



Aerial view of Johnson Space Center

Located in Webster's backyard – **NASA-Johnson Space Center** (JSC) is just four miles west of Interstate 45, on NASA Parkway! From the early Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab projects to today's International Space Station and Space Shuttle programs, to tomorrow's Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle, JSC leads NASA's human space exploration initiative.

Today, JSC employs over 17,000 civil servants and contractors. Whereas the civil service workforce consists of 3,000 employees,

most of whom are professional engineers, scientists and astronauts, more than 14,000 contractors work on-site or in nearby facilities. In August, 2006 **Lockheed Martin Corp.** was awarded the contract to design, develop, and build the Orion, NASA's shuttle successor. The Orion contract is valued at \$4.2 billion and is expected to create 1,100 jobs for the Bay Area. JSC is home to the NASA astronaut corps and is responsible for training space explorers from the United States and space station partners.



Mock-up of Orion Capsule

As JSC celebrates more than 45 years of human space flight,



Space Shuttle Discovery, STS 120, Oct. 25, 2007

major strides have been made in the fields of aerospace, biotechnology, robotics, neuroscience, space medicine, and planetary science.

Technology and history coalesce at JSC where astronauts are trained, and United States manned space flights are monitored. JSC administers over \$4 billion in federal aerospace contracts annually. Over 52 contractors perform leading edge work managing the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, astronaut training, advanced human support technology,

biomedical research, and space medicine.

Johnson Space Center's, NASA Mission Control and United States Human Space Exploration activities account for more than 17,000 jobs, \$2.5 billion in personal income, highly-educated workforce, and strong community partnerships.



International Space Station June 19, 2007





Largest Johnson Space Center Contractors

Ranked by Dollar Amount of JSC Contracts
Book of Lists: *Houston Business Journal*

Of the top ten aerospace contractors listed, nine are in Bay Area Houston:

1. United Space Alliance: 1150 Gemini Avenue
2. Boeing NASA Systems: 3100 Space Center Boulevard
3. Wyle Laboratories Inc: 1290 Hercules
4. Barrios Technology, Inc: 2525 Bay Area Boulevard
5. Spacehab Inc: 12130 Highway 3, Building 1
6. MEI Technologies, Inc: 2525 Bay Area Boulevard, Suite 300
7. National Space Biomedical Research Institute: 1 Baylor Plaza NA425
8. Oceaneering Space Systems: 16665 Space Center Blvd.
9. GB Tech Inc: 2200 Space Park Drive, Suite 400
10. Universities Space Research Association: 3600 Bay Area Blvd.



Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis, STS 122, February 7, 2008

Ad Astra Rocket Company, NASA work together in Webster

Ad Astra Rocket Company (AARC), located at 141 West Bay Area Boulevard, and NASA are currently working together under the second Space Act Agreement between the two entities.

The Agreement provides a framework for long-term collaboration between the parties in the development and in-space operational implementation of the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMRTM) engine. This new plasma-based space propulsion technology was initially studied by NASA and is now being developed privately by AARC. The technology could allow its operators to conduct space operations such as lunar cargo delivery, interplanetary flights, and drag compensation of space stations in low Earth orbit to be carried out with much smaller amounts of propellant than chemical rockets.

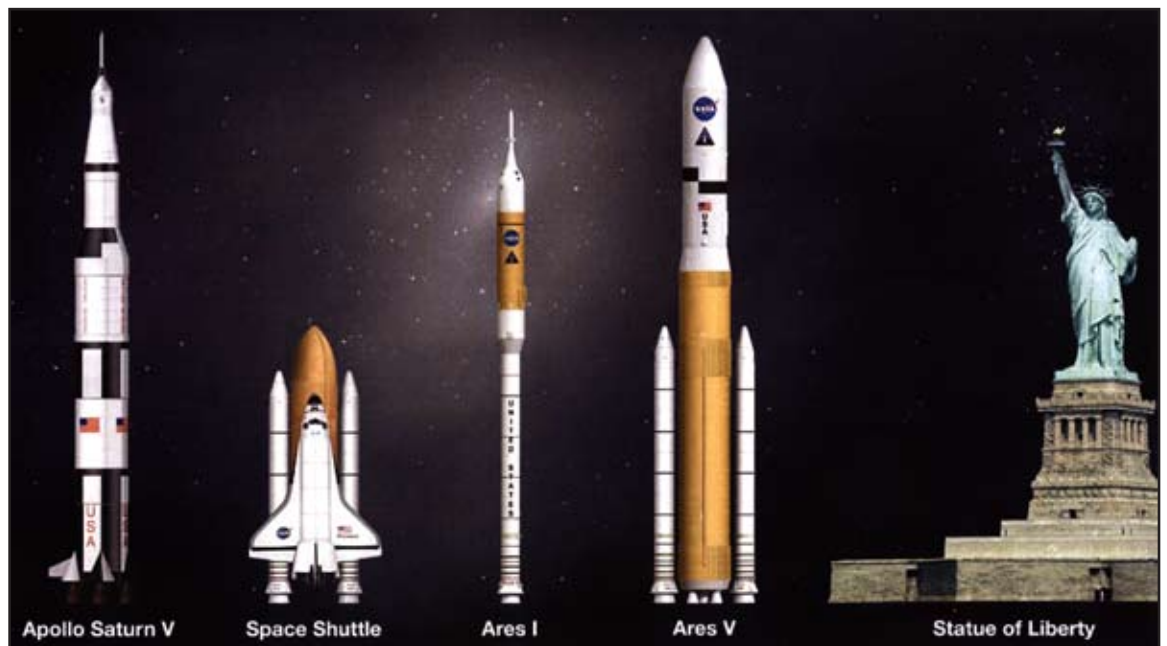


Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket

The Agreement recognizes the importance of the VASIMRTM engine's role in supporting NASA's space exploration programs and provides the space agency with continued access to the latest advances in plasma technology. Michael Coats, Director of Johnson Space Center, and Franklin Chang-Díaz, Chairman and CEO of AARC, signed the Agreement.

"I am very pleased with the collaborative framework the NASA-Ad Astra team has developed, and I look forward to our working together to bring this technology to full commercial fruition," said Chang-Díaz.

The City of Webster's economic development team is pleased that recruitment efforts resulted in AARC's landing in Webster. Representatives from AARC stated they were excited about the move to Webster and look forward to long-term, highly successful relationships with NASA and the City of Webster.



NASA – past, present, and future launch vehicles. Shown to Scale.

40th Anniversary of Lunar Landing



“Houston, Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed.”

On July 20, 1969, the Lunar Module “Eagle” landed at Sea of Tranquility, ushering in a new era of space exploration. Commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin spent the next 21 hours on the Moon carrying out a series of planned activities – deployment of experiments, collection of lunar samples, and photographing the events.

The two lunar explorers rejoined Command Module Pilot Michael Collins aboard the “Columbia” and returned to Earth, with 46 lbs. of Moon rocks, less than 200 hours after launch.

Webster, the Aerospace Capital of the Southwest, with its strong contingency of NASA contractors and partnership with Space Center Houston, celebrates this historic event that transpired 40 years ago and looks forward to the next 40 years for revolutionary and profound space travel, technology and developments.