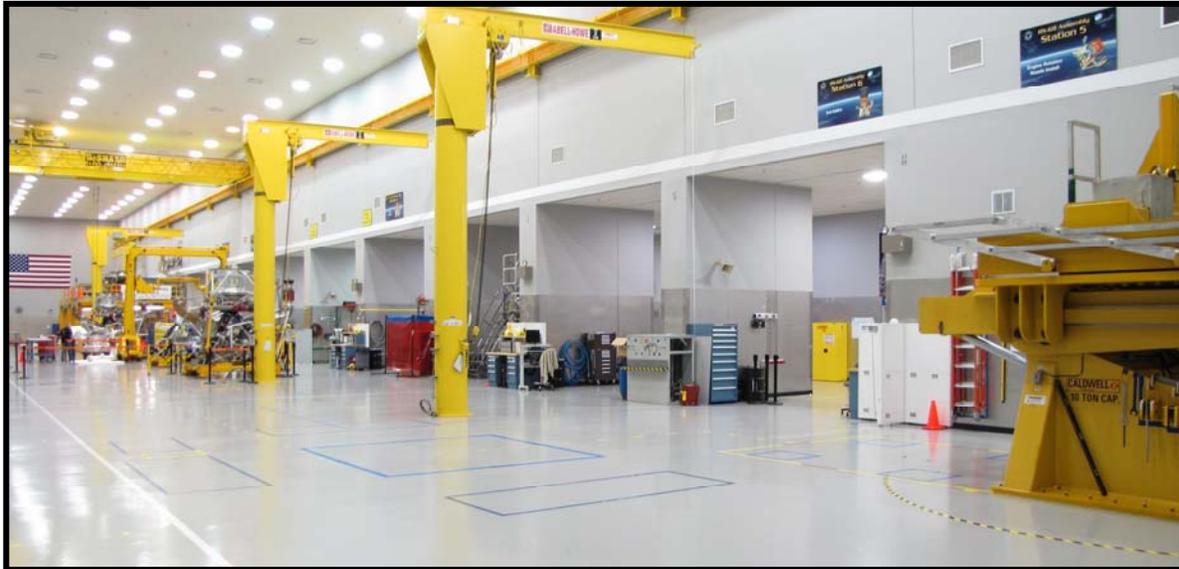
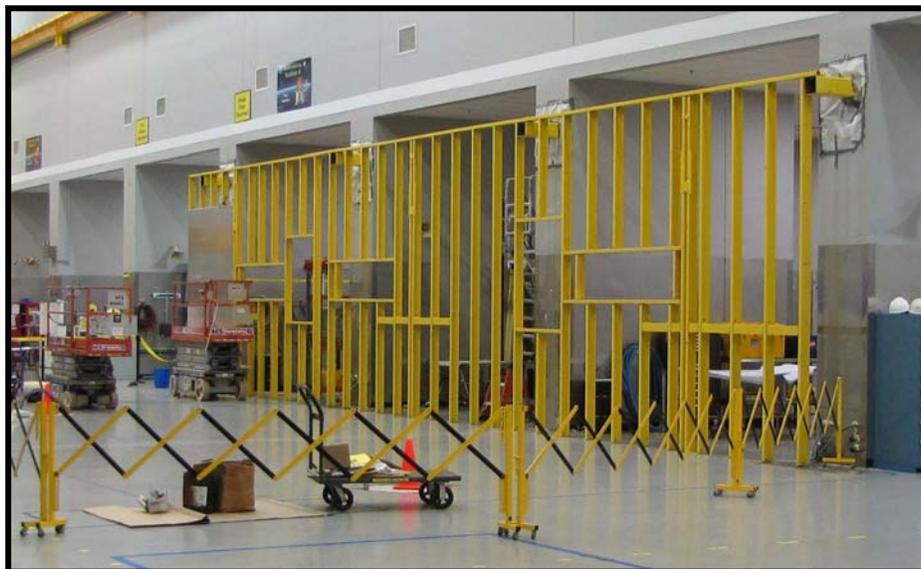


Upper Stage Engine (USE)

Work has begun in Building 9101 at Stennis Space Center (SSC), the Engine Assembly Facility, on the new build stands for the J-2X upper stage engine. Phase 1 consists of erection of a wall, as shown in the photograph below. Phase 2 will consist of installation of three engine build work stations, rotating booms, railings, etc., to support engine assembly and is expected to be complete on September 17.



The J-2X Assembly Area in the Engine Assembly Facility, Building 9101 at SSC, before engine bay construction.



The back wall nears completion for the J-2X Engine bays. Note the removal of the two jib cranes and cutouts for pneumatic panels and calibrated equipment storage.

Upper Stage (US)

Stage Definition, Structures & Thermal (S&T) Subsystem: The Upper Stage S&T Umbilical Plates Project at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) has completed fabrication and assembly of the umbilical plates test fixture. Prototype plate testing will begin in September to validate the linear mate and angular de-mate Critical Design Review (CDR) design.



Fabricators and test engineers are pictured with the umbilical plates test fixture, with a ground plate installed, positioned in an angular de-mate position.

The Ares Projects look forward to the test firing of DM-2 on August 31, and the launch of STS-133, Space Shuttle Discovery, in the fall.