AEROJET BOOSTER

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Space Environment Simulated With Reliability Test Facilities

One of the finest space simulation laboratories in the country is located in the new Astrionics building at Azusa. The reliability testing lab contains all equipment necessary for simulating shock, vacuum and temperature conditions found in space at altitudes up to 400 miles.

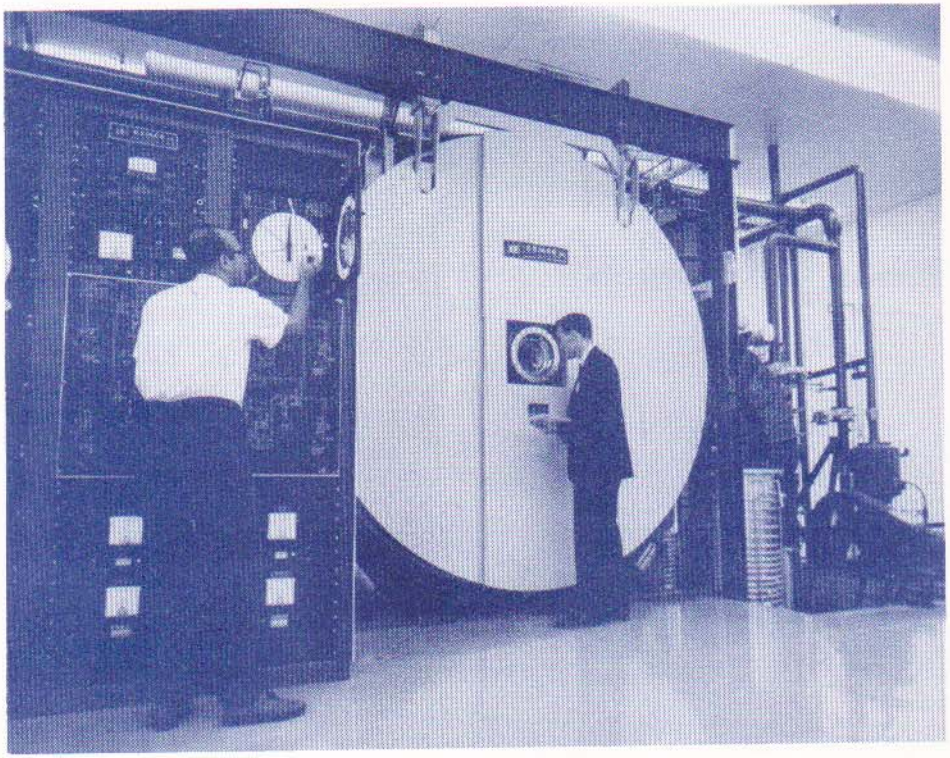
The huge walk-in space chamber can test a complete satellite in simulated space conditions found between 100 and 200 miles from the Earth. This chamber also can test satellites or their components in temperatures ranging from -100°F. to 250°F.

Other vacuum chambers can test equipment in conditions found as far as 400 miles out in space. With this ability to test missile and satellite components, it is possible for Aerojet engineers to offer the highest possible degree of reliability in their finished products built for the nation's space programs.

A special part of the reliability testing lab was designed to simulate shock such as that that might be encountered in the launching of a space vehicle. Here again, temperature conditions may be checked along with the shock and vibration tests.

A system of three small computers, designed and built at Aerojet, enable laboratory personnel to evaluate all their findings and interpret test data on the spot. These small, portable computers are unique in that they can be built up to handle any specific problem which may arise.

Currently most of the laboratory's work is on Air Force projects, although some items on NASA space exploration programs are presently being tested. Many features of the new laboratory are unique and can provide information not available from other sources.



HUGE VACUUM CHAMBER above can test full-sized satellites or components at a vacuum condition equal to that found at 200 miles in space. Paul Yellon, left, and Al Murphy are checking data on a missile component presently being tested.