

Biography: Michael Kynard



Michael Kynard
Deputy Director,
Michoud Assembly Facility



Michael Kynard is deputy director of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. Named to the position in January 2014, he is responsible for the day-to-day management of the multi-tenant manufacturing facility, where development of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft are under way. SLS is the most powerful rocket in history that will carry astronauts in the Orion crew vehicle, science experiments and cargo on deep-space missions, including an asteroid and Mars.

Michoud, a NASA-owned facility that is managed from the agency's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, is one of the world's largest manufacturing plants. Kynard works to build a broader Michoud facility tenant base with government, university and private-sector entities, and also manages the facility operations contract with Jacobs Technology, based in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

From 2011 to his current position, Kynard was manager of the SLS Engines Office at the Marshall Center. He was responsible for the development, certification and production of all liquid engines to be used in support of the SLS, including development of the four RS-25 core stage engines and J-2X engine under consideration for the upper stage.

From 2006 until 2011, Kynard was manager of the Upper Stage Engine Element for Ares Projects under the Constellation Program at Marshall. He was responsible for the design, development, testing and evaluation of the J-2X engine to be used on the Ares I and Ares V.

From 2005 to 2006, he was manager of the Ares V Core Stage and Core Stage Engine in the Exploration Launch Projects Office. He was responsible for the development of the core stage for the Ares V heavy-lift launch vehicle, including the design, development and upgrade of the RS-68 engine. He also was responsible for the design and development of the core stage tanks and structure.

Kynard served from 2003 to 2005 as deputy manager of Marshall's Space Shuttle Main Engine Project. He was responsible for assisting the manager in overall project management of the shuttle main engines,

Biography: Michael Kynard

including design, production and operation. From 2001-2003, he was the project's systems and requirements team lead and oversaw all technical issues related to shuttle main engine systems requirements. He was an engine systems engineer from 1999 to 2001, working in the same area within the project.

Kynard served as an engineer from 1992 to 1999 in the Propulsion Laboratory in the Engine Systems Branch of the Science and Engineering Directorate at the Marshall Center. He was the lead pointofcontact for all shuttle main engine development activities and also performed systems analysis on the design and testing of the main engines.

From 1989 to 1992, he was the Marshall Center representative at NASA's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, where he oversaw the testing of the shuttle main engines.

He worked as an engineer in Marshall's Information and Electronic Systems Laboratory from 1987 to 1989 at the Marshall Center. His duties included working on the shuttle main engine controller software, which monitors the engine system to ensure proper function.

Kynard was a cooperative student from 1985 to 1987 in the Gamma Ray Observatory at Marshall. He worked with NASA engineers in building the initial brass boards for the Glast Burst Monitor experiment -- a detector aimed at recording high-energy phenomena, such as gamma-ray bursts, in space.

During his NASA career, Kynard has received numerous awards and honors. In 1997, he received a Silver Snoopy Award, given by the Astronaut Corps for outstanding service to the Space Shuttle Program. He was twice honored with a NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal -- in 1992 for his work in testing the shuttle main engines and in 2010 for his leadership in bringing the J-2X development to Critical Design Review. In 1996, he received a Marshall Space Flight Center Director's Commendation for his work with STS-72, which launched in 1996 to capture and return to Earth a Japanese microgravity research spacecraft. Kynard also has received several group achievement awards.

He has cowritten several American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics papers, and is the author of a systems and engineering paper on space shuttle main engine testing that was published in Aerospace Magazine.

A native of Moundville, Alabama, Kynard graduated in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Kynard and his daughters, Summer and Acadia, reside in Madison, Alabama.

[Back to Meet Marshall Management](#)