

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SOUNDING ROCKETRY TEAM

December 2016
January 2017

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UPDATES

During the months of December and January, SRT has been busy in all aspects of the engineering design process. Designs for improved thrust bulkheads and recovery system layouts have been finalized, construction of the new launch tower, electronics bay, and fins is nearly complete, and engine testing has commenced. Additionally, SRT met with and presented to several sponsoring organizations.

The next several months are critical to the success of SRT. Flight readiness and flight testing will be the major focus of this semester.

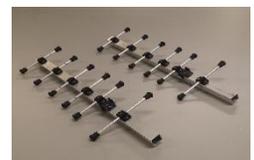
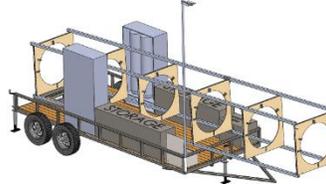


LAUNCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Significant progress has been made to the launch infrastructure components in preparation for launches this coming semester.

Launch Tower/Trailer: Over the winter break, the structures team completed the initial fabrication of the launch tower. The trailer integration will begin once the trailer arrives on site. Then sub-teams will begin installation of plumbing, electronics, and safety components.

Launch Box: The launch control box completed its first major functionality test when it was used as the primary control hardware for a recent engine test.



TESTING

On January 29th, 2017, SRT completed the earliest engine firing in team history. Results were below expected values, but the team conducted a full post fire analysis and believes to have determined the cause of the discrepancy. Additionally, the three hour long analysis led to several procedural changes and design improvements for future testing. Major overhauls of the testing instrumentation will now begin, to better support upcoming engine tests.

This test also marked the first time the SRT-designed launch box hardware was used in a live scenario. Also, this was the first test of a climate control device for the oxidizer fill tank to combat testing inconsistencies due to temperature various experienced last year.



If you have any questions or would like some more details about the progress of the team, please contact our director, Alex Pages (apages@tamu.edu), for more information.



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