



Michoud messenger

Volume 3, Issue 10 | October, 2011

NASA Announces SLS to be built at Michoud Assembly Facility

NASA has selected the design of a new Space Launch System (SLS) that will take the agency's astronauts farther into space than ever before, create high-quality jobs here at Michoud, and provide the cornerstone for America's future human space exploration efforts.

Michoud Assembly Facility Director Steve Doering announced NASA's decision to the workforce during an All-Hands Meeting on Oct. 5. The SLS Program plans to use MAF to manufacture the SLS core stage, upper stage, instrument ring, and will use the facility to integrate engines with the core and upper stages. The booster will be America's most powerful since the Saturn V rocket that carried Apollo astronauts to the moon and will launch humans to places no one has gone before.

"This launch system will create good-paying American jobs, ensure continued U.S. leadership in space, and inspire millions around the world," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said. "President Obama challenged us to be bold and dream big, and that's exactly what we are doing at NASA. While I was proud to fly on the space shuttle, tomorrow's explorers will now dream of one day walking on Mars."

This launch vehicle decision is the culmination of a months-long, comprehensive review of potential designs to ensure the nation gets a rocket that is not only powerful but also evolvable so it can be adapted to different missions as opportunities arise and new technologies are developed. The new heavy-lift launch vehicle will take astronauts beyond low-Earth orbit and enable new exploration missions across the solar system. The first full-scale SLS test flight is targeted for 2017.

"Having settled on a new and powerful heavy-lift launch architecture, NASA can now move ahead with building that rocket and the next-generation vehicles and technologies needed for an ambitious program of crewed missions in deep space," said John P. Holdren, assistant to the President for Science and Technology. "I'm excited about NASA's new path forward and about its promise for continuing American leadership in human space exploration."

The SLS will carry human crews beyond low-Earth orbit in the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, which is being built

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Letters from Leadership



Over the last two years, the Michoud team has worked hard to ensure that our facility is competi-

tively priced and in a position to leverage our existing capabilities for future NASA Program or commercial work. I would like to congratulate the entire team for your efforts. The newly established SLS Program has recognized your work in their selection process and each of you should be proud of the role you played. The Michoud Assembly Facility has been chosen as the site for manufacture of the Core and Upper stages of the SLS Program. Additionally, MAF will manufacture the Avionics Instrument Ring and be responsible for the integration of the engines to the Core and Upper Stages. Every US human spaceflight mission since the '60s has gone through New Orleans, and that provides a wealth of experience we can draw from as we continue this legacy into the future.

Some local media attention that Michoud received this past month got my attention and caused me to reflect a bit about the goals that the Administration has set before us. The Baton Rouge Business Report interviewed a Michoud lab technician, Jonathan Simeral. In the article, Mr. Simeral spoke about how as a child he was awed by his grandfather's collection of Apollo photos that were given

to him by a family friend who worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

This is a clear reminder that each of us, when we leave the Michoud gates, has an opportunity to inspire and educate those around us about NASA's mission. New students in science, technology, engineering and math are critical to us not only as an agency, but also to our country's ability to grow and prosper. STEM disciplines are the foundational tools we need to succeed, and each of us can help inspire the people around us to value and cherish the tools that will allow us to reach out further into our solar system than ever before.

Ultimately, it was Jonathan's early fascination with those Apollo photos that helped him achieve a degree in Physics and chart a course that prepared him to accept a position in a NASA lab working his "Dream Job." Similarly, all the experience that Michoud has acquired in more than 40 years of human spaceflight has inspired us and paved the way for MAF to play a vital role in America's next generation of human spaceflight.

Thank you all for your dedication: your hard work has paid off for the benefit of both NASA and the New Orleans area.

— Steve Doering
Director, Michoud Assembly Facility

Announcement

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at Michoud. The rocket will use a liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen fuel system, where RS-25D/E engines will provide the core propulsion and the J2X engine is planned for use in the upper stage. There will be a competition to develop the boosters based on performance requirements.

The decision to go with the same fuel system for the core and the upper stage was based on a NASA analysis demonstrating that use of common components can reduce costs and increase flexibility. The heavy-lift rocket's early flights will be capable of lifting 70-70 metric tons before evolving to a lift capacity of 130 metric tons.

The early developmental flights may take advantage of existing solid boosters and other existing hardware. These flights will enable NASA to reduce developmental risk, drive innovation within the agency and private industry, and accomplish early exploration objectives.



MAF Director Steve Doering, briefs the workforce about NASA's plans to build Space Launch System components at Michoud.

MPCV Composite Testing Heats Up!



A carbon-fiber composite part used in the Orion Service Module is prepared for thermal testing by Lockheed Martin employees Kenny Eddlestone and Stefan Pinsky. The strain gauge test was performed while the part was being heated to 210 degrees Fahrenheit in MAF's heat treat ovens. The testing was completed by Michoud's Test Laboratory, which is run by MSFOC contractor Jacobs Technology.

Operation Clean Sweep Set for Oct. 15

Operation Clean Sweep will be the largest, single-day volunteer cleanup effort in New Orleans East since Hurricane Katrina. 300 volunteers will be converging on key corridors in New Orleans East clearing debris, cutting lots and picking up trash to assist economic development efforts in the area. Jacobs Technology is sponsoring the event and needs your help. Operation Clean Sweep is being held Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. until noon, with a party at Joe Brown Park to follow. To volunteer, please call 504-264-1709 or email nolaeastcleansweep@gmail.com.



Flu Shots Available

Available in the Medical Dept.

Walk-ins Welcome

Mon. - Fri. 9-11am and 1-3 pm

Build begins on 1st Orion MPCV Flight Article

Construction began this month on the first new NASA spacecraft built to take humans to orbit since space shuttle Endeavour left the factory in 1991. Engineers at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans started welding together the first space-bound Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle.

"This marks the beginning of NASA's next step to send humans far beyond Earth orbit," said Orion program manager Mark Geyer. "The Orion team has maintained a steady focus on progress, and we now are beginning to build hardware for spaceflight. With this milestone, we enter the home stretch toward our first trip to space in this new vehicle."

After welding and structural testing is completed at Michoud, the Orion spacecraft orbital test article will be shipped to NASA's

Kennedy Space Center, where the heat shield will be installed. At Kennedy, it will undergo final assembly and checkout operations for eventual flight.

The OFT-1 (Operational Flight Test Article) weld team from left to right: Troy Alexander, Kevin Schuengel, Ray Zibilich, Randy Champagne and Ed Vollenweider pose in front of their work. The Lockheed Martin team completed the weld Sept 9.



Your Ideas Matter!

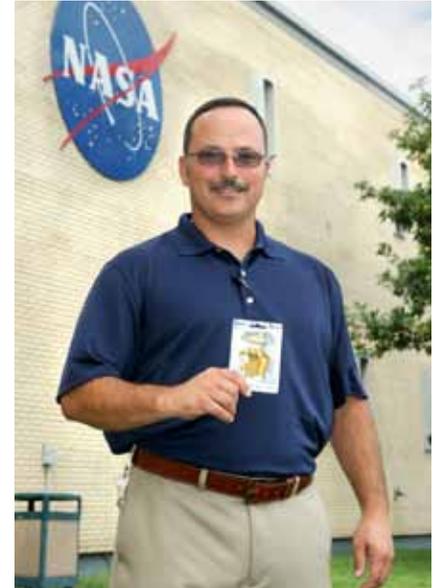


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Safety and Health Fair Slogan Winner

Larry Knonnen became a bit wealthier after being awarded the winner of the Health and Safety Fair Slogan contest with a \$100 VISA gift card. The winning slogan, "Your Health is your Greatest Wealth" will be the centerpiece of this year's fair which will take place on October 19th in the Bldg. 351 East Cafeteria.



Halloween Social

Building 351 East
Monday, October 31, 2011
11am - 1pm

Don't forget your ticket for food and drawing

Double, Double, Toil and Trouble
Fires Burn and Cauldron Bubble
Calling all Witches, Goblins and Ghosts
Jacobs EMWC will be your host...
Stop on by for a Trick or Treat
Hamburgers and Hotdogs, plenty food to eat
The fun will last from 11 to 1
Wear your best costume to join in the fun.

MSFOC Team Members only

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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