Protect People and Animals



Marshall Space Flight Center

Advanced Flexible Materials (AFM) Inc. Petaluma, California

Originating Technology/NASA Contribution

- ◆ During the Skylab launch, one of the spacecraft's protective shields was damaged
- ◆ Marshall led a collaborative effort to repair the shield and save the spacecraft



Partnership

- ◆ Private manufacturer National Metalizing created a reflective sunshield using radiant barrier technology the company had previously developed for NASA; the solution saved Skylab
- ◆ AFM now employs the same public domain technology in its products
- ◆ The radiant barrier technology was inducted into the Space Technology Hall of Fame

Product Outcome

- ◆ The reflective insulation technology has been incorporated into blankets to trap body heat and prevent hypothermia; it is also used as lining for mittens, vests, and more
- ◆ The technology has been used to keep manatees warm when lifted from the water during tag-and-release programs