Lockheed Martin Ships MAVEN Spacecraft To NASA

Next Mission to Mars Progressing Toward November Launch

DENVER, Aug. 5, 2013 /PRNewswire/ -- Lockheed Martin [NYSE: LMT] delivered NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile EvolutioN (MAVEN) spacecraft to the Kennedy Space Center, Fla. on Friday, Aug. 2. The orbiter will now undergo three-and-a-half months of final processing in preparation for a November launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V-401 rocket.

PHOTOS: http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/news/press-releases/2013/august/0805-ss-maven.html.

The MAVEN mission will be the first dedicated to surveying the upper atmosphere of Mars in an effort to understand the role that the loss of atmospheric gas to space played in changing the Martian climate. Lockheed Martin Space Systems near Denver designed and built the spacecraft and is responsible for testing, launch processing and mission operations.

"After completing a year of assembly and rigorous testing, we are thrilled that MAVEN has safely arrived at Kennedy Space Center and is ready to start the final months of processing," said Guy Beutelschies, MAVEN program manager at Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company. "Our successful delivery of the MAVEN spacecraft is a significant milestone, and many on our team have moved to Florida with MAVEN so they can continue working to prepare the orbiter to be ready when the Nov. 18 launch window opens."

The 1,784-pound spacecraft was shipped on a U.S. Air Force C-17 transport plane in an environmentally controlled container. The C-17, MAVEN and support personnel took off from Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo. and touched down at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility, on one of the largest runways in the world. While at Kennedy, the spacecraft will undergo final processing including re-installation of the high-gain antenna, software testing, propellant loading, a spin balance, a second solar array deployment and illumination test, and a payload deployment test.

"It was great to see MAVEN leave Colorado and arrive at Florida," said MAVEN Principal Investigator Bruce Jakosky from the University of Colorado Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. "As thrilling as it was to fly with MAVEN on the C-17, I'm more looking forward to the day when it arrives at its final destination and we can begin our science observations."

"We're excited and proud to ship the spacecraft right on schedule," said David Mitchell, MAVEN project manager at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. "But more critical milestones lie ahead before we accomplish our mission of collecting science data from Mars. I firmly believe the team is up to the task. Now we begin the final push to launch."

MAVEN's principal investigator is based at the University of Colorado at Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. The university will provide science operations, science instruments and lead Education/Public Outreach. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center manages the project and provides two of the science instruments for the mission. The University of California at Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory provides science instruments for the mission. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., provides navigation support, the Deep Space Network and the Electra telecommunications relay hardware and operations.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company that employs about 116,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration, and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products, and services. The Corporation's net sales for 2012 were $47.2 billion.

More information about MAVEN can be found at:

- http://www.nasa.gov/maven
- http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/maven/
- http://www.lockheedmartin.com/maven

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