CORE STAGE 101*

* Or: What you need to know about the Space Launch System Core Stage, the backbone of the rocket.

INSIDE THE CORE STAGE
- Forward Skirt
- Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Tank
- Intertank
- Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) Tank
- Engine Section

HOW BIG IS THE SLS CORE STAGE?
- 212’ tall and 27.6’ in diameter
- ~2.3M POUNDS with propellant
- The largest rocket stage ever built
- Fuels the world’s most powerful rocket

A FAST RIDE!
- SLS reaches MACH 23 (faster than 17,000 MPH) in just 8.5 MINUTES.

ENGINE SECTION
- Delivers propellants from the LH2 and LOX tanks to 4 RS-25 ENGINES
- Avionics to steer engines
- Aft booster attach point

LH2 TANK
- Holds 537,000 GALLONS of liquid hydrogen cooled to -423°F

INTERTANK
- Joins LH2 and LOX tanks
- Houses avionics and electronics
- Forward booster attach point

LOX TANK
- Holds 196,000 GALLONS of liquid oxygen cooled to -297°F

FORWARD SKIRT
- Houses flight computers, cameras, and avionics — the "brains" of the rocket

Fuels 4 engines to produce a total 2 MILLION POUNDS of thrust
733,000 GALLONS of propellant fill the LH2 and LOX tanks together, enough to fill 63 large tanker trucks.

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BIGGER TANKS. BOLDER MISSIONS.
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