



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
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**NASA AND DOD CONTRACTORS AND SOME KEY CONTRACTOR  
EMPLOYEES FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY AND MAKING FALSE  
STATEMENTS**

On May 7, 2003, following a criminal trial, a jury in the Central District of California returned a guilty verdict against RAM Enterprises, Inc. (RAM), president Richard Monstein, and RAM quality assurance manager Timothy Gordon. A guilty verdict was also returned against Precision Components, Inc. and its president David Erickson. The companies and these employees were found guilty on a combined total of 19 counts of Conspiracy, Fraud Involving an Interstate Carrier, and False Statements to the U.S. Government.

RAM provided counterfeit electrical contacts to NASA and other Government agencies by stamping contacts with another manufacturer's logo and physically altering other electrical contacts to resemble U.S. Government-approved contacts. The altered contacts were later sold to NASA and other Government contractors. These counterfeit electrical contacts were used in applications associated with NASA's International Space Station and F-16 programs, various Department of Defense aircraft and weapon systems, and industrial land and sea generators.

Monstein, Gordon, and Erickson are facing a maximum sentence of up to 10-years in prison and RAM and Precision Components could be placed on probation for up to 5-years and ordered to pay fines as high as \$1 million.

Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, the U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigation, and the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence S. Middleton, Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, is handling the prosecution.