

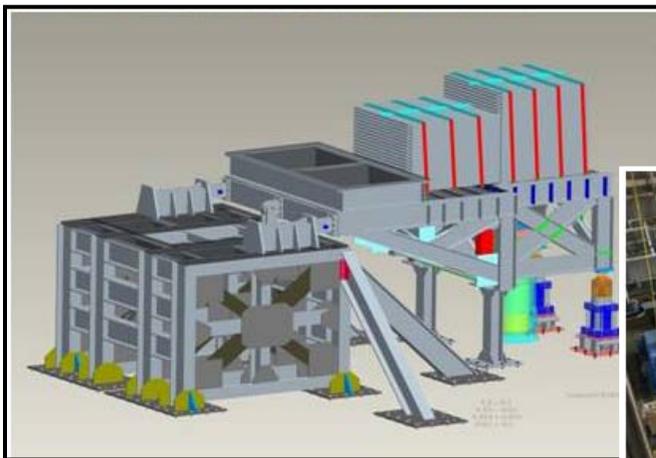
Recent activities specific to the Elements include:

Flight and Integrated Test Office (FITO)

- Hydrodynamic Support (HDS) Suspension Test Fixture Assembly:*** The Integrated Vehicle Ground Vibration Test (IVGVT) HDS team continues to make progress toward ensuring the usability of the refurbished HDS units for the IVGVT testing. The HDS units will be used to simulate a free-free boundary condition during the Ares I IVGVT. Recently, the HDS team flowed oil through and bounced a piston in one of the HDS units for the first time in almost 30 years. Further testing necessitated the design and construction of a “Suspension System Functional Test Fixture.” Shown below is a conceptual rendering of what the test fixture will look like upon completion. Structural steel has been delivered and lengths have been cut to begin fabrication. Welding should begin shortly as the welding certification process is underway. This work is being performed in Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Building 4619.



HDS Unit



HDS Suspension Test Fixture Assembly



Steel Delivery



Steel Delivery



Steel Beams in 4619 Highbay



Steel Beams in the Highbay

Project Integration (PI)

- ***Ares Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) #14:*** The Ares Projects outreach team prepared and released the QPR #14 video to the public via the NASA portal, YouTube, and iTunes on December 17. It was viewed 2,742 times on the NASA portal and 1,972 times on YouTube in December. Additionally, video podcast versions of the video were downloaded via iTunes more than 30,500 times. Interest in Ares videos on YouTube continues to grow, with the number of subscribers for this outlet increasing by more than 30 percent during December to a total of 2,385.

The Ares Projects look forward to the Constellation PDR Kickoff the week of January 11.