Take it both ways – the Mars Science Laboratory rover, Curiosity, touched down on the surface of Mars early on the morning of Aug. 6 CDT, and the NASA team scored a very big touchdown for space exploration. This image taken by Curiosity shows what lies ahead for the rover – its main science target, Mount Sharp. The rover’s shadow can be seen in the foreground, and the dark bands beyond are dunes. Rising up in the distance is Mount Sharp at a height of about 3.4 miles, taller than Mount Whitney in California. The Curiosity team hopes to drive the rover to the mountain to investigate its lower layers, which scientists think hold clues to past environmental change. This image was captured by a rover camera shortly after it landed. It has been linearized to remove the distorted appearance that results from its fisheye lens. For additional coverage and photos, see pages 4-7.
The Mars Science Laboratory’s successful landing on Mars early Aug. 6 was a huge engineering accomplishment! Years of research, planning, collaboration and dedication came down to seven minutes. Seven minutes determined success or failure. The successful landing and immediate operation of Curiosity compares to earning Olympic gold.

As an engineer and an educator, I was excited to hear a key theme to the Curiosity landing was STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. Everyone on the Curiosity team discussed the importance of science and technology to our country and the world’s future. Recent studies cite the need for STEM education to be a national priority. Indicators show the United States is losing its technological edge. Indicators include: 1) math and science middle school test scores that rank in the lower half among industrialized countries, 2) declining enrollment in engineering and technical science majors and 3) decreased funding for research in physical sciences (National Academies Press, “Rising Above the Gathering Storm,” 2007).

NASA is in a unique position to excite and inspire students about STEM education and to help grow our technical workforce. The Stennis Office of Education has focused on that goal through specific STEM activities, including teacher professional development and student engagement. Studies show an effective way to reach students is to provide training for teachers who will share knowledge with hundreds of students per year. At Stennis, we provide free, credit-bearing workshops to teachers across Mississippi and Louisiana. We are collaborating with Louisiana to provide STEM instruction for their Math Science Partnership. Over the past three summers, just in the months of June and July, we have reached 848 pre-service and in-service teachers. This fiscal year, we have reached 706 teachers and over 8,000 students and parents. Our workshops have a satisfaction rating of 99 percent.

In addition, we focus on student activities that enrich the school curriculum. We completed 24 years of Astro Camp this summer and changed the curriculum to include a science lab and other larger-scale activities. This year, 476 students, ages 7-15, participated in weeklong sessions. We included military families by hosting a camp at Keesler Air Force Base in Gulfport.

We also reached students through the Summer of Innovation initiative requested by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to offer summer enrichment activities to underserved and underrepresented students. Stennis partnered with the 4-H Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and robotics teams to offer STEM camps. Programs were held in 28 Mississippi counties, reaching 650 students. There also were special programs at Columbus and Keesler Air Force bases. Summer activities ended with a surprise visit from former astronaut and NASA Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin, who spoke to 4-H campers about living and working in space.

It has been a busy and successful summer for the Stennis Office of Education. As we continue to inspire the next generation, we hope one of those students may be the next engineer or Mars rover designer. Without everyone’s support and engagement, the office could not be successful. To those who volunteer, thank you very much. To those who want to volunteer but have not, call anyone on the education team. To those interested in learning more about Stennis and NASA education, visit: http://education.ssc.nasa.gov.
As Olympic athletes converged on London with dreams of winning gold in the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, NASA was setting records while testing the J-2X powerpack at Stennis Space Center. The first came on June 8, when engineers went the distance and set the A Test Complex record with a 1,150-second firing of the developmental powerpack assembly. On July 24 (above photo), engineers surpassed that record with a 1,350-second test of the engine component on the A-1 Test Stand. The powerpack is a system of components on the top portion of the J-2X engine. On the complete J-2X engine, the powerpack feeds the thrust chamber, which produces the engine fire and thrust. The advantage of testing the powerpack without the thrust chamber is to operate over a wide range of conditions to understand safe limits. The July 24 test specifically gathered data on performance of the liquid oxygen and fuel pumps during extreme conditions. The test data provides critical information for continued development of the turbopump for use on the J-2X engine, the first human-rated liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen rocket engine to be developed in four decades. The J-2X is being built by Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. The J-2X engine will power the upper-stage of a planned two-stage Space Launch System (SLS). The SLS will launch NASA's Orion spacecraft and other payloads, and provide a new capability for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. Designed to be safe, affordable and flexible for crew and cargo missions, the SLS will continue America’s journey of discovery and exploration to destinations including nearby asteroids, Lagrange points, the moon and, ultimately, Mars.

NASA setting records with J-2X powerpack tests
Fulfilling NASA’s Exploration Mission

NASA’s most advanced Mars rover, Curiosity, landed on the Red Planet early on the morning of Aug. 6 CDT. The one-ton rover, hanging by ropes from a rocket backpack, touched down onto Mars to end a 36-week flight and begin a two-year investigation.

The Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) spacecraft that carried Curiosity succeeded in every step of the most complex landing ever attempted on Mars, including the final severing of the bridle cords and flyaway maneuver of the rocket backpack.

“Today, the wheels of Curiosity have begun to blaze the trail for human footprints on Mars,” NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said. “Curiosity, the most sophisticated rover ever built, is now on the surface of the Red Planet, where it will seek to answer age-old questions about whether life ever existed on Mars — or if the planet can sustain life in the future. This is an amazing achievement, made possible by a team of scientists and engineers from around the world and led by the extraordinary men and women of NASA and our Jet Propulsion Laboratory. President Obama has laid out a bold vision for sending humans to Mars in the mid-2030s, and (Curiosity’s) landing marks a significant step toward achieving this goal.”

Curiosity landed at 12:32 a.m. CDT Aug. 6 near the foot of a mountain three miles tall and 96 miles in diameter inside Gale Crater. During a nearly two-year prime mission in the vicinity of Mount Sharp, the rover will investigate whether the region ever offered conditions favorable for microbial life.

“The seven minutes of terror has turned into the seven minutes of triumph,” NASA Associate Administrator for Science John Grunsfeld said, referring to the length of time it took the rover to land after entering the Martian atmosphere. “My immense joy in the success of this mission is matched only by overwhelming pride I feel for the women and men of the mission’s team.”

Curiosity returned early views of Mars, a wide-angle scene of rocky ground near the front of the rover. “Our Curiosity is talking to us from the surface of Mars,” said MSL Project Manager Peter Theisinger of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. “The landing takes us past the most hazardous moments for this project and begins a new and exciting mission to pursue its scientific objectives.”

Curiosity carries 10 science instruments with a total mass 15 times as large as the science payloads on previous Mars rovers Spirit and Opportunity. Some of the tools are the first of their kind on Mars, such as a laser-firing instrument for checking elemental composition of rocks from a distance. The rover will use a drill and scoop at the end of its robotic arm to gather soil and powdered samples of rock interiors, then sieve and parcel out these samples into laboratory instruments inside the rover.

To handle this science toolkit, Curiosity is twice as long and five times as heavy as Spirit or Opportunity. The Gale Crater landing site places the rover within driving distance of layers of the crater’s interior mountain. Observations from orbit have identified clay and sulfate minerals in the lower layers, indicating a wet history.

The mission is managed by JPL for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington. The rover was designed, developed and assembled at JPL.


‘An amazing achievement’ – NASA lands car-sized rover beside Martian mountain

N

ASA’s Curiosity rover and its parachute were spotted by NASA’s Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter as Curiosity descended to the surface on Aug. 6 CDT. The High-Resolution Imaging Science Experiment camera captured this image of Curiosity while the orbiter was listening to transmissions from the rover. Curiosity and its parachute are in the center of the white box; the inset image is a cutout of the rover stretched to avoid saturation. The parachute is shown fully inflated and performing perfectly. Details in the parachute, such as the bandgap at the edges and the central hole, are clearly seen. The cords connecting the parachute to the back shell cannot be seen, although they were seen in the image of NASA’s Phoenix lander descending, perhaps due to the difference in lighting angles. The bright spot on the back shell containing Curiosity might be a specular reflection off of a shiny area. Curiosity was released from the back shell sometime after this image was acquired.
INFINITY visitor center hosts hundreds in anticipation of Mars Curiosity landing

NASA welcomed hundreds of children and accompanying adults to its INFINITY visitor center on Aug. 4, offering Mars-related activities that focused attention on the space agency’s Curiosity mission to the Red Planet. Students from Gulfport High School, who field a team each year in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, offered young visitors a firsthand look at how robots work (top left and bottom center photos). Kids used provided materials to show how they would construct a Mars rover (bottom left photo). 3-D images from Mars provided “Wow!” glimpses of the Red Planet (top center photo). Parents and children, such as Myron and Trey (age 3) Cummings, enjoyed exploring Mars using an interactive touch table (top right photo). Midway through the day of activities, visitors in the Science on a Sphere auditorium also enjoyed a presentation on Mars and the Curiosity mission by Dr. Steven Williams, a NASA expert on Mars. Hundreds of persons visited the INFINITY facility during the day, including media representatives from surrounding communities. In addition to the Mars activities, they were able to tour other space-related exhibits at the center. NASA representatives are planning a follow-up day of activity at INFINITY on Aug. 25 to highlight the rover landing and the progress of Curiosity’s research mission.
2012 NASA Honor Awards

S
tennis Space Center Director
Patrick Scheuermann and God-
dard Space Flight Center Direc-
tor Christopher Scolese presented
annual NASA Honor Awards during
an onsite ceremony Aug. 9.

One Stennis employee received
NASA’s Outstanding Leadership
Medal, a high-level award for notable
leadership accomplishments that sig-
nificantly influence NASA’s mission.
The award recognizes an individual’s
leadership and effectiveness in ad-
vancing NASA’s goals and image.

Thomas Meredith received NASA’s
Outstanding Leadership Award for his
work as deputy lead for the
Design and Analysis Division of the Stennis
Engineering & Test Directorate.
Meredith’s leadership was noted as
critical to the development of Stennis
test facilities, which support agency
and commercial test projects. He was
particularly cited for his leadership in modifying and preparing Stennis’
E Test Complex for the commercial
Aerojet AJ26 and Blue Origin engine
test projects.

Four Stennis employees received
NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal.
This prestigious medal is awarded for
significant, sustained performance
characterized by unusual initiative or
creative ability that clearly dem-
strates substantial improvements or
contributions in engineering, aero-
nautics, space flight, administration,
support or space-related endeavors
that contribute to NASA’s mission.

Curtis “Duane” Armstrong received
NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal for 27 years of service and for
his leadership as chief of the Sten-
nis Applied Science & Technology
Project Office. In his current
role, Armstrong leads NASA’s Gulf
of Mexico Initiative and
$19 million research port-
folio. Armstrong serves in a number
of strategic roles, including inaugural
member of the NASA Science Coun-
cil and as one of four federal co-leads
for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. His
career is characterized by noteworthy
contributions to both NASA engi-
neering and applied science areas.

Rosalind “Rose” Baker received NASA’s
Exceptional Service Medal for more than
38 years of service to the
government, including her work as senior contracting officer and cost/
price analyst in the Stennis Procure-
ment Office. Noted as a strong inno-
vator, Baker has been a driving force in streamlining and strengthening
procurement and contract processes
for NASA. Her reviews of contract
proposals have generated savings of
more than $3 million for NASA.

Mary Byrd received NASA’s
Exceptional Service Medal for 13 years of service at Stennis,
including her current role as
the contracting officer’s technical rep-
resentative for the Jacobs Technology
Facility Operating Services Contract.
Byrd works with NASA and Jacobs
personnel to ensure contractual
requirements and mission needs are
fulfilled. Byrd also demonstrated
exceptional leadership skills and
expertise in previous roles related to
facility maintenance and operations.

Jason Edge received
NASA’s Exceptional Service Award
for 12 years of service at Stennis,
including lead of con-
struction in the center’s Office of
Procurement. In that role, Edge is
accountable for all procurement ac-
tions related to construction activities
at Stennis. Edge has demonstrated
excellence in executing extensive
construction contracts and has docu-
mented more than $11 million in cost
avoids and savings.

Three Stennis employees received
NASA’s Exceptional Achievement
Medal. This prestigious medal rec-
ognizes a significant, specific accom-
plishment or contribution that im-
proves operations, efficiency, service,
science or technology contributing to
the NASA mission.

Jeffrey Lott received
NASA’s Exceptional Achieve-
ment Medal for outstanding
leadership and excellence in
the execution of the Aerojet AJ26 engine and Blue
Origin Thrust Chamber Assembly
test projects at Stennis. Lott has made
significant contributions as a test
director within the Stennis Engineer-
ing & Test Directorate for these
commercial test projects, executed
simultaneously on the center’s E-1
Test Stand.

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David “Skip” Roberts received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Award for his leadership in the transition to Stennis’ new propulsion test model and in the J-2X engine test project on the A-2 Test Stand. As both a test director and test conductor within the Stennis Engineering & Test Directorate, Roberts has contributed to the advancement of rocket propulsion testing at Stennis and to meeting NASA mission goals. Roberts served as the first J-2X test conductor and led in the first-ever live, publicly broadcast engine test in Stennis history.

Karen Vander received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Award for her work in establishing a new configuration management philosophy and system at Stennis. As an aerospace technologist in the Stennis Office of Safety & Mission Assurance, Vander led in consolidating three disparate configuration management processes into one system. In doing so, she has ensured that all fundamental concepts are included in the new process and that workflows and processes continue in compliance with standards.

Benjamin McGrath received NASA’s Exceptional Public Achievement Medal for more than 35 years of engineering support at Stennis. A University of Southern Mississippi employee, Haselmaier has supported and led a number of key projects, such as the effort to replace and strengthen the safety of 45-year-old liquid oxygen barge pump systems and work on the liquid hydrogen run tank on the B-1/B-2 Test Stand.

Lawrence “Haynes” Haselmaier received NASA’s Exceptional Public Service Medal for more than 35 years of engineering support at Stennis. A University of Southern Mississippi employee, Haselmaier has supported and led a number of key projects, such as the effort to replace and strengthen the safety of 45-year-old liquid oxygen barge pump systems and work on the liquid hydrogen run tank on the B-1/B-2 Test Stand.

One Stennis Space Center employee received NASA’s Exceptional Public Achievement Medal. It is awarded to persons who are not government employees for a significant specific achievement or substantial improvement in operations, efficiency, service, financial savings, science or technology that contributes to the mission of NASA.

Craig Peterson received NASA’s Silver Achievement Medal for consistently demonstrating the highest standards of management in support of applied science work at Stennis. An employee with ASRC Research & Technology Solutions, Peterson represents NASA on several science project teams and is credited with helping to transform the way science is conducted, and lowering barriers to broader participation in NASA science missions.

One Stennis employee received NASA’s Early Career Achievement Medal. It is awarded to a government employee for unusual and significant performance during the first 10 years of a career.

Marvin Horne received NASA’s Early Career Achievement Medal for demonstrating outstanding and sustained leadership as a contract specialist and contracting officer within the Stennis Office of Procurement. Horne was cited for providing sound analytical advice on a broad spectrum of projects and influencing the success of major efforts at Stennis.

One Stennis employee received Stennis’ J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award. It is awarded for demonstrating exemplary leadership that has significantly enhanced the role, capability or professional recognition of Stennis Space Center.

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Thomas “Randy” Galloway received Stennis’ J. Harry Guin Outstanding Leadership Award for his dedication to the NASA/Stennis mission, as well as his technical expertise and foresight. These qualities were demonstrated as Galloway led the transition of Stennis propulsion test operations from a contractor-led model to a NASA civil service-led arrangement. Galloway also was recognized for his strong commitment to employee development.

One Stennis Space Center employee received the inaugural Stennis’ Roy S. Estess Service Leadership Award. It recognizes NASA civil servants whose career achievements demonstrate business and/or technical leadership leading to significant advancement of NASA’s mission and whose record of volunteerism reflects a profound commitment to surrounding communities.

Myron Webb received Stennis’ first-ever Roy S. Estess Service Leadership Award for 27 years of professional and volunteer accomplishments that reflect a profound commitment to NASA, its mission and communities surrounding Stennis Space Center. Webb currently serves as the Stennis Legislative Affairs Officer and as liaison to the INFINITY at NASA Science Center Inc., board. She was cited for enhancing the recognition and prominence of Stennis.

Several additional Stennis Space Center individuals and groups were recognized for service and contributions during the NASA Honor Awards ceremony. Those honors included:

**Length of Service Awards**

- **40 years**
  - Connie Shuler

- **35 years**
  - David Brannon

- **30 years**
  - Bradley Brown
  - Bruce Farner
  - Charlene Guin
  - Wendy Holladay
  - Patricia Penton
  - Thomas Stanley Jr.
  - Ramona Travis

- **25 years**
  - Cabrina Bell
  - Beth Bradley
  - Dinna Cottrell
  - Anita Douglas
  - David Failla
  - Gay Irby
  - Bryon Maynard
  - James Morgan
  - Candace Rogers
  - John Stealey
  - Gigi Savona
  - Pennie Turner

**Group Achievement Awards**

- **B-1 Liquid Hydrogen Tank Team**
  - NASA
    - David Coote
    - Bartt Hebert
    - Thomas Jacks
    - Nicholas Nugent
    - Harry Ryan
    - Jared Sass (KSC)
    - Dale Sewell
    - Timothy White
    - Son Le
    - David Liberto
    - Stephen Huff (KSC)

- **Contractor Support**
  - Dorothy Acker
  - Caleb Adams
  - Peggy Alston
  - Jo Anthony
  - Barry Autin
  - Leonie Barden (KSC)
  - Glen Beech
  - Jesse Bilbo
  - Becky Black
  - Henry Bonney
  - Ethan Calder
  - Deborah Case
  - Don Caudill
  - Paula Caudill
  - James Clark
  - Eddie Cook

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Steve Costello
Rachel Cranford
Cody Cuevas
Casey Deschamp
Doug Dike
Justin Dunhurst
Teresa Ehrlich
Jimmy Everett
Troy Fleming
James Fortenberry
Kenny Fortenberry
Dale Green
Donna Grimsley
Haynes Haselmaier
Vance Hatcoek
Lee Hathorn
Robert Hayward
David Haysbrook (KSC)
John Iten
Bill Ivey
Anthony Jackson
Ed Johnston
Mike Johnston
Kevin Jurich
Jeanne Kellar
Jerry Knight
Philip Kopfinger
Austin Ladner
Debra Ladner
Greg Ladner
Preston Ladner
Shanea Ladner
Truc Le
Angie Lee
Joseph Lesieur
Mark Lichtenstein Jr.
Cynthia Lossett
Rickey Lyons
Joey Malley
Todd Mannion
Mike Marodis
Benjamin McGrath
Johnny Middleton (KSC)
Ken Montgomery
William Moran
Ken Morgan
Doug Necaise
Chad Nicholas
Justin Nosser
Glen Parker
Cleveland Pichon
Nelwyn Pickett
Charles Polk
Luis Ramos (KSC)
Steve Rathburn
Brock Saucier
Robert Seal
Pete Shaw
Billy Smith
George Smith
Shane Smith
Fran Songy
George Spence
Mike Theriot
Roger Walters
Robert Williams
Clark Woods
Skip Wright
Robert Zar

Kronos Controller Development Team

NASA
Gregory Carmouche
David Carver
Jack Conley
Howard Conyers
Juan Gomez
Jaren Grover
Jeffery Henderson
Michael Holmes
Jason Hopper
Melissa Huggins
Justin Junell
Nate Laborde
Ryan McKibben
Vincent Pachel
David Roberts
Marc Shoemaker
Keith Stockstill
Mark Turowski

Contractor Support
Matthew Adams
Chad Albright
Thomas Austin
Cory Beckmeyer
Barrett Bryson
Tim Delcuze
Dwayne Garcia
John Gieves
Scotty Herrin
Butch Howard
Adam Knight
Chase Ladner
Brent LeBlanc
Vince Moran
Jon Morris
Don Necaise
Carley Odom
Todd Pearson
Alvin Richards
Stephen Rose

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Voluntary Protection Programs
Working Group and
Pressure Vessel/System Team

NASA
Mike Blotzer (retired)
Clyde Dease
Tiffany Hawkins
Joseph Lacher
Son Le
Kenneth Volante (GSFC)
Katrina Wright

Contractor Support
Raymond Breault
Frank Costanza
Greg Garrett
Ruth Hextall
Jeanne Kellar
Stephen Koch
Truc Le
John Lindsay
Aaron Lunt
Sharlene Majors
Jim Mirandy
Chad Nicholas
Dean Noel
Larry Oman
Glen Parker
Lasonya Pulliam
Donna Pullman
Steve Rathburn
Brenda Reynolds
Jim Sever
Gale Smith
George Smith
Mike Theriot
Jim Watson
Howard Wilson
Clark Woods

Stennis Energy and
Water Reduction Team

NASA
Melissa Ferguson
Jenette Gordon

Contractor Support
James Cospelich
Charles Feigel
Timothy Kellar

Lockheed Martin
Test Operations Contract
Component Processing
Facility Team

NASA
Joseph Schuyler

Contractor Support
Larry Clayton

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Kurt Jarrell
Marcella Jones
Kenny McCormack
Mark Mills
Tim Mitchell
Shelly O’Neal
Bobby Rodriguez
David Slavinsky
Darrin Spansel
William Spansel
Greg Walls

Stennis Protective Services
Contract Acquisition Team

NASA
Rosalind Baker
Mary Byrd
Christopher Carmichael
Cheryl Cuevas
David Del Santo
Michael Harbart
Rebecca Hopper
Gerald Norris
Michael Rewis
Candace Rogers
Michelle Stracener
Lavaniel Ward

Stennis
50th Anniversary
Celebration Team

NASA
Sallie Bilbo
Pamela Covington
Clyde Dease
Ladarian Faulkner
Earnest Foerman
Marco Giardino
Richard Harris

Tessa Keating
Rebecca Strecker
Jessica Thompson
Timothy White

 Contractor Support
Daphne Alford
Jack Allen
Linda Antoine
Sharon Arnold
Michael Badon
Vicki Bess
Jon Bounds
Judy Clements
Wayne Crawford
Christopher De Long
Greg Garrett
Suzanne Glasscock
Graham Golden
Karla Graham
Natalie Kelly
Daryl Kosturock
Angela Lane
Wendy LeSieur
Joanna Lewis
Eunice Lichtenstein
Douglas Mayberry
Donna Mellott
Jennifer Melton
Nick Middleton
James Miranda
Gail Mitchell
Ron Moore

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Danny Nowlin
Lynne Oshiro
Barbara Palmer
Brian Raymond
John Rhodes
Donald Robinson
Shelby Russell
Perry Schmidt
Taryn Sciambra
Shannon Simpson
William Stewart
Lacy Thompson
Sheilah Ware
Joe Weems
Karl Wilcox

Special Recognition Awards

Director’s Certificate of Appreciation
Martha Bounds

Systems Engineering Excellence Award

NASA
Eric Ross
Rebecca Deschamp
Elizabeth Messer (retired)
Brad Messer
Christine Powell
Charles Hallal
Bryon Maynard

Contractor Support
Justin Nosser
Tammy Smith
Cherie Beech
Todd Sandeman
Theresa Leslie
William Nail
Melissa Alford
Thang Le
Bill O’Rourke
Timothy Stiglets
Colby Albasini

Peer Recognition Award for Executive Excellence
Beth Bradley

Peer Recognition Award for Safety
Jeffrey Henderson

Blue Marble Award
Bryon Maynard

NASA Barge Transition Team
Donald Griffith
Richard Harris

Program/Project Management Requirements Team
Harry Ryan

Agencywide Contract Closeout and Procurement Service
James Jacobs

Group Achievement Award – Stennis 50th Anniversary Celebration Team

NASA selects Stennis construction contracts

NASA has selected six indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity multiple award construction contracts at the agency’s Stennis Space Center. The fixed price contracts consist of a performance period of five years, with a total value not to exceed $700 million. Selected companies are: Advon Corp. in Tallahassee, Fla.; Birmingham Industrial Construction LLC in Birmingham, Ala.; Harry Pepper & Associates Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla.; McClain Contracting Company Inc. in Andalusia, Ala.; MOWA Development LLC in Gautier, Miss.; and Sauer Inc. in Jacksonville, Fla. Work may include but will not be limited to maintenance, repair, alteration, mechanical, civil, electrical, heating/air conditioning, demolition, painting, earthwork, fencing, steel fabrication and/or welding. Other work may include but will not be limited to design/build projects, as well as new construction of buildings or facilities.

NASA, Louisiana extend space partnership

NASA and Louisiana leaders Aug. 2 committed to a five-year extension of their partnership in the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing (NCAM). NCAM is a principal NASA resource in Louisiana that supports aerospace manufacturing research, development and innovation. It includes NASA, NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, the state of Louisiana and the University of New Orleans. This new agreement also includes Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

For the latest NASA news releases, visit online: www.nasa.gov/news/releases/latest/index.html.
NASA and Stennis Space Center rank as the top large and subcomponent agencies of innovation, a Partnership for Public Service analysis indicates.

NASA ranks No. 1 among 30 federal agencies in terms of innovation, with a score of 75. That compares to a governmentwide score of 63.2 and is ahead of the second-place score of 73.9 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Stennis Space Center tops more than 225 subcomponent facilities in terms of innovation with a score of 78.3. The score is the same as NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. This score reflects an increase in Stennis’ overall score and rank over last year.

The scores are based on data from the 2011 Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, which also is used to determine the best places to work in the federal government.

“This is a great affirmation of the culture and the dedicated employees at Stennis and all across NASA,” Center Director Patrick Scheurmann said. “NASA is built on the idea of innovation, and Stennis is committed to that approach. In lean economic times, it is critical that employees bring forth ideas to ensure we remain cost effective and relevant. It is very exciting to be cited as one of the best – and innovative – places at work in the federal government.”

Innovation scores are based on employee responses regarding six workplace conditions. These range from employees having a sense of personal empowerment in decision making and work processes to whether they have opportunities to improve skills and demonstrate leadership abilities to whether they respect senior leaders and are rewarded for good work.

On the subcomponent innovation list, NASA centers hold the top three spots – Stennis, Goddard and Johnson Space Center in Houston. Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., ranks fifth, and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., fills the eighth spot. Altogether, NASA centers claim five of the top 10 spots on the list and nine of the first 17. NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., was not included in the workplace survey.

For the analysis, innovation is defined as “the process of improving, adapting or developing a product, system or service to deliver better results and create value for people.”

For more information regarding the rankings, Click Here.
1969 – Hurricane Camille slams Gulf Coast

Note: For more than 50 years, NASA’s John C. Stennis Space Center has played a pivotal role in the success of the nation’s space program. This month’s Lagniappe highlights a moment in the history of the south Mississippi rocket engine test center.

Forty-three years ago, on the Sunday morning of Aug. 17, 1969, Hurricane Camille was located 200 miles southeast of New Orleans with wind speeds of 160 mph.

While employees of the Mississippi Test Facility (now John C. Stennis Space Center) were securing the hydrogen and oxygen barges in preparation of the Category 5 hurricane, evacuees from the Gulf Coast began arriving at the south gate, seeking shelter.

By 10 p.m., 1,063 evacuees were registered and bedded down in the empty offices and hallways of Building 1100. At 11:05 p.m., Hurricane Camille, now with 200 mph winds, roared ashore, its eye passing directly over the Bay of St. Louis.

Those who weathered the historic storm described a night of howling winds, tearing lumber, flying brick, and rushing waves of seawater crashing down on homes. All communication to and from the Gulf Coast was blown out by the hurricane force winds or washed away by a 27-foot tidal wave.

On Aug. 29, NASA and government officials from Washington, D.C., Jackson, Miss., and Huntsville, Ala., conducted an inspection tour of Mississippi Test Facility and Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, to assess damage from the hurricane. In a subsequent press conference, the officials addressed employees via a sitewide public address system.

Marshall Space Flight Center Director Dr. Wernher von Braun acknowledged the suffering on the Gulf Coast but urged employees to help the engine test facility recover. “We had a severe blow here, and we, of course, are deeply impressed by the damage and by the suffering that must have come with this damage on the Coast,” von Braun said. “On the other hand, the facility is in very good shape and so is our Apollo Program, and I think you all never had any doubt at all that the show must go on, and the first business at hand would be to get the facility moving.”

NASA Administrator Thomas O. Paine echoed the call, urging employees to capture the “spirit of Apollo” as they moved ahead and rebuilt for the future. “I certainly hope that the contractor people here and the NASA people here, who have taken so much leadership in the early disaster and cleanup phase of this, will also be able to play a role in this rebuilding process.”

U.S. Sen. John C. Stennis reassured employees, “We are proud of you, and I am going to join hands with you as we face the future unafraid and build for an even greater space program, an even greater facility here, and a finer Mississippi.”
Workplace bullying need not be tolerated

Bullies come in all shapes, sizes and ethnicities. Bullying has taken center stage as one of the most serious issues facing society today. What was once considered a problem of the young has now been shown to continue into adulthood, and what was once thought of as harmless growing up is now known to cause lasting psychological and emotional damage on bullied children and adults of all ages.

For adult men and women, one of the most common places of bullying is the workplace. Many adults use bullying as an outlet for the pressures of life, some out of sheer arrogance and others out of an inward shame or cowardliness that they carry around with them throughout life, with little regard to the psychological damage it causes to those on the receiving end.

Workplace bullying is a form of harassment. If you are experiencing bullying from anyone in the workplace, report the activity to your supervisor, ombuds, Office of Human Capital, or the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

Following are some additional coping mechanisms for dealing with the stress of workplace bullying.

The most powerful tool at one's disposal is knowledge. One of the main issues with workplace bullying occurs when a person accepts the shame or fear as his or her own issue. Workplace bullying is very real. If individuals are able to admit to themselves and others that they are being bullied in the workplace, they will already be well on the way toward coping with the situation.

A person who feels he/she is being bullied should keep a log book of every example of workplace bullying, no matter who it is from. Keep the log book somewhere safe and keep track of every instance. Information gives a person power over the bully, and makes taking action easier. Some of the information on BullyOnline.org could be beneficial in helping a person better understand options.

Let's face it, bullying causes an intense physical toll. It causes extra stress. Staying fit and active in general is a powerful coping mechanism. It burns away stress hormones that cause one to feel bad, resulting in fewer physical symptoms.

Evidence shows that workplace bullying affects more than just those who are bullied. It affects those who witness it as well, and in most businesses there are many witnesses. They may be willing to stand by one's side when it happens, supporting the argument when a grievance is filed, or helping to log what occurs within the workplace. These individuals can help turn a workplace into a better environment.

When it comes to bullying, the most important thing to do is take action. While bullies deserve to take responsibility for their actions, many of them bully because they feel they must. It's their way of coping with their own inadequacies and pressures.

Bullies are not going to stop simply because someone wants them to stop. But the bullied are the ones with the law on their side, and as long as they are willing to acknowledge the problem and the effect it has on them, they are also the ones who can have the most power.

Once a person is ready to take action, he/she has the opportunity not only to stop workplace bullying, but to help cope with the stress involved in the process.
Local 4-H students had an opportunity to grow their imagination and potential at NASA's Stennis Space Center when NASA Associate Administrator for Education Leland Melvin took time to visit with them July 30.

About 80 students in grades 4 through 9 from several south Mississippi counties participated in the event. The visit capped the clubs’ involvement in NASA’s Summer of Innovation project, which provides hands-on learning opportunities for middle school students and educators through NASA-unique science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational activities during the summer school break. Summer of Innovation is a key component of the agency’s broader education program to increase student interest in STEM courses, particularly among students in underserved sectors of the academic community. Mississippi 4-H was Stennis’ largest Summer of Innovation partner this year.

Melvin told the visiting students about his experiences as an NFL player, scientist and astronaut, urging them to discover and pursue their own dreams. He emphasized the importance of education, explaining it is key to turning dreams into reality.

“I saw this 7-year-old future astronaut who is beginning to dream and is inspired to follow that dream,” Melvin said following his comments. “It’s just inspiring to me to see that next generation of explorers who will grow to advance our civilization.”

The 4-H visit also included a round of activities hosted by the Stennis Office of Education – magnetic levitation cars, stomp rockets, and biospheres – designed to reinforce fun and practical applications of their STEM learning experiences.

“We are so pleased Mr. Melvin chose to spend time with this group,” said Emma Seiler, coordinator for Stennis’ Summer of Innovation activities. “NASA has so much to offer children in the way of inspiration, and Mr. Melvin certainly serves as a great example of what you can do if you dream big and work hard.”

Melvin joined NASA in 1989 as an aerospace research engineer. He joined the astronaut corps in 1998 and has served as a mission specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-122 in 2008 and STS-129 in 2009. He has logged more than 565 hours in space. In 2003, Melvin co-managed the former Educator Astronaut Program, which recruited teachers to become fully-trained astronauts in an effort to connect space exploration with students across the country.

**Stennis student interns close out summer of research**

Students involved in NASA program internships at Stennis Space Center closed out a summer of work with presentations on assigned research topics.

Stennis hosted 12 DEVELOP students this summer, marking the busiest summer term the center program has experienced. Interns worked on three environmental research projects, using remote sensing to assess severe-weather wheat crop damage in Oklahoma, creating a geographic information system to aid St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana with finding ideal planting sites for bald cypress trees, and contributing to the Climate Adaptation Science Investigator project in the Stennis Applied Science and Technology Project Office.

The students presented their projects Aug. 10.

A pair of NASA Undergraduate Student Research Program interns closed out their summer of study at Stennis with presentations Aug. 9.

Daniel Huggett from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and focused on propellant tank modeling and impact analysis of an unmanned aerial vehicle. Robert Talley from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and focused on nuclear propulsion and power non-nuclear test facility element analysis.