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Press Release

For immediate release

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Transmission Pipeline Leaks Measured from the Sky

Littleton, Colorado – 3/23/05 – Ophir Corporation, a Littleton, Colorado, small business, successfully completed flight tests of its **duoThane**[®] pipeline leak detector. The **duoThane**[®] sensor successfully detected a simulated pipeline leak from an airborne platform 500 feet above ground level traveling at a speed of 100 miles per hour. The sensor was flown on a Cessna T207 with an aerial camera port. A simulated leak of 150 standard cubic feet per hour of methane was repeatably detected in eight test flights.

Development of the airborne **duoThane**[®] was funded under a cost-sharing program with the U.S. Dept. of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory. Martin O'Brien, Vice President of Ophir, relates that "We are looking for demonstration opportunities for transmission companies in both the natural gas and the liquid pipeline industries. We are eager to share our leak detection capability with the market." Although O'Brien cautions that "one more step in the development is necessary — ruggedization — before the sensor is ready for the market." This stage just prior to final development and manufacture is a place where Ophir has been before: Ophir designed, developed, manufactured and now maintains the only laser radar avionics package on the B-2 bomber.

The benefits of this remote sensing system are threefold: improved pipeline safety; reduced transmission pipeline operating costs; and reduced emissions of a critical greenhouse gas. The **duoThane**[®] system provides a cost-effective solution to the inspections necessary to comply with legislated integrity management regulations. The currently performed airborne visual pipeline surveys can be augmented with airborne leak detection using the Ophir sensor. "Combining the visual airborne surveys with remote sensing surveys alleviates the need for walking or driving surveys particularly in areas with challenging terrain," explains O'Brien. The early detection of leaks reduces the amount of methane, in the case of natural gas transmission lines, that is released into the environment.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, Ophir Corporation is a Small Business and an ISO9001:2001 and AS9001-compliant aerospace contractor focused on instrumentation for the atmospheric sciences. Ophir has been developing optical instrumentation for measuring minute concentrations of trace gases within the free atmosphere since 1982, and has completed over 80 U.S. Government contracts focused on optical remote sensing technologies. For more information regarding **duoThane**[®] and Ophir Corporation send a request to info@ophir.com.