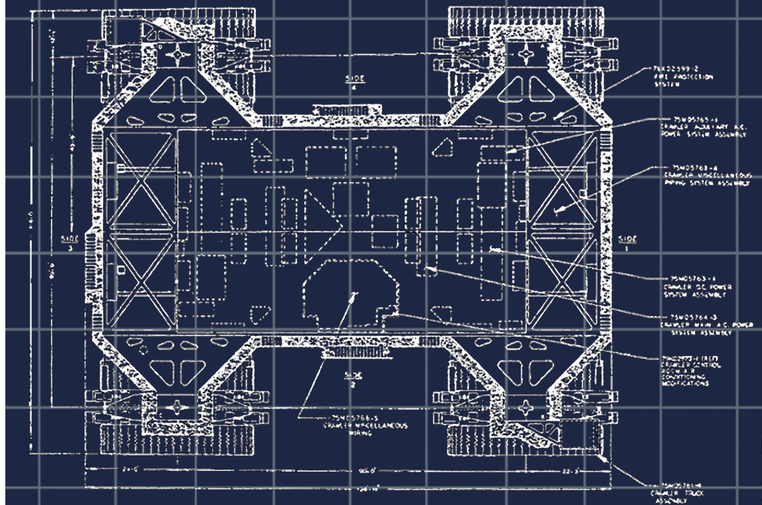
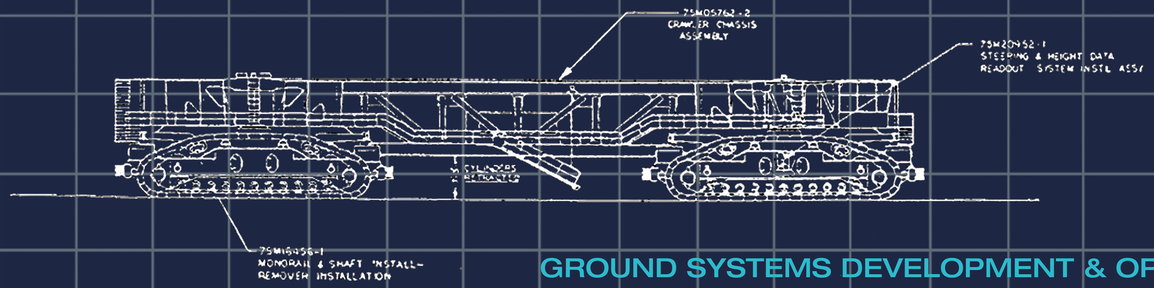
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

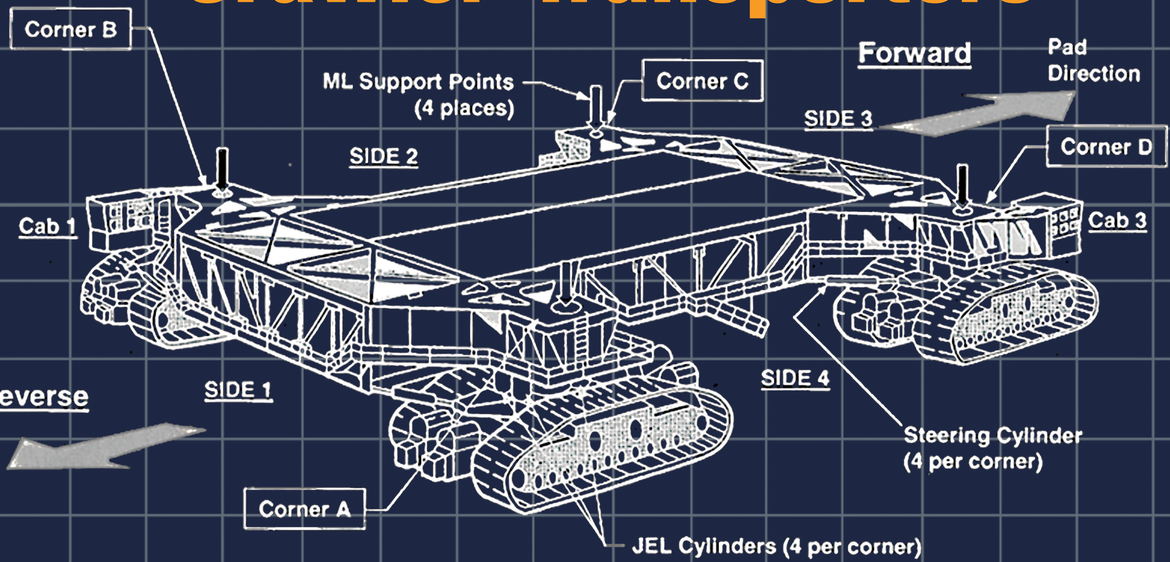




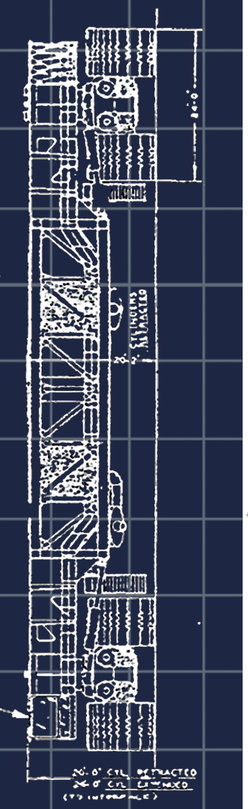
GROUND SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT & OPERATIONS

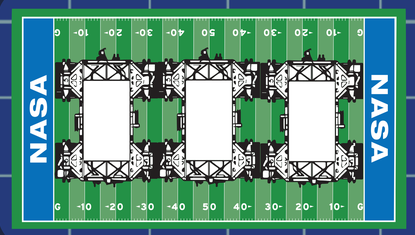
Crawler-Transporters

NASA's two crawler-transporters are unique in the world. Originally built in 1965 to carry the massive Saturn V rocket and Apollo spacecraft from Kennedy's Vehicle Assembly Building to Launch Complex 39, they continued to support human space exploration taking space shuttles to their launch pads for 30 years.



The crawlers are critical elements to enable future launch operations for NASA's Journey to Mars. They could also be major players in Kennedy's transition to a multi-user spaceport with one able to take commercially operated rockets and spacecraft to the launch pad, while the other is being strengthened to handle the Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft atop the mobile launcher, a combination heavier than the Saturn V moon rockets the crawlers were designed to carry.





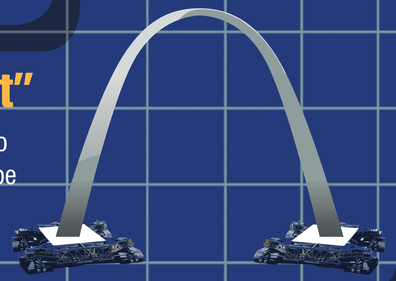
THIRD DOWN, GOAL TO GO

When placed side by side, three crawlers would take up an entire regulation size football field.

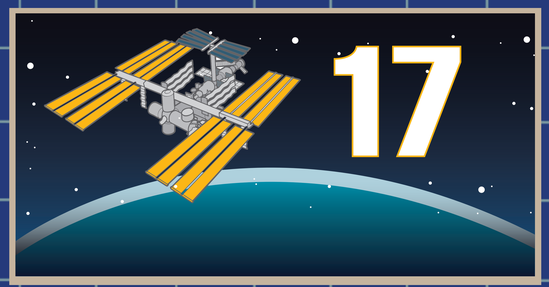
Moving the "Gateway to the West"

After modifications, one crawler-transporter will be able to lift up to 18 million pounds. Two modified crawlers would be able to move the St. Louis Gateway Arch.

(The Gateway Arch weighs 34,652,000 pounds not including the foundation)



CRAWLER 50 YEARS TRANSPORTER



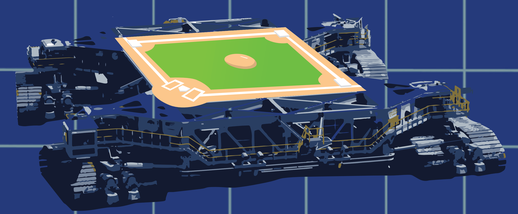
VAST AMOUNTS OF ENERGY

The new generators installed in the crawlers each produce 1500 kilowatts -- enough power to run 17 International Space Stations.

During their 50 years of service, the crawlers have traveled a combined total of 5,000 miles. That is enough to travel from Kennedy Space Center in Florida to Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, to Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas and over to San Diego, California and still have some miles to spare. All of these locations are playing a key role in preparing NASA for our Journey to Mars.

SLOW TRIP AROUND THE BASES

A baseball diamond can fit on top of the crawler.



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