



Saturn V Rocket Conservation & Display

U.S. SPACE AND ROCKET CENTER, HUNTSVILLE, AL

The Saturn V Rocket located at the US Space and Rocket Center (USSRC) in Huntsville, Alabama, is one of three surviving examples of vehicles built during the late 1960s to launch Americans to the moon. The USSRC Saturn V 500D/F is designated a National Historic Landmark as well as a National Mechanical Engineering Landmark, and it is distinguished from the others as the test model for the fleet. Measuring 363 feet long (the Statue of Liberty is 60 feet shorter) and capable of generating 7.5 million pounds of thrust, the Saturn V remains the largest, most powerful American launch vehicle ever built.

Displayed outdoors and on its side since 1969, the rocket was exhibiting widespread paint failure, moisture infiltration, an overall accumulation of atmospheric and biological soiling, and corrosion of its complex system of metal alloys, including aluminum. Non-metal materials such as polyurethane foam, various types of plastics including Tedlar®, phenolic resin, and fiberglass composites, had significantly deteriorated. The spacecraft portion of the Saturn V display (Lunar Adapter, Service Module, Command Module and Launch Escape System) were full scale 1970s era mock-ups constructed of sheet aluminum and fiberglass. The Command Module, constructed almost completely out of plywood and fiberglass, was in very poor condition.

We evaluated the rocket through a thorough assessment and testing phase occurring from April through May 2005. A visual and hands-on survey by our conservators and a structural engineer was conducted from the ground and from a 60 foot articulating manlift...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/saturn-v-rocket-3/>

SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments
Surveys & Condition Assessments

PROJECT DETAILS

Client / Owner

NASA / Smithsonian Institution



