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Dynetics and Mississippi Partner to Build a Propulsion Test Facility in Iuka



From left to right, Barry King, Test & Operations Director, Dynetics; Brandon Grissom Tishomingo County Supervisor; Danny Ryan, Tishomingo County Supervisor; James McDowell, Tishomingo County Supervisor & President of the Board; Thomas Baumbach, President, Dynetics; Mayor Jackie Bryant, Mayor of Iuka; J. P. Wilemon, State Senator; David A. King, Executive Vice President, Dynetics; Steve Thorne, Tishomingo County Supervisor; Andy Crocker, Propulsion Department Manager, Dynetics; and Lester Carpenter, State Representative.

Iuka Mississippi, July 28, 2011 –Dynetics and Tishomingo County, Mississippi, have partnered to establish a multipurpose test facility that will provide affordable propulsion testing services to customers for varying sizes of thrusters and engines. This new test site, located in Iuka on the former Yellow Creek site, will be used for propulsion testing of small- to medium-class thrusters,

rocket engines and stages using various fuel types. It is one of only a few commercial hydrazine test facilities in the United States.

Barry King, Director of Space Test and Operations for Dynetics, said: “This is an ideal location for this facility and supports our test schedule needs. Buildings and infrastructure are already in place, and by creating our own test capability, we are able to offer a more affordable and efficient option for testing.”

Dynetics CEO Dr. Marc Bendickson added: “Dynetics is very excited about the partnership we have established with the state of Mississippi, Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors and Tri-State Commerce Park. We are optimistic that with the future growth of Space industry business, we will bring a positive economic impact to Tishomingo County and the city of Iuka.”

James McDowell, President of the Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors, said: “We are excited about the potential of Dynetics and we feel that advanced technology is the key to the future of our citizens. Tishomingo County is proud to welcome Dynetics and we are delighted to be a partner in the advancement of technology in the USA.”

According to King, Dynetics officials have laid out options for a long-term plan for the site, which is divided into three phases: Phases I and II will involve upgrades and modifications to existing infrastructure, and Phase III plans may include leasing an additional building to conduct launch vehicle and/or payload separation and drop tests.

Tishomingo County District 1 Supervisor Brandon Grissom emphasized that Tishomingo County “welcomes Dynetics and the cutting edge technology coming here.” He said, “Dynetics is a respected name among companies that serve the aerospace industry and the military. We look forward to continued growth of the company.”

Plans are to have the test site operational by early July 2011.

“The Dynetics decision to base a test facility in Iuka is very positive,” said U.S. Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi. “The Yellow Creek site is a valuable asset to our state and to the nation. I am pleased it is being rehabilitated to support rocket development activities in the region. With this site in North Mississippi and Stennis Space Center in South Mississippi, our state will have the unique national capability to test rocket engines ranging from the very small all the way up to the world’s largest. Finally, it will also help diversify the economic base in Tishomingo County. I commend the public-private cooperation that led to this development.”

About Dynetics

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