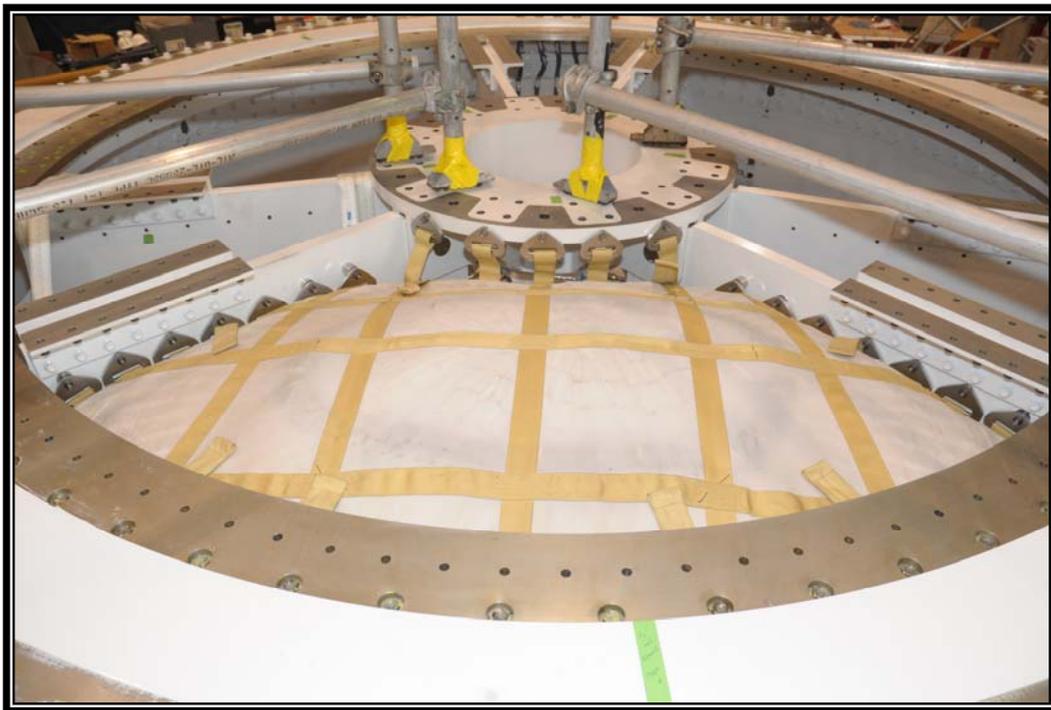




Deceleration Subsystem (DSS) Installation of Ares I-X Main Parachutes: United Space Alliance (USA) installed the first two Ares I-X 150-ft diameter main parachutes into the Forward Skirt Extension (FSE) this week at the Assembly and Refurbishment Facility (ARF) at Kennedy Space Center (KSC). The mains are suspended from the top of the Main Parachute Support Structure (MPSS) with restraint links. The third main will be installed next week after completion of cabling tests. After the three mains are installed, the final lateral restraints will be installed to secure the three-pack cluster onto the MPSS.



Main Parachute Installed in FSE Bay 2



Ares I-X Forward Structures Operations at KSC: The remainder of the Ares I-X forward structure hardware has been delivered to KSC for ground processing. The mating operations have begun: the Forward XL was hovered an inch or so above the Center XL (and were held very level) and then the bolts were dropped in through the forward XL holes and into the Center XL holes and set. The mating operations were done in less than the predicted time, and the running torques were checked for the fasteners as well as the installation of the O-Rings. The smooth mating of these large structures is considered a significant achievement.



Recent activities specific to the Elements include:

First Stage (FS)

- ***Development Motor – 1 (DM-1) Igniter Lot Acceptance Test (LAT):*** A LAT was successfully conducted on March 10 using the DM-1 igniter configuration. Preliminary evaluation of the test indicates the igniter performed nominally. This test was the first to incorporate the combination of new motor insulation and liner materials to be used for the Ares I Project.



DM-1 Igniter LAT at ATK in Promontory, UT

Upper Stage (US)

- ***US Logistics Subsystem:*** Johnson Contractors continue preparing the machining center foundation area in Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Building 4705 by readying removal of the forming walls, cutting the sheet piles back, and readying the closeout concrete pour # 4. Approximately 40 concrete trucks delivered roughly 400+ yards of concrete on March 7. This area of Building 4705 will contain the Seven-Axis Machining Center to be used to manufacture US hardware.



Machining Center Foundation area in MSFC Building 4705



Project Integration (PI)



Students recover the FS and US of the Ares I model rocket after launch.

- ***Ares Education Outreach:*** The Ares Projects outreach team presented the Ares story and talked to students about rocketry at three Alabama schools. The team explored angles and force with many fourth grade students on March 3 and returned March 6 to launch the 1:100 scale Ares I model rocket for students as part of their Space Week observance. The team also supported a presentation to over 400 sixth grade students at Oak Mountain Middle School in Birmingham on March 5.

The Ares Projects looks forward to the FS Cluster Drop Test in April.

...and as of this Ares Projects Weekly Summary, there are only 120 days until the first Ares I test flight, Ares I-X!!!