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Stennis News

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A-3 Stand 'Tops Out' with Test Cell Dome Installation

A construction "topping out" milestone was reached on April 13 with placement of the test cell dome atop NASA's new A-3 Test Stand at the John C. Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi.

NASA broke ground in 2007 for the new stand, which is being built to provide simulated high-altitude testing for next-generation rocket engines that will carry humans into deep space. The stand will use a series of chemical steam generator to create a vacuum that allows operators to test full-scale engines at simulated altitudes up to 100,000 feet.

The A-3 stand is the first large test structure to be built at Stennis since the facility was established to test Saturn V rocket stages that helped carry Apollo astronauts to the moon. The A-3 Test Stand is scheduled for activation in 2013.

For information about Stennis Space Center, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/stennis>.

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