



Aerojet Rocketdyne to Provide Propulsion for Three Additional Orion Spacecraft

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New contract will support NASA's Artemis Missions VI-VIII

REDMOND, Wash., April 19, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Aerojet Rocketdyne recently received a \$67 million contract award from Lockheed Martin to provide propulsion systems for the Orion spacecraft that are planned to launch on Artemis missions VI-VIII. This new work is an extension of the 2019 [Orion Production and Operations Contract \(OPOC\)](#). The Orion spacecraft recently completed a successful test flight during NASA's Artemis I mission, proving it is capable of safely carrying humans to deep space on Artemis II.

"Aerojet Rocketdyne propulsion on NASA's Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket contributed to the success of the historic Artemis I mission, from liftoff to splashdown," said Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and President Eileen P. Drake. "We're proud to be part of a team that has demonstrated the ability to safely and efficiently carry astronauts on future Artemis missions, effectively ushering in an exciting new generation of human spaceflight."

This contract option includes delivery of three additional sets of Orion's service module auxiliary engines and three additional jettison motors. The eight auxiliary engines each produce 105 pounds of thrust to help maintain Orion's in-space trajectory and position, and supplement the Orion Main Engine. The jettison motor, located on Orion's Launch Abort System (LAS), generates 40,000 pounds of thrust to separate the LAS from the crew module during both nominal operations and abort scenarios, allowing the spacecraft to continue on its journey. The jettison motor is the only motor on the LAS that fires during every mission.

[Aerojet Rocketdyne was awarded a separate contract](#) in 2021 to provide new Orion Main Engines for future Artemis missions, and [Lockheed Martin plans](#) to use refurbished crew modules, which are propelled by reaction control thrusters, also built by Aerojet Rocketdyne, for later Artemis missions.

"Orion is NASA's deep space exploration vehicle," continued Drake. "Aerojet Rocketdyne is delivering the propulsion systems that will take the first woman and the first person of color to the Moon and create a sustainable presence on the lunar surface and develop technologies that will one day enable us to send astronauts to Mars."

The contract for three shipsets of Orion propulsion elements will be managed and performed out of the company's facility in Redmond, Washington. Work will also be conducted at Aerojet Rocketdyne facilities in Huntsville, Alabama, and Orange County, Virginia.

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 and 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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