

Super Lightweight Tank

Case Study Transcript

Parker Counts

First SLWT Mission: STS-91

T-20 seconds.

Parker Counts:

We finished, I think if I remember right, from ATP to first flight was around 48 months; it's an amazing schedule: once we accomplished it (once we got the problems worked through), we were able to get there.

We had, at the beginning of the program, laid in an 8,000-pound tank; so I think this is one of the things that all programs can learn from: but we set an internal goal of 8,000 pounds – so we were striving to do 8,000. Now we succeeded with 7,500 plus; but at least we started with some margins, so we had some ability to *redirect* in some areas.

From a cost perspective we were quite fortunate; because although we had had these original problems, we had a development budget of about \$132 million. We were able to complete the project and still have \$20 million in reserve.