



## All RS-25 Flight Controllers Delivered for First Four Flights of NASA's SLS Rocket

October 31, 2018

- *Company now has RS-25 controllers for the first four SLS missions at its Stennis facility*
- *13 flight controllers have been successfully hot-fire tested*
- *SLS RS-25 engines remain on track for EM-1 and future missions*

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss., Oct. 31, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aerojet Rocketdyne recently took delivery of the remaining flight controllers that serve as the brains of the RS-25 engines. All flight controllers for the first four flights of the Space Launch System (SLS) are now located at Aerojet Rocketdyne's facility at NASA Stennis.

The controllers are key components in the RS-25 engine. Each of the four RS-25 engines that power the SLS first stage is equipped with a controller that communicates with the rocket while regulating engine thrust levels, and monitoring health and performance. The controllers, supplied by Honeywell, represent one of several technology updates being made to the engine, which generates 512,000 pounds of thrust at altitude.

"The RS-25 program continues to achieve important milestones as we work toward the initial round of flights of America's newest exploration rocket," said Eileen Drake, Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and president. "We look forward to continuing to outfit the 16 engines remaining in our inventory from the shuttle with these upgraded controllers."

With the recent delivery, Aerojet Rocketdyne has 18 of the modern controllers on hand, including 16 flight units, one qualification unit, and one flight spare. The flight controllers are undergoing testing at Stennis, with the latest test taking place on Oct. 31.

During the latest 500-second firing, the engine, an RS-25 unit used exclusively for ground testing, tested its 13th flight controller to fly on an SLS mission. The test also continued validation of modern manufacturing techniques that Aerojet Rocketdyne is incorporating into future expendable versions of the RS-25 to reduce costs while maintaining engine reliability.

These new components include an additively manufactured Pogo Accumulator Assembly, a beach ball-sized component that reduces vehicle oscillations during flight. This was the ninth successful test of an additive manufactured Pogo assembly. The firing also marked the fifth test for a new Main Combustion Chamber that was fabricated using an innovative bonding technique, known as Hot Isostatic Pressing or HIP.

Aerojet Rocketdyne has delivered all four engines for the first SLS flight, known as Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1) scheduled for 2020, and is now working on preparing engines for future flights beyond the first mission.

**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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Source: Aerojet Rocketdyne, Inc.