Atlas

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THE ATLAS FAMILY

MX-774: Project MX-774 inaugurated by AAF with Consolidated-Vultee to study rocket capabilities with an ICBM as a final objective. Limited funds permitted a few test launches. These rockets demonstrated technologies that would later be applied to the Atlas

Atlas A: First test model of Atlas ICBM. Two booster engines, no sustainer, dummy warhead. Also known as X-11. 50% reliability in 8 flight tests.

Atlas B: (1958) Also known as X-12. First all-up version of Atlas ICBM, with jettisonable booster engines and single engine sustainer on core. '1 1/2' stage launch vehicle.

Atlas Able: (1959) Atlas with upper stage based on Vanguard second stage.

Atlas D: (1959) Also known as LV-3B. First operational version of Atlas ICBM and used as launch vehicle for Project Mercury. **Atlas Agena A:** (1960) Also known as LV-3A. Agena originally called 'Hustler', based on engine for cancelled rocket-propelled nuclear warhead pod for B-58 Hustler bomber.

Atlas Agena B: (1961) Also known as SLV-3. Improved, enlarged Agena upper stage.

Atlas Centaur C: (1962) Also known as LV-3C. First test verison of Atlas with Centaur upper stage. **Atlas Agena D:** (1963) Also known as SLV-3A. Further improved and lightened Agena upper stage.

Atlas Centaur D: (1963) Also known as SLV-3C; SLV-3D. Fully developed version of Atlas with Centaur upper stage.

Atlas E/F: (1966) Final operational versions of Atlas ICBM. Differed in guidance systems. Deployed as missiles from 1960 to 1966. After retirement, the ICBM's were refurbished and used over twenty years as space launch vehicles.

Atlas G/H/I: (1983) Atlas-Centaur launch vehicles using stretched, uprated Atlas core. Atlas H flown a few times without Centaur.

Atlas I: (1990) Commercial Atlas with upgraded core and Centaur upper stage.

Atlas II: (1991) Commercial Atlas using stretched core with uprated boosters and stretched Centaur upper stage. Verniers replaced by hydrazine thruster modules.

Atlas IIA: (1992) Enhanced version of Atlas II.

Atlas IIAS: (1993) Atlas IIA but with solid rocket motor strap-ons.

Atlas IIIA: (2000) Development of Atlas using Russian engines in place of booster/sustainer group used on all previous models. First stage couples unique Atlas balloon tanks and high performance Glushko engines.

Atlas IIIB: (2002) Atlas IIIA 1st stage with stretched 1 or 2-engine Centaur upper stage.

Atlas V: (2002) Based on the 3.8 m diameter Common Core Booster (CCB) powered by a single RD-180 engine and incorporating a stretched Centaur upper stage. Variants use from 0 to 5 solid rocket motor strap-ons. 400-series uses standard 4.2 m diameter Atlas payload fairing, 500-series uses larger 5.4 m diameter fairing.

ATLAS CENTAUR FAMILY RECORD

First launch: 8-May-1962

Number launched: 151 to end-2004

Launch sites: Cape Canaveral pads 36A/B; Vandenberg AFB SLC-3E from 1998

Vehicle success rate: 91.39% to end-2004

Success rate, past 25 launches: 100% to end-2004

ATLAS I SPECIFICATIONS

First launch: 25-Jul-1990 Last launch: 25-Apr-1997 Number launched: 11

Launch sites: Cape Canaveral pad 36B

Principal uses: medium-class telecom and metsat payloads into GTO

Vehicle success rate: 72.7% to end-2000

Performance:

LEO (185 km, 28.5°): 5,900 kg medium fairing, 5,700 kg large

GTO (167 x 35,786 km, 27.0°): 2,375 kg medium fairing, 2,255 kg large

Earth escape: 1,520 kg medium fairing, 1,400 kg large

Availability: typically four launches/year per pad. Launch typically 24-30 months following contract

Cost: about \$60 million with delivery into GTO

Number of stages: 2-1/2 (booster engines burn in parallel) **Overall length:** 42.0 m with medium fairing, 43.9 m with large

Principal diameter: 3.05 m

Launch mass: 163,900 kg with medium fairing, 164,290 kg with large

Launch thrust: 1,953 kN sea level

Guidance: Honeywell's Inertial Navigation Unit mounted on Centaur's forward equipment module performs the inertial guidance and attitude control computations for both Atlas & Centaur. Some initial Atlas 1s retained the existing Honeywell inertial unit and Teledyne flight control computer but subsequent vehicles incorporate a Honeywell ring laser gyro INU + Gulton digital data

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acquisition unit, saving 36 kg and enhancing reliablity.

ATLAS I STAGE 1

Engines: Rocketdyne MA-5 propulsion system of two booster, one sustainer and two vernier single-start liquid bipropellant

engines Length: 22.16 m Diameter: 3.05 m

Dry mass: 7,882 kg (including 3,646 kg booster section)

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: RP-1 hydrocarbon Propellant mass: 137,530 kg

Thrust: 1,953 kN SL

Burn time: 156 s boosters, 266 s sustainer

Attitude control: engines are gimbaled hydraulically to provide 3-axis control during burn

Separation: Atlas uniquely incorporates two booster engines fired in parallel with the central sustainer until the base section is jettisoned by the release of pneumatically-actuated latches at about T+156 s/5.5 g longitudinal acceleration. Separation is ensured by eight solid propellant retros around the base firing angled at 40° to the vertical to prevent spacecraft contamination.

INTERSTAGE ADAPTER

The 477 kg, 3.96 m long, 3.05 m diameter ISA supports the Centaur until separation at about 268 s is effected by a flexible linear shaped charge around the forward circumference. Construction is an aluminum skin/stringer and frame.

CENTAUR (ATLAS VERSION)

Engines: two P&W RL10A-3-3A cryogenic multiple start engines

Length: 9.15 m Diameter: 3.05 m Dry mass: 1,700 kg Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: liquid hydrogen Propellant mass: 13,790 kg Thrust: 146.8 kN vac

Burn time: 408 s for single burn direct ascent, or 312 + 93 s for dual-burn parking orbit ascent

Attitude control: Engines are gimbaled for 3-axis control during burn; 12 x 27 N hydrazine thrusters provide 3-axis control

during coast, spin-up for payload separation and collision avoidance maneuver.

FAIRING/PAYLOAD ACCOMODATION

Two fairing designs are available for spacecraft protection during ascent: 4.19 m diameter, 12.22 m long, 2,005 kg; or 3.30 m diameter, 10.36 m long, 1,375 kg mass. Usable diameters are 3.65 m and 2.92 m, respectively. Both employ an aluminum skin/stringer/frame structure and non-contaminating pyro separation bolts for jettison in halves at about 205 s prior to sustainer engine cutoff when heating rate has reduced to 1,135 W/m². On the pad, air conditioning can provide a 15-25°C environment around the spacecraft.

Acceleration load: 5.5 g maximum longitudinal, 0.4 g lateral

Acoustic load: maximum 138.9 dB overall

ATLAS II SPECIFICATIONS

First launch: 7-Jul-1991 Last launch: 16-Mar-1998 Number launched: 10

Launch sites: Cape Canaveral pads 36A/B, Vandenberg AFB SLC-3E from 1998 for access to Sun-synchronous polar and 63.40

orbits for military and Earth observation satellites

Principal uses: delivery of DSCS-3 satellites into GTO; future: high inclination missions

Vehicle success rate: 100% to end-2000

Performance:

LEO (185 km, 27.0° Canaveral): 6,780 kg medium fairing, 6,580 kg large

LEO (185 km, 90.0° VAFB): 5,510 kg large

GTO (160 x 35,786 km, 28.5°): 2,950 kg medium fairing, 2,810 kg large

Earth escape: 2,000 kg large fairing

Number of stages: 2-1/2 (booster engines burn in parallel) **Overall length:** 46.8 m with medium fairing, 47.4 m with large

Principal diameter: 3.05 m

Launch mass: 187,170 kg with medium fairing, 187,560 kg with large

Launch thrust: 2,159 kN sea level

Guidance: as Atlas I

ATLAS II STAGE 1

Engines: Rocketdyne MA-5A single-start liquid bipropellant consisting of two booster engines and one sustainer

Length: 24.9 m Diameter: 3.05 m

Dry mass: 10,282 kg (including 4,187 kg booster section)

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen

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Fuel: RP-1 hydrocarbon **Propellant mass:** 156,260 kg

Thrust: 2,159 kN SL

Burn time: 169 s boosters, 277 s sustainer

INTERSTAGE ADAPTER

The ISA is similar to that on Atlas I but two hydrazine thruster modules similar to those on Centaur provide roll control; mass is 545 kg.

ATLAS II STAGE 2 Engines: as Atlas I Length: 10.1 m Diameter: 3.05 m Dry mass: 2,053 kg Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: liquid hydrogen Propellant mass: 16,780 kg Thrust: 146.8 kN vac

Burn time: typically as Atlas I

FAIRING/PAYLOAD ACCOMODATION

As Atlas 1

ATLAS IIA

Atlas IIA was a commercial derivative of the Atlas II developed for the US Air Force. Higher performance RL10A-4-1 engines replaced the Atlas II's RL10A-3-3A engines. RL10A-4-1 engines are offered with or without extendable nozzles, which increase the engine's specific impulse providing additional performance if required. The upgraded second stage increased LEO capacity to 7,280 kg (185 km, 28.5°), and GTO performance to 3,039 kg. 23 Atlas IIA's were launched with a 100% success rate; first launch was 10-Jun-1992, last launch 4-Dec-2002.

ATLAS IIA STAGE 2

Engines: two P&W RL10A-4-1 cryogenic multiple start engines

Length: 10.1 m Diameter: 3.05 m Dry mass: 1,840 kg Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: liquid hydrogen Propellant mass: 16,930 kg Thrust: 198.4 kN vac

Burn time: 370 s

ATLAS IIAS

The Atlas IIAS solid thrust augmented version enhances the IIA's performance by adding four Castor 4A strap-ons. The strap-ons increase LEO capacity to 8,618 kg (185 km, 28.5°), and GTO performance to 3,719 kg ($167 \times 35,786 \text{ km}$, 27.0°). To end-2004, 30 Atlas IIAS's have been launched with a 100% success rate; first launch was 15-Dec-2002.

ATLAS IIAS STRAP-ONS

Length: 11.16 m **Diameter:** 1.02 m

Mass at ignition: each 11,600 kg

Propellant: TP-H8299 HTPB polymer, 20% aluminum

Propellant mass: each 10,100 kg Thrust: each 433.7 kN SL average Specific impulse: 237.8 s SL

Burn time: 55 s

Burn sequence: one pair of strap-ons ignite at launch, burnout at 54.7 s, and are jettisoned at 77.1 s. The second pair is air-lit at

60 s, burnout at 115.3 s, and are jettisoned at 117.2 s.

ATLAS III SPECIFICATIONS

The Atlas III consists of two versions, the IIIA and IIIB. Both versions are based on a first stage incorporating 3.05 m diameter Atlas balloon tanks and a single RD-180 engine. The IIIA uses a Centaur upper stage with a single RL10A-4-1 engine. The IIIB uses a stretched Centaur upper stage for enhanced performance powered by either one (SEC) or two (DEC) RL10A-4-1 engines. The specifications given below apply to the Atlas IIIA; where the Atlas IIIB's characteristics differ they are included in parentheses.

First launch: 24-May-2000 Number launched: 6 to Feb-2005 Launch sites: Cape Canaveral pad 36

Principal uses: delivery of single payloads to LEO or GTO

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Vehicle success rate: 100% to Feb-2005

Performance:

LEO (185 km, 28.5°): 8,686 kg (10,759 kg) with LPF, 8,641 kg (10,718 kg) with EPF GTO (167 x 35,786 km, 27.0°): 4,060 kg (4,500 kg) with LPF, 4,037 kg (4,477 kg) with EPF

Number of stages: 2

Overall length: 51.9 m (53.6 m) with LPF, 52.8 m (54.5 m) with EPF

Principal diameter: 3.05 m

Launch mass: 218,127 kg to 218,295 kg (222,237 kg to 222,585 kg), + payload

Launch thrust: 3,827 kN sea level

Guidance: inertial, from Centaur upper stage

ATLAS III STAGE 1

Engines: P&W/NPO Energomash RD-180 with two gimbaled chambers

Length: 28.91 m Diameter: 3.05 m Dry mass: 13,725 kg Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: RP-1 hydrocarbon Propellant mass: 183,200 kg

Thrust: 3,827 kN SL **Burn time:** 184 s (182 s)

INTERSTAGE ADAPTER

The 465 kg, 4.45 m long, 3.05 m diameter ISA supports the Centaur until separation is effected by a flexible linear shaped charge around the forward circumference. Construction is an aluminum-lithium skin/stringer and frame.

ATLAS III STAGE 2

Engines: P&W RL10A-4-1 cryogenic multiple start engine (2 engines for DEC)

Length: 10.06 m (11.74 m)

Diameter: 3.05 m

Dry mass: 1,720 kg (1,930 kg SEC, 2,110 kg DEC)

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: liquid hydrogen

Propellant mass: 16,930 kg (20,830 kg) **Thrust:** 99.2 kN vac (198.4 kN vac DEC) **Burn time:** 739 s (907 s SEC, 454 s DEC)

PAYLOAD FAIRING

The payload fairing consists of a boattail, cylinderical section, conical section, and spherical cap. Construction is an aluminum skin/stringer and frame with vertical, split-line longerons that allow the fairing to separate into bisectors for jettison. Separation is by pyro bolts and spring thrusters. Large payload fairing (LPF) is 2,087 kg, 12.2 m long, and 4.2 m diameter; extended payload fairing (EPF) is 2,255 kg, 13.1 m long, and 4.2 m diameter.

ATLAS V SPECIFICATIONS

The Atlas V launch system is based on the 3.8 m diameter Common Core Booster (CCB) powered by a single RD-180 engine and incorporating a stretched Centaur upper stage with either one (SEC) or two (DEC) RL10A-4-2 engines. Variants use from 0 to 5 strap-on solid rocket boosters, and either a 4.2-m or 5.4-m diameter payload fairing. Each Atlas V has a 3-digit vehicle naming designator; the first digit indicates the usable fairing diameter (4-m or 5-m), the second digit indicates the number of strap-on SRBs (0 to 5), and the last digit indicates the number of Centaur engines (1 or 2).

First launch: 21-Aug-2002 Number launched: 6 to Aug-2005 Launch sites: Cape Canaveral pad 41

Principal uses: delivery of single or double payloads to LEO or GTO

Vehicle success rate: 100% to Aug-2005

Performance:

LEO (185 km, 28.5°): 12,500 kg (402), 10,300 kg (502), 12,590 kg (512), 15,080 kg (522), 17,250 (532), 18,955 kg (542), 20,520 kg (552)

GTO (167 x 35,786 km, 27.0°): 4,950 kg (401), 5,950 kg (411), 6,830 kg (421), 7,640 kg (431), 3,970 kg (501), 5,270 kg (511), 6,285 kg (521), 7,200 kg (531), 7,980 kg (541), 8,670 kg (551)

(Quoted performance is with EPF for 400-series and short PLF for 500-series)

Number of stages: 2 + 0 to 5 strap-ons

Overall length: 400-series: 57.4 m w/LPF, 58.3 m w/EPF; 500-series: 59.7 m w/short PLF, 62.4 m w/medium PLF

Principal diameter: 3.81 m

Launch mass: 330,625 kg (401) to 470,107 kg (431) with EPF; 333,205 kg (501) to 566,297 (552) w/short PLF

Launch thrust: from 3,827 kN SL with 0 SRBs, to 10,632 kN SL with 5 SRBs

Guidance: inertial, from Centaur upper stage

ATLAS V SOLID ROCKET BOOSTERS (SRB)

Number used: 400-series: 0 to 3; 500-series: 0 to 5

Length: 19.5 m

Diameter: 1.55 m

Mass at ignition: each 46,494 kg

Propellant: HTPB solid

Propellant mass: each 42,630 kg

Thrust: each 1,245 kN vac average, 1,361 kN at ignition

Specific impulse: 275 s vac

Burn time: 94 s

Burn sequence: SRBs are ignited at launch; first three are jettisoned at 99 s followed by the next two at 100 s.

ATLAS V COMMON CORE BOOSTER (CCB)

Engines: P&W/NPO Energomash RD-180 with two gimbaled chambers

Length: 32.46 m Diameter: 3.81 m

Dry mass: 20,743 kg (21,173 kg for 55X configuration)

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: RP-1 hydrocarbon Propellant mass: 284,089 kg Thrust: 3,827 kN SL Burn time: 236 s to 252 s

INTERSTAGE ADAPTER

The 400-series combines a conical CCB ISA and a short Centaur ISA. The total mass is 794 kg, overall length is 4.78 m, and the diameter is 3.83 m at the bottom by 3.05 m at the top. The 500-series combines a cylindrical CCB ISA and a large Centaur ISA. The total mass is 1,544 kg, overall length is 4.13 m, and the diameter is 3.83 m.

ATLAS V STAGE 2

Engines: one or two P&W RL10A-4-2 cryogenic multiple start engines

Length: 12.68 m Diameter: 3.05 m

Dry mass: 1,914 kg SEC, 2,106 kg DEC

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen Fuel: liquid hydrogen Propellant mass: 20,830 kg

Thrust: 99.2 kN vac SEC, 198.4 kN vac DEC

Burn time: 900 s SEC, 450 s DEC

PAYLOAD FAIRING

The 400-series utilizes the same payload fairings as the Atlas III. The 500-series uses 5-m short and medium payload fairings. The bisector fairings consist of sandwich construction with graphite epoxy face sheets and an aluminum honeycomb core. The fixed boattail is composite sandwich construction. Vertical separation is by a linear piston and cylinder activated by a pyrotechnic cord; horizontal separation is by as expanding tube shearing a notched frame, activated by a pyrotechnic cord. Short payload fairing (standard) is 4,085 kg, 20.7 m long, and 5.4 m diameter; medium payload fairing is 4,649 kg, 23.4 m long, and 5.4 m diameter. Air conditioning on the pad can provide 15-25°C.

ROCKETDYNE / MA-5

The MA-5 propulsion system comprises a YLR89-NA-7 dual-chamber liquid propellant booster engine, a YLR105-NA-7 single-chamber liquid sustainer and two YLR101-NA-15 verniers to control vehicle roll and provide final velocity and directional control following sustainer burnout. The single-start main engines are fed from the same propellant tanks but Atlas uniquely separates the two outer boosters some 172 s into flight, leaving the altitude configured sustainer to provide propulsion to near-orbital velocity.

Application: Atlas I propulsion system

First flown: 18-Nov-1961

Number flown: 215 MA-5, 152 MA-3, 118 MA-2 to end-1995 **Dry mass:** 1,423 kg for both boosters, 470 kg sustainer **Length:** 3.40 m booster, 2.69 m sustainer (with aspirator) **Maximum diameter:** 1.19 m booster, 1.17 m sustainer

Mounting: all thrust chambers are gimbaled

Engine cycle: gas generator

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen, delivered at 458 kg/s for booster, 89 kg/s for sustainer

Fuel: RP-1, delivered at 203 kg/s for booster, 39 kg/s for sustainer

Mixture ratio: 2.25 booster, 2.27 sustainer

Oxidizer turbopump: each 6,732 rpm, 1,678 kW, 68 atm discharge pressure for boosters; 10,568 rpm, 846 kW, 73 atm discharge pressure for surfainer.

discharge pressure for sustainer

Fuel turbopump: each 1,116 kW, 68 atm discharge pressure for boosters; 508 kW, 73 atm discharge pressure for sustainer

Thrust: 1,882 kN for booster pair vac/1,681 kN SL; 374 kN sustainer vac/269 kN SL; verniers are 2,975 N each

Specific impulse: 292 s vac/259 s SL for boosters; 309 s vac/220 s SL for sustainer

Time to full thrust: 2.0 s

Expansion ratio: 8:1 boosters, 25:1 sustainer

Combustion chamber pressure: 44 atm booster/50 atm sustainer Combustion chamber temperature: 3,316°C both booster/sustainer

Burn time: 167 s max booster, 368 s max sustainer

Verniers: each 24.1 kg mass, 2.24/2.97 kN SL/vac thrust, 172/231 s SL/vac Isp, 1.8 mixture ratio, 5.66 expansion ratio (exit diameter 9.65 cm), 391 s burn time

ROCKETDYNE / MA-5A

The MA-5 system was uprated for Atlas 2 by replacing the booster engines, now designated RS-56A, with Rocketdyne's RS-27. The side-mounted verniers were deleted; their roll control and final adjustment functions were assumed by thruster modules on the vehicle's interstage. Sustainer engine (RS-56SA) specifications are as for the MA-5 except that total oxidizer/fuel flow rates are 90/38 kg/s, respectively; only booster engine specifications are given below.

Application: Atlas II propulsion system

First flown: 7-Nov-1991 Number flown: 20 to end-1995

Dry mass: 1,610 kg **Length:** 3.43 m

Maximum diameter: 1.19 m

Mounting: all thrust chambers are gimbaled **Engine cycle:** gas generator **Oxidizer:** liquid oxygen, delivered at 505 kg/s

Fuel: RP-1, delivered at 224 kg/s

Mixture ratio: 2.25

Oxidizer turbopump: each 1,903 kW, 6,730 rpm, 70 atm discharge pressure

Fuel turbopump: each 1,362 kW, 75 atm discharge pressure

Thrust: total 2,100 kN vac, 1,890 kN SL **Specific impulse:** 295 s vac, 263 s SL

Time to full thrust: 2.0 s Expansion ratio: 8:1

Combustion chamber pressure: 48 atm Combustion chamber temperature: 3,316°C

Burn time: 167 s max

P&W / RL10A-3-3A

Application: Centaur stage of Atlas & Titan **First flown:** Nov-1963 (3-3A first flight Jun-1984)

Number flown: 246 to end-1995

Dry mass: 138 kg Length: 1.78 m

Maximum diameter: 1.02 m

Mounting: gimbaled ±4° for pitch/yaw control

Engine cycle: expander

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen, delivered at 14.0 kg/s Fuel: liquid hydrogen, delivered at 2.79 kg/s

Mixture ratio: 5.0

Oxidizer turbopump: 11.3 kg mass, 13,100 rpm, 88 kW, 45.6 atm discharge pressure

Fuel turbopump: 34 kg mass, 32,800 rpm, 76.2 atm discharge pressure

Thrust: 73.4 kN vac

Specific impulse: 444.4 s vac **Time to full thrust:** typically 2.15 s

Expansion ratio: 61:1

Combustion chamber pressure: 32.2 atm Combustion chamber temperature: 3,340°C

Burn time: about 600 s required on Titan 4 Centaur, engine qualified to 4,000 s

P&W / RL10A-4-1, RL10A-4-2

Application: Centaur stage of Atlas IIA & III (RL10A-4-1), and Atlas V (RL10A-4-2)

Dry mass: 168 kg

Maximum diameter: 1.53 m

Oxidizer: liquid oxygen, delivered at 19.0 kg/s Fuel: liquid hydrogen, delivered at 3.45 kg/s Mixture ratio: 5.5

Thrust: 99.2 kN vac Specific impulse: 450.5 s vac Expansion ratio: 84:1

Combustion chamber pressure: 39.0 atm

P&W-NPO ENERGOMASH / RD-180

Configuration: two gimbaled chambers **Application:** Atlas III and Atlas V stage 1

First flown: 1999 Dry mass: 5,480 kg Length: 3.56 m

Maximum diameter: 3.15 m

Engine cycle: staged combustion **Oxidizer:** liquid oxygen, delivered at 916.5 kg/s

Fuel: kerosene, delivered at 337 kg/s

Mixture ratio: 2.72

Feed method: High-pressure turbopump assembly feeds both chambers

Thrust: 3,827 kN SL, 4,152 kN vac, throttleable 47-100% **Specific impulse:** 311.3 s SL, 337.8 s vac

Expansion ratio: 36.4:1

Combustion chamber pressure: 253 atm

Burn time: 150 s

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