

TALKING POINTS FOR ADMINISTRATOR BOLDEN ORION STACKING EVENT

June 18, 2014

- Thank you all for coming today. Today you have a chance to see history in the making.
- Right in front of us is a tangible piece of NASA's Path to Mars -- an *Orion* spacecraft that will travel farther into space than any spacecraft for humans has gone in 40 years.
- Over the past four years, NASA has been implementing the NASA Authorization Act of 2010, which was enacted on a broad bipartisan basis and reflects agreement between Congress and the Administration on the nation's next steps in space. Exploration Flight Test-1 is a critical part of that strategy, and a big step forward on that path to Mars.
- The test demonstrates how Bob Cabana and the Kennedy team continue to transform this center into a multi-user facility capable of many different kinds of launches, and it's possibly the most significant human spaceflight milestone this year pointing toward our return with humans to deep space.
- Sustained investment in NASA technology advances the agency's exploration capabilities and supports the innovation economy. We need to keep doing that in order to reach an asteroid and Mars and other destinations.

- As Mark Geyer can tell you about in great detail, *Orion's* flight test will stress systems critical to safety, including the heat shield, parachutes, avionics and attitude control. When was the last time you saw a vehicle that could reach a speed of 20,000 mph and temperatures of 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit?
- The test is going to show us a lot before *Orion* carries humans on missions to explore an asteroid and eventually Mars. It gives us the chance to see how this vehicle will perform in the orbital environment as it faces some of the challenges it will endure on future missions to space.
- That's incredibly exciting, and I couldn't be happier to see the full system integration of *Orion* proceeding so well.
- While *Orion* hardware has been tested extensively on the ground, putting the spacecraft through its paces in space provides data you just can't get on Earth.
- Right now, NASA is building on knowledge gained through the International Space Station and more than 50 years of human spaceflight experience, solving difficult challenges that will enable humans to safely explore deep space.
- What you see here today is a critical part of that strategic work. It's not often you get this close to something that is

bound for space, and we look forward to telling you more about *Orion* and our Path to Mars.