



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice filed a civil antitrust suit today charging United Aircraft Corporation of East Hartford, Connecticut with attempting to monopolize research and development of fuel cells used on Apollo spacecraft missions.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the suit, which charges violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, was filed in the U.S. District Court in Hartford, Connecticut.

United's fuel cells, which produce electricity through a chemical reaction, have provided the principal source of electrical power for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo program.

According to the complaint, United used its position as a major customer of TRW, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio to suppress the competition of TRW as a potential fuel cell supplier on the Apollo project.

The complaint also charged that United entered into an exclusive fuel cell research and development agreement with TRW, commencing in 1962 and continuing until 1969, which provided that TRW would not engage in fuel cell research for anyone but United without first obtaining United's approval.

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Under the agreement, TRW also would grant to United a royalty free license for all of TRW's fuel cell related inventions existing prior to its exclusive research and development agreement with United.

The complaint charged that United's actions have deprived the United States Government and the public of the advantages of free and open competition in the development of fuel cells.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Walker B. Comegys, Antitrust Division, said the suit seeks to permanently enjoin United from entering into exclusive fuel cell development contracts. He said it also asks that United be required to dedicate all of its existing fuel cell technology to the public.

In 1969, United, the most significant producer of large jet aircraft engines in the free world, had sales in excess \$2.3 billion and was the 36th largest industrial corporation in the United States.