Stennis Space Center (SSC)

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 SSC's FY 2012 activities: The FY 2012 budget proposes $226 million in spending at SSC.

- $88 million for Exploration support to Space Launch Systems engine testing activities.
- $32 million for Space Operations rocket propulsion testing to support incoming requirements.
- $10 million in Space Technology for the Stennis Innovation Fund and disbursement of select SBIR/STTR awards.
- $2 million for Science research.
- $0.7 million in to further NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education efforts.
- $93 million for Institutional requirements for the Center's operations in support of its mission requirements. This funding includes: $59 million for Cross-Agency Support; $34 million for Construction and Environmental Compliance Restoration for minor revitalization and construction projects to repair and modernize center infrastructure to reduce risk of mission disruption due to facility failures. Also includes replacing the system-wide potable water system - this project will replace existing main distribution piping to eliminate excessive leakage, corrosion, and potential human health hazard.

NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) is located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast near Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi. Stennis serves as the nation's premier rocket propulsion testing facility and provides propulsion test services for NASA, the Department of Defense, and commercial customers.

The Center's unique test facilities and technical expertise in the areas of chemical propulsion, cryogenic systems and facilities engineering will play a key role in the development and certification of new propulsion systems for the President's new program for Exploration. Stennis is also home to the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC), which performs integrated administrative functions and transactional activities for the agency in the areas of human resources, information technology, finance and procurement. Stennis will also further NASA's commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. For Space Technology, Stennis will implement the Stennis Innovation Fund and continue to support SBIR/STTR and the Office of the Chief Technologist's Partnerships Innovation and Commercial Space and Strategic Integration activities. In addition, SSC receives funding from commercial space companies to provide propulsion testing in support of Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) and Commercial Crew Development (CCDEV). This includes both research and development and flight certification testing.

With a 13,800 acre fee area, surrounded by a 125,000 acre buffer zone, Stennis serves as the Agency's prime example to maximize sustainability and footprint by virtue of the federal city which is home to more than 30 federal, state, academic and private organizations as well as numerous technology-based companies. Each tenant shares in the cost of operating the overall facility, making it more cost-effective for NASA and its tenants to accomplish their respective missions.

Economic Impact:

NASA Stennis FY 2012 budget:	$226 million
NASA Stennis FY 2012 reimbursable (estimate):	$134 million
NASA Stennis FY 2012 civil servant workforce (FTE estimate)	294
NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC FTE estimate)	*146 (funded by NASA Hq)*
NASA Center Contracts/Grants Obligated in 2010	$297 million

(Obligation data from the Federal Procurement Data System)

Current impact statement(s) to state, region:

SSC is a major contributor to the vitality of the Gulf Coast of Mississippi and Louisiana. The Center brings a supply of highly skilled labor that further serves as an aid in the attraction of new firms. In 2010, NASA-funded activities at SSC employed over 400 NASA civil servants (including the NSSC) and approximately 1,800 support contractors. This had an economic impact of over $365 million, the vast majority of which resulted in a direct impact to the local community within a 50 mile radius of the Center. This includes Hancock, Harrison, and Pearl River counties in Mississippi as well as St. Tammany Parish in Louisiana. The combined expenditures of both NASA and all resident agencies had a total economic impact of $875 million. Of this total, over $616 million directly impacted the local community.