

## Section Members Receive Space & Missile Defense Technical Achievement Award

by

Ken Philippart

Images by Tony Miller and Mike Owens

Five members of the Greater Huntsville Section were part of a 9-person team that received the *2016 Space & Missile Defense Team Technical Achievement Award*. The award was sponsored by the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA) and was presented to the Jacobs ESSSA Group RS-25 Engine Systems Team during ASMDA's annual awards luncheon on February 23, 2017. The team was selected for the award in recognition of superior work developing the RS-25 liquid rocket engine for the Space Launch System (SLS). The RS-25 Engine Systems Team works at the Marshall Space Flight Center Propulsion Directorate under the Jacobs ESSSA Group contract.

The AIAA members of the team were Ken Philippart (team lead), Matt Strickland, Tony Miller, Dr. Tom Giel and Dr. Naveen Vetcha.

The RS-25 Engine Systems Team supported the planning and execution of hot-fire testing and data analyses for the 500,000 lb. thrust class RS-25 liquid rocket engine that will propel America's next great ship, the SLS. The most powerful rocket ever built, the SLS will be the only US vehicle capable of launching outsize intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and other national security payloads. The team verified over 350 test facility modifications, implemented new and automated pre- and post-test data analyses processes and monitored and analyzed 11 hot-fire engine tests including full mission duration profile testing. The team successfully tested the engine at the SLS's new and demanding conditions, including operating at a significantly higher power level than the predecessor Space Shuttle Main Engine. The team also executed a very rapid test turn-around when an additional, unplanned test was inserted in the test series to obtain critical verification data with little notice.



Ken Philippart accepts the team's award from  
LTG Dickinson and Ms. Angie McCarter.

Lieutenant General James Dickinson, Commanding General of the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Forces Strategic Command, presented the RS-25 Engine Systems Team with the *2016 Space and Missile Defense Technical Achievement Team Award* plaque that read, "In recognition of exceptional achievement that contributed significantly to the development, test and deployment of space and missile defense systems that will protect our troops and our Homeland."



Congratulations to our AIAA members of the RS-25 Engine Systems Team for reflecting great credit upon the Greater Huntsville Section and AIAA!

**Team members Naveen Vetcha, Austin Jackson, Tony Miller, Ken Philippart, Matt Strickland and Elvis Popov with the Technical Achievement Award.**