



## Aerojet Rocketdyne Successfully Demonstrates Advanced Electric Propulsion Capabilities for Future Space Exploration

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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 28, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aerojet Rocketdyne successfully completed its early systems integration test for NASA's Advanced Electric Propulsion System (AEPS) program, a next-generation propulsion capability that will further enable deep space missions. Under the AEPS contract, Aerojet Rocketdyne will develop and qualify a 13-kilowatt Hall thruster string for NASA, bolstering future exploration missions, as well as commercial space endeavors.

This most recent test focused on the power elements of the AEPS Hall thruster string: the discharge supply unit (DSU) and the power processing unit (PPU). The test proved the system's ability to successfully convert power at a high efficiency level, producing minimal waste heat. The early integrated systems test combined a breadboard AEPS PPU and a DSU with a NASA development thruster and tested them in a thermal vacuum chamber at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

"By staying on the cutting edge of propulsion technology, we have positioned ourselves for a major role not only in getting back to the Moon, but also in any future initiative to send people to Mars," said Eileen Drake, Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and president. "AEPS is the vanguard for the next generation of deep space exploration and we're thrilled to be at the mast."

"Our AEPS discharge supply unit performed exceptionally, yielding significant conversion efficiency improvements important for future demanding missions," Drake continued. "These results are a testament to the Aerojet Rocketdyne team's focus and dedication to advancing the state of the art in this critical in-space technology area."

With the early systems integration test in the books, the team will move into the design finalization and verification phase leading up to the critical design review (CDR), in which the design will be finalized and cleared for production.

The AEPS thrusters could be used on the power and propulsion element of NASA's Gateway, the agency's lunar orbiting outpost for robotic and human exploration operations in deep space. Built with commercial partners, the power and propulsion element will demonstrate 50-kW class solar electric propulsion to support exploration on and near the Moon, and beyond, including Mars.

**About Aerojet Rocketdyne:** Aerojet Rocketdyne, a subsidiary of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:AJRD), is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader that provides propulsion systems and energetics to the space, missile defense and strategic systems, and tactical systems areas, in support of domestic and international customers. For more information, visit [www.Rocket.com](http://www.Rocket.com) and [www.AerojetRocketdyne.com](http://www.AerojetRocketdyne.com). Follow Aerojet Rocketdyne and CEO Eileen Drake on Twitter at [@AerojetRdyne](https://twitter.com/AerojetRdyne) and [@DrakeEileen](https://twitter.com/DrakeEileen).

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