

Lori Garver, NASA Deputy Administrator

Stennis Space Center Ammunition Plant Transfer

Stennis Space Center, Mississippi

August 24, 2011

Thank you, Patrick for that gracious introduction and for your leadership of this important NASA Center.

I want to begin by saying happy birthday to the entire Stennis Space Center family.

This year marks this Center's 50th anniversary of indispensable service to America's space program. Thank you all for a job well done.

I also want to join the other speakers in congratulating you on this latest in a long list of accomplishments that have distinguished the Stennis Space Center as the nation's premier rocket engine testing facility and a unique federal city.

My thanks to all the people here who made this transition possible.

I am glad that so many of our partners and supporters could be with us today. I especially want to recognize Mike Brown of Homeland Security; Steve Bouley of Pratt & Whitney; Rear Admiral Jonathan White, Commander of the Naval Meteorology & Oceanography Command; and of course, the senior Senator from

the great state of Mississippi, and a great friend to Stennis and NASA, Senator Thad Cochran.

I came here on behalf of Administrator Bolden and the Obama Administration to deliver a simple but straight-forward message: NASA is on the cusp of a new era of space exploration and a rejuvenated and reinvigorated Stennis Space Center and the Federal City is absolutely essential to our progress moving forward.

With the transfer of 1.6 million square feet of facility space, Stennis has set the stage for years of expansion at a site that already is a model of innovation and a major economic engine in this region.

This expansion supports every one of NASA's key priorities for 2011 and beyond:

- It strengthens our role as an integral component of the nation's revitalized science, technology and innovation agenda.
- It makes efficient use of NASA resources through improved project management.
- It enhances interagency, commercial and international partnerships.
- It will contribute to the nation's competitiveness.
- Maximize the sustainability and utility of NASA's footprint.

- And contribute to the nation's innovation agenda.

At a time when we are all trying to accelerate the nation's economic recovery, Stennis is doing just that for this area – it is providing jobs and strengthening the economy of this region.

Right now Stennis supports more than 23,000 local area jobs and has a \$616 million direct economic impact within a 50-mile radius.

Stennis has been a vital part of America's space program since the days of Apollo when it was known as our way station to the moon.

Since then it has played a major role in every phase of our space exploration, including our just successfully concluded 30-year Shuttle program.

Let me take a moment to thank all of the employees, astronauts, contractors and policy makers who were the backbone of the extraordinary Shuttle program. We honor and respect your contributions and we are committed to working with you as NASA embarks on even more ambitious missions.

Stennis will play a major role as we prepare to venture into deep space. And as we develop new commercial partnerships.

Testing for our planned heavy lift rocket that will take human crews to an asteroid, to Mars and beyond will occur here.

And Stennis is already testing engines for future commercial cargo flights to Low Earth Orbit.

So, we are excited about the future of NASA, human space flight, our growing commercial partnerships and the central role that Stennis will play in everything we do.

This facility will be a big help in those efforts. So, again, congratulations on the addition of 1.6 million square feet of new facility space and thank you all for your historic and continuing contributions to America's space program.