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SUCCESSFUL FIRST FLIGHT OF NASA'S SLS SUPER HEAVY-LIFT ROCKET

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR U.S.'S
MOST AMBITIOUS MISSIONS

Bruce Askins
SLS Program
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Thank you for this opportunity to talk the Artemis lunar exploration campaign. There's a lot going on right now, so let's get to it. Today we are talking about the backbone of deep space exploration, our current status, and our future plans.

Fifty years ago, we pioneered a path to the Moon, cutting through the fiction of science and showed us all what was possible.

Today, the calling to explore is even greater – to go farther, we must be able to sustain missions of greater distance and duration.

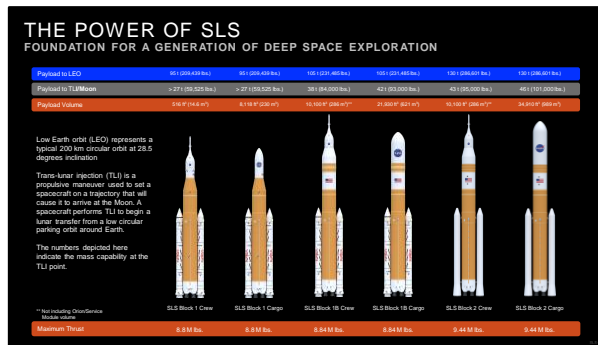
We are again pushing the bounds of humanity.

At 06:47:44 UTC on November 16 – we took the first step to return humans to deep space and created a blueprint for a long-term human presence – expanding exploration throughout the solar system. Artemis I LAUNCHED!

OVERVIEW

- SLS Basics
- Payload Capability
- Test Program
- Artemis I Results
- Progress to Artemis II
- Progress to Artemis III and Beyond





This shows the SLS evolutionary path from greater capability than any existing launch vehicle, to unprecedented capability that changes how we explore.

FIRST 3 ARTEMIS MISSIONS WILL USE THE BLOCK 1 CONFIGURATION.

Along the way, SLS will retain many common elements rather than a completely new vehicle design:

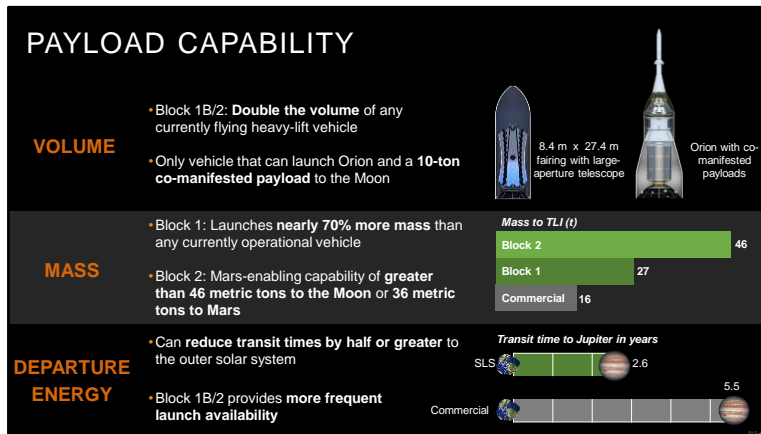
- Orion/LAS remains the same
- The Universal Stage Adapter remains common to B1 and B2
- ICPS will evolve to EUS but will continue to use RL10 engines with EUS common to B1 and B2
- The Interstage remains common to B1 and B2
- The core stage remains common across all 6 variants, although it's expected to undergo prudent weight reduction as we learn more about its performance
- All 6 variants will use the RS-25, while evolving from heritage SSMs to new RS-25s designed to cost at least 30% less while increasing planned operational thrust
- All 6 variants will use the side boosters, evolving from today's booster to a new booster with more powerful propellant, composite vs. steel motor casing, improved TVC, new insulation and other improvements.

SLS (SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM)

Basic Statistics

- **Height:** 322-ft. including Orion spacecraft (Block 1)
- **Diameter:** Core stage - 27.6 ft.; Boosters - 12 ft.
- **Thrust:** 8.8 M lbs.
- **Weight:** 5.75 M lbs. at liftoff; 3.5 M lbs. unfueled with Orion
- **Upper Stage:** ICPS (Block 1); EUS (Block 1B/2)
- **Payload:** Orion spacecraft and more
- **Payload Capacity:** 59k lbs. to TLI in crewed Block 1 configuration
 - 84k lbs. to TLI in crewed Block 1B configuration
 - 95k lbs. to TLI in crewed Block 1 configuration





SLS more capable than commercial vehicles; a unique asset for space exploration

VOLUME - Twice the volume of any contemporary launch vehicle

Enables habitat modules, large-aperture telescopes, robust science package on robotic probes, etc.

Will talk more about this later in presentation.

Even the USA in B1B offers as much volume for payloads as industry-standard 5m fairings.

MASS - Initial capability > 27 metric tons (59,525 lb) to TLI; current U.S. launch vehicle maximum is 16-20 t [20 is generous] **

Evolved SLS will offer Mars-enabling capability of > 46 t (101,413 lb) to TLI

ENERGY - SLS offers reduced transit times to the outer solar system by half or greater (2-3 years for Europa instead of 7-8)

Heavy-lift reduces complexity and risk associated with payload design, ground infrastructure, and in-space operations

Provides the best opportunity for mission success

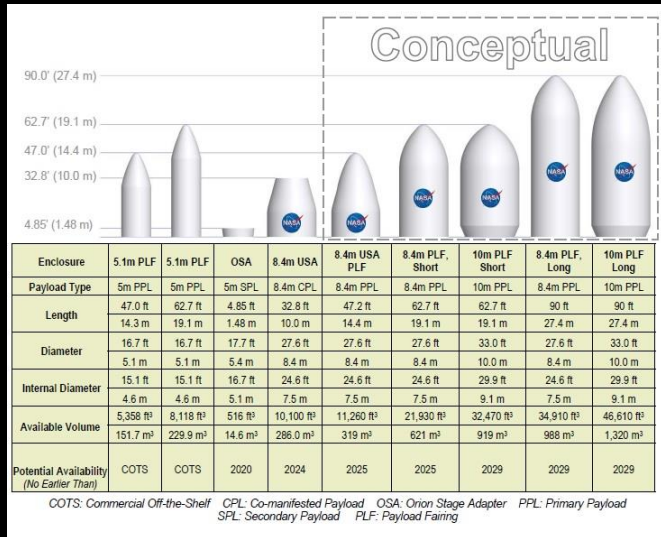
*Current U.S. launch vehicle maximum is ~16-20 t** (Falcon Heavy) to TLI

Block 1 = 23% greater mass than FH estimate

Block 1B = 38-42 t to TLI (crew or cargo) -- 50% more mass (40 t)

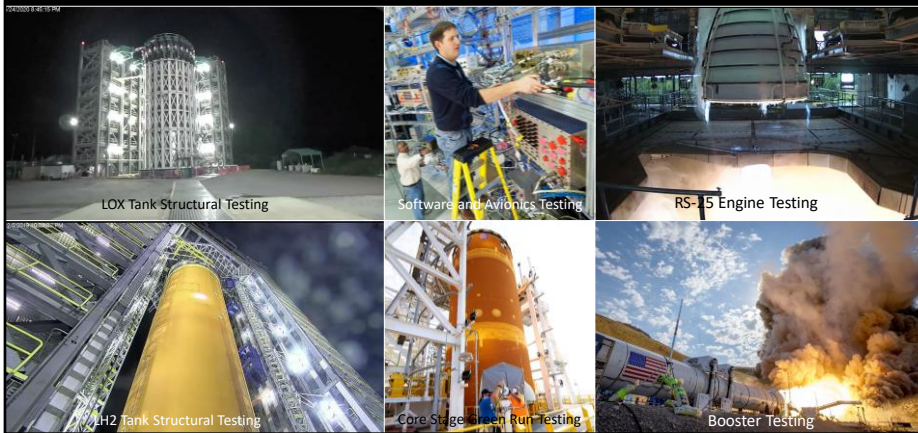
Block 2 = >55% more mass than FH

PAYLOAD CAPABILITY



Payload fairings for the cargo-only configuration are being studied and include 8.4-meter diameter fairings with volumes from 11,260 cubic feet (319 cubic meters) to 34,910 cubic feet (989 cubic meters). Even larger 10-meter diameter fairings with more than 32,000 cubic feet (909 cubic meters) are also under investigation.

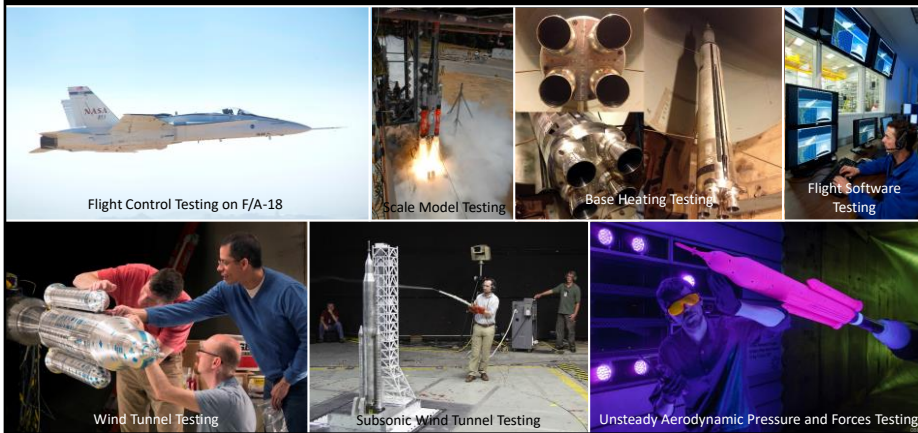
SLS TESTING



From wind tunnel to flight hardware, testing is a big part of making SLS safe for astronauts.

- Before the vehicle flew, its components were structurally tested to ensure they can survive the extreme pressures and loads experienced in flight.
 - SLS structural qualification testing at Marshall complete, largest test campaign at MSFC since Space Shuttle. Five structural test articles underwent 199 separate test cases, and more than 421 gigabytes of data were collected to add to computer models used to design the rocket and optimize it in the future.
- Software is tested in a flight-like test environment, and then again on the flight hardware to ensure everything functions as needed to send crew to space.
- RS-25 engines adaptation hotfire series complete: 2015 – 2019 at Stennis to adapt the RS-25 to SLS performance and environment requirements and develop a modern engine controller and software. Tests also included new engine flight controller development and flight controller qualification as well as development parts for restart engine program. Total of 32 tests totaling nearly 15,000 seconds of hot-fire time.
- Eight-test Green Run series at Stennis ending with a simulated launch hot fire test will prove Core Stage 1 is ready for Artemis I.
- The 5-segment boosters for SLS underwent both hot and cold firings early in the program.

SLS TESTING CONTINUED



Clockwise from Top Left:

Top Left: MSFC Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems employees developed algorithms for SLS flight controls to improve performance to allow flight computer to re-tune themselves to react to unknown scenarios in flight – a first NASA use in a launch vehicle of an Adaptive Augmenting Controller. Tested on an F/A-18 jet at **Dryden** Flight Research Center

Top Middle Left: Testing at **MSFC** of a 5 percent scale model with working engines and boosters to study how low- and high-frequency sound waves will affect the rocket on the launch pad. Instrumented w/ 200+ sensors

Top Middle Right: **MSFC/CUBRC** of Buffalo, NY, base heating w/ 2 percent, 6.5-foot-tall scale model

Top Right: **MSFC** developed and tested the flight software in-house running thousands of launches in various simulated launch conditions

Bottom Right: 1.3 percent 4.75-foot model, wind tunnel testing at **Ames** Research Center, trans sonic tests w/ pressure sensitive paint, engineer is from Langley Research Center

Bottom Middle: Liftoff transition testing of a 67.5-inch model of the SLS in a 14-by-22-foot subsonic wind tunnel at NASA's **Langley** Research Center in Virginia.

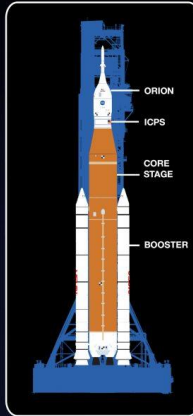
Bottom Left: Unsteady aerodynamic pressures and forces testing in **Langley** Research Center's Transonic Dynamics Tunnel

INTEGRATED TEST AND CHECKOUT



Integrated Testing: SLS Rocket, Orion Spacecraft, & Ground Systems

- 10 Verify function of interfaces between Orion and ground systems
- 9 Verify function of interfaces between SLS core stage and boosters with ground systems
- 8 Verify function of interfaces between SLS upper stage with ground systems
- 7 Verify function of interfaces throughout integrated SLS and Orion with ground systems
- 6 Integrated test of all SLS and Orion critical communications systems
- 5 Test countdown commanding sequence with simulated countdown before rolling to launch pad
- 4 Checkout various SLS systems functionality
- 3 Checkout SLS and Orion functionality with launch pad systems before and after roll out
- 2 Demonstrate tanking and detanking SLS with cryogenic, or supercold, propellants, at the launch pad
- 1 Test and install pyrotechnics for flight termination system



OSA STA stacked on top of Artemis I launch vehicle for modal testing

Before we launched, we performed the Integrated Test and Checkout (ITCO) test series

The modal test series sought to understand the vehicle's natural frequencies to help ground computer models and improve the flight computers that will fly the rocket. The team placed hydraulic shakers at seven locations on the rocket and imparted forces. Additionally, a small hammer delivered calibrated taps near key parts of the navigation system to understand the dynamics local to those spots. A hammer on a dolly was also moved to different locations on the mobile launcher to impart further vibrations. In all, approximately 300 sensors attached to the rocket and mobile launcher detected, recorded, and transmitted the data to the engineers.

The test series was performed over multiple days, for 10 hours each day, during the overnight shift in the VAB when activity level in the building and surrounding areas is low. This quieter environment helped ensure a higher quality of data. The sensors remain on the vehicle and collected vibration data during rollout of the launch vehicle to Launch Pad 39B for WDR.

In addition to the modal tests, teams also completed a number of other tests,

including the Interface Verification Test, the Communications End-to-End Test, the Umbilical Release and Retract Test, and the Countdown Sequence Test. They also uploaded the flight software that will fly the mission.

During one of the evaluations, which involved powering up the RS-25 engines, a problem was discovered with one of the engine controllers – the computers on the RS-25 engines. After analysis, the decision was made to remove and replace the engine controller – the first time this procedure has been done with SLS on the mobile launcher. The controller was sent to manufacturer Honeywell for further analysis, where the issue was tracked to a memory chip in the controller. Proper flight rationale has been developed, and the problem is not an issue for flight.

ARTEMIS I – THE ULTIMATE TEST

➤ **Earth Orbital Insertion Actuals**

- Orbital velocity: 25,579.86 ft./sec. (7,796.74 m/sec.)
- Orbital parameters: 972.6 nautical miles (1,801 km) by 15.9 nautical miles (29.4 km)

➤ **Earth Orbital Insertion Pre-flight Predicted**

- Orbital velocity: 25,586.44 ft./sec. (7,798.75 m/sec.)
- Orbital parameters: 975 nautical miles (1,806 km) by 16 nautical miles (29.6 km)

- **Overall Vehicle Performance:** SLS performed its job with a high-degree of accuracy and precision



Artemis I was the ultimate test flight. Some data we can only collect in the flight environment.

ARTEMIS I – THE ULTIMATE TEST

➤ Core Stage

- The SLS core stage's 999 sensors and 45 miles of cable executed all functions
- Core stage experienced >3200° F fire raging at the surface of our cork base heat shield and ~1.3" away, the structure never knew it

➤ RS-25 Engines

- Thrust and mixture ratio control valves were within 0.5 percent of pre-flight predicted values
- Internal pressures and temperatures were within two sigma of pre-flight predicted values



ARTEMIS I – THE ULTIMATE TEST

➤ Solid Rocket Boosters

- Burned out within 0.5 seconds of each
- Peak thrust within 0.1 seconds of each other
- Performed within one-quarter of a percent of each other during ascent
- 50-psi separation signal, which is based on measurements during the tailoff pressure, was sent to each booster within 0.04 seconds of each other



ARTEMIS I – THE ULTIMATE TEST

➤ **Flight Software**

- Nominal transition Ground Launch Sequencer (GLS) to Automated Launch Sequencer (ALS) transition
- Excellent core stage LH2 and LOX closed-loop ullage control

➤ **Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage**

- TLI Burn: 18 minutes, a record duration for the RL10





ARTEMIS II

FIRSTS:

- Crewed integrated test flight of the SLS rocket, Orion spacecraft, and Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida
- Demonstration of Orion life support systems
- Collection of human data in lunar vicinity, transit to and from the Moon, and through reentry and splashdown

NEW ELEMENTS:

- Orion life support systems
- Launch Complex 39B emergency egress system for crew and new liquid hydrogen system

COMMON ELEMENTS:

- SLS rocket Block 1 configuration
- Orion spacecraft
- Mobile launcher-1 and upgraded ground systems

SLS is ready to support a crew on Artemis II. This lunar flyby mission will require the astronauts to check out, evaluate, and test the Orion spacecraft systems in the deep space environment.

And here's the crew:

Left to right: Mission Specialist 1 NASA's Christina Koch, Pilot Victor Glover (standing), Commander Reid Wiseman (sitting), and the Canadian Space Agency's Jeremy Hansen as Mission Specialist 2

Artemis II will be the first time we launch astronauts on SLS and Orion. They will even checkout how the vehicle handles and give it test drive in space.



Version Control

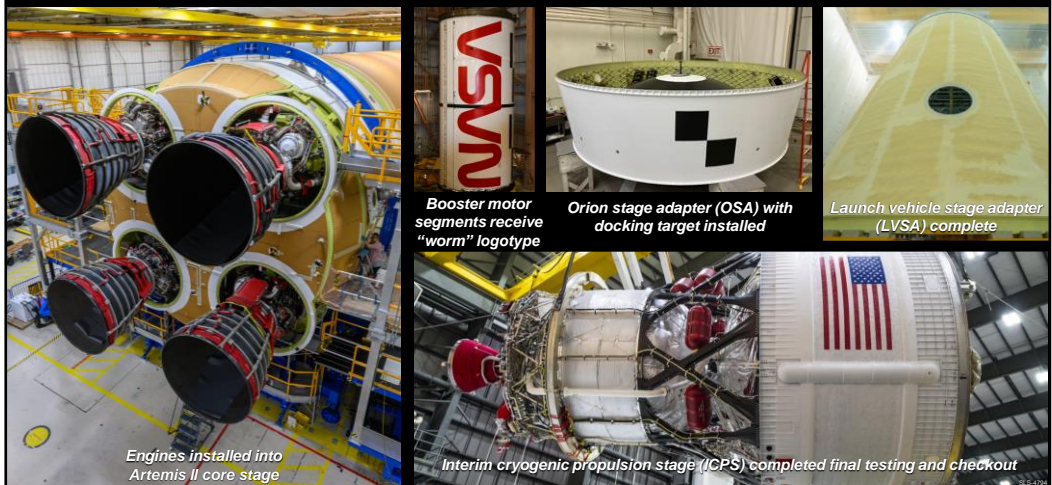
MAP DATE: MAR 2023

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Aimee Crane

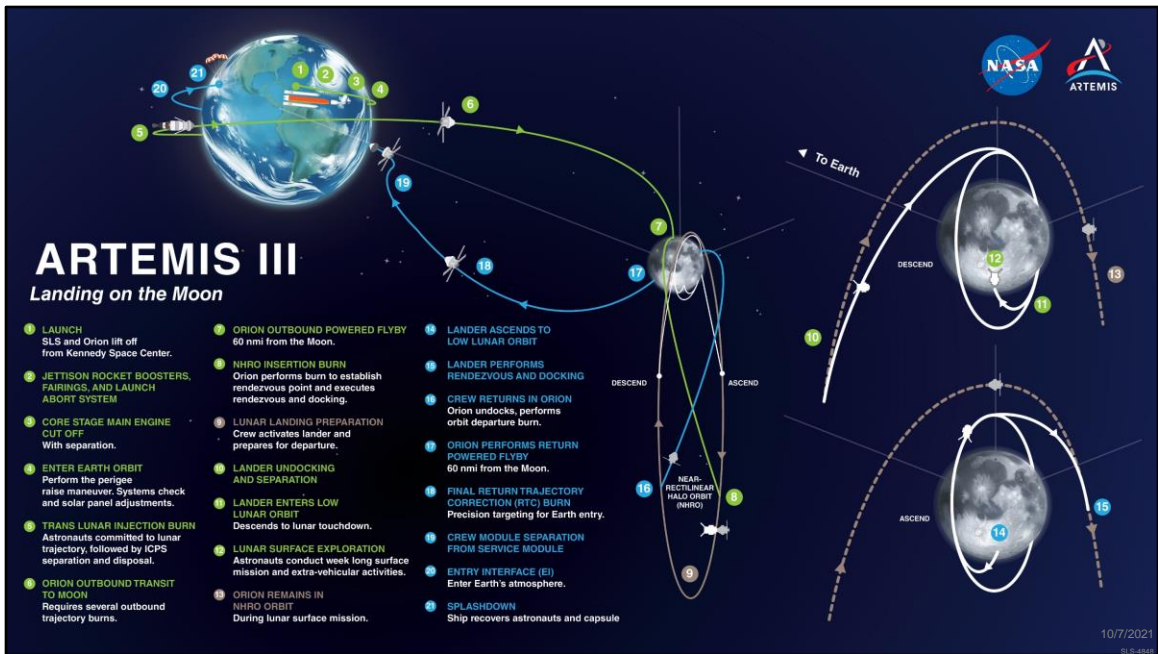
aimee.c.crane@nasa.gov

SLS PROGRESS TOWARD ARTEMIS II



Artemis II Progress: All elements of the second SLS Block 1 rocket for Artemis II, the first crewed lunar mission of the 21st century, are either complete and ready for stacking, or nearing completion.

- The 10 complete solid rocket booster motor segments arrived at KSC fall 2023. At KSC, NASA’s “worm” logotype has been painted on the booster segments, which will be stored in the Rotation, Processing & Surge Facility (RPSF) where the aft motor segment, nozzle and aft skirt are currently being mated to form the aft assemblies.
- The four Aerojet Rocketdyne, an L3Harris Technologies Company, RS-25 engines were installed into the core stage at NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana. The core stage completed Final Integrated Functional Testing at Michoud and is undergoing final outfitting ahead of its hardware acceptance review and delivery to KSC.
- The interim cryogenic propulsion stage (ICPS) completed final testing and checkout at United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta Operations Center (DOC) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS) and will be turned over to NASA’s Exploration Ground Systems in preparation for Artemis II stacking operations later this year.
- At NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Alabama, the launch vehicle stage adapter (LVSA) is complete, and the Orion Stage Adapter (OSA) has completed all work before its shipment to KSC.
- Artemis II flight software has been approved for release and installation into the Artemis II core stage.
- Also realizing production improvements in building CS-II:
 - The Artemis II core stage production schedule currently is averaging 50% improvement in schedule over the Artemis I core stage
 - We have so far seen a 70% improvement in labor hours on the engine section and 33% improvement on the intertank.
 - To break that down further, for the engine section, the most complex section of the core stage, we have seen a significant improvement in manufacturing discrepancies, a 97% improvement in rework hours and an overall 70% improvement in baseline labor hours required



Artemis III will feature the first crewed landing on the Moon since Apollo 17. The mission will use an SLS Block 1 Crew to launch Orion and the crew to the Moon with an ultimate lunar orbit insertion in the near rectilinear halo orbit (NRHO), which will enable them to reach their landing site at the lunar south pole – an area of the Moon Apollo astronauts did not explore.

Version Control

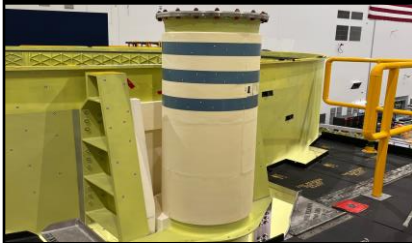
MAP DATE: OCT 2021

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Aimee Crane

aimee.c.crane@nasa.gov

SLS PROGRESS TOWARD ARTEMIS III



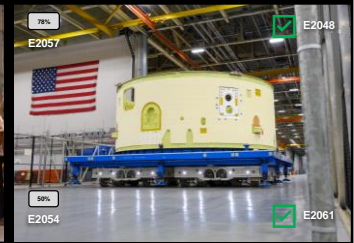
Engine section at NASA Kennedy



Booster segments complete



RS-25 flight set processed



Core stage forward skirt complete



ICPS
Delta Operations Center processing



LVSA Frangible Joint Assembly



Liquid oxygen tank manufactured



Liquid hydrogen tank moves to
Spray-on Foam Insulation
Facility

Artemis III Progress: The SLS Program has hardware complete or in work for every element of the Artemis III mission, the first lunar landing since 1972. The mission is currently scheduled for September 2026.

- In Utah, Northrop Grumman has completed all 10 motor segments. Work at KSC on the forward and aft assemblies is in progress at the Booster Fabrication Facility (BFF), with all 16 booster separation motors (BSMs) completed.
- The four RS-25 engines are complete at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.
- At Michoud, the core stage's liquid hydrogen (LH2) tank, liquid oxygen (LOX) tank, forward skirt, and intertank are structurally complete. Forward skirt integration and engine section outfitting is ongoing.
- MSFC received the OSA diaphragm in 2023. The LVSA is in the final phase of integration.
- The ICPS is undergoing additional processing at CCSFS in the ULA DOC Test Cell near KSC.

ARTEMIS IV AND BEYOND



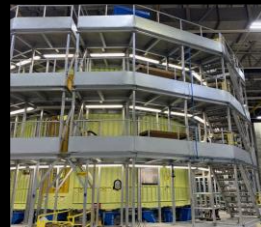
Exploration upper stage LOX dome weld confidence article



Engine section in progress



LH2 tank in progress



Intertank in progress



RL10 engines complete



Interstage structural test article aft L-ring on Ingersoll Machine



Universal stage adapter development test article in test stand at NASA Marshall

Artemis IV and Beyond: The Artemis IV flight is scheduled for 2028, and will use the first SLS Block 1B rocket featuring the more powerful exploration upper stage (EUS) and a universal stage adapter (USA) carrying a large co-manifested payload. The EUS, interstage, and USA will replace the LVSA, OSA, and ICPS from Block 1. Artemis IV's first co-manifested payload will be the International Habitation (iHab) Gateway module.

- The five barrel sections of the Artemis IV core stage LH2 tank are complete, and the engine section is being manufactured.
- Three of four RS-25 engines for Artemis IV have completed processing with the fourth to be completed in spring 2024.
- Aerojet Rocketdyne is making progress on manufacturing the first six RS-25 “restart” engines that will begin flying on Artemis V. These new engines will cost 30% less to manufacture and will operate at 111% thrust vs. 109% for the current RS-25 engine.
 - The first production engine began assembly Nov. 2, 2023. Aerojet Rocketdyne is under contract to produce 24 new RS-25 engines for Artemis V and beyond.
 - The second and final certification series of 12 RS-25 hot fire tests to support restart engine certification began in October 2023 with nine completed by mid-March, 2024.
 - The first new-production RS-25 flight engine is planned for acceptance hot firing in fall 2024.
- Seven Artemis IV booster motor segments have been cast with propellant, with the eighth scheduled to be cast in April 2024. Aft skirt structures refurbishment is complete. Northrop Grumman is fabricating nozzles.
- The boosters team and prime contractor Northrop Grumman are working to design, develop, and test next-generation boosters after shuttle-era case hardware is expended. These composite-case boosters, being developed under the Booster Obsolescence and Life Extension (BOLE) contract modification, will

THE BACKBONE OF ARTEMIS

HUMAN DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION CAPABILITY



SLS

The only rocket with the power and capability required to carry astronauts to deep space onboard the Orion spacecraft.

ORION

The only spacecraft capable of carrying and sustaining crew on missions to deep space, providing emergency abort capability, and safe re-entry from lunar return velocities.

NATIONAL CAPABILITY

The SLS and Orion programs (including Exploration Ground Systems at NASA Kennedy Space Center) leverage over 3,800 suppliers and over 60,000 workers across all 50 states.

Built by America - for America – in the public eye – for a new generation of space explorers. This is America's rocket.

SLS is the only exploration-class vehicle capable of sending humans to deep space along with the large systems necessary to live and work in deep space.

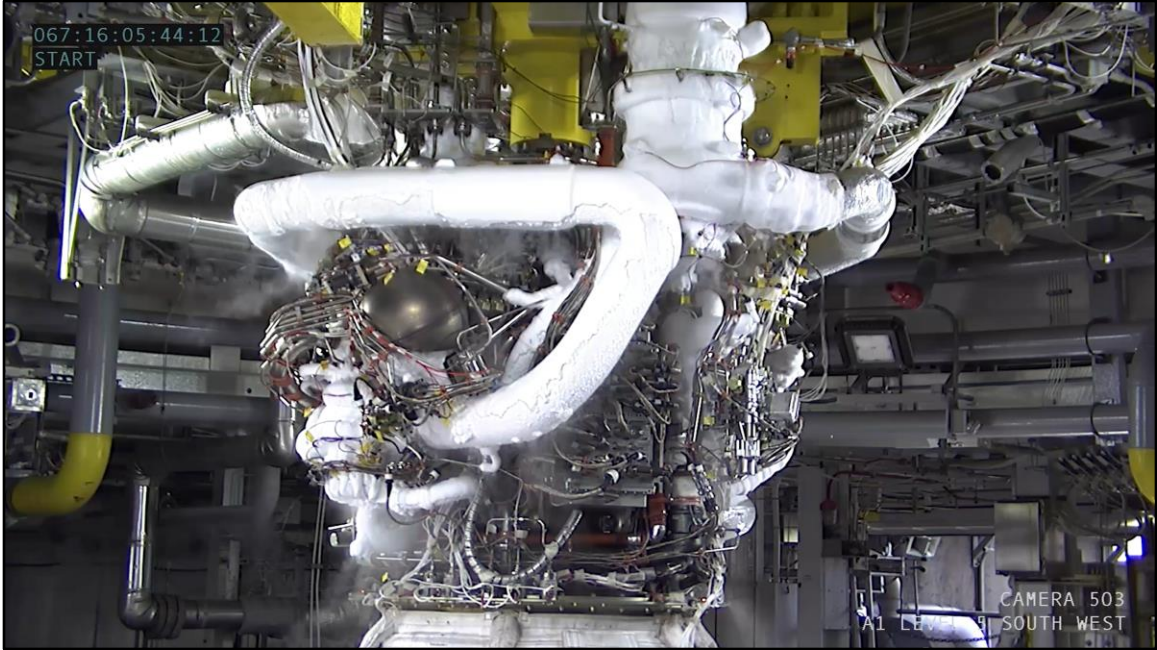
SLS has the **power and capacity to lift large and complex payloads, reducing the number of launches needed to put hardware into space.**

SLS stands at 322' tall, weighing in at 5.75 million pounds and boasting 8.8m lbs of thrust.

Orion is the only spacecraft capable of sustaining human life in deep space

Exploration Ground Systems – provide the technology, skill and equipment to launch SLS and recover Orion.

With all that power and capability, SLS is the only rocket capable of fulfilling the missions of the Artemis program



VIDEO (NO AUDIO): RS-25 Engine Testing at Stennis



Here's how you can keep an eye on us... our social media platforms. We're putting new pictures and stories out every day.