

## Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF)

*Agency Introduction: The FY 2012 budget request for NASA is \$18.7 billion, the FY 2010 enacted level. The NASA Authorization Act of 2010 has provided a clear direction for NASA, and the skilled workforce at NASA Centers is critical to the success of the Act's important objectives.*

### Highlights of MAFs FY 2012 activities:

- The Michoud Assembly Facility will continue to transition from manufacturing of the External Tank of the Space Shuttle, which has its last flight in 2011, to manufacturing elements of the next Space Launch System program.
- It will also work to further the development of United States commercial crew space transportation capability to and from LEO and the ISS.

The NASA Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) is located in New Orleans, Louisiana and is an extension facility of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Michoud provides manufacturing capability with 37 machine shops, advanced fiber placement machines, multi axis machining centers, advanced friction stir welding machines, non-destructive evaluation capabilities, and 9 testing laboratories in direct support of the manufacturing process. Additionally, the facility houses the USDA National Finance Center with approximately 1,300 employees and the main United States Coast Guard installation for the New Orleans area with approximately 250 employees. The NASA portion of the Michoud facility is transitioning from primarily housing a single NASA tenant to a combination of multiple tenants, including NASA, non-NASA government, and multiple independent commercial tenants.

Michoud is situated on 832 acres consisting of: over 2.2 million square feet of climate controlled manufacturing space; over 43 acres under a single roof with 40 foot ceilings; approximately one million square feet of office space; and over 350 acres of undeveloped land (green space). The machinery and support equipment at Michoud is valued at over \$750 million, and they maintain a deep water port and access to both highway and rail transportation. Other assets at Michoud include \$178 million worth of improvements for hurricane protection and an industrial wastewater treatment facility. Michoud works in partnership with the State of Louisiana and the University of New Orleans. The State of Louisiana has invested over \$60 million in tooling in the facility in direct support of the NASA mission and has another \$60 million pending for further investment. In collaboration with the University of New Orleans, Michoud houses the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing (NCAM) for the promotion of higher education and technology development in the fields of composite and metal manufacturing and modeling and simulation.

Michoud's primary responsibility is large-scale manufacturing of space structures, and the center is currently in transition from manufacturing of the Space Shuttle External Tank to manufacturing elements of the next Space Launch System program. As a part of the facility transition, Jacobs Technology, through the Manufacturing Support and Facilities Operations Contract (MSFOC), has worked closely with the State of Louisiana to market the facility and identify prospective tenants. Current programs for commercial tenants include Blade Dynamics wind turbine blades, Lockheed Martin Thermal Protection Products (TPP), Lockheed Martin Fully Reusable Access to Space Technology program (FAST) for the United States Air Force, and B-K Manufacturing aerospace components manufacturing. This transition is intended to make available the excess capacity of the facility to non-NASA entities as a revenue stream in order to reduce the cost of operations of the facility.

## Economic Impact:

Current impact statement(s) to state, region:

NASA Michoud is a significant asset for the state of Louisiana and the region. A 2008 economic impact study generated for Michoud showed 33,811 direct and indirect jobs in the New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, Louisiana metropolitan region, which generated \$1,400 million in total income, from the total government activities at MAF (of which NASA is only a part). Total initial tax revenue the state and local governments received based on these jobs and their resulting income was an estimated \$180 million\*. The site maintains a highly skilled technological and manufacturing expertise for the local area and is recognized by the New Orleans City Council as a vital partner. The NASA manufacturing facility at Michoud in New Orleans East has also provided thousands of skilled jobs in the space industry to local citizens.

\* Data based on Economic Impact Study performed by the Center for Business and Information Technologies at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, July 2008. This data is based on direct employment of 2,655 workers. Direct employment for 2011 is approximately 1,200 workers.