



## NASA Sets Date for First Hot Fire Test of Space Launch System Core Stage

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STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss., Jan. 05, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Four Aerojet Rocketdyne RS-25 engines are being targeted to hot fire in unison for the first time on Jan. 17 as part of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) [Green Run](#) test series. These engines will power the SLS rocket as the U.S. prepares to return humans to the Moon to stay and then on to Mars.

The upcoming 493-second hot fire test will mirror the engines' thrust profile in flight and is the [main event of the SLS Core Stage Green Run](#) test series that has been underway since January 2020.

"The Core Stage Green Run includes several first-time events for the world's largest rocket stage, including the first firing of all four RS-25 engines together," said Eileen P. Drake, Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and president. "Our RS-25 team has been working hand-in-hand with NASA and core stage manufacturer Boeing to ensure SLS is ready for liftoff."

All four RS-25 engines that are part of the Core Stage Green Run originally flew on the Space Shuttle and are being reused for SLS. [These specific engines have already been a part of history](#): flying the Space Shuttle to dock with the Russian Mir Space Station, returning U.S. Senator and former Mercury astronaut John Glenn to space; constructing the International Space Station; and carrying astronauts to service the Hubble Space Telescope. Now these engines are ready to make history again by helping humans return to the Moon.

Once the hot fire is complete, the SLS core stage will be inspected, refurbished and prepared for flight at NASA's Stennis Space Center prior to delivery to NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC). Once at KSC, the core stage will be integrated with the solid rocket boosters and the Orion spacecraft in preparation for the Artemis I launch, which is scheduled for 2021.

The first four SLS missions will use RS-25 engines originally built for the Space Shuttle and upgraded with modern avionics. Subsequent SLS missions will use newly built RS-25 engines with additively manufactured components and other features designed to reduce costs.

**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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