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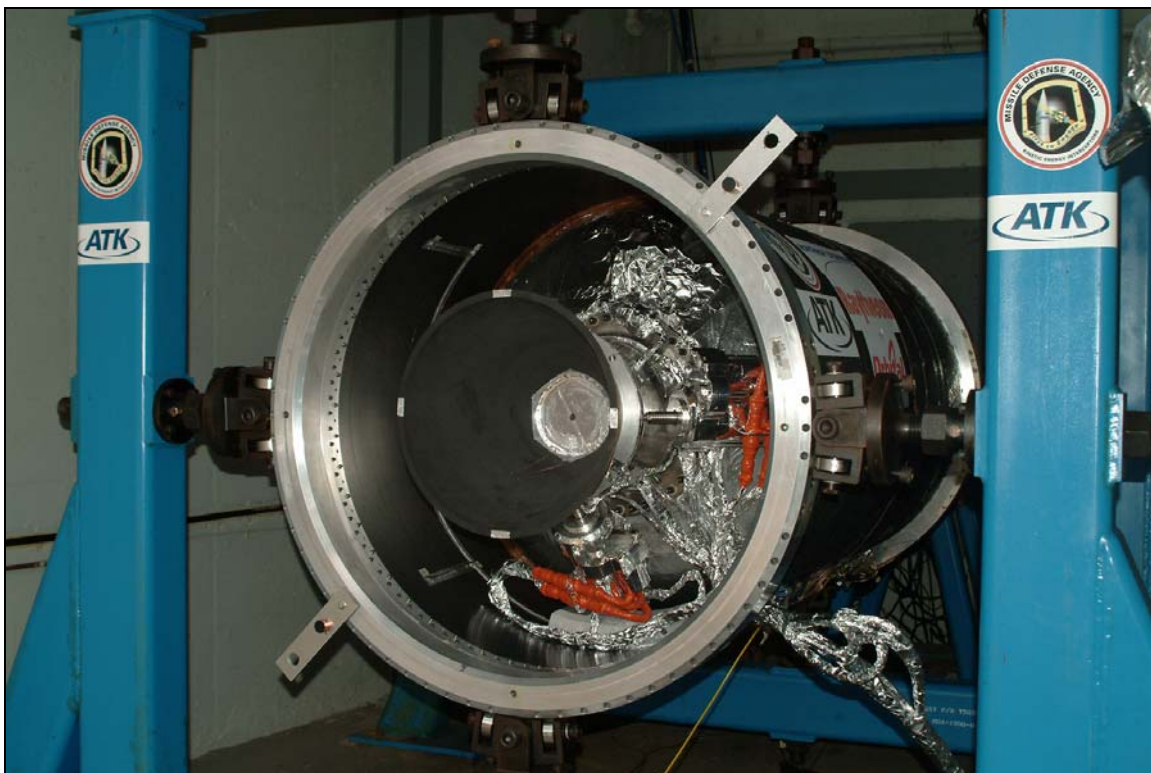
19 January 2006

Kinetic Energy Interceptor Fires Second Stage Rocket Motor

Air Force Lt. General Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency director, announced today the successful completion of the first of several planned static firings of the second stage rocket motor for the Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) now in development. The KEI is designed to intercept and destroy a ballistic missile in the boost phase, or in the first few minutes after it is launched, and is an integral element of the overall Ballistic Missile Defense System which will intercept ballistic missiles of any range and during any phase of flight—boost, midcourse and terminal.

The test took place January 17 at the Alliant Techsystem facility in Elkton, Md. ATK is teamed with Northrop Grumman to develop the KEI system. Program officials will conduct a review of the test to obtain specific data that will be used in the continued development of the second stage rocket motor in order to optimize performance.

KEI is intended to be a land-based missile defense system integrated with the overall Ballistic Missile Defense System after 2010, and will have the capability to move to wherever it is needed for boost phase defense using a truck and transporter system, as well as a command and control trailer.



The Kinetic Energy Interceptor (KEI) stage 2 rocket motor successfully completed the first in a series of test firings on January 17, 2006