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# **Update on Risk Reduction Activities for a Liquid Advanced Booster for NASA's Space Launch System**

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**68<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress, Adelaide, Australia, Sept 25-29, 2017**



## Overview and Introduction to ABEDRR

- **Goals of NASA's Advanced Booster Engineering Demonstration and/or Risk Reduction (ABEDRR) are to:**
  - Reduce risks leading to an affordable Advanced Booster that meets the evolved capabilities of SLS
  - Enable competition by mitigating targeted Advanced Booster risks to enhance SLS affordability
- **SLS Block 1 vehicle is being designed to carry 70 mT to LEO**
  - Uses two five-segment solid rocket boosters (SRBs) similar to the boosters that helped power the space shuttle to orbit
- **Evolved 130 mT payload class rocket requires an advanced booster with more thrust than any existing U.S. liquid- or solid-fueled boosters**



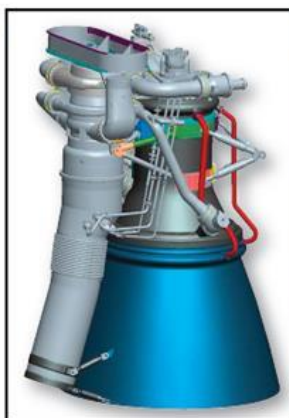
## Scope of This Presentation

- **In October 2012 and February 2013, NASA awarded a contract to Dynetics, Inc. (with Aerojet Rocketdyne as a major subcontractor):**
  - To demo the use of modern manufacturing techniques to produce and test several primary components of the F-1 rocket engine originally developed for the Apollo Program, including an integrated powerpack
  - To demo innovative fab techniques for metallic cryo tanks
- **Early 2014, NASA and Dynetics agreed to move additional large liquid oxygen/kerosene engine work under Dynetics**
  - Originally had been its own ABEDRR prime contract to Aerojet
- **Led by Aerojet Rocketdyne, work is focused on an Oxidizer-Rich Staged Combustion (ORSC) cycle engine**
  - Can apply to both NASA's Advanced Booster and other launch vehicle applications, including Atlas V booster engine
  - Effort will demonstrate combustion stability and performance of a full-scale ORSC cycle main injector and chamber
- **This presentation will discuss the Dynetics ABEDRR engine task (both efforts) and structures task achievements to date**

# Dynetics Risk Reduction Task Summary



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## Engineering Demonstrations and Risk Reduction Tasks

## Benefit of Proposed Effort/Status at Start of DDT&E

### F-1B Engine Risk Reduction

#### Aerojet Rocketdyne Lead

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Gas Generator Build and Test             | • Full-Scale, Low-Cost, Production-Like, Throttling GG Hot-Fired     |
| • Turbopump Build                          | • Full-Scale, Low-Cost, Production-Like, Throttling TPA Built        |
| • Powerpack Build and Test                 | • Full-Scale, Low-Cost, Production-Like, Throttling PPA Hot-Fired    |
| • Thrust Chamber Assembly Design and Build | • Full-Scale, Low-Cost, Production-Like, HIP-Bonded TCA Demonstrated |

B



### Structures Risk Reduction

#### Dynetics Lead

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Cryotank Assembly Build          | • Full-Scale 18-ft Diameter Flight-Like Tank and Intertank Verified |
| • Cryotank Proof and Thermal Cycle | • Full-Scale Design, Tooling, and Build Processes Verified          |

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### ORSC Cycle Engine Risk Reduction

#### Aerojet Rocketdyne Lead

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Main Injector and Thrust Chamber Assembly Design, Build, and Test | • Full-Scale Demonstration of Combustion Stability and Performance Measurement |
|---|--|

# Overall F-1B Engine Risk Reduction Summary

- **Program objective was to reduce F-1B engine development risks—despite funding challenges, the effort met this objective:**
  - Demonstrated F-1B engine and component understanding and readiness
  - Completed a heritage gas generator (GG) hot-fire test series, proving throttling capability
  - Completed an additively manufactured GG injector hot-fire test series, proving similarity to heritage
  - Disassembled and reverse engineered existing Mk-10A turbopump
  - Demonstrated long-term affordability through full-scale demonstrations of an additively manufactured GG injector and a cast LOX volute, turbine blades, and turbine manifold
  - Prepared main propellant valves for test
  - Integrated engine loads and design, developed transient operational models, and designed interfaces with the facility for Powerpack testing
  - Developed a new MCC design focused on dramatic cost reductions



## Structures Risk Reduction – Cryotank Build

- **Structures risk reduction task planned to validate the designs, materials, equipment, and processes to produce robust and affordable structures**
- **The task created a full-scale cryotank assembly that was verified by proof pressure and cryo-thermal cycle testing**
- **Original plan was to build a tank with four barrel sections, but NASA negotiated with Dynetics to reduce schedule and cost by building a tank with a single cylindrical barrel**
  - **Circumferential welding still demonstrated, and testing still completed**





# Structures Risk Reduction – Testing

## Cryothermal Cycle / Proof Test



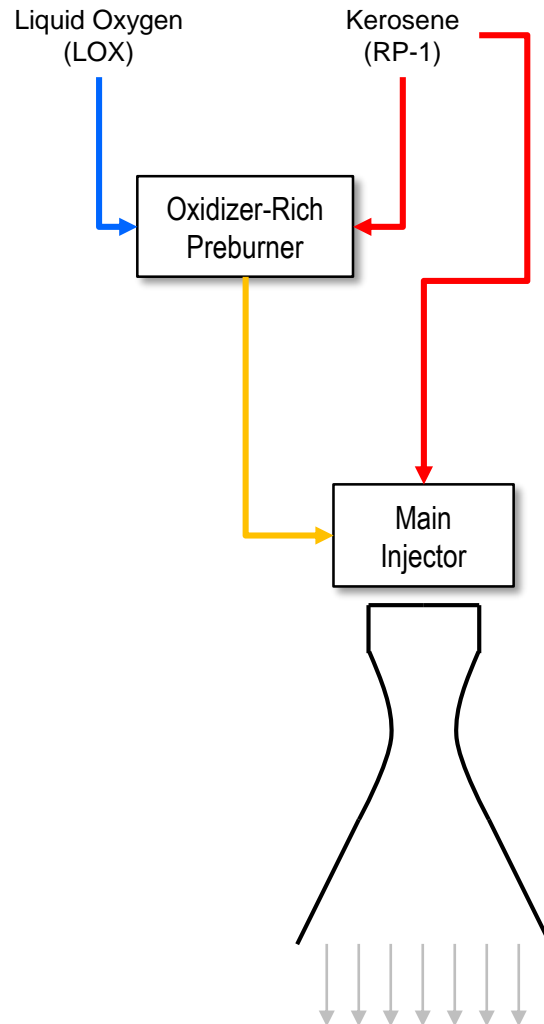
Integrated test article chilled  
with LN<sub>2</sub>

Moments after tank burst

## Burst Test

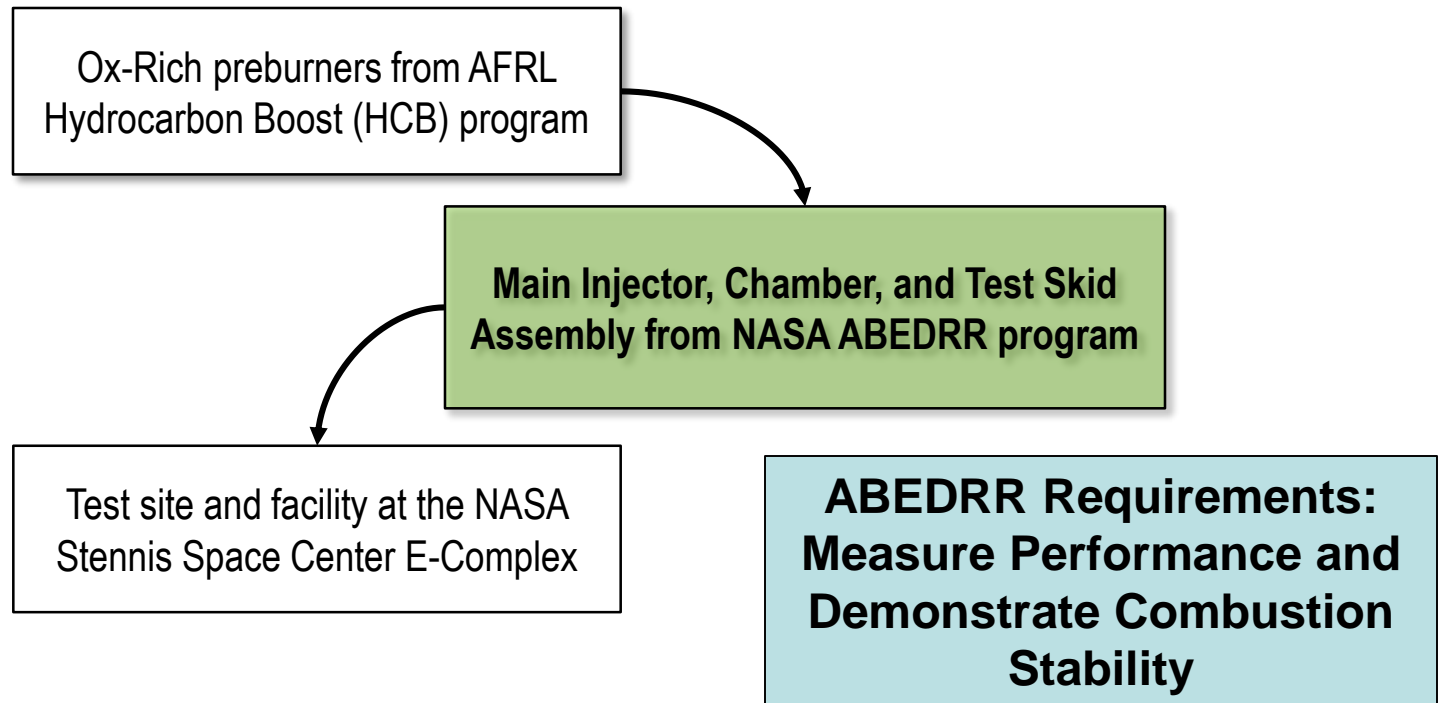


# Ox-Rich Staged Combustion (ORSC) Cycle Engine



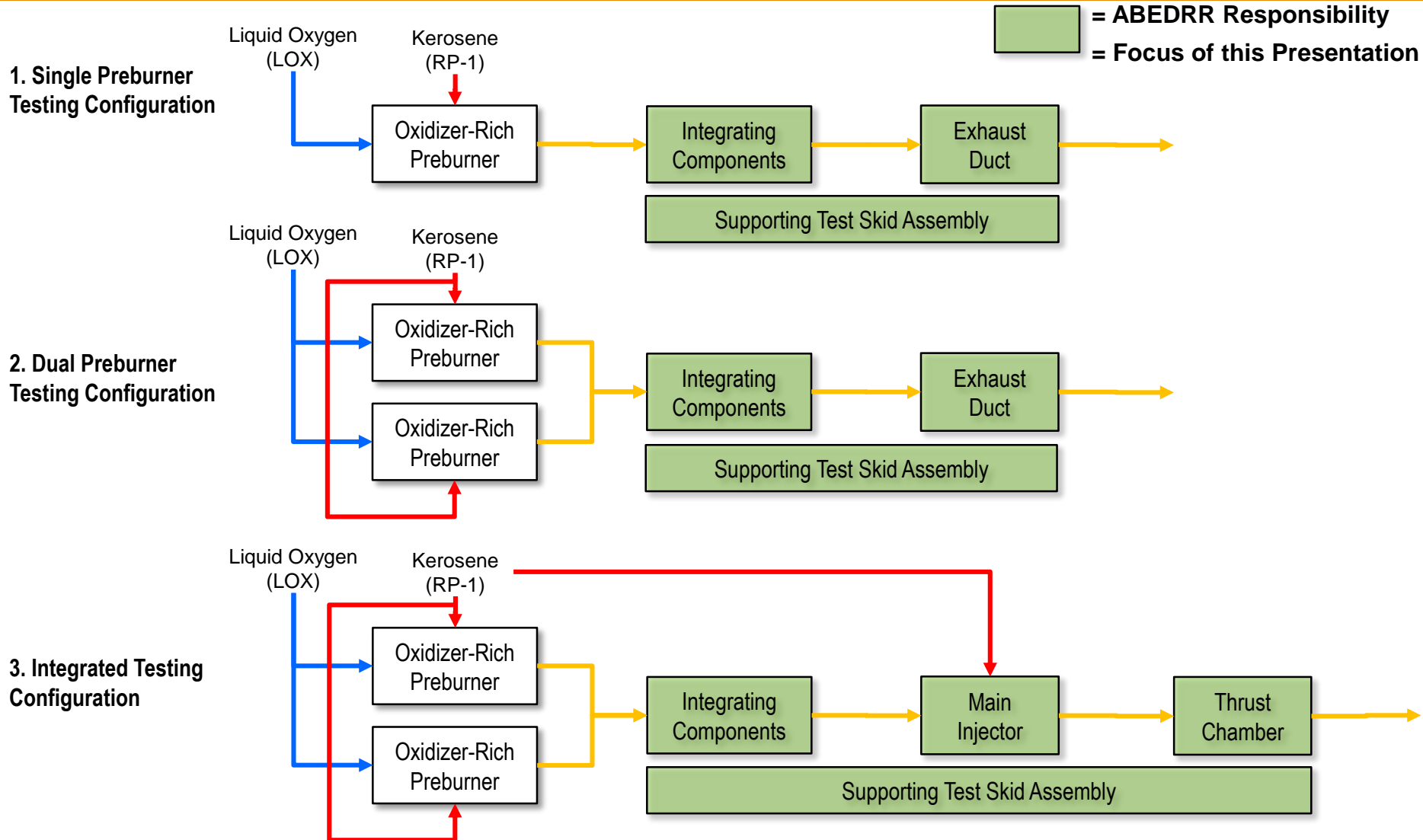


# NASA/USAF-Funded Integrated Ox-Rich Test Article



- Preburner testing at the 250 klbf thrust level. ORSC main injector combustion stability and injector performance results at 500 klbf thrust level. Direct design information and model validation data.

# Test Configurations





## Main Injector Summary Status

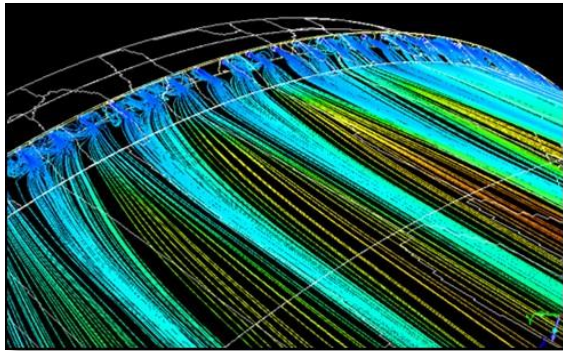
- **Completed CDR in Mar 2016; Delta CDR in June 2016 with NASA & USAF**
- **Resolved thermal compatibility issues to eliminate hot spots / streaks**
- **Performed acoustic analyses to find stable configurations and conditions**
- **Performed structural analysis to determine injector has positive margins and meets life requirements**
- **Finalized design of injector elements and injector assembly**
- **Developed fabrication plan; verified with manufacturing demonstrators**
- **100% of drawings completed and released; ~100% out for fabrication**
- **Completed major forgings and finish machining**
- **Completed major assembly tasks**
- **Remaining items include:**
  - **Material coatings (e.g., thermal barrier coatings)**
  - **Small component fabrication for parts to be attached to the injector in the final stages of assembly**
  - **Final assembly and quality inspections**



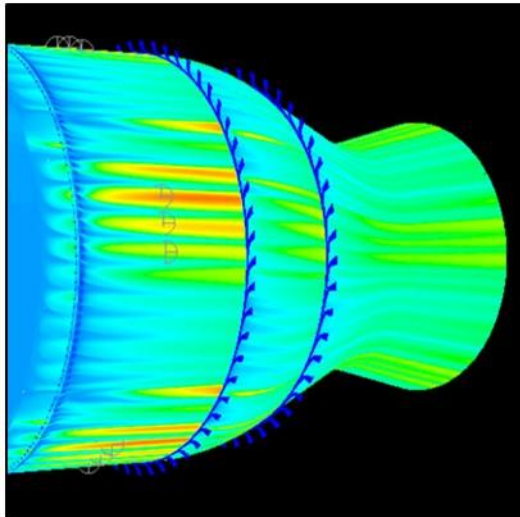
## Chamber Summary Status

- **Chamber = heat sink with 3 locations for boundary layer cooling injection**
- **Ran CFD and thermal analysis to determine driving temperatures at various power levels, engine conditions, cooling flows, etc.**
- **Resolved thermal compatibility issues to eliminate hot spots / streaks**
- **Performed structural analysis to determine chamber has positive margins and meets life requirements**
- **Finalized cooling design with thermal/structural and flow requirements**
- **Finalized design of chamber with features to reduce strain and improve low cycle fatigue; optimized geometry for manufacturability**
- **Defined and demonstrated key manufacturing processes (e.g., brazing)**
- **100% of drawings completed and released; ~100% out for fabrication**
- **Fabrication and machining of hardware nearly all complete**
- **Completed major assembly tasks**
- **Remaining items include:**
  - **Final fabrication steps**
  - **Final assembly and quality inspections**

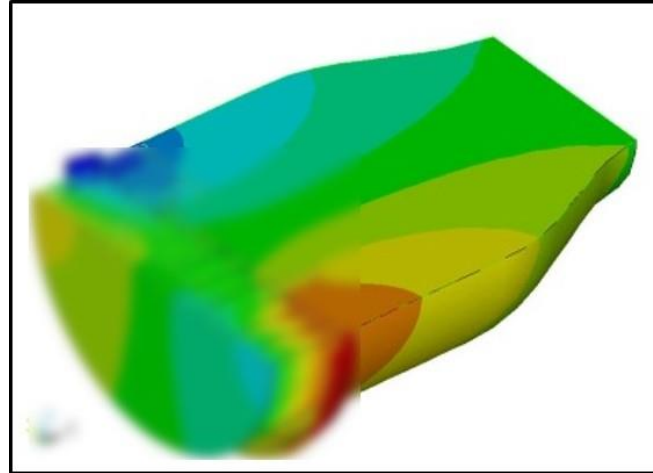
# Examples of Fluid, Thermal, Structural, and Acoustic Analyses



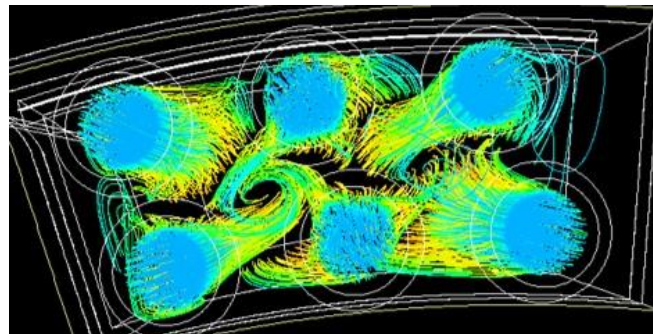
Analysis of coolant flow along chamber wall



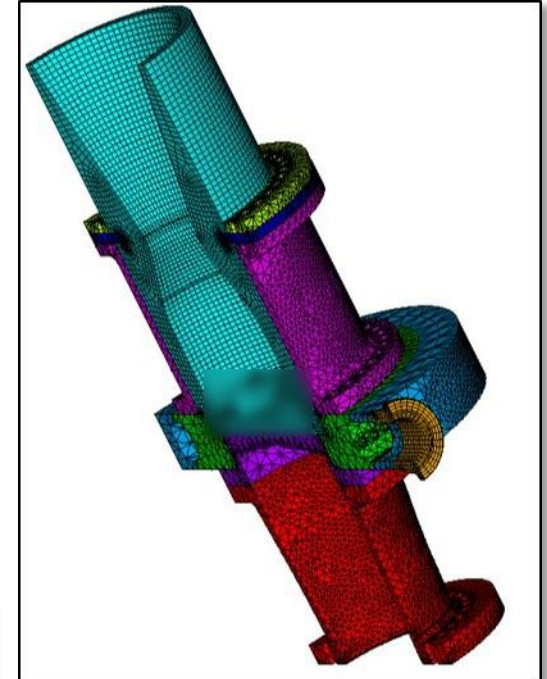
Chamber wall temperature analyses using CFD



Stability analysis / acoustic modeling of injector and chamber



Reacting flow CFD of injector streamlines



Structural model of thrust chamber assembly



## Integrating Components (IC) Summary Status

- **Integrating components = components that direct the hot gas flow from the customer-provided preburners to the exhaust duct (without the injector or TCA) or to the injector and TCA**
- **Completed CDR in Aug 2015; Delta CDR in Nov 2015**
- **100% of drawings completed and released; 100% out for fabrication**
- **Completed pouring and casting of all cast parts**
- **Started all additively manufactured parts; some already completed**
- **Machining of hardware on major parts nearly complete**
- **Most major components have already finished fabrication and are in storage at AR's NASA Stennis Space Center (SSC) location**
- **Remaining items include:**
  - **Complete fabrication on remaining components**
  - **Complete quality inspections**



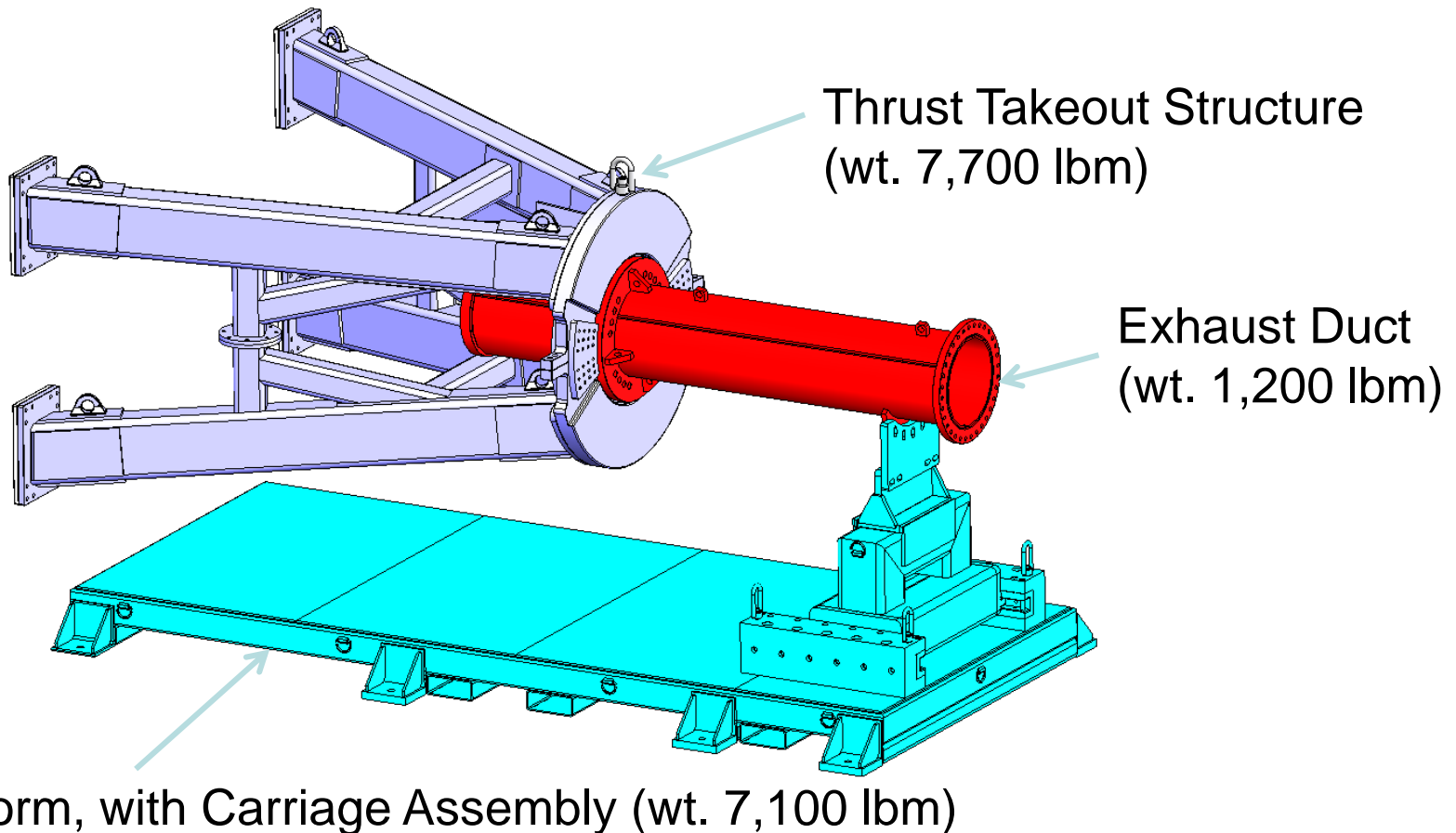


## Test Skid Assembly Summary Status

- **Test skid assembly = test article support structure that provides the structural interface for the test article(s) to the test facility**
- **Finalized the design and analysis, completing a Detailed Design Review (DDR) in Feb 2016**
- **Completed manufacture, assembly, and testing of all hardware**
- **Conducted Hardware Acceptance Review (HAR) in Jan 2017**
  - Verified that the assembly and all associated hardware met requirements
  - Delivered thrust takeout structure, test skid (with mounted carriage assembly), and primary exhaust duct to SSC
- **Conducted Delta HAR in Apr 2017**
  - Delivered secondary (backup) exhaust duct to SSC
- **All waiting in storage waiting to be installed**

## Test Skid Assembly Design Status

- Completed CoDR in Oct 2015, PDR in Dec 2015, DDR in Feb 2016
- Completed HAR in Jan 2017 and Delta HAR in Apr 2017





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## Test Skid Assembly – Manufactured Thrust Takeout Structure





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## Test Skid Assembly – Manufactured Exhaust Duct





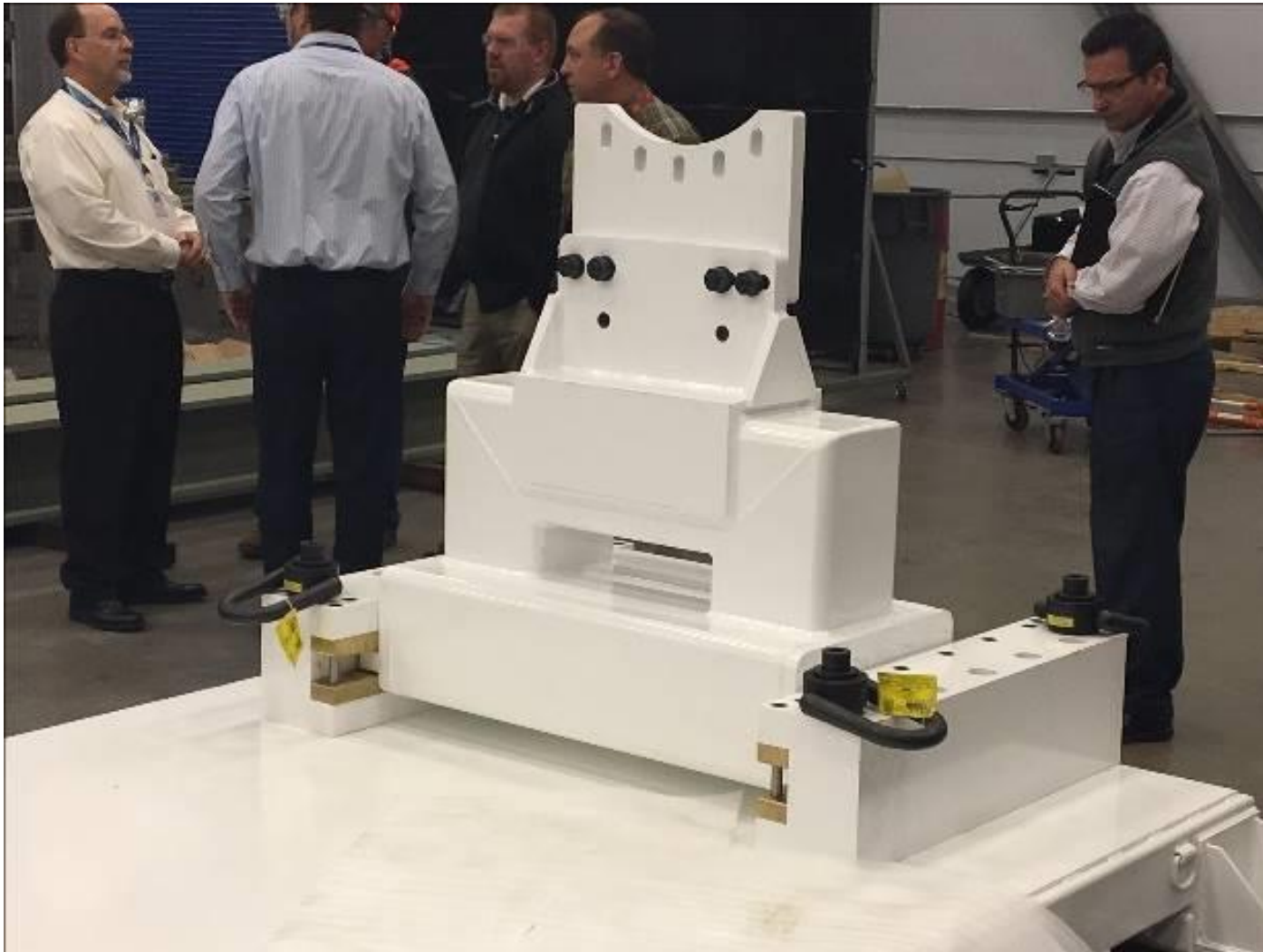


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## Test Skid Assembly – Manufactured Test Skid



## Test Skid Assembly – Manufactured Carriage Assembly

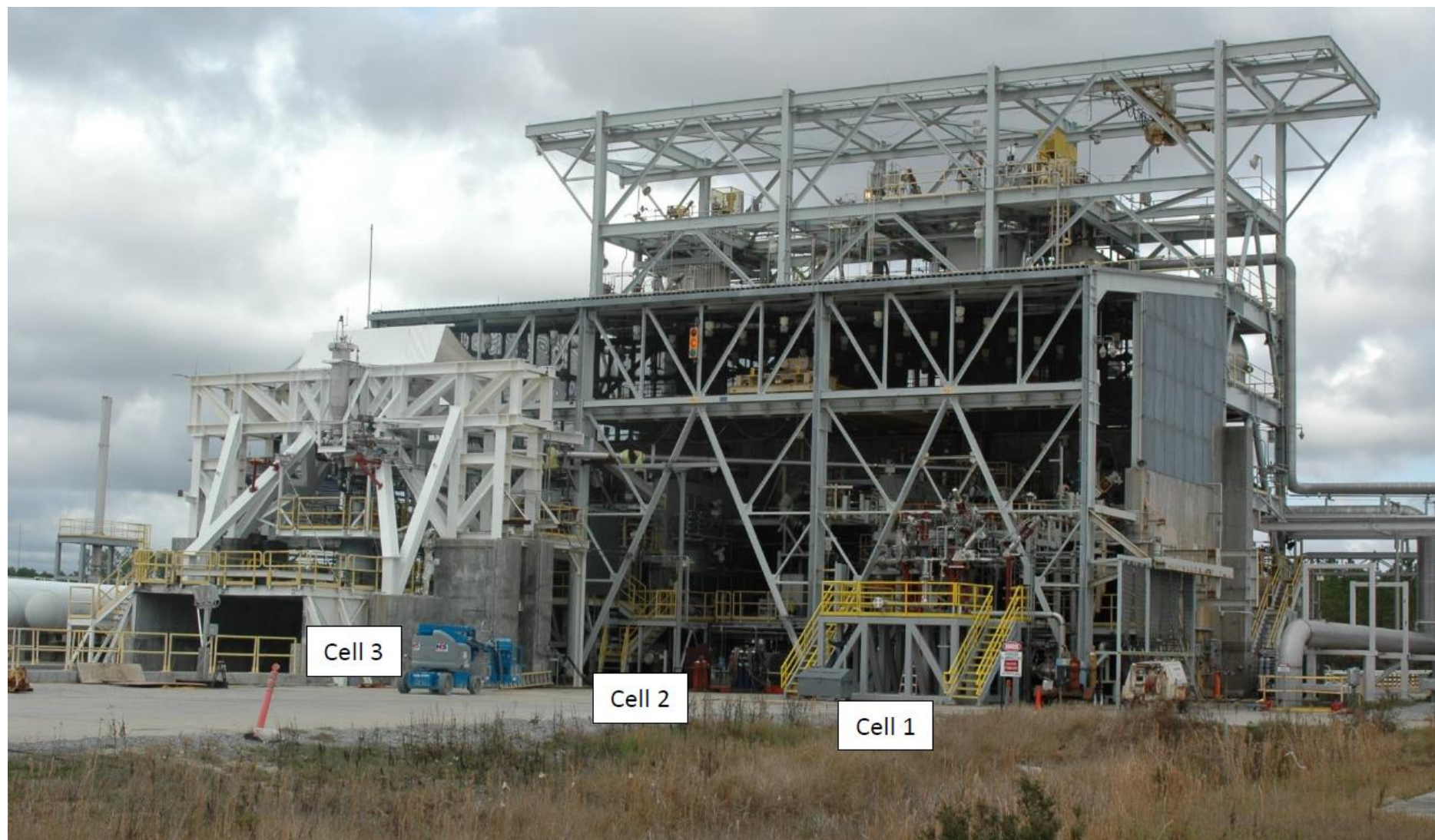






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# Testing at NASA Stennis Space Center Stand E1





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# NASA Stennis Space Center Stand E1 Overhead Crane Structure at E1, Cell 1





## Test Schedule Summary

- **High thrust, LOX/kerosene rocket engine test facilities are rare, so the capabilities at NASA SSC's E1 test stand are in high demand**
  - Start of ABEDRR testing has been delayed by the use of the of the same test cell by another engine test program
  - In addition, there are other engines to be tested in other cells at E1 that overlap with preburner and ABEDRR testing
  - Limited SSC personnel and physical resources available for testing at E1
  - Test plans have been stretched to accommodate resource availabilities
- **E1, Cell 1 is expected to be available by Fall 2017**
- **Skid assembly and ICs are installed, 1<sup>st</sup> GFE preburner ready: early 2018**
- **Reconfigure for testing 2<sup>nd</sup> preburner; continue through late 2018**
- **Dual preburner testing through early 2019**
- **Then configure to accommodate main injector and TCA**
  - Conduct testing to demo combustion stability and measure performance
  - Planned to continue through end of 2019



## Summary

- **Dynetics has designed innovative structure assemblies; manufactured them using FSW to leverage NASA investments in tools, facilities, and processes; conducted proof and burst testing, demonstrating viability of design/build processes**
- **Dynetics/AR has applied state-of-the-art manufacturing and processing techniques to the heritage F-1, reducing risk for engine development**
- **Dynetics/AR has also made progress on technology demonstrations for ORSC cycle engine, which offers affordability and performance for both NASA and other launch vehicles**
  - Full-scale integrated oxidizer-rich test article
  - Testing will evaluate performance and combustion stability characteristics
  - Contributes to technology maturation for ox-rich staged combustion engines

