

# IN·VIEW

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ANALYTICAL GRAPHICS, INC.  
220 VALLEY CREEK BLVD.  
EXTON, PA 19341



# MIR Deorbit: AGI Supports Reentry; Earns Honors A Fiery Finale

IN MARCH 2001, AS THE WORLD WAITED FOR THE Russian space station Mir to plunge to its fiery end, AGI engineers in three different locations around the world worked to promote international understanding of the historic event. One team, based on-site in Russia's mission control center, fed up-to-the-minute telemetry into STK's 3-D visualization component to produce a reentry simulation. These 3-D visuals were projected for scientists and dignitaries, providing them vital situational awareness. That Russia-based team talked by telephone to a second group at AGI's headquarters, who ran a backup simulation and relayed the latest information to AGI engineer Hank Grabowski in Atlanta who served as a CNN on-air analyst. CNN broadcast the reports and STK simulations worldwide until pieces of the aging space station

splashed down safely in the South Pacific around 1 a.m. EST on March 23. Because of AGI's efforts during this highly successful event, the company and its personnel have earned several honors.

One month after returning to the United States, the AGI team that provided Mir deorbit visualization in the Russian Mission Control Center was honored by members of TsNIIMASH, the Russian-based research institute that invited AGI to take part in the historic event. The AGI team, which consisted of President and CEO Paul Graziani, Flight Services Director Robert Hall, and Technical Resources Manager Frank Snyder, visited the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., to receive a special Russian achievement award only given to aerospace professionals. ▲



Courtesy of CNN

AGI engineer Hank Grabowski (left) served as an on-air analyst for CNN during the March 2001 Mir deorbit.