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## ILC Dover, LP Supporting Boeing's CST-100 Starliner



ILC Dover, LP produces the landing airbag and up-righting float systems for Boeing's CST-100 Starliner.  
*Credit: Boeing*

### **ILC Dover, LP**

#### **Description:**

ILC Dover was founded in 1947 as the Government and Industrial division of International Latex Corporation, located in Dover, Delaware. By 1965 it was known as ILC Industries and in 1974 it became ILC Dover. In 1975, ILC Dover consolidated its operations in one plant located in Frederica, Delaware. Since then, ILC Dover has expanded its operations to include manufacturing facilities in Blarney, Ireland and Juarez, Mexico. In addition, they have an engineering team in Houston, Texas and the company headquarters is located in Newark, Delaware.

Recognized globally for flexible containment solutions, ILC Dover serves customers in a diverse range of industries, including pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical manufacturing, personal care, food and beverage, chemical, aerospace, healthcare and government sectors.

#### **Support for Boeing's CST-100 Starliner Program:**

In support of Boeing's Commercial Crew Transportation System (CCTS), called the CST-100 Starliner, ILC Dover designed and manufactures the landing airbags and up-righting floats to support landings on land or water.



The CST-100 Starliner is designed for land-based returns rather than water returns, a first for a space capsule built in the United States. ILC Dover designed and manufactured an airbag system to absorb the shock of impact, protecting crewmembers and the vehicle upon return to earth from space. The up-righting floats provide the CST-100 Starliner vehicle up-righting capability during an emergency water landing facilitating the crewmembers safe exit from the vehicle.

### **Interesting Facts:**

- ILC Dover designed and manufactured the Apollo space suits that provided the life support necessary for 12 astronauts to survive on the moon as well as protect the many other Apollo, Skylab and ASTP mission astronauts throughout the earlier manned missions.
- Following the success of Apollo, ILC Dover won the NASA contract in 1976 to outfit the Space Shuttle astronauts with extravehicular suits that went on to be used to retrieve and service satellites, repair and service the Hubble Space Telescope and build the International Space Station. These suits remain in use today with minor upgrades to support the International Space Station.
- ILC Dover worked with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to develop and manufacture the landing impact air bags used on the Mars Pathfinder rover mission as well as the two Mars Exploratory Rover (MER) missions. These bags performed flawlessly and earned ILC Dover the NASA George M. Low Award in 1998.

### **Background:**

- Founded 1947
- Limited Partnership
- Approximately 1000 employees

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