



VIP Technical Tour of NASA's Stennis Space Center

Tour Date: Monday, October 26, 2009

Tour Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Tour Duration: 7 hours

Cost: \$40.00 per person

The Stennis VIP+ tour will feature highlights from the resident agencies at the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center, one of the focal points for marine technology in the Gulf South. Participants will be subject to a security screening and must register for the tour no later than 15 September to allow for processing. Additional information will be required for foreign participants. A photo ID will be required for each visitor upon boarding the bus at the Beau Rivage. No cameras, recording equipment, or cell phones will be allowed on this tour. The tour will include stops at:

The Matthew Fontaine Maury Oceanographic Library,

the world's foremost military collection of physical oceanographic materials. Naval personnel from various commands at Stennis Space Center will speak about the history of Naval oceanography and display equipment and products. Oceanographer and action-adventure author Alexander Molnar will also present an entertaining talk on *How Oceanography changed Military History*. Other Stennis-based agencies will have displays highlighting their recent programs and projects.

NASA's Rocket Testing Complex

NASA's Stennis Space Center is America's largest rocket engine test complex, providing propulsion test services for NASA, the Department of Defense, and the private sector. Every Apollo and Space Shuttle astronaut who has gone to space rode on engines tested and proven flight-worthy at Stennis.

Navy Supercomputer

The Navy Department of Defense (DoD) Supercomputing Resource Center is one of the most capable high performance computing centers in the nation. It supports the DoD research and development community and the Navy's operational oceanography community. The Center provides a scientific computing environment that serves thousands of scientists and engineers throughout the nation engaged in research and development, testing and evaluation activities. The Center provides critical support for worldwide Navy and DoD operations as one of the world's most capable high-performance computing environments for high-resolution and modeling and simulation of global-scale oceanography and meteorology.

Center for Higher Learning Viz Lab

Visitor's will spend some time in High Performance Visualization Center's RAVE II display system that features state-of-the-art technology and stereo projection to create an immersive environment for the user. Wearing high-end 3-D glasses, visitors will be treated to a fly-through tour of the Infinity Science Center, flooding from Hurricane Katrina, a virtual skull with dental implants, and other cutting-edge data applications.

INFINITY at NASA Stennis Space Center will be a new, state-of-the-art science center where visitors will have fun exploring the farthest reaches of outer space, the uncharted depths of the oceans and the varied layers of the Earth. INFINITY is slated for opening in 2010.

National Data Buoy Center (NDBC)

NDBC provides a real-time, end-to-end capability beginning with the collection of marine atmospheric and oceanographic data and ending with its transmission, quality control and distribution. The tour will include a Daily Operations Brief and tour of the 24x7x365 Data Assembly Center. The NOAA/IOOS Data Assembly Center at NDBC quality controls more than 675 stations of meteorological and oceanographic data.

NDBC designs, develops, operates, and maintains a network of marine meteorological and oceanographic data collecting buoys and coastal stations to meet in-situ observational needs for forecasts and warnings, climate monitoring and oceanic research programs. The tour will view weather buoy, Pacific Tropical Atmosphere and Ocean Array (TAO), and Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (DART) equipment construction and testing areas at NDBC.

NASA StenniSphere

StenniSphere is Stennis Space Center's award winning visitors center, offering 14,000 square feet of exciting new exhibits and stage presentations designed to educate and entertain.

Visitors will rotate through the six locations in small groups. Lunch will be provided at the Rouchon House on the banks of the Pearl River. **No cameras, recording equipment, or cell phones will be allowed on this tour.**