About Phil Sumrall

Phil Sumrall, a 1961 math and physics graduate, Phil's career with NASA started when he was recruited by its first director, Wernher von Braun, in 1962 as a junior engineer. His first project was to help build the Saturn V rocket, used by the Apollo program to take the first humans to the moon. Mr. Sumrall is currently the manager of the Advanced Planning in the Ares Projects Office at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. He is responsible for development planning for NASA’s Ares V launch vehicle which includes the Earth Departure Stage that is needed to leave Earth’s orbit. Ares V will deliver large hardware including the Altair lunar lander needed to carry astronauts to and from the lunar surface, and supplies to space for use by exploration missions on the moon and to extend a human presence throughout the solar system.” (NASA/MSFC)