



## **Mark S. Deuser**

Co-founder, President, CEO

Mark Deuser has nearly twenty years of project management experience. For the past 15 years, he has specialized in managing bioscience and biotechnology development projects for space applications. He has guided Space Hardware Optimization Technology, Inc. (SHOT), since its founding and has assumed overall responsibility for corporate strategy, business development, financial planning, human resources, facilities management, project management, and product assurance.

He graduated Cum Laude from the University of Evansville with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering and he completed graduate courses at the University of Louisville toward a master's degree in business administration. Upon graduation he took a position with General Electric where he worked as a product design engineer. He left that position to embark on a career as a consulting engineer, taking a position at VITOK Engineers, Inc. Consistent with his drive to work as a consulting engineer, he attained his Professional Engineers license from both the State of Indiana and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Because of his unique technical knowledge and expertise as an engineering consultant, Deuser accepted a position with Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) and was immediately assigned to work on the "Chix in Space" chicken embryo development project that had been proposed by SHOT co-founder John Vellinger. Together, the pair developed the equipment for STS-51L and launched it aboard space shuttle Challenger in January 1986. They rebuilt the experiment following the devastating loss of the orbiter and its crew, and went on to successfully fly it on space shuttle Discovery on mission STS-29 in March 1989.

Deuser and Vellinger designed, fabricated and integrated the flight hardware for the mission, coordinated the project with NASA and assisted the scientific team. The results of the experiment were so significant that the high-profile project established a strong reputation for them and their new company as hardware developers, and captured the interests of gravitational biologists. They founded SHOT in 1988 and began working as full time employees in late 1989.

Deuser has served as project manager for the development of SHOT's CLIMATE, ADSEP and ORSEP flight hardware flown on shuttle and sounding rocket missions. He currently is leading an effort to spur development of a line of scientific research instruments for Earth-based laboratories using technologies SHOT has developed for NASA.