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## RS-25 Main Engine Controllers Tested for SLS Debut

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss., Aug. 09, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Today at NASA's Stennis Space Center, Aerojet Rocketdyne, a subsidiary of Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:AJRD), tested its fourth RS-25 engine controller needed for the inaugural flight of NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) during Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1). Slated to debut in 2019, SLS will be the world's most powerful and versatile rocket.

"The SLS rocket will enable missions no other current rocket can, such as landing humans on Mars and sending large science payloads to other planets in record time," said Aerojet Rocketdyne CEO and President Eileen Drake. "This is the rocket the nation will rely on for decades."

Four RS-25 main engines built by Aerojet Rocketdyne provide more than two million pounds of thrust for the first stage of the SLS rocket. These are the world's most reliable rocket engines with 14 of 16 assigned to the SLS program having previously flown on the Space Shuttle. NASA and Aerojet Rocketdyne are testing the RS-25 engines to confirm they can withstand the SLS flight environment as well as certifying the new engine controllers.

New engine controllers are a central technology upgrade that these engines are receiving. These controllers weigh less, use less power and have fewer parts, but are more robust than their shuttle era counterparts and provide two times the reliability. The flight controller is the "brain" of the engine, translating the vehicle's commands into action while monitoring the health of the engine.

"The upgraded RS-25 engines are just one example of how the country is preparing a new course for deep space exploration," said Dan Adamski, RS-25 program director at Aerojet Rocketdyne. "EM-1 is the first step in a new roadmap to explore the solar system."

EM-1 is the first launch of the SLS and upgraded RS-25 engines; it is also the first integrated test of SLS and the Orion spacecraft. During the three-week mission, the Orion spacecraft will travel in a distant retrograde orbit around the moon and return safely back to Earth.

Aerojet Rocketdyne is an innovative company delivering solutions that create value for its customers in the aerospace and defense markets. The company is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader that provides propulsion and energetics to the space, missile defense and strategic systems, tactical systems and armaments areas, in support of domestic and international markets. Additional information about Aerojet Rocketdyne can be obtained by visiting our websites at [www.Rocket.com](http://www.Rocket.com) and [www.AerojetRocketdyne.com](http://www.AerojetRocketdyne.com).

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