

THE HERMES



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INSPIRED 24

"With so much conflict in the world, space exploration can be a beacon of hope." - Anne McClain

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From Michoud to the Moon

Press tour report / By: Rosana "Zen" Sotile

Inside the most underrated "rocket factory" in the world, my fellow Louisianans are building the backbone of America's return to the moon.

Set on 832 acres, NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, LA originally began as a production facility for WWII cargo planes and engines for Sherman and Patton tanks during the Korean War. Eventually, NASA secured the facility for production of Saturn V rockets during the Apollo era. Today, Michoud crafts the vehicles that will carry the first woman and next man to the lunar surface.

During a recent press tour, I observed firsthand the component manufacturing and assembly of the Space Launch System's core stage - the towering main body of the rocket that powers NASA's Artemis missions. At Michoud, multiple articles of the SLS core stage are built, tested and stacked, and eventually shipped to Cape Canaveral.

The 43 acre indoor manufacturing space is also home to The Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin, two NASA contractors manufacturing and assembling the SLS core stage and the Orion spacecraft, respectively.



The author
& Artemis II
crew



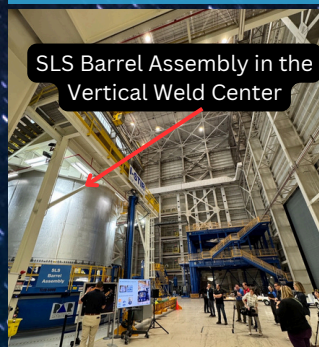
RS-25 engine &
NASA worm logo

On the tour, we were lucky enough to get a sneak peek at some of Lockheed Martin's hardware production for the Orion spacecraft to be used on the Artemis IV and V missions, including a crew module capsule.

We also toured Boeing's Exploration Upper Stage (EUS) production area. The EUS is a four-engine liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen in-space stage on the SLS Block 1B and Block 2 rockets. They gave us a good look at the forward adapter barrel, which is one of the upper most components of the EUS.

Just past the EUS staging area, we witnessed the magnificent awe of the Vertical Assembly Building. Standing 200 feet tall, this wing of Michoud is where marriage happens- sections of the SLS are slid into the world's largest spacecraft welding machine and joined together forever. (*I learned a lot about friction stir welding!*)

Our tour concluded with a display of the RS-25 engine, a veteran of the Space Shuttle program now repurposed for the SLS. Its presence serves as a bridge between NASA's past and future, and a salute to America's unwavering ambition of forward movement in space exploration.



SLS Barrel Assembly in the
Vertical Weld Center



Vertical Assembly Building



Forward adapter barrel in the EUS production area



Member Spotlight!

Felix "Robinson" Gatfield



Robinson first became interested in space when he was just twelve years old, back when the UK went into lockdown in 2020. He was stuck doing all his schoolwork from home, sitting around the dining room table with his two brothers.

However, like most other school-aged kids during lockdown, he wasn't actually doing his work. Instead, Robinson was scrolling on YouTube, trying to find something interesting to watch, when he came across a video from SpaceX, titled "Falcon Heavy & Starman." At the time, it was a two-year-old video compilation about the first Falcon Heavy launch. Just from watching that video, he was hooked.

Robinson began exploring more into the space industry and eventually discovered a massive space community on Twitter. So, of course he joined the conversation. He came across a newly announced space mission called *Inspiration4*, in a Super Bowl advertisement. "What better way to learn about a mission than to interview their commander, Jared Isaacman!" was Robinson's immediate thought.



In his own words, Robinson will tell you, "I don't know who I thought I was, because who in their right mind as a twelve-year-old reaches out to an American businessman and billionaire to ask them for an interview on a YouTube channel that didn't exist yet? Me, apparently. But to my surprise, just a few hours after I reached out to Jared, I heard back from his team, and we organized the interview."

At first, Robinson was expecting to only speak with Jared Isaacman, but was surprised by the appearance of a second *I4* crew member, Hayley Arceneaux. From there, his YouTube channel grew significantly, and he had the privilege of interviewing more amazing people, such as Nicole Stott, retired NASA astronaut, Tory Bruno, ULA CEO, Peter Beck, Rocket Lab CEO, and many more interviews with the *Inspiration4* crew.

In 2024, about two years after he started his YouTube channel, Robinson was invited to travel from the UK to Florida to attend a launch viewing of Isaacman's second mission, *Polaris Dawn*.

"It was the best trip ever!" Robinson said. "When I went to Florida, I felt like I fit in, with both the general vibe and the amazing space community. The last four years have been an absolute blast and I can't wait for many more exciting adventures in the years ahead!"

Now, at 16 years old, Robinson is the *I24*'s youngest member, paving the way for future explorers!





I24 HEADLINES



Meet your new
Executive Director
of Education:
**Lucero “Violet Nebula”
Martinez**

With 21 years of educator experience, Violet Nebula is the The Inspired 24's new Executive Director of Education. Currently, she teaches 5th grade in Brownsville, TX, and serves as a STEAM educator with the South Texas Astronomical Society. She is also a NASA Solar System Ambassador and an Aldrin Family Foundation Ambassador.

In her new I24 role, Violet Nebula continues her mission of inspiring future scientists, engineers, technicians, astronauts, and explorers by igniting their curiosity of space exploration through STEAM education. If you'd like to assist with outreach programs, she can be reached at:
violetnebula@theinspired24.com

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

(February 2025)

Kamal Raj
Jennifer “Jennway” Pint
Noctis Phantomhive
Canon Brymer
Robert Barnum

Members with new call signs:

Zach “Eagle” Damon
Bob “Spacester” Dewitt
Shriya “Moose” Musuku
Carlos Carrillo “SARTRON” Rosa Lopes



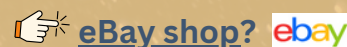
**Meet some of your new
I24 crewmates!**

**[CLICK HERE to watch the replay
of February's All-Hands Meeting](#)**

Affiliate News

- Let's get together for the FRAM2 launch, projected for late March! The I24 networking team is cooking up some fun. STAY TUNED!
- Tickets are still available for the Analog Astronaut Conference at Biosphere 2 in Tucson, AZ, May 1-4. Don't miss this amazing networking opportunity! **[CLICK HERE](#)**
- Become a **[MoonDAO Citizen](#)** and join the I24 Team! Your membership is part of an open platform accelerating the future of a lunar settlement. Contact Titan for more info!

Did you know that the I24 has an



**Purchase some cool space items
and help support the I24 mission!**

“Inspired 2 Space 4 All”

We, The Inspired 24, are an inclusive group of like-minded, space positive people dedicated to promoting the access to space for all.

Our mission objectives are:

Network with organizations that support inclusive participation in space exploration.
Collaborate to create opportunities to experience the overview effect.
Train for space flights and provide space-ready individuals for future missions.

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