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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION SIGNS LEASE FOR PROPULSION,  
THERMAL AND METROLOGY CENTER**

JACKSON, MS – Officials with the Lockheed Martin Corporation, along with Governor Ronnie Musgrove, Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority, and Gary Anderson with the Department of Finance and Administration, today signed a lease for the new Propulsion, Thermal and Metrology Center located at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Hancock County.

“Mississippi is proud to be a partner in this state-of-the-art facility,” said Governor Musgrove. “The Propulsion, Thermal and Metrology Center will establish world-class excellence in the fields of space and technology.”

The Governor’s Office, the Mississippi Development Authority, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, Hancock County Board of Supervisors, Department of Finance and Administration and NASA partnered with Lockheed Martin to construct the 222,000-square-foot facility, and to provide the specialized training required for the 270 people hired to work at the center.

The center will produce propulsion systems, such as thrusters, used for satellites and other spacecraft produced by Lockheed Martin Space Systems. The thermal control systems produced at the facility, such as thermal “blankets,” heat pipes, radiators and engine heat shields, will protect space vehicles from the extreme temperatures of the space environment. Metrology refers to the science of measurement, and the center will be responsible for the highest level of “primary standards” in the extremely precise calibration of test equipment and tools. The Metrology Center, located within the same facility, will be operated by Lockheed Martin Technical Operations.

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“We are excited about the opportunity to work cooperatively with the State of Mississippi and NASA on a project that brings high-tech jobs to the region and allows us to better serve our customers,” said William W. Hansen, Vice President, Washington Operations, Army Programs, Civil Agencies, and Technology Services. “We have been pleased by the warm reception and constructive business climate in the state, and look forward to moving ahead on this project.”

The new center combines satellite propulsion activities to support Lockheed’s Space Systems Companies in California and Colorado.

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