

Los Angeles Times

Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc. to move headquarters to El Segundo



An overview of Aerojet Rocketdyne's manufacturing facility, where they are working on the AR1 rocket engine, in Canoga Park on April 18, 2016. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

By **Samantha Masunaga**

JUNE 21, 2016

The parent company of rocket engine maker Aerojet Rocketdyne is moving its corporate headquarters from the Sacramento area to El Segundo.

Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc. will make the move from Rancho Cordova to Southern California over the next six to eight weeks and will initially relocate around 25 employees, including Chief Executive Eileen Drake, said Glenn Mahone, Aerojet spokesman. Some employees had already moved down this last month.

The company has more than 1,300 employees in Rancho Cordova and will maintain its plant there.

Aerojet is building the AR1, a rocket engine powered by liquid oxygen and kerosene that is intended to replace the RD-180 Russian rocket engines being used by a joint venture of Boeing Co. and [Lockheed Martin Corp.](#) to blast national security satellites into orbit. Aerojet is competing against Blue Origin, backed by [Amazon.com Inc.](#) founder [Jeff Bezos](#), to win a contract for the replacement.

Aerojet has said its engine will be flight-qualified by 2019.

The company is also working with Boeing on its Crew Space Transportation-100 Starliner's service module propulsion system, which is intended to carry astronauts to the International Space Station.

Mahone cited the proximity to Southern California customers such as Boeing and Raytheon Co. as the primary reason for the move.

"We want to be close to our customers and be near them so that we can have various meetings," he said.

He also said the close connection to [Los Angeles International Airport](#) was a supporting factor in the decision.

A resurgent private space industry has cropped up in that same general area recently. Elon Musk's SpaceX is based in Hawthorne, just four miles from El Segundo, and [Richard Branson's](#) Virgin Galactic, which is focused both on space tourism and launching small satellites into orbit from a large plane, is headquartered in Long Beach. Upstart small-satellite launch company Rocket Lab is also near LAX.

Aerojet's new El Segundo headquarters will be its third facility in Southern California.

The company has a 100,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Canoga Park, where it is building the AR1, a liquid oxygen- and kerosene-powered rocket engine that is intended to replace the RD-180 Russian rocket engines being used to blast national security satellites into orbit.

Aerojet also has a specialized manufacturing site for metallic pressure vessels in Vernon.

In addition to Aerojet Rocketdyne, Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings includes Easton Real Estate.

samantha.masunaga@latimes.com

For more business news, follow me [@smasunaga](#)

Read full article: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-aerojet-rocketdyne-20160621-snap-story.html>