

Beat: Technology

NASA Chooses BECHTEL TEAM For Design/Build Of SECOND MOBILE LAUNCHER

For Next U.S. Heavy-Lift Rocket

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USPA NEWS - Bechtel announced on June 27, it has been selected to return to the Space Coast in Florida and the space and launch infrastructure market. NASA has chosen Bechtel National Inc., along with teaming subcontractors, to design, build, test, and commission Mobile Launcher 2, the ground structure that will be used to assemble and launch the next version of the Space Launch System rocket. SLS could one day take materials and astronauts to the Moon or Mars.

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The 380-foot tall launcher, known as ML2, will consist of the launch platform and physical connections to NASA's ground infrastructure to provide stability, power, coolant, fuel, and communications prior to launch. ML2 must also interface with the Vehicle Assembly Building and a massive crawler to move the rocket to its launch location at NASA's famed Launch Complex 39B at Kennedy Space Center.

Bechtel designed and built Launch Complex 40 for the Air Force at Cape Canaveral in the early 1990s. At that time, it was the nation's most sophisticated space launch facility.

"Space is the next frontier for American business," said Michael Costas, general manager of Bechtel's Defense and Space business line. "Technology advances and component miniaturization are making space more accessible to more companies. Our global experience delivering NASA and Air Force infrastructure makes us a logical choice to partner with the industry."

* Photo cover: ML-1, current mobile launcher. NASA has selected a Bechtel-led team to design and build a second, upgraded mobile launch platform for a rocket that could take humans to the Moon or Mars.

Source : Bechtel

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