



michoud messenger

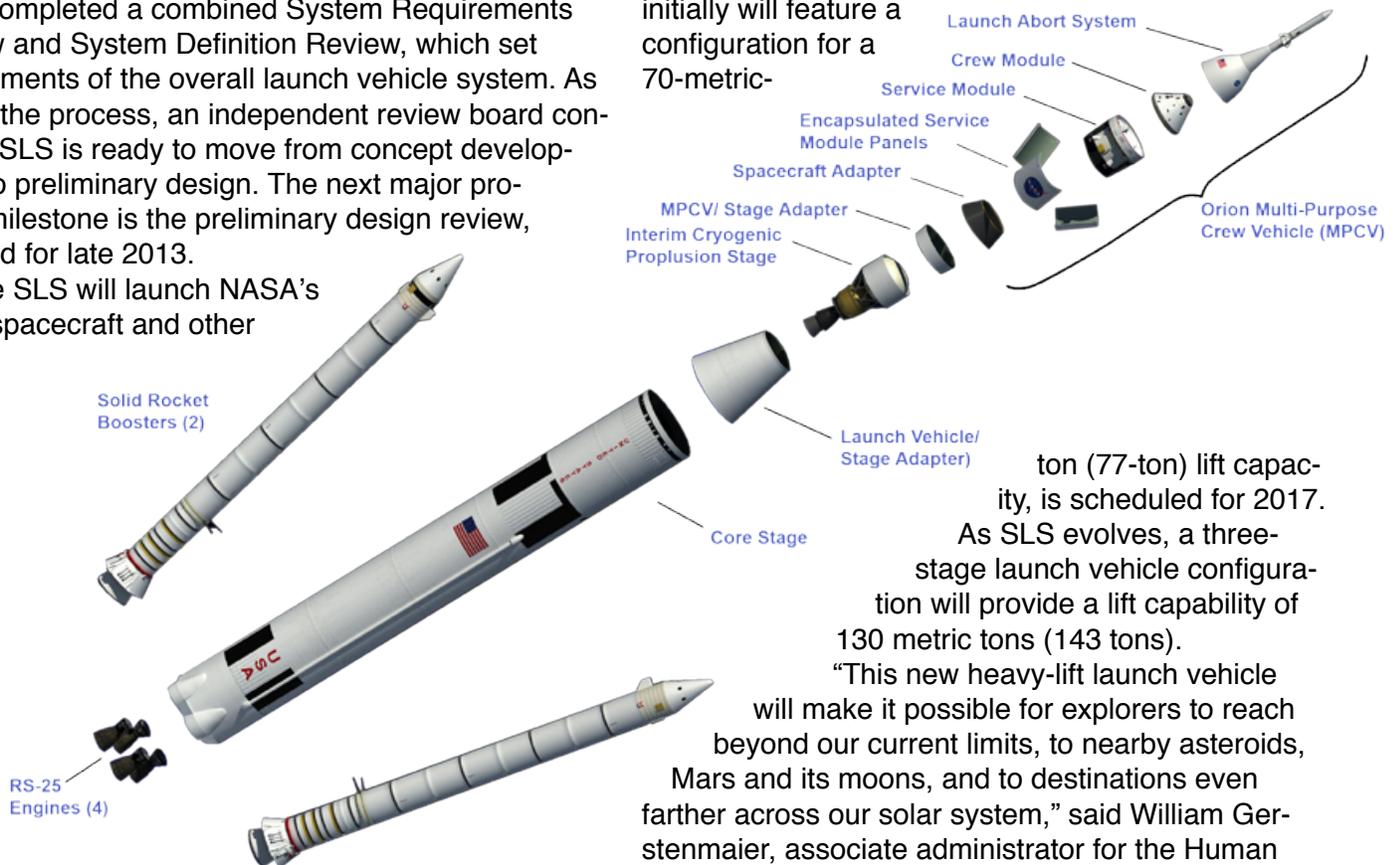
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Space Launch System Enters Preliminary Design Phase

The rocket that will launch humans farther into space than ever before passed a major NASA review Wednesday. The Space Launch System (SLS) Program completed a combined System Requirements Review and System Definition Review, which set requirements of the overall launch vehicle system. As part of the process, an independent review board confirmed SLS is ready to move from concept development to preliminary design. The next major program milestone is the preliminary design review, targeted for late 2013.

The SLS will launch NASA's Orion spacecraft and other

payloads, and provide an entirely new capability for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. The first test flight of NASA's Space Launch System, which initially will feature a configuration for a 70-metric-



ton (77-ton) lift capacity, is scheduled for 2017. As SLS evolves, a three-stage launch vehicle configuration will provide a lift capability of 130 metric tons (143 tons).

"This new heavy-lift launch vehicle will make it possible for explorers to reach beyond our current limits, to nearby asteroids, Mars and its moons, and to destinations even farther across our solar system," said William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate at

This graphic depicts the 70-metric-ton version of the SLS rocket and its major structural components.

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MAF Employees Honored with SFA Awards



Kelley Easley



David Howitt

Two Michoud employees were honored as part of a Space Flight Awareness (SFA) event celebrating the arrival of the Orion Exploration Flight Test One (EFT-1) article to Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In a ceremony held July 1, NASA employee Kelley Easley and Jacobs Technology Manufacturing Support and Facility Operating Contract (MSFOC) employee David Howitt received their awards from leadership. The next day they participated in the EFT-1 arrival ceremony in the historic Operations and Checkout Building, explored the Kennedy visitor center and were escorted on a behind-the-scenes Kennedy Center tour.

"I'm really proud of what these gentlemen have accomplished on behalf of Michoud," said Robert Champion, deputy director of Michoud. "Their focus and singular determination contributed significantly toward a safe and effective workplace in which to build spaceflight hardware."

Easley was honored due to his exceptional leadership and performance as a NASA Production System Support Manager. Responsible for the planning, development and implementation of Michoud's unique assets and capabilities, Easley kept NASA values at the forefront and drove innovation in manufacturing processes to achieve greater NASA Orion Project customer satisfaction and improvements in manufacturing support.

Howitt, as Jacob Technology's MSFOC Safety Assurance Manager, has been instrumental in building a culture of caring at Michoud. His efforts have greatly aided the development and implementation of site-safety processes, which resulted in a significant increase in safety performance and helped Michoud adopt the philosophy that an accident-free/injury-free workplace can be a reality.

Space Launch System

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NASA Headquarters in Washington. "The in-depth assessment confirmed the basic vehicle concepts of the SLS, allowing the team to move forward and start more detailed engineering design."

SLS reached this major milestone less than 10 months after the program's inception. The combination of the two assessments represents a fundamentally different way of conducting NASA program reviews. The SLS team is streamlining processes to provide the nation with a safe, affordable and sustainable heavy-lift launch vehicle capability.

"We are excited that the program was able to nail down the system requirements and definitions," said Pat Whipps, manager of the NASA Michoud Programs Office. "We can now take these standards and begin planning manufacturing workflows and processes, which in turn will drive Michoud facility modifications."

NASA has stipulated that Michoud will be heavily involved in the SLS program. Michoud will assemble the SLS Core Stage and the SLS Upper Stage, and will integrate the avionics suite. Michoud currently is building the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle structure and components of the Orion service module and launch abort system.

For more information about the Space Launch System, including the newest proposed rocket configurations, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/sls>

Michoud Welcomes Roy Malone



On July 31, Marshall Space Flight Center acting director Gene Goldman held an All Hands Meeting to introduce the onsite workforce to Roy Malone, the new Michoud director. During the meeting, Malone praised the Michoud team and expressed his appreciation for the management plans put in place prior to his installment. He thanked everyone for working together to make Michoud an attractive place to build the SLS rocket through cost-cutting policies and efficiency gains that have been made at the facility.

Letters from Leadership

Effective Monday, July 30, Marshall Space Flight Center Acting Director Gene Goldman appointed Roy Malone to lead Michoud Assembly Facility as director. Malone assumed command from Chris Crumbly, who is reassigned to lead the SLS Advanced Development Office at Marshall. Michoud Messenger (MM) interviewed both individuals as they transitioned into their new roles.

MM: You are departing the director position after a very short time. What is ahead for you?

CRUMBLY: It was a surprise to me to be named director in February. It was also a surprise to be asked to lead the SLS Advanced Development Office, where I will oversee the contracts stemming from both the Advanced Booster risk reduction activities and the resulting tasks from the Advanced Development research announcements. What is not a surprise is that NASA leadership often moves their managers around to best meet developing challenges. I am excited to advance SLS's capabilities and I suspect we will cross paths again.

MM: How does your dual role as Michoud Director and Manager of the Shuttle/Ares Transition Office benefit Michoud?

MALONE: I will be operating in a dual role until December, at which time I will become the full-time MAF director. The greatest benefit from operating in the dual role will be in facilitating collaboration between the two organizations and the Shuttle T&R Program. I will be in a good position to identify and potentially negotiate additional T&R resources for MAF to help with the external tank property disposition, should additional resources become available as the program nears its end.

MM: How have you measured Michoud's success during your service as Director?

CRUMBLY: To be fair, I have to include my tenure as deputy director to answer this question. Michoud is ready to take on SLS construction because of the sacrifices our employees have made. It has not been easy on anyone. It may not seem like much but the focus on energy conservation, eliminating water leaks, turning off lights, focused steam delivery, predictive maintenance, effective planning and consolidation of office space have all played a part in increasing the facility's efficiency. All of this and more earned Michoud the reputation as one of the best-managed institutions in the agency. It's pretty high praise in an agency with a great deal of infrastructure. Teddy

Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are, now." That is what Michoud has been successful in doing. Meeting (and exceeding) stakeholder expectations.

MM: What is your vision for Michoud's future?

MALONE: The purpose of NASA's existence at MAF is to support and facilitate the successful development and production of the SLS core stage and the Orion capsule. Our efforts, in order to be successful, have several parts: 1. Ensuring the facility is ready and stays ready to support SLS and Orion. 2. Reducing costs by seeking facility management efficiencies and bringing on additional rent-paying tenants. 3. Making sure we take care of the tenants to keep cost to the agency as low as possible. Although I am still learning about Michoud and refining my vision, in five years I'd like to see MAF in a full SLS/Orion production mode with 80 percent of our unused tenant space occupied. I look forward to seeing the parking lots full once again.

MM: Is there a message that you would like to convey to the Michoud workforce?

CRUMBLY: I appreciate the entire team embracing me in my roles and supporting our efforts to sustain Michoud and bring attention to the great capabilities embodied on the facility. I want to thank Robert Champion for truly being the leader in my stead. I'll miss leading Michoud; however, I am confident that Roy Malone will not only advance Michoud's strategy, but also adjust in ways that I couldn't foresee. Roy's unique experiences and many talents will be especially beneficial in his role as director.

MM: What do you look forward to as Michoud Director?

MALONE: I'm excited to become a part of a great team carrying on the incredible legacy of producing flight hardware for America's space program. Michoud has been a central cog in the nation's rocket development efforts beginning with the Saturn rocket, all the way through the Shuttle program and now into the Space Launch System program. Michoud's success resides with every employee. It is essential that we continue to promote a safe and healthy environment where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. My most important role as director will be in leading efforts to facilitate such a workforce environment. If I can be successful in serving the Michoud team in this capacity, the rest will take care of itself and we will be successful.

Command Decisions



On July 13, the United States Coast Guard Base New Orleans held a Change of Command ceremony at Michoud in Bldg. 351's East Cafeteria. During the ceremony, Captain Jon Gage assumed command of Base New Orleans from Captain Eric Johnson.

Hurricane Hotlines

When a storm approaches and an evacuation is called or once the storm has passed, you can get the latest information from these sources:

- MAF information line – (800) 611-3116 or (504) 257-1MAF
- MAF Status website – <http://mafspace.msfc.nasa.gov/status/index.html>
- Local news media

Tip: Program the numbers into your cell phone and bookmark the website in your personal computers now!

Coordinate Metrology Society Tours Michoud



The Coordinate Metrology Society (CMS), a national organization of metrology professionals, recently held its annual convention in New Orleans. On Friday, July 20, more than a hundred CMS members toured Michoud's facility. The group was treated to a special-access tour of Michoud's Metrology Lab in Bldg 318. After the tour, they gathered for lunch in Bldg. 351.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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