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FIRST SPACE SHUTTLE MAIN ENGINE PASSES ACCEPTANCE TEST

Space Shuttle Main Engine #2007, the first of the orbiter Columbia's three engines to be flight acceptance tested, passed the test with flying colors Saturday, May 12, when it was successfully fired for a 520-second endurance run simulating a launch into space.

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May 16, 1979



The engine will now be given detailed electrical and mechanical checkouts and data from the tests will be reviewed before it is formally accepted by officials of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala. Formal acceptance will follow a final review in late May at the test facility in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Flight acceptance tests for engine #2007 began April 25 with a 1.5-second ignition test firing. A 100-second calibration test firing was performed May 2.

After formal acceptance by NASA, the engine will be shipped by truck to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., where it will be installed on the Space Shuttle orbiter Columbia.

The Columbia's other two engines have been delivered to the Mississippi test facility. They will be subjected to the same test procedures as engine #2007 before being accepted and shipped to the launch facility in Florida.

The Space Shuttle main engines are manufactured and tested by Rocketdyne Division, Rockwell International, Canoga Park, Calif. Testing is conducted at NASA's National Space Technology Laboratories in Mississippi.