



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards Tours NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility

NASA officials were joined by Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and New Orleans

NASA's newest spacecraft to wind turbines to advanced composite materials.



NASA officials were joined by Office of Governor John Bel Edwards and Mayor Mitch Landrieu-City of New Orleans Wed., Nov. 1 as they toured the Michoud Assembly Facility and got a first-hand look at hardware for NASA's Space Launch System and NASA's Orion Spacecraft being built at the facility.

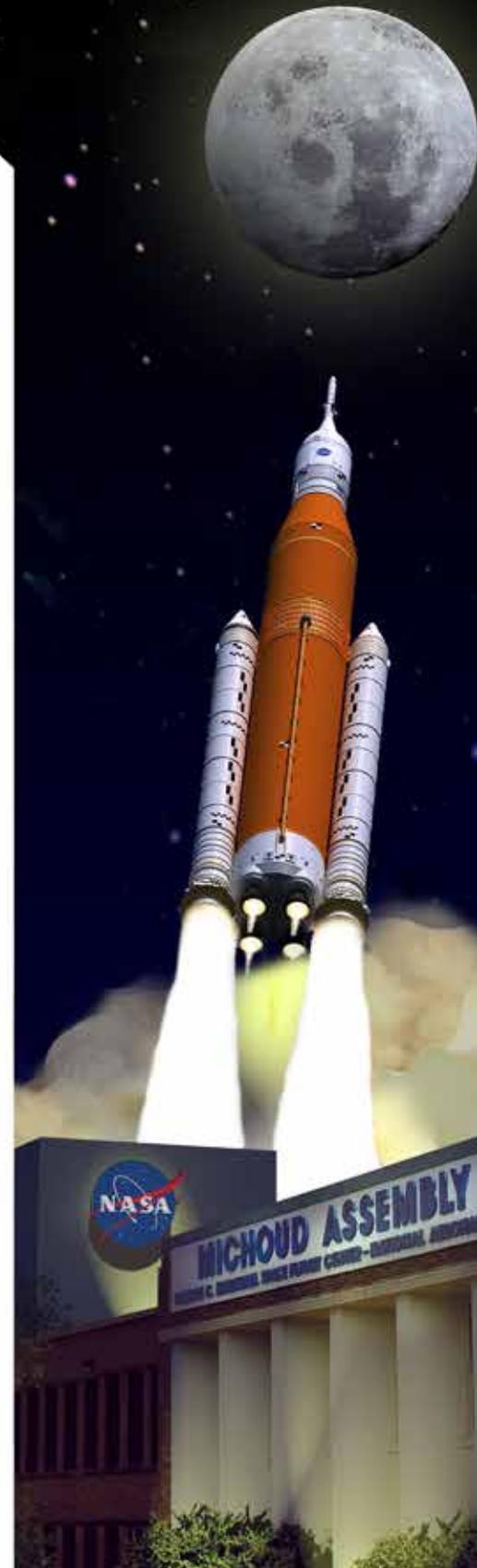
Mayor Mitch Landrieu, who toured the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans and got a first-hand look at NASA's new deep space vehicles being built at the facility.

NASA is building key parts of the world's most powerful rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), and the Orion spacecraft at Michoud, one of the largest modern manufacturing facilities in America. Edwards discussed new businesses interested in locating at the Michoud facility, where 20 companies and more than 3,000 employees currently produce everything from

"NASA's valuable and collaborative relationship with the state of Louisiana advances America's manufacturing capabilities and helps NASA succeed in our human exploration mission," said Todd May, director for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, which manages Michoud. "With the support of the state of Louisiana, we've created a world-class manufacturing hub right here in New Orleans at the Michoud Assembly Facility."

Advanced manufacturing technologies and a highly-qual-

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Letter from Leadership

Michoud Team,



*Keith Hefner,
Michoud Director*

2017 has been another busy and productive year for us and as this year comes to an end, I wanted to highlight major successes we have achieved. The Michoud team showed our strength as we overcame challenges posed by the

tornado that touched down

in February. Our team has grown with Boeing almost doubling its Michoud workforce to build the Space Launch System (SLS). We are posed to grow again. Most recently, Louisiana Economic Development hosted an event at Hero's Way with Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu. Marshall Space Flight Center Director Todd May and industry partners participated in the event. Key announcements were made supporting Michoud's positive impact to the local economy. Two of our existing tenants are realizing growth and there is the potential for a new tenant to be onsite early 2018.

We recently held our second Tenant Interchange Meeting this year as well. This allowed management to interact directly with our tenants and partners, report information regarding the demolition of building 350, continued tornado recovery efforts and facility improvement plans, and provide a comprehensive review of IT services.

Over the past few months, Michoud also celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Coast Guard Exchange for the new gas pumps and hosted a site-wide Health and Safety Fair. Additionally, Ochsner Health Services opened their doors to provide medical services to our employees and the community.

The Michoud team can be proud of our role in helping SLS meet significant milestones. The core stage engine section structural test article was shipped from Michoud to Marshall this summer on NASA's barge Pegusus. A series of

stress tests were completed and data analysis is now underway. The core stage pathfinder was delivered to Michoud to begin practice operations for moving, lifting and transporting the Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1) core stage. All major hardware for structural testing and EM-1 have completed welding or assembly, and are undergoing installation of insulation, wiring, piping, brackets, and more. Additionally, early production has begun on the core stage for the second SLS mission. It takes a committed team to accomplish what we do.

I also wanted to remind employees of a recent email sent from Jen Rae Wang, NASA Associate Administrator, Office of Communications, regarding signing up to participate in the NASA Speakers Bureau. I encourage you to join on behalf of Michoud. This is a great way to engage our local community on the positive work taking place. For more information on the Speakers Bureau, please visit <https://speakers.grc.nasa.gov/speaker/> or contact Marcia Cobun marcia.b.cobun@nasa.gov or Cindy Wester cynthia.a.wester@nasa.gov at Marshall Space Flight Center. They look forward to hearing from you.

The work that has been accomplished and the work that lies ahead at Michoud throughout the next several years supports the new National Space Council and the policy set for American leadership in space. I commend all of you who work endlessly in support of NASA, our facility, our tenants and employees. America's Rocket Factory is an exciting place to work and together we will continue to achieve amazing things. I look forward to 2018!

Wishing you a very happy New Year,

*- Keith Hefner,
Director of Michoud
Assembly Facility*

Editor's Note: If you have a question or topic you'd like to see Keith address in his column, please email him at keith.hefner@nasa.gov.

Gov. Edwards visits Michoud

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ified and productive workforce make Michoud a desirable place for growing companies. Michoud is home to the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, a partnership between NASA, the state of Louisiana, Louisiana State University and the University of New Orleans to provide technology leadership and innovative manufacturing techniques for companies.

“Clearly our longstanding relationship with NASA is paying big dividends for Louisiana and New Orleans,” Gov. Edwards said. “Our National Center for Advanced Manufacturing, coupled with our aerospace training initiative at Nunez Community College, are positioning Michoud Assembly Facility for a new aerospace era that will drive innovation, employment and economic growth for Louisiana. We are happy to be home to NASA’s assembly operations — more than 2 million square feet under roof — in one of the world’s most advanced manufacturing facilities that is attracting new investment and jobs for our people.”

Gov. Edwards announced that Advanced Cutting Systems, a New Orleans company already located at Michoud, plans to add new jobs as it prepares custom composite materials for wind energy turbine blades. At Michoud, Boeing, headquartered in Chicago, is manufacturing the

largest rocket stage ever built—the SLS core stage—and will make a new powerful exploration upper stage for future SLS missions. The company plans to add jobs to complete this work. Many of the companies at Michoud located at the facility are here because of cooperation between NASA and the Louisiana Economic Development Fast Start Program, which is the state’s top workforce development agency. The program supports Michoud companies, such as Boeing, by providing equipment and curricula for a Center of Aerospace Manufacturing Excellence at nearby Nunez Community College.

“Michoud is even more than a rocket factory,” said Keith Hefner, NASA’s director of the Michoud facility. “Our partnership with the state of Louisiana has provided us with critical skills and support needed to fulfill NASA’s goals of building cutting edge hardware for the agency’s Space Launch System and the Orion crew spacecraft, plus expand the use of the plant to meet the needs of our government, industry and academic tenants. NASA encourages new companies and industries to take advantage of the many assets Michoud’s unique facility has to offer.”

Pathfinder at Michoud to Pave the Way for SLS



NASA’s Space Launch System (SLS) core stage pathfinder, which is a full-scale simulator of the actual SLS flight stage, recently arrived at Michoud by barge. Radiance Technologies and Dynetics in Huntsville designed and help build the pathfinder. G&G Steel performed the final welding and assembly of the steel structure at their plant in Cordova, Alabama. NASA will use the pathfinder at Michoud, Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, and Kennedy Space Center in Florida to practice the transportation of an SLS core stage, as well as handling the size and weight of a fully-assembled core stage at those different locations before they have to start doing it with the real thing as early as next year. The pathfinder was designed to mimic the “form and fit” of a real core stage. It has the same weight, center of gravity, size and shape as a finished, empty SLS core stage, which is how the rocket will be delivered by barge from Michoud to Stennis and/or Kennedy. The pathfinder weighs about 228,000 pounds, is 27.6-feet in diameter, and about 212 feet in length from the top of the forward skirt to the bottom of the engine nozzles

Ochsner Now Open!



The doors are open at the new Ochsner Health Center at Michoud Assembly Facility. Michoud employees and the New Orleans East community now have access to comprehensive healthcare services. This location offers convenient care from a local health system that accepts over 40 types of insurance and offers same-day appointments. Services include primary care and virtual visits (for neurology and diabetes education services). In 2018, the clinic also will provide physical therapy and virtual visit (for cardiology) services. Primary care appointments can be scheduled by calling 504-703-8940.

Veterans Day



NASA Michoud honored veterans during the 4th Annual Veterans Day Celebration in November. The U.S. Coast Guard presented the colors, and Ron Adams sang the National Anthem to open the ceremony. Lonnie Dutreix, Acting Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Roslin Hicks, Acting Deputy Director and Keith Hefner, Director, addressed the attendees during a coinig ceremony, along with guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Baillie, of the United States Marine Corp. Thank you to all of those who have served in our nation's military. We appreciate so much.

Toys for Tots



The U. S. Marine Corps thanks all the Michoud employees for their generous donations to the Toys for Tots Program. During our toy drive this year, a few hundred toys and games, as well as many bikes, were collected. The U. S. Marine Corps Reserve distributes these toys to less-fortunate children throughout the Greater New Orleans region. The program allows NASA employees to help families by enabling them to experience the joy of Christmas and receive a message of caring and hope.

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