

# Current Launch System Industrial Base

Ray F. Johnson  
Vice President  
Space Launch Operations  
Space Systems Group  
The Aerospace Corporation

October 19, 2011

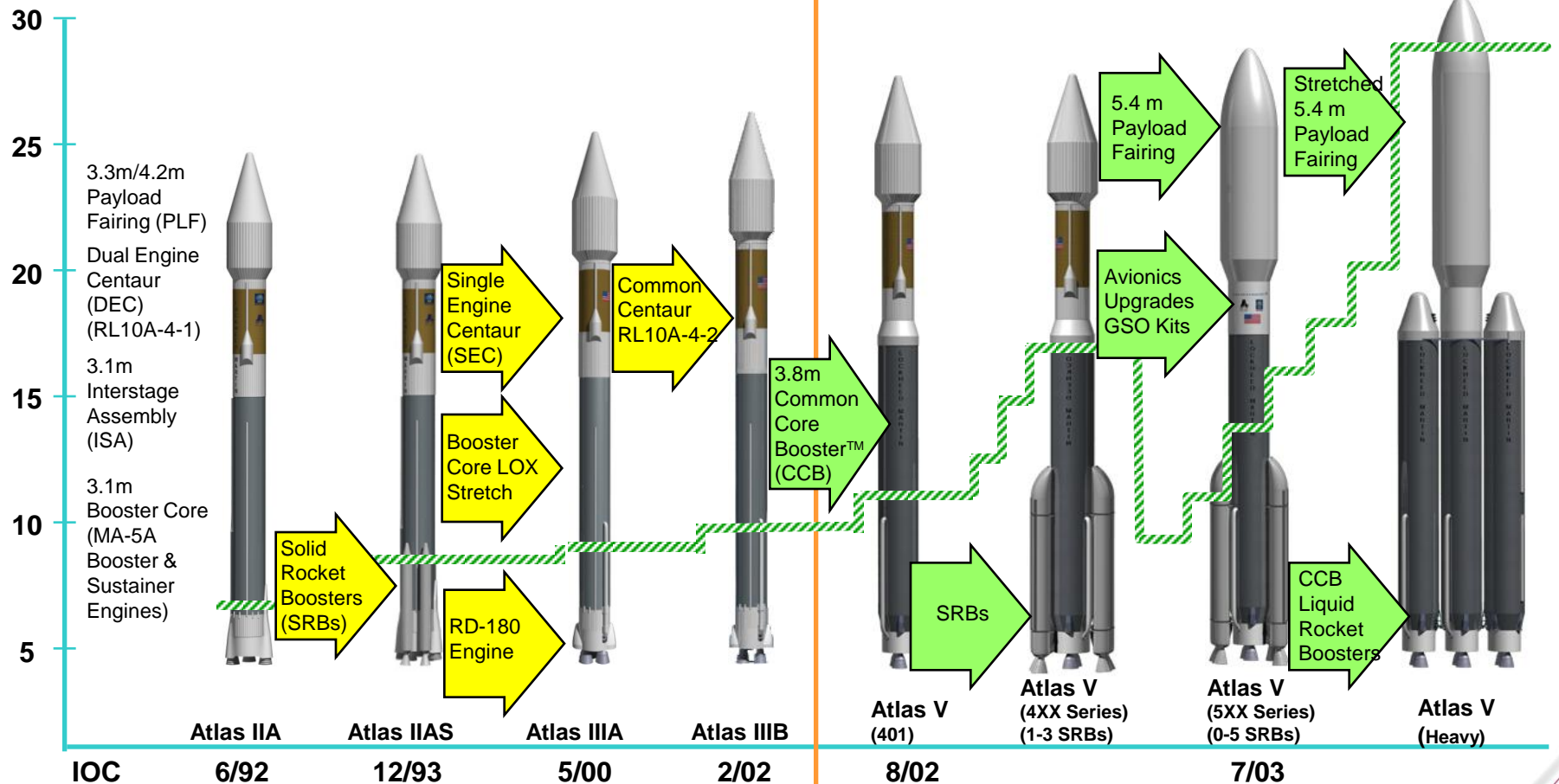
# Agenda

- EELV Launch Systems and Industrial Base
- Rocket Propulsion Industrial Base



# Atlas V Evolution

GTO  
Capability  
(klbs)



# Delta IV Evolution

GTO  
Capability  
(klbs)

30

25

20

15

10

5

2.9m/3m  
Payload  
Fairing (PLF)  
STAR 48/37FM  
SRM  
Third Stage  
Hyper Engine  
Second Stage  
(AJ10-118K)  
2.4m  
Interstage  
2.4m  
Booster Core  
(RS-27A  
Booster  
Engine)  
Castor IVA  
Solid Rocket  
Boosters

## Delta II/III Family

Delta II  
(69XX)

2/89

Delta II  
(79XX)

11/90

Delta III  
(89XX)

8/98

## Delta IV Family

Delta IV  
(Med)

3/03

Delta IV  
(Med+ 4 series)  
(2 SRBs)

11/02

Delta IV  
(Med+ 5 series)  
(2 or 4 SRBs)

7/04

Delta IV  
(Heavy)

7/04

Stretched  
4m  
Payload  
Fairing

Delta III  
Upper  
Stage  
Stretched

5.1m  
Common  
Booster  
Core  
(CBC)

CBC  
RS-68  
Engine

5.1m  
Payload  
Fairing

Upper  
Stage  
Widened &  
Stretched

Stretched  
5.1m  
Payload  
Fairing

CBC  
Liquid  
Rocket  
Boosters

4m  
Payload  
Fairing

Cryo  
Second  
Stage  
RL10B-2

GEM 40  
(SRBs)

GEM 46  
(SRBs)

GEM 60  
(SRBs)



# EELV Industrial Base

- As EELV's anchor tenant, NSS must provide a steady production rate, decoupled from launch manifest, to establish a healthy industrial base
  - *Launch industrial base is shrinking due to decreased market; exacerbated by current USG buying practices*
- Solution: steady production rate provides long-term, focused, and well-defined commitment to industry
  - *Removes uncertainty from program and retains capacity*
  - *Preserves capability for next generation space launch*



# EELV Industrial Base (Cont'd)

- Rate is the key factor that keeps prime and sub production from going dark, increasing costs/risks
  - Detailed analysis with ULA, PWR, ATK, Aerojet
  - Restart / recertification cost and effort significant
- Keystone of new EELV approach is annual minimum production rate of 8 cores
  - 4 Atlas, 4 Delta -- 5 USAF / 3 NRO / year commitment
- Steady production achieved through Block Buys
  - “Block” = Annual Production Rate X Defined Duration

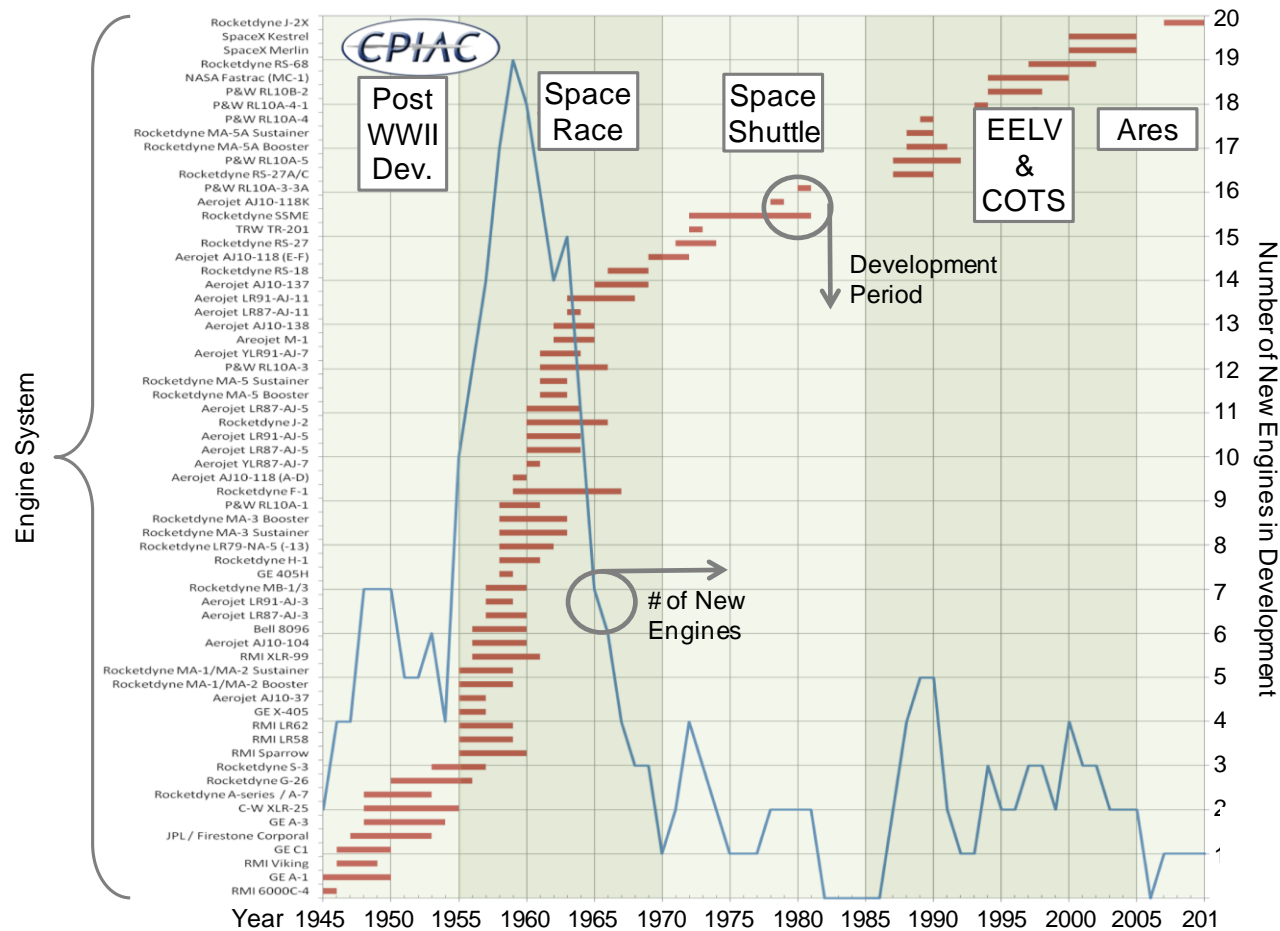
**Production Rate Commitment Critical To Industrial Base Health and EELV Program Stability**



# U.S. Rocket Engine Development

## 1945-2010

- Today, there are no new engine development programs in the U.S.



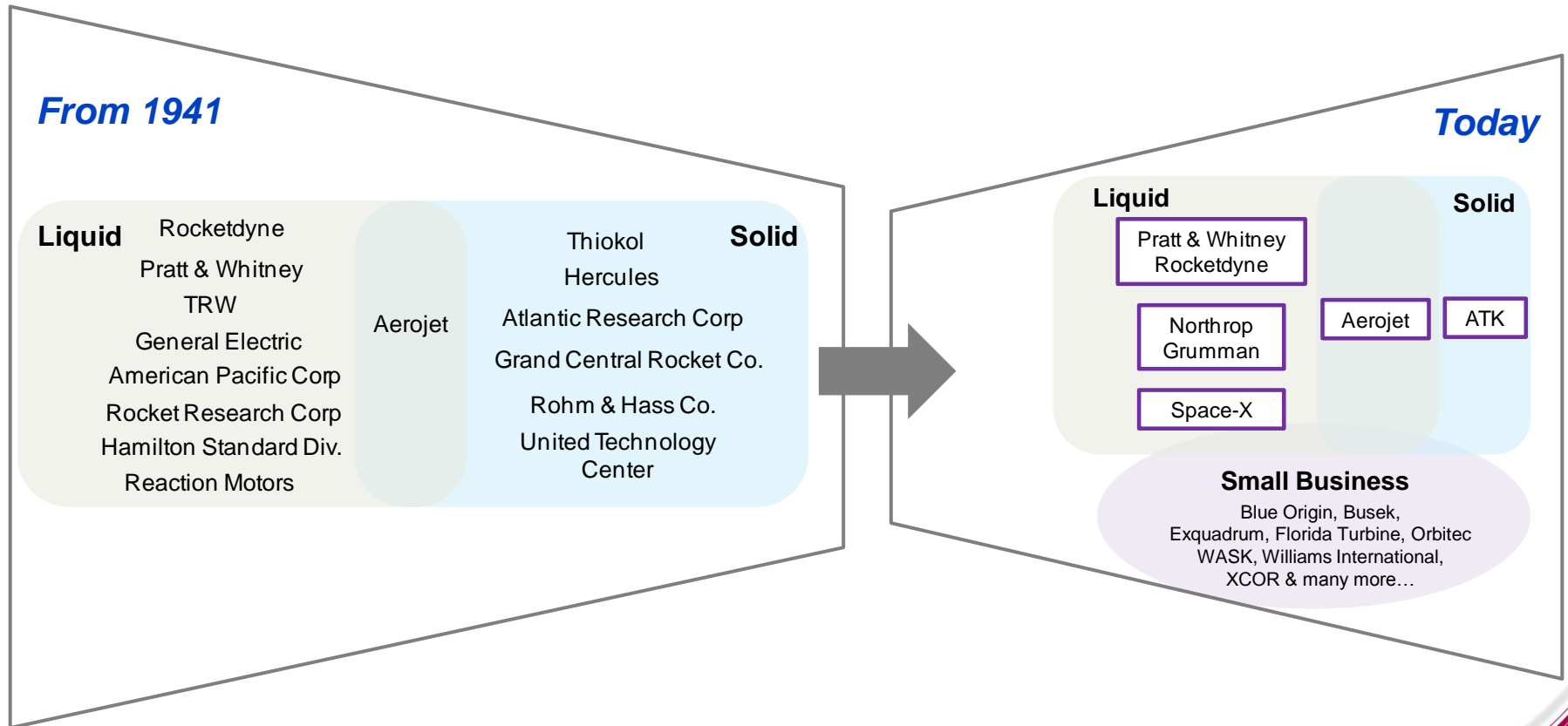
Reprinted with permission of CPIA



# U.S. Rocket Propulsion Industry

## *Evolution*

- Since 1941, more than a dozen U.S. companies had been involved in rocket propulsion business
- Only a few major U.S. companies are active today, however various new commercial space entities are emerging





# Liquid Rocket Engines

## *“State of the Industry:”*

- Limited recent U.S. liquid rocket engine development
  - *RS-68 and Merlin – Designed to focus on reducing production recurring costs*
  - *J-2X is completing development*
  - *RL10 (A-4-2, B-2) – multiple performance enhancements, reduced overall design margins*
    - 50-year-old craftsman-based manufacturing
    - Limited growth opportunity without major redesign
  - *RD-180 – Produced in Russia with insight from the US companies*
  - *AJ26 – Americanization of Russian NK33*
  - *SSME – Last NASA funded development effort resulting in steady production*
  - *DoD Integrated High Payoff Rocket Propulsion Technology (IHPRPT), funded ~\$200M over last 15 years -- technology focused only*
- New commercial space companies entering the market
  - *SpaceX, OSC, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic, Sierra Nevada, etc...*
  - *Potentially “disruptive” to current access to space cost model*
  - *Still building maturity required for critical high value payloads*
  - *Long term market demand is uncertain*



# Operational Liquid Engines in U.S.




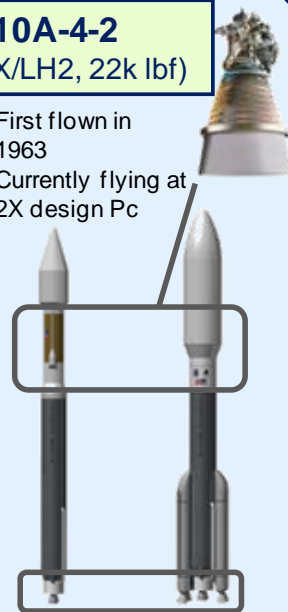
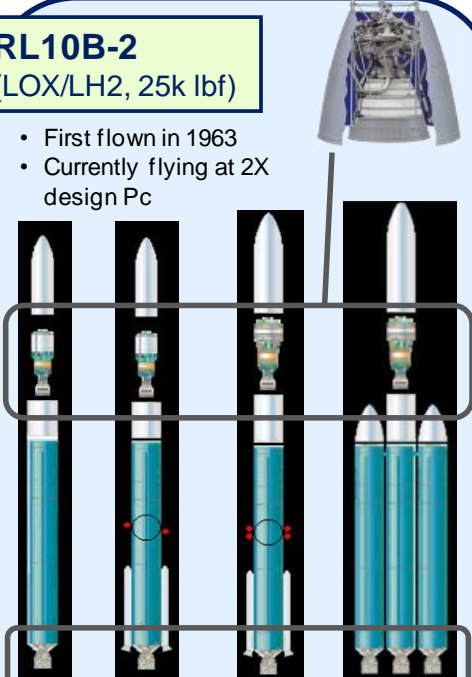
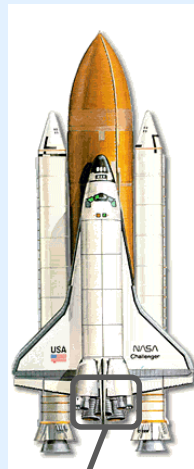
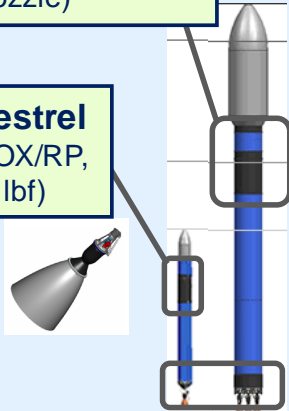




Today

## Atlas V

## Delta IV

## Space Shuttle

## Falcon

Developer: 					Commercial (Space-X)
<b>RL10A-4-2</b> (LOX/LH2, 22k lbf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First flown in 1963</li> <li>Currently flying at 2X design Pc</li> </ul>  <p>(400 Series) (500 Series)</p>		<b>RL10B-2</b> (LOX/LH2, 25k lbf) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First flown in 1963</li> <li>Currently flying at 2X design Pc</li> </ul>  <p>(Med) (Med+ 4m) (Med+ 5m) (Heavy)</p>		<b>RETIRED (2011)</b> 	<b>NEW ENTRANT</b> <b>Merlin (1X)</b> (LOX/RP, High Expansion Nozzle)  <p>(1) (9)</p>
<b>RD-180</b> (LOX/RP, 860k lbf SL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First flown in 2002</li> <li>Russian made</li> </ul> 		<b>RS-68</b> (LOX/LH2, 656k lbf SL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First flown in 2002</li> <li>RS-68A upgrade design certification completed in 2011</li> </ul> 		<b>SSME (3X)</b> (LOX/LH2, 408k lbf SL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First flown in 1981</li> <li>Retired in 2011</li> </ul> 	<b>Merlin (1X/9X)</b> (LOX/RP, 115-125k lbf SL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First successful flight in 2008 (Falcon 1)</li> </ul> 

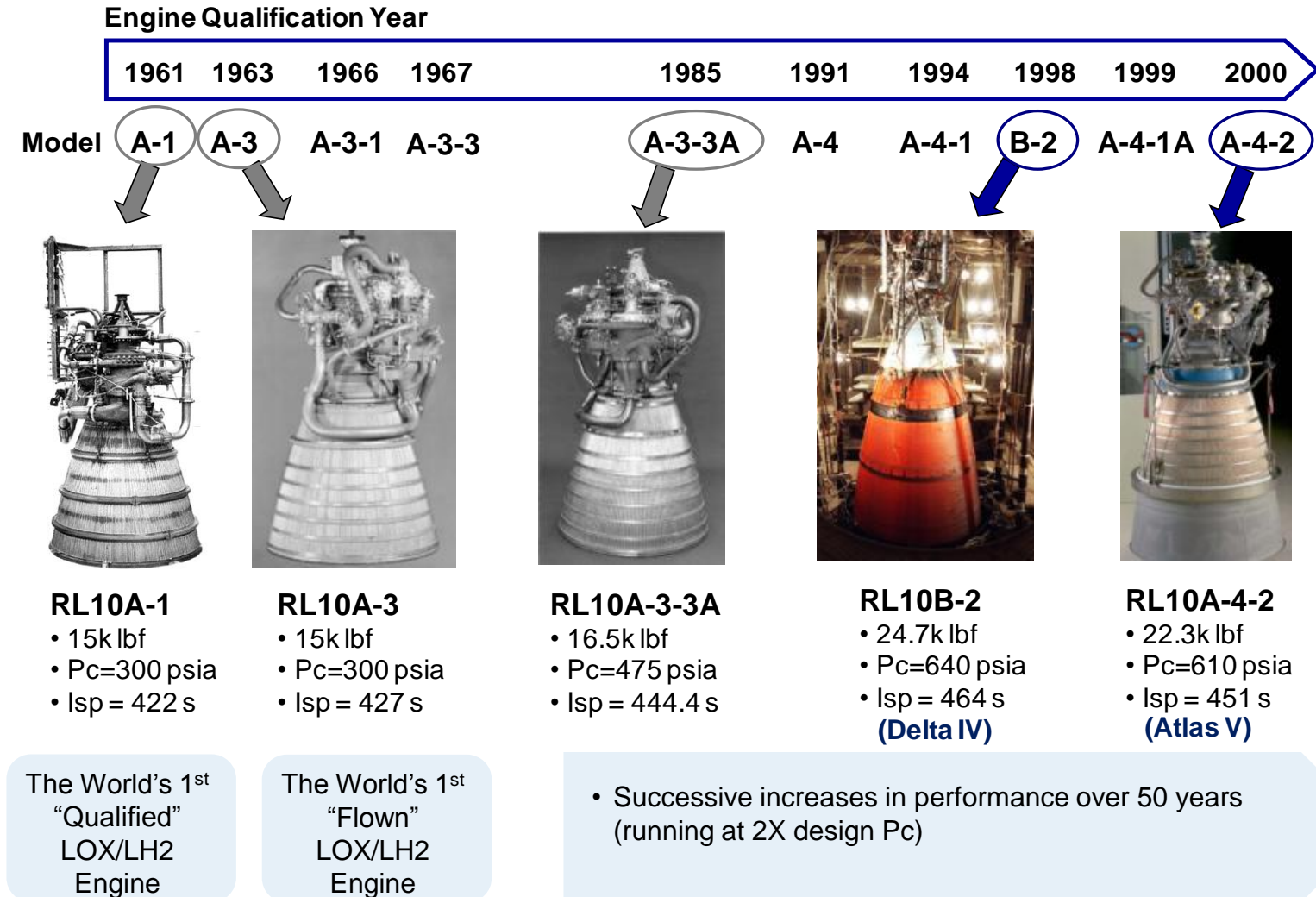
Delta II retiring after 2 NASA missions

Reprinted courtesy of U.S. Air Force



# LOX/LH2 Upper Stage Engines

## *World's 1<sup>st</sup> Hydrogen Engine & Its Evolution*



# Next Generation Engine (NGE)

## Overview

- USAF considering an LOX/LH2 alternative engine to replace aging RL10
  - *Request for Information posted September 2010*
- NGE Objectives
  - *Modern manufacturing techniques & materials*
  - *Increased designed-in reliability and performance margins*
  - *Sustainable and low cost*
- Creates interagency partnership opportunity
  - *Incorporates NSS & NASA requirements*
  - *Captures emerging commercial needs*
- Leverage advanced design tools & technologies matured by AFRL/NASA technology investment
  - *e.g. AFRL Upper Stage Engine Technology (USET)*
- Creates open competition
  - *Bolster U.S. liquid propulsion industrial base capability*



## Top-level Technical Requirements

Thrust (vacuum)	30klbfs
Isp (vacuum)	465 seconds or greater
Nozzle	Fixed (preferred, but not required)
Restartable	Minimum of 4 flight starts
Life expectancy	3000 seconds or greater
Reusable	Not required
Mixture Ratio	Adjustable during operation
Length (gimbal to nozzle exit)	NTE 90 inches
Exit Diameter	NTE 73 inches (desired)
Threshold Reliability	0.9990 or greater

*NGE serves critical need for modern, reliable, cost effective engine, sustainment of industrial base and U.S. leadership in propulsion technology*

# Lessons Learned

## Launch Failures

- In past 50 years, propulsion enabled ballistic and spacelift capabilities
  - Powered first US ICBMs
  - Evolved into space launch vehicle systems
  - Continuous improvements in performance, reliability, operability
- Historically, more than 40% of all launch vehicle failures caused by propulsion subsystem malfunctions (#1 contributor)\*



Launch Vehicle Subsystem Failures (2010-9-30)	Functional Subsystem	U.S. LV	Non-U.S. LV	World LV	% Failure
by Tomei, E. J., & Chang, I.-S., Aerospace	Propulsion	70	104	174	40.00
	Unknown	5	90	95	21.84
	Guidance, Navigation, and Control	25	23	48	11.03
	Separation	23	16	39	8.97
	Thrust Vector and Attitude Control	23	16	39	8.97
	Structures	10	9	19	4.37
	Electrical Power Distribution and Control	10	5	15	3.45
	Tracking and Flight Safety	3	0	3	0.69
	Command and Control	0	1	1	0.23
	Environmental Protection	1	0	1	0.23
	Telemetry	0	1	1	0.23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Improving propulsion subsystem reliability is critical to mitigating future launch failures**

- A launch failure incurs the loss of not only expensive hardware (launch vehicles/satellites), but extremely high recovery cost

