Stennis Space Center (SSC)

Highlights:

- Heavy Lift and Propulsion Technology: SSC's unique capabilities and rocket engine test facilities for first stage and upper stage engine testing will be used extensively as part of this $3.1 billion program.
- Commercial Crew Development: SSC will increase partnerships with commercial market customers as part of this program, building upon current engine testing planned for commercial vehicles as part of NASA's CRS and COTS program.

Center Assets: The John C. Stennis Space Center, located in south Mississippi, employs over 250 civil servants, and has served as NASA's rocket propulsion testing ground. Today, the center provides propulsion test services for NASA and for the Department of Defense, as well as the private sector. Stennis is also home to more than 30 federal, state, academic and private organizations and numerous technology-based companies that share the cost of owning and operating the facility, making it more cost-effective for each agency to accomplish its independent mission. The Center capabilities that will be tapped in the President's new program include testing of large-scale rocket engines, subsystems and components.

Heavy Lift and Propulsion Technology: SSC's unique capabilities and rocket component, engine and stage test facilities for first stage and upper stage engine testing as well as integrated full stage technology testing will be used extensively as part of this $3.1 billion program, and as such will begin facility modifications in FY11 to support engine component testing, with major facility modifications to follow a couple of years later to ensure they are ready to support full-scale engine and integrated stage testing. Additionally, operational funding begins early in the program timeline to conduct testing operations.

Commercial Crew Development: SSC will increase partnerships with commercial market customers as part of this program, building upon current engine testing planned for commercial vehicles as part of NASA's CRS and COTS program.