



STENNIS INTERESTING FACTS

FOR FIVE DECADES AND COUNTING, Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi has served as NASA's primary rocket propulsion test site, providing test services for NASA and the Department of Defense, as well as the commercial sector. Stennis is home to NASA's Rocket Propulsion Test Program, which manages all of the agency's propulsion test facilities.

Stennis was established in the 1960s to test first and second stages of the Saturn V rocket for the **APOLLO LUNAR LANDING PROGRAM**. Stennis tested 27 Saturn V stages, including ones that carried humans to the Moon.

From 1975 to 2009, Stennis tested main engines that powered 135 space shuttle missions – **2,307 SPACE SHUTTLE MAIN ENGINE TESTS** in all for a total firing time of 820,475 seconds.

Stennis is testing RS-25 engines and stages that will help power NASA's new Space Launch System, which will send the first woman and next man to the Moon by 2024 as part of **NASA'S ARTEMIS PROGRAM**. Stennis also will test the core stage that will be used on the first Space Launch System flight – Artemis I.

Stennis works with **COMMERCIAL COMPANIES** to test the engines and components they need for their own space missions.

Stennis is a major contributor to Gulf Coast economies in Louisiana and Mississippi. Its workforce numbers more than 5,000. In 2018, the center had a direct economic impact of **MORE THAN \$583 MILLION** within a 50-mile radius.

INFINITY SCIENCE CENTER located just outside of Stennis serves as the site's official visitors facility. The 72,000-square-foot facility highlights work done at Stennis in support of the nation's space program.

An active Advanced Technology and Technology Transfer Branch at Stennis Space Center works to develop and share **SPACE-RELATED TECHNOLOGIES THAT BENEFIT DAILY LIFE**. The branch also partners with schools, libraries and institutions to help tell the story of how NASA is benefiting all of life.

Stennis consists of two defined areas – a **13,800-ACRE AREA** that is home to all site facilities and a surrounding **125,000-ACRE BUFFER ZONE** protecting against the noise and power of large rocket engine and stage tests.

SEVEN-AND-ONE-HALF miles of canal waterways, featuring a lock-and-dam system, are used at Stennis to transport large rocket stages and cryogenic barges to and from the Gulf of Mexico via the Pearl River.

MORE THAN 50 federal, state, academic and private organizations and several technology-based companies, including the U.S. Navy, conduct business at Stennis. The entities share facility operating costs, making it more cost-effective for each one to accomplish its independent mission.

NASA announced plans to build a rocket engine test site in Hancock County on **OCTOBER 25, 1961**. Tree-cutting for construction began **MAY 17, 1963**. The first hot fire test was conducted on **APRIL 23, 1966**.

NASA first called its test facility Mississippi Test Operations, then Mississippi Test Facility and National Space Technology Laboratories. On May 20, 1988, the name was changed to honor of **U.S. SEN. JOHN C. STENNIS** of Mississippi.

In April 2008, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics named Stennis a **HISTORIC AEROSPACE SITE**.

Front image – Access onto Stennis Space Center is controlled through a pair of security gates on the north and south ends of the site.