

Lewis Lab Helping to Build Powerful Rocket Engine

Cleveland's Lewis Research Center is helping to design and fabricate a thrust chamber for a new superpower rocket.

Scientists and engineers at the laboratory have been called in to work out some bugs which have cropped up in development of the F-1 engine.

This engine was commented on yesterday by Ira H. Abbott of Washington, director of the

office of advanced research, programs for NASA. He spoke to the convention of the American Vacuum Society at Hotel Sheraton-Cleveland.

1½ Million Pounds

The F-1 engine, Abbott said, is being developed by the NASA to produce a thrust of 1,500,000 pounds in a single combustion chamber.

The engine, he said, will be capable of being clustered like the Saturn project to produce a thrust of six million to 12 million pounds.

A booster with a thrust of six million to 12 million pounds would be capable of shooting into orbit a space platform of 30 to 50 tons, according to Richard J. Priem of the Lewis

lab.

This space platform, Priem said, might be 20 feet in diameter and 20 feet high.

It could carry a crew of 10 astronauts and could stay in orbit for an extended period.

The F-1 engine is to be ready in 1965, Priem said. The space platform itself also could be ready by that time, he added.